

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

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

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

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

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

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.

1.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Transfer of Allied Warships to Russia.

1.(a). The U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE was transferred to the Soviet Navy on 20th April and has been re-named MURMANSK.

(b). The battleship ROYAL SOVEREIGN now at Rosyth, eight destroyers and the S/Ms SUNFISH, UNISON, UNBROKEN and URSULA are also to be transferred shortly to the Soviet Navy.

Needles Channel.

2. The Needles Channel, which was closed on the 29th April on account of Mines laid there by A/C on the night 28/29th, was reopened at 1407B today.

Operation F.Z.

3. Convoy R.A.59 was about 140 miles W.S.W. of Bear Island at 0800 today.

Mediterranean.

UNTIRING.

4. On leaving patrol off the south of France UNTIRING reports a hit on a 1000 ton enemy vessel off Toulon on 27th April and one hit on a 2000 ton ship off Port Vendres early today. Both ships are believed to have sunk.

Air Operations.

5. Wellingtons dropped 27 tons on Spezia Harbour last night, 7 Halifaxes attacked Monfalcone shipyards, Wellingtons dropped 3 tons on Leghorn Harbour, and Liberators 25 tons on Genoa Harbour. Many hits were seen, but cloud prevented observation. Genoa, Leghorn and Spezia Harbours were attacked today.

East Indies.

Convoy R.K.1

6. The first convoy from Ceylon arrived at Kilindini today.

1.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

6 Liberators
sink 40,000
tons.

7. C. in C.India reports that on 22nd April 6 Liberators attacked enemy shipping at Cape St. Jacques, near Saigon. One 550 ft. whale oil factory, a 450 ft. freighter, a 300 ft. freighter, two 300 ft. tankers and a small naval boat were destroyed. A total of 40,000 tons enemy shipping was sunk in this raid.

America & West Indies.

8. Cominch reports that SS. PAVLIN VINOGRADOV (Astoria for Akutan) sank as the result of an explosion of unknown origin at 0400/23 April in 53. 12 N. 160.22 W. (240 miles east of Dutch Harbour, Aleutians.)

Australia & New Zealand.

New Guinea.

9(a). Last night M.T.Bs. sank 7 heavily laden enemy barges off the coast near Wewak, New Guinea and destroyed 2 beached barges in the same sector of the coast line.

(b). A Naval Liberator hit with a quarter ton bomb a single 2500 ton vessel found apparently anchored off the north coast of Biak Island (N.W. of New Guinea) this afternoon.

10. Havocs destroyed or damaged the majority of 8 barges found in the mouth of the Sepik River, New Georgia, at first light today.

1.5.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.MILWAUKEE,
MURMANSK.U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE transferred to Soviet Navy
April 30th and renamed MURMANSK.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 010038B to Admty.)

DUQUESNE.

A.M. 192015. On arrival Clyde DUQUESNE is to dis-
embark ammunition brought to U.K. for French 6"
cruisers.
(D.O.D.H. 010155B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)OperationsS.C.
operations.My 292044B. VIGRA (S.O.) and HESSA sailed at 0215H
today. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 010220 to Admty.)My 010220B. HESSA returned to Balta Sound at 011500
today. 2. Vessels lost contact owing to bad
visibility. VIGRA continued with operation.
(A.C.O.S. 011600 to Admty.)Operation
C.W.Have obtained 2nd Class bearing 039° of U-Boat
transmitting a B signal on series 1, 3800 k/cs over
30 miles but in ground waves at 0322Z. My P.C. and
S. 055° 15' N. 028° 27' W. 244° 8½ knots. Weather.
(C.1 010412Z to C. in C.W.A.)Your 010412Z. Admiralty bearings indicate that this U-Boat is
not in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 010948E to O.N.M.234.)My 301122B April. Shift area of search forthwith to area be-
tween parallel 057° N. and 059° N. and meridian 017° W. and 019° W
(C. in C.W.A. 011121B to E.G.9.)My P.C. and S. 1200A, 056° 40' N. 016° 44' W. 33°, 13.
(E.G.9 011250A to C. in C.W.A.)TRACKER with 2nd E.G. STARLING, (S.O.) MAGPIE, WILD GOOSE,
WHIMBREL, WREN and 1st E.G. AFFLECK, GORE, GARLIES, BENTLEY opera-
ting vicinity 052° 30' N. 017° 29' W.9th E.G. MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT near 057° 01' N. 017° 59' W.
VINDEK, 5th E.G. BICKERTON, GOODSON, BLIGH, AYLNER, KEMPTHORNE,
KEATS, 053° 30' N. 026° 14' W. to 053° 30' N. 027° 01' W. thence
vicinity 054° 32' N. 018° 30' W. 14 knots.

(C. in C.W.A. 011326B to Ships.)

Operation
F.Z.When you next break W/T silence request name of
ship mentioned in your 302101 and (?numbers) if any
of Allied casualties.
(S.B.N.O.N. Russia 010952B to C.S.1 in DIADEM.)Operation
"Knitting 9".Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs. 253 (S.O.)
and 257 in support at 2115 today for patrol of 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 011210B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Coastal...

War Diary.1.5.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal (C. in C.Plymouth 011523B, 012330B.)
Force (C. in C.Portsmouth 011528B, 012345B.)
Patrols.

S/M Patrols. S/Ms are to leave patrol as follows
A. STATESMAN so as to pass through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles at approx. 0500B/4th May, thence Lerwick.
B. VIGOROUS by route "Black" so as to pass through 062° 01' N. 000° 11' E. at approx. 0200B/4th May, thence through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick.
S/Ms to proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. south of 199°. (Capt. S.9 011553B to S/Ms.)

0800 positions of submarines 2nd May and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. STRONGBOW patrolling vicinity 65° 14' N. 000° 04' E.
- B. VIGOROUS near 63° 38' N. 001° 56' E.
- C. STATESMAN vicinity 62° 08' N. 002° 43' E.
- D. VIKING exercising near 50° 50' N. 010° 03' W.
(F.O.S. 011624 to Admty.)

Operation "Croquet." Following are operation instructions in accordance with C. in C.H.F. 301843B April. D day will be 3rd May unless otherwise ordered. All times zone P

2. Forces taking part. BERWICK and ships addressed
3. Forces will leave Scapa about 2230 D day and pass through the following positions at time stated position J 270° Muckle Flugga 20 miles at 1200 D plus one. Position K 064° 00' N. 002° 50' E. at 0230 D plus 2. Position L 064° 00' N. 005° 10' at 0630 D plus 2.
4. Commencing at (?06)30 D plus 2 FURIOUS will fly off a striking force of Barracuda A/C escorted by Wildcats from SEARCHER which will attack target area. About 0800 sweeping the Leads from S. to N.
5. At 0850 D plus 2 Force will be in approx. position 045° position L 10 miles for landing on.
6. On completion of flying operation Force will retire to westward at best speed returning to Scapa west of Shetlands.
7. A.O.C.18 Group is requested to provide an A/S patrol over the Force between hours of 1400 and 2230 on D plus 1.
8. A.O.C.18 Group is also requested to bring Air Sea Rescue organization in MURMAGOA to short notice on D plus 2.
9. Details of air plan will be issued by FURIOUS.
(BERWICK 011729B to FURIOUS, SEARCHER, SAVAGE, PIORUN, BLYSKAWICA, ALGONQUIN, WIZARD, WAKEFUL, Group 18, A.C.O.S. F.O.S.)

1.5.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Exercise
"Fabius".

Owing to reductions in numbers of destroyers now available it is necessary to reinforce the destroyers covering force in channel for "Fabius". Request you will transfer two Hunts to A.N.C.X.F. for allocation as he desires for this exercise. (A.C.N.S.H. 011037B to C. in C.Nore.)

S.51017 signed Eisenhower. My 301145. Carry out exercise "Fabius" with D day 3rd May. (A.N.C.X.F. 011200B to C. in C.Portsmouth, C. in C.Plymouth, V.A.Dover, N.C.E.T.F. N.C.W.T.F. Forces O and S, Cdres. Forces J and G.)

A.M. 011037. These two Hunts allocated C. in C.Portsmouth in lieu of two O class which are being retained by C. in C.Plymouth.

(A.N.C.X.F. 011655B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Tows may continue to Selsey from the Eastward after daylight 4th May.

(A.N.C.X.F. 011747B to Admty. C. in C.Nore, C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Allied Air Activity.

Isle of
Wight area.

May your 292013B. Extreme importance of denying air R/C to enemy fully appreciated. Frequent saturation 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" and during exercise "Fabius". In spite of all measures being taken however complete immunity from enemy air R/C cannot be guaranteed.

(H.Q.A.E.A.F. 011920B to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Spitzbergen.

Following for C. in C.Royal Norwegian Force begins: Enemy air activity on 1st April, 15th April and 29th April between 0600 and 0700 G.M.T. Work going well. Ends.

(?Locomotive" 010800Z to Admty.)

Southsea.
Damage on
26th April.

My 262121B three store sheds containing secret equipment on charge to O.C. R.M.B.P.D. Dolphin Court, Southsea severely damaged and quantity of secret equipment also damaged.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 011247B to Admty.)

Mining.

Portland.

Following from N.O.I.C. Portland. M.G.Bs. report detonating arrangement acoustic or magnetic mine in approx. 144 Portland Bill 12 miles at 0545. T.O.O. 300714.

(C. in C.Plymouth 010130B to Capt. D.17.)

/Your...

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Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Aberdeen. Your 231721B. Area swept Oropesa 26th. 29th April swept A. 30th, 29 mines swept up, salvaged and landed at C.M.B.Nigg.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 010950B to ?)

Needles. Mines laid in Needles Channel on night of 28/29th April appear to be normal acoustic P.D.M. 10. No clock.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 01155B to F.O.I.C. Portland.)
Cancel my 290145B.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 011407B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Lizard. Position and course of 2 unknown 49° 42' N. 05° 00' W. 030°.
(A/C LDA 14 010010 to 19 Group.)
Proceed with despatch to investigate suspicious eastbound Radar contact which faded at 1710 in 112° Lizard Head 17 and thence carry out A/S search through 180° Eddystone 10 and to Plymouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 011755B to MELBREAK.)

Channel Ports. From P.R.U. report, following is estimated disposition of enemy forces in channel on May 1st, ELBING class destroyers. One at Brest, one at Le Havre repairing.
MOWI class, T.Bs. 3 at St. Malo, one at Cherbourg one in Bay of Biscay.
NARVIK class destroyers, 5 in Biscay ports, 3 probably refitting.
(C. in C.Plymouth 011819B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

WINCHESTER. My 301210B and 301954B. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Tees 011024B to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

HAWKINS. Your 301337 and A.S.Devonport 291715. Alternative B should be undertaken.
2. Ship should be ready to sail 9th May as she is required at the Clyde 10th May.
(D.O.D.H. 011248B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

MASTADONTE. Admiralty's 290455. Arrangements made to dock MASTADONTE in Union Dry Dock, Lime course in order to obtain size of propellor shaft cone. Capt. i/c Tilbury is requested to sail MASTADONTE so as to be off Union Dry Dock by 0945/3rd May.
(F.O.I.C. London 011715B to Admty.)

1.5.1944
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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

VIVID,
TERRAPIN.

Onward route diving by day to patrol within a radius of 10 miles of positions:

P. (P.77) VIVID 040 degs. 30' N. 012 degs. 50' W. arriving at 0930 4th.

R. (P.323 TERRAPIN 041 degs. 30' N. 012 degs. 50'

W. arriving at 0610 8th.

2. Bombing restrictions. All times B.

(F.O.G.M.A. 011258B to (P.77) VIVID, (P.323) TERRAPIN, 011312B to Admty., F.O.S. Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. S.10, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Cominch, Commorseafon.)

C.K.2.

T.G. to sail with all possible despatch escorting C.K.2 to Milford Haven. Upon arrival Horta T.G. 27.5 redesignated 120.6 PHEASANT Group Commander. (Com. 12th Fleet 011729Z.)

South Atlantic

Routeing of
O.S.convoys.

Concur with proposals in your 281326 but suggest that the three new positions should be formed into a named route.

(D.T.D. 010924B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

PHILOCTETES.

Your 231156 March. On release from duty at Freetown PHILOCTETES is to return to U.K. to refit and recommission.

(2nd S.L. 011731B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

M.V.TIJUCA.

Have you any news of TIJUCA (Arg.) due Buenos Aires 22nd April from Capetown.

(D.T.D. 011735B to S.B.N.O. Recife.)

1.5.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Flag
change.

Flag of Rear Admiral Sir Gerald Dickens was struck and the flag of Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Fitzherbert was hoisted at Bizerta at 0800/30th (C. in C. Med. 010915B)

SICKLE,
SPORTSMAN.

P.224 SICKLE remain to west and P.229 SPORTSMAN to the east of longitude 024 degs. 30'.

(2) Nice work SPORTSMAN letters waiting.
(Capt.(S) 1, 010951B to SICKLE, SPORTSMAN.)

SPORTSMAN leaving patrol p.m. 3rd and passing through 035 degs. 59' 024 degs. 30' to arrive in 035 degs. 49' 023 degs. 29' at 0602/4th thence through approach channel.

(2) SICKLE keeping clear of this route.

(Capt.(S) 1, 011015B to SPORTSMAN, SICKLE (R) F.O.L.E.M., 1st S/M)
From position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 15' about 1502/4th proceed to R/V with escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 0705/6th.

(2) Dive by day on 4th and then proceed on surface at 11 knots.
(Capt. (S) 1, 011020B to SPORTSMAN (R) 1st S/M.F.Air Authorities, R.A. Alex.)

Proceed forthwith to patrol close to West of Ananes by 1102 tomorrow.

(2) My 012147 refers.

(Capt. (S) 1, 012157B to SPORTSMAN, (R) 1st S.F. F.O.L.E.M.)

DOLFIJN.

Intend DOLFIJN sail from Malta on 5th May to join M.K.S. 48 for passage to Gibraltar.

(2) S.O.S/M Gibraltar is requested to sail DOLFIJN to U.K.

(Capt.(S) 1, 011107B)

Attack on
U.G.S.38
on 20 April.

Your 212219B. Following information requested concerning air attack on convoy U.G.S.38.

(a) Time of attack. (b) Type of attack.

(c) Weapon causing casualties.

(d) Radar conditions and remarks on R.C.M.

(c) Whether any reason can be suggested for the success achieved in the attack.

(D.G.D. 011131B to C. in C. Med.)

U-Boat
reported in
Dardanelles.

Ref. your 301300 and 301355C to F.O.L.E.M. present information available here indicates:

(1) Active patrolling in progress last 48 hours.
Fact.

(2) Turkish shipping circles sceptical about presence of S/M and movements of shipping not interrupted. A.3. (WIRIL arrived and SAVARONA due to sail to-day for Darindje and Mudanya).

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 011155C)

1.5.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.- Contd.

Reports of encounters with U-Boats. Re loss of LAFOREY. In order to obtain immediate benefit of experience in encounters with U-Boats, request brief report including lessons learnt may be forwarded to Admiralty in advance of reports called for in current orders.

(2) It is desired to warn all ships of the danger from the Gnat torpedo when a U-Boat surfaces in the middle of a hunt. Request any lessons learnt from the loss of LAFOREY may be sent to Admiralty by signal, preferably on the lines of A.G.M. 749A. (Admty. 011443B to C. in C. Med.) Reply: 051835A, page 73.

Re sailing of I.R.C. Ships. Your 281955 arrangements have been made for shipping Attache to service these sailings. It is understood S.O.(I) Gibraltar lays down route to be followed. (N.A.Lisbon, 011535B to N.A. Madrid, F.O.G.M.A.)

Anglo-Hellenic Schooner Flotilla. The Levant Schooner Flotilla is being renamed the Anglo-Hellenic Schooner Flotilla; short title A.H.S.F. (2) Ships are to be renamed A.H.S.1 etc. (3) Flotilla commanders are to be entitled A.H.S.1 and 2. (4) A.G.O.X. and F.O.L.E.M. 00610/36 dated 23rd March are to be amended accordingly by holders thereof. (F.O.L.E.M.011628C)

S.O.M. daily sitrep No.17. *operation "COMPLAINT"* (4) Crete. (A) Stated party due to receive op complaint (reported Sitrep 0016) was on beach on time heard boat at sea. Signalled failed attract attention then subjected to machine gun fire from sea. Beach party forced to abandon beach. No reports from complaint party of

German patrol vessels in neighbourhood saw signs of firing on land some distance east. (H.Q. Somto No T.O.O/1.)

BOXER. Completed trials. Full speed 13.2 knots. Full driving speed considered 12.7 knots. (F.O.W.It. 011804B) Anticipate BOXER will be fit for sea passage by May 2nd and request sailing instructions.

Communiques on operations of coastal forces in Adriatic. For security reasons and by desire of F.O.T.A.L.I and forces concerned communiques describing operations of light coastal forces in Adriatic are not being issued...nor are Press messages being passed. Instead scrambled communique will be issued after a period of time. (C. in C. Med. 011811B)

1.5.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mutiny in
Greek
Navy.

I have seen Rear Admiral Meziviris, your 301300 not to Admiralty and explained to him as follows.
(a) That the 400 mutineers are to be kept at Malta for the present and every effort made to separate the genuine malcontents from the greater number whom I am convinced have been led astray.

The former may have to be sent eventually to P.O.W. Camp in Egypt.

(b) I consider it should be possible to commission at least one S/M.

(c) Greek ships now in Central and Western Med. will on no account be sent to Alexandria where Loyalists are required for manning immobilised ships. PINDOS, MIAOULES and THEMISTOCLES will be kept away from Malta until the position there has been cleared up but if they mutiny in the face of the enemy they will be paid off and lost to the Greek Navy. Their eventual recommissioning with British or other crews would be examined.

(2) R.A. Meziviris leaves Algiers for Cairo 1400/2nd.

(C. in C. Med. 011831B)

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

Ground source report SS. LUNEBURG sunk. Comment. Appears probable in view claim of successful attack this vessel p.m. 28th April by British submarine but lack of Ph. R. Cretan ports prevents confirmation.
(C. in C.M.E. 011840.)

Greek situa-
tion report.

2. Greek Navy. Approx. 2570 all ranks under Gd. in Delta awaiting interrogation. After interrogation personnel will be C.O.N.C.Alexandria.
(C. in C.M.E. 301950C.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

1. Naval camp situation unchanged except they now say they will only surrender to the British. My 302032 April. Am not yet able to cut off supplies owing to army camp being adjacent.

2. Of those from other camps interrogated so far 10% (?are). "very bad" 30% fully trustworthy and remainder unstable.

(F.O.L.E.M. 012023C.)

UNTIRING.

One defective torpedo remaining. E.T.A. Maddalena 1002/3rd. One hit 1000 tons U.J. Boat 1901/27th off Toulon. One hit 2000 tons merchant ship 0445/1st off Port Vendres. Both believed sunk.

(UNTIRING 012204B.)

Pilotes de
la Flotte.

A.M. 201318 April.+ Request all available Pilotes de la Flotte in North Africa be sent urgently to U.K. taking passage if possible in ships referred to in your 181252 April.

(D.O.D.F. 012245B to C. in C.Med.)

+ Not used by W.D. referred to personnel required by Admiral Lemonnier for manning minesweepers.

1.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B
dispositions.

No.14. Area D - Single D/F bearing 168° from Kilindini at 0255Z/30th on uncommon frequency possibly indicates U-Boat still in area. Scale of air escort remains Y. Other areas no fresh information, no change in scales of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F., 010326.)

Control
of Diego
Suarez.

A.M. 261844 December and 111033 April, para. 3 about Diego Suarez. Request report whether French in general and Capitaine de Fregate Richard Evanou in particular are proving co-operative.
(Admty., 011544B to C. in C. E.F.)

SORSRA.

Asdic out of action owing to earth which cannot be traced. Subject to other orders being received intend to proceed with convoy* to Diego Suarez for repair. Request any reply may be passed through Zanzibar W/T.
(SORSRA, 011915Z to F.O.E.Af.)
* N.T. in Convoy Returns.

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1.5.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(Cominch, 011556Z, N.S.H.Q. 011610Z.)

M.V. PETER S (ex CELESTE M.) Your 301256. PETER S. (Nor.) presumably at Cuidad Trujillo further information has been requested.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 011623Z to Admty.)

U/B sighted. Submarine sighted by A/C in 047° 40' N. 051° 20' W. at 1640Z/1st.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 011715Z.)

KING HAAKON VII. Your 281638. Norwegian Naval Authorities concur.
(2) Request you will make arrangements direct with Cominch.
(D.O.D.(H), 011817B to N.S.H.Q.)

O.N.S.233. C.5 Group. Your 011733 acknowledged. Have detached LONG BRANCH and NEW WESTMINSTER. DAUPHIN will follow on receipt of further instructions but HESPELER has both Radar and Asdic out of action and DUNVER maximum Asdic transmitting range 800 yards due to leaky dome.
(S.O. C.5, 011956Z to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. C.N.A.)
Your (? 011817Z). O.N.S.233 - 111 ships. Two escorts are insufficient for ordinary convoy business such as assisting with communications and whipping in particularly in low visibility. Commodore wishes this to be strongly represented and I entirely agree. Propose 2 escorts of C.5 remain after Westomp until reliefs can be provided.
(S.O. C.5, 012150Z to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. C.N.A.)

H.X.M.289. Group C.3 PRINCE RUPERT H/F D/F (S.O.), BITTER-SWEET, MALBAIE, EYEBRIGHT sails (group omitted) 1100Z/2nd to relieve you in Westomp 044° 00' N. 051° 08' W. at 1600Z/3rd.
(2) W.H.X.M.289 one ship escort FOREST HILL sails St. Johns N.F. 1100Z/2nd joining in Westomp.
(3) Upon relief W.4 proceeds St. Johns N.F.
(4) "Chop" 1600Z/4th.
(F.O.N.F., 012002Z to S.E.C. H.X.M.289.)

U/B &c. incidents. SS. PAVLIN VINOGRADOV sunk from explosion origin unknown 53.12 N. 160.22 W. 0400/23.
Para. B. Radar contacts reported 16.10 N. 56.50 W. 1500/1 and 16.53 N. 54.42 W. 1533/30. A/C sighted sub. 47.40 N. 51.20 W. 1640/1. All times Z.
(Cominch, 012058Z.)

/LETHBRIDGE ...

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1.5.1944.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

LETHBRIDGE. During dark hours tonight you may sight IRISH POPLAR and IRISH ROSE (Eire) westbound in 038° 10' N. and Auxiliary Schooner CANCALAIS (Free French) northbound. You may also sight PUNGUE Portuguese and MANGALORE Swedish westbound on 358* route a.m./2. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 012237Z to LETHBRIDGE.)
* As received.

Water in fuel oil. Your 271815Z April. Request information whether tests of fuel remaining in SPINANGER and THORSHOLM showed any water content at all. (D.T.D., 012222B to B.R.L.O. New York.)

H.M.C.S. MEON. Sailed Halifax 2200Z/1st to Londonderry (route &c.)
(3) Request C. in C. W.A. issue necessary orders for MEON to join E.G.9.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 012233Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest April 30th.
No. 832. Dutch Mitchell on patrol mid-morning reports submarine with hull awash 150 miles north by west of Darwin.
(10) Early hours our M.T.B. patrols sank a picket boat and two lightly loaded westbound barges west of Aitape and four large barges carrying personnel and stores east of Wewak. 75 Japs. estimated killed.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 010800.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C E/103 attacked U-Boat with depth charges, course 110° at approx. 1530Z/30th April in 46° 35' N. 10° 40' W.
Para. B. (1) Halifax A/C C/502 obtained Radar contact at 0115Z/30th April in 45° 17' N. 06° 33' W.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact p.m./30th April in 46° 35' N. 10° 40' W.

/Para. D ...

War Diary.

1.5.1944.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

Para. D. (1) A/C reported possible U-Boat at
0600Z/30th April in 63° 52' N. 23° 16'.
(2) A/C reported possible U-Boat on course S.E.
at 0844Z/30th April in 50° 32' N. 01° 22' E.
(D.D.I.C., 011137B.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 011432B, 011438B.)

2.5.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Z.

1. At 0001 today convoy R.A.59 was reported by C. S.1 in DIADEM (S.O. of escort) to be about 240 miles E. by N. of Jan Mayen Island, steering 222° at 9½ knots. He adds that, though at least six U-Boats were then still in contact with the convoy no further attacks had developed, and that one B.V.138 A/C was shot down yesterday by fighter A/C from ACTIVITY.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

2. A force of three destroyers and one flak ship was bombed by our A/C at 0330B and again at 0235 today about 30 miles S.W. of St. Nazaire.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

3. (a). During a sweep off the Dalmatian coast last night the Italian destroyers GRANATIERE and ORIANI had an inconclusive engagement with 2 E-Boats off Menders Point. The destroyers also shelled the town and harbour of Bar. ^{Brac}
(b). Coastal forces sank 3 I-Boats off ~~Bone~~ ^{Brac} Island last night, one M.G.B. was damaged.

Air
Operations.

4. Minor air attacks were made last night on Genoa, Leghorn and Spezia harbours. Today 71 aircraft attacked Spezia harbour with good results.

East Indies.

Escort com-
mitments in
Indian Ocean.

5. (a). C. in C.E.F. sends today a message dealing with the rising scale of escort commitments for convoys in the Indian Ocean. During April a total of 43 troop and special convoys was escorted, apart from the ordinary trade convoys. 7 out of the 21 available fleet destroyers were employed on escort duty.

/(b)...

2.5.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Escort commitments in Indian Ocean.
(Contd.)

5. (b). U-Boat activity is likely to increase in the near future after the present lull, and C. in C.E.F. is taking the following measures to provide protection to independent shipping sailing in the two most vulnerable areas, viz:-

Area (a). to the eastward of Socotra and approach to the Gulf of Aden - 9 frigates and sloops are being formed into an A/V carrier support group and by the beginning of June BEGUM and SHAH will be ready to operate with this group in offensive A/S operation.

Area (b). The area to the east and close west of the Chagos Archipelago/Maldives Islands. Some reduction in air protection to coastal convoys is intended, to make available small detachments of G.R. aircraft in the Chagos Archipelago/Maldives Island area.

(c). A few fleet destroyers will be employed whenever possible to co-operate in the offensive against U-Boats. All other escorts will be fully employed in convoy protection.

2.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy:

O. 21. Request you will sail D.S. O.21 Arrochar on 5th May for St. Johns N.F. for onward passage to Philadelphia routed as follows.
(2) "Chop" in longitude 035° W. Admiralty 301808 September 1943 refers.
(3) Passage to be made on surface at C.O's discretion. Speed of advance 10 knots.
(F.O.(S), 021116B to Capt. (S) 3.)

Defence of the United Kingdom

Scapa A/S defences. Your O11721B. I quite appreciate importance of special operations but a cable vessel is very urgently required here to bring A/S fixed defences to minimum acceptable state of efficiency in view of release of patrol craft and with particular reference to possible Midget S/M attacks (A.C.O.S. letter 508/O.S.B. 2/3 of 15th April and 545/O.S.B. 2/3 of 25th April refer).
(2) Would it be possible for KILMUN to be returned and ST. MARGARETS retained here until her arrival.
(3) In any case earliest date ST. MARGARETS could sail 5th May due necessity of unloading some cable first. She also requires boiler cleaning before being operational.
(4) Request immediate decision.
(A.C.O.S., 021318B to Admty.)

Operations

Operation F.Z. (Convoy R.A. 59) My P.C.S. at 0001, 071° 15' N. 005° 07' E., 222°, 9½. No further attacks, but at least 6 U-Boats still in contact abaft beam. Many indifferent attacks but as yet no known success. One B.V. 138 shot down yesterday Monday by ACTIVITY's fighters.

(2) S.B.N.O. North Russia 010952. WILLIAM S. THAYER sunk. Following Russian survivors in BOADICEA, WALKER, WHITEHALL and ROBERT EDEN, 11 officers, 132 ratings, including one officer, 4 men seriously injured in last named. Weather. (C.S.1 in DIADEM, 020039B to H.F.)

My 131004 April and your 020039 May. FENCER is required to proceed Greenock for early disembarkation of Russian Admiral. As soon as situation permits request you detach FENCER with 2 or more W.A. destroyers to proceed direct to Clyde. Request you give VERULAM, VIRAGO and ULYSSES priority when detaching Fleet Destroyers to return to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F., 021215B to C.S.1.)

R.A.59. The following 26 American ships whose ultimate destination is U.S.A. are due Clyde a.m./7th May. Names.

(2) The majority of these ships are carrying personnel: 2708 being Soviet Naval Officers and men who are to disembark in the Clyde and proceed to Rosyth by rail.

(3) In addition to the above there are 100 Soviet Airmen who are to be transferred to ILE DE FRANCE for passage to U.S.A., also 80 (approx.) U.S. Merchant Seamen and Naval Armed Guard. There are also 96 U.S. Naval personnel ex U.S.S. MILWAUKEE.

(5) The following 6 ships are also for the Clyde: DOLABELLA (T), NOREG (T), FORT COLUMBIA, FORT HALL, FORT KULLYSPELL, FORT YUKON. The above ships have also on board British Naval and Merchant

2.5.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation
F.Z.
(Convoy
R.A. 59)
(Contd.)Navy personnel that are being repatriated.
(6) Total ships due Clyde = 42.
(D.T.D., 021914B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)Biscay A/S
operations.Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47° 00' N. 09°
14' W.

(A/C 612 Sqdn., 020045 to 19 Group.)

Have attacked 3 destroyers, one Flak-ship, with
bombs 46° 05' N. 03° 04' W. (position uncertain).No results seen due to evasive action. Returning to base,
fuel.

(A/C SHT.88, 020235 to 19 Group.)

Have attacked flak-ship with bombs 47° 00' N. 02° 44' W.

Result not seen. Resumed patrol.

(A/C SHT.30, 020338B to 19 Group.)

Operations
R.A. and
"Veritas".Following is a summary of results obtained by
Naval aircraft operating from a carrier force
under the command of V.A.2 between 24th and 27th
April.

- (2) Original intention was a further attack on
TIRPITZ but the attack had to be abandoned owing
to unfavourable weather conditions in the Altenfiord area.
- (3) Off Bodo. 1 escort and all 4 merchant ships of a south-
bound convoy were hit, the largest being reported beached and
on fire. One large merchant ship in harbour was also set on
fire and one hit obtained on a beached motor vessel.
- (4) In Vaagsfiord a 4,000 ton tanker was attacked and set on
fire.
- (5) One T.B.R. and 4 fighters are missing from these operations,
but one pilot is believed safe.
(D.O.D.(H), 020157B to Ad. Fisher.)

Spitzbergen.

A small R/C patrol planned to King Bay overland
if weather permits. Should like to know if any
objection.

("Locomotive", 021000Z to Admty.)

Coastal Force
Patrols.(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021054B, 021521B.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021306B.)
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 021450B.)Operation
"Knitting 9".My 011210B. Operation "Knitting 9" partially
completed satisfactorily, then abandoned owing to
engine defects in M.T.B.255. Conditions of sea
and excessive light proved unsuitable for the
operations.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 021153B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

/Operation ...

2.5.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd

Operation C.W. By D/F at 0841Z/2. Position of U-Boat making a weather reporting signal was approx. 52° N. 30° W.
(D.D.I.C., 021231B to VINDEX, E.G.5, HOSTE.)
VINDEX operating with 5th E.G. BICKERTON, KEATS, KEMPTHORNE, AYLMER, GOODSON, BLIGH vicinity 054° 31' N. 028° 29' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 021347B to Ships.)
9th E.G., MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT vicinity 058° 01' N. 017° 59' W. TRACKER operating vicinity 052° 31' N. 017° 30' W. with 2nd E.G., STARLING, WREN, WHIMBREL, WILD GOOSE, MAGPIE, 1st E.G. Dest. AFFLECK, BENTLEY, GORE, GARLIES.
(C. in C. W.A., 021408B to Ships.)
Your 021452B. At 0841Z BLIGH obtained a good H/F D/F bearing in 053° 26' N. 027° 58' W., of submarine transmitting WW message bearing 030° sense determined distance over 30 miles but in ground waves. Bearing 2 line one. Am taking action on your report.
(VINDEX, 021531B to Admty.)

S.C. operation. Intend sailing S.C. operation from Scalloway.
(1) a.m./5th May, weather permitting. (2) 059° 48' N. 005° 05' E. (3) RAMOSE CATHEDRAL.
(4) 2 days. (5) 092° Sumburgh Head. (6) N.
(A.C.O.S., 021501B to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/3rd May and movements for following 24 hours.
(a) STATESMAN vicinity 62° 08' N. 02° 43' E., leaving patrol to pass through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles at 0500/4th, thence to Lerwick.
(b) VIGOROUS vicinity 63° 38' N. 01° 56' E., leaving patrol to pass through 62° 01' N. 00° 11' E. at 0200/4th, thence 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick. Dived by day north of 62° N.
(c) STRONGBOW 63° 20' N. 01° 02' E., probably on surface through 62° 01' N. 00° 37' W. and 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles to Lerwick.
(F.O.(S), 021736B to Admty.)

Exercises.

Exercise "Fabius". Exercise "Fabius" postponed 24 hours. My 011154. D day will now be 4th.
(A.N.C.X.F., 020835B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Allied Air Activity

Sunk Head Fort. At 0925 yesterday a northbound Liberator dropped a stick of four bombs at distances from 1000 to 3500 yards from Sunk Head Fort. Request U.S. Authorities may be informed that any recurrence of such act will leave me no alternative but to issue orders that the Forts are to open fire on any aircraft dropping bombs within such a range as to cause damage to these Forts which are an essential part of the defences of the Estuary.
(C. in C. Nore, 021907B to Admty.)

2.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.

Two ground mines detonated 043° Tongue Sand Tower
3.2 miles at 1912B on 1st May.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 020845 and 031450B to Admty.)

Navigational.

Spithead
and Solent.

My 282343/4. This ferry can now resume normal
service.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021012B to G.O.C. Southern
Command.)

S/M
Sanctuary
off Port
HHZ.

In addition to facilities afforded by Eddrachilles
Bay Sanctuary Captain S.12 requires an area off
Port HHZ where X type submarines and human
torpedoes may be exercised by day and night
without interference.
(2) In order that immediate advantage may be
taken of suitable weather for exercising these
small craft Capt. S.12 requires the area to be available to him
for a definite period without further information being passed
to any authorities concerned.
(3) The area proposed by Capt. S.12 is to the east of a line
joining Stoer Point and Handa Island. The period required is
from 10th May for several months depending on progress.
(4) There is no objection as far as Western Approaches Command
is concerned. If approved request this area be promulgated as
a submarine sanctuary permanently in force unless cancelled by
request of Capt. S.12.
(C. in C. W.A., 021533B to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

XANTHE.

N.A.B. XANTHE has been burnt out.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021056 to Admty.)

DRAKEPORT
(?DRAKEPOOL).

Fire occurred on board DRAKEPORT yesterday p.m.
caused by explosion in her cargo of coal.
Master reports cause of explosion unknown but
thought to be due to spontaneous combustion or
sabotage. Security police are investigating.
Cargo was loaded at Cardiff. Damage, hatch covers require
renewal and strong backs straightening.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 021721 to Admty.)

CITY OF
LONDON.

At 1125/28th April RINANSEY in collision with
SS. CITY OF LONDON at Convoy Anchorage. RINANSEY
sustained no damage or casualties. Slight damage
to CITY OF LONDON.
(Capt. Grimsby Base, 021750B to Admty.)

2.5.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. QUANZA. M.E.W. particularly anxious for interception of Portuguese steamship QUANZA due Funchal today en route to Lisbon. Normal speed 13 knots.
2. This ship more important than steamship INDAUCHU.

(D.E.W.D. 021354B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Steamship QUANZA. My 021354B to F.O.G.M.A. refers. Passenger from Loanda named Ernesto Vilhena his son and secretary reported carrying large amount of diamonds in their luggage.

2. To avoid disclosing this suspicion search all passengers belongings equally thoroughly.

(D.E.W.D. 021355B to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)

HAARLEM.

My P.C. and S. at 2000B/2nd 037° 50' 010° 23' 270° 8½ altering course to 124° at 2115B. Your 021635B refers. Unable to maintain 9 knots. 4662 1851.

(HAARLEM 021920B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

U/B report.

A southbound U-Boat may possibly be in your area night of 2/3rd.

(R.A.W.Af. 021145 to WELLINGTON.)

Survivors
of SS.
NEBRASKA
(sunk 8th
April.)

My 231907* April para. G amend 0355 to read 0550.
(B.S.N.O. Rio de Janeiro 021905Z.)

* re Survivors ex NEBRASKA.

War Diary.

2.5.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- One man torpedo. Breathing apparatus ex German one man torpedo from Anzio left Malta by air today.
2. Photographs, drawings and estimated performance of mother ship will be forwarded to D.N.I. and C. in C.Med. by air as soon as possible.
(S.O.I. Malta 021105.)
- LA SULTANE, ULTOR. 1. Intend sailing LA SULTANE at 1600/5th via Q.B.B. 312 through 041° 28' 008° 34' to 042° 21' 007° 47' at 0400/6th thence through 043° 09' 007° 33' to patrol in zone SS.
2. Intend sailing P.53 (ULTOR) at 1600/5th via Q.B.B. 312 through 041° 25' 008° 25' to 042° 48' 006° 59' at 2130/6th to patrol in zone ST.
(Capt. S.10 021211B to C. in C.Med.)
- UPSTART. Leave patrol passing through 043° 05' 008° 03' to 042° 24' 008° 03' at 2230/5th thence direct to arrive Maddalena 1000/6th.
(Capt. S.10 021213B to UPSTART.)
- C.P.mines. Inspection of sinker received from U.S.S. SYMBOL confirms C.P.mines being used. 2, 4. Technical. 5. As this sinker was recovered by U.S. forces propose to modify ruling of C.C.3. given in C.C.S. 200/4/D and send sinker eventually to U.S.A.
(C. in C.Med. 021515B to Admty.)
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. Situation unchanged. My 012023. Army are taking steps to remove their dissidents, after which it is hoped that Navy will calm down and come to heel.
(F.O.L.E.M. 021942C.)
- Situation report No. 349. 1. Discharged at Anzio 1831 tons 30th April 2295 tons 1st May one plane shot down of 3 reported over port area 30 29th/30th April no damage.
(C. in C.Med. 022030B.)
- Cositintrep No. 298. Intermittent shelling of Anzio port area night 29th April/30th April caused no damage one enemy aircraft shot down during night 30th April/1st May.
(C. in C.Med. 022035.)
- SPORTSMAN. Leave patrol about 2201/3rd to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 29' at 0604/4th. Then proceed as previously ordered.
(Capt. S.1 022101 to SPORTSMAN.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B dispositions No. 15. All areas. No fresh information, no change in local condition scale of air escort. (C. in C. E.F. 020326Z.)

Convoy R.K.l. Arrived 1st convoy R.K. one escorted by FREESIA, and JASMINE. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 020521Z, 030516Z)

Survey of Torres Strait route. Fully concur with proposals contained in B.A.D. Washington's 281725 April. (C. in C.E.F. 020602Z.)

Bombay explosion on 14th April. Intention to dewater Victoria Dock basin. This will enable sunken ships to be repaired as in dry dock also wreckage and ammunition jettisoned to be removed. Local resources are sufficient except for for pumping equipment. 3 9" Hercules pumps complete asked for from Eastern Fleet resources.

2. 2 ships destroyed. 9 ships anticipated total loss but not declared. 5 craft with major damage repairable. 3 craft with major damage not fully surveyed 2 of which are sunk.

3. 24 hydraulic cranes considered total loss. 61 hydraulic cranes damaged but capable of repair.

Your 221822 April not to Com. R.I.N. refers. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 020953Z to Admty.)

Naval base, Diego Suarez. Reduction of Naval Base Diego Suarez. It is proposed that reduction of base be made in two stages:

A. Stage one. Reduction forthwith to status of commanders command with very much smaller base organisation.

B. Stage two. Return to French control leaving only British Liaison Officer N.C.S.O. and S.T.O. while British army remain in occupation.

2. Reduction in status proposed in para. 1 (A) will permit immediate release of approx. 12 officers and 200 ratings.

3. Effect of reduction will be as follows:

A. Base will only be available for dockings, fuellings, routeings and essential supplies.

B. Plan R will have to be abolished and W/T lines reduced to two namely 500 kc/s and service 99 or shore broadcast.

C. Naval working parties and base A/S staff will not be available.

D. No ordnance work can be carried out.

4. Request early approval to effect reductions proposed in para. 1(A) above.

5. As it is most unlikely that Diego Suarez will be used in future as a convoy assembly port or fleet base it is proposed to remove the boom. This is at present in a poor state of repair and its removal would release two bar vessels for more essential work.

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesNaval
Base,
Diego
Suarez.
(Contd.)

6. It is further proposed that when stage two is carried out the controlled minefield should be weighed and the control station dismantled.
(C. in C. E.F. 021303Z to Admty.)

Escort
commitments
in Indian
Ocean.

Further to my 121205. The rising scale of escort commitments for convoys in the Indian Ocean is perhaps not fully appreciated. During April an average of 17 escorts per day, including 7 of 21 available fleet destroyers were employed escorting a total of 43 troop and special convoys apart from the ordinary trade convoys in force. This is double the similar figure for preceding two months and will almost certainly increase in ensuing months.

2. U/Boat activity is likely to increase in the near future after the present lull and previous experience has shown the most vulnerable areas to be area (a) to the Eastward of Socotra and approach to Gulf of Aden. Area (b) the area to the East and close West of the Chagos Archipelago/Maldivé Islands.

3. To provide protection to independent shipping sailing in these areas the following measures are being taken with forces available:-

Area (a) 9 frigates and sloops are being formed into an A/U carrier support group and by the beginning of June BEGUM and SHAH will be ready to operate with this group in offensive A/S operation.

Area (b) some reduction in air protection to coastal convoys is intended to make available small detachments of GR aircraft in the Chagos Archipelago/Maldivé Islands area. A few fleet destroyers will be employed whenever possible to co-operate in offensive against U/Boats but opportunities are likely to be few.

4. All other escorts will be fully employed in convoy protection.

5. When reinforcements become possible the first requirement will be the provision of two A/S group of six ships each to enable the second pair of A/U carriers BATTLER and AMEER to operate concurrently and to provide a hunting group to work with shore-based aircraft.

(C.in C.E.F.021327Z as amended 050626Z to Admty.)

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

CALGARY, . Departure p.m./1 to Londonderry.
MOOSE JAW, (C.O.P. Halifax, 020145Z).
MEON.

N.S.H.Q. Sub. No report since my 290646Z para.B. A/C sights
Attack and sub course 150° speed 6 knots in 47.43 N. 51.20 W.
sighting at 1630Z/1st.
summary. (N.S.H.Q. 020731Z).

PREMIER Your 012201. Destination is New York unless
otherwise ordered by Com. 10th Fleet.
(D.O.D.(H), 021114B to PREMIER).

U/boat Estimates.
dispositions (N.S.H.Q. 021446Z, Cominch, 021612Z).

U.S.S. Navy Dept, unable to state categorically that
MILWAUKEE. H/F D/F equipment.D.A.Q. was not fitted. Your
301903B refers.
(2) Understand equipment had been assigned prior
to decision to lend ship but it is practically certain that it
had not been fitted.
(B.A.D. 021608Z to Admty.).

American A/C Your 252223/April.
shot down by (A) Carrier escorting convoy was warned only of
fighters from Liberator and Catalina aircraft likely to be in
STRIKER the vicinity and crews were briefed accordingly.
25th March. Unidentified aircraft appeared on radar screen
distant 46 miles. It closed convoy to 30 miles
when fighter section intercepted under control
from Carrier. Aircraft was the C.54 flying at
6000 feet. There was 3/10 cloud at 1500 - 2000 feet.
(B) No recognition signals exchanged. C.54 not
showing I.F.F. After sighting, while Fighter Leader was still
trying to identify, No.2 of section reported by R/T that aircraft
was F.W.200. This precipitated matters and attacks were made,
No.2 firing first. Leader saw sparks from C.54 which he took to
be return fire.
(C) Lack of recognition procedure by C.54 presumed due to lack
of knowledge of convoy position or likelihood of presence of
friendly fighters. Probably that pilot of C.54 never saw
fighters.
(D) I.F.F. not repetition not shown by C.54. Carrier and other
ships in convoy escort confirm.
(2) It appears that the incident was due primarily to the fact
that C.54 was not displaying I.F.F. and that contributory causes
were inadequate information about routeing and lack of suffic-
iently distinctive national markings on C.54. Suggest these
points should be considered by Recognition Committee.
(A.C.N.S.(A), 02200(B to B.A.D.)).

KING Admiralty's 011817 not to all addressees it will
HAAKON VII. be appreciated if H.M.N.S. KING HAAKON VII can be

/ released...

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- KING
HAAKON VII
(Contd.).
- released for patrol and escort duties in C. in C.C.N.As. command during the summer months.
(2) If concurred in request she be sailed to Halifax.
(3) N.S.H.Q's. 281638 April refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 022120Z to Cominch).
/ Employment of KING HAAKON VII on patrol and escort duties.
- U/boat incidents.
- My 012058 Para.B. Correct Radar contact at 011500 to 16.00 N. 56.40 W. 011410. Correct A/C sighting to 47.43 N. 51.20 W. 011630. All times Z.
Para.C. Army Liberator sighted U/boat 01.04 S. 31.24 W. 020810.
Para.D. Transport A/S sights wake and submerged U/boat 41.30 N. 34.07 W. 011530 course 30.
(Cominch, 022155Z).
- U.550
(sunk 16th April).
- Following from preliminary interrogation 12 Ps/W ex U.550 sunk 16th April in 40° 09' N. 69° 44' W. by U.S.S. JOYCE, PETERSEN and GANDY.
(a) C.O. ~~Klt.~~ Klaus Haenert on first patrol as C.O. - P.W.
(b) 740 tons type IX c built Deutsche Werke Hamburg, commissioned 18th July, 1943.
(c) Armament - two twin 20 mm on upper, one 37 mm on lower bandstand 14 torpedoes.
(d) Sailed on first and only patrol from Kiel 5th or 6th February. Sank SS. PENNSYLVANIA 16th April with salvo of 3 torpedoes.
(D.N.I. 022300B).
- Carriage of Merchant Seamen and civil air crews in hospital ships.
- C.C.S. decided in C.S.S. 228/3 dated 9th July, 1943 that Hospital ships might carry sick, wounded and ship-wrecked combatants and non-combatants attached to the Armed Forces.
(2) Above provision if literally interpreted does not permit transport of British sick, wounded and ship-wrecked Merchant seamen and civil aircrews who under British Law are not subject to Military discipline. The Gov. of U.K. and all the Dominions are however of the opinion that carriage of these men in Hospital ships is clearly within the spirit of the Conventions and is justified especially as they face much the same hazards as personnel attached to the Armed Forces and are subject to indiscriminate attack by the enemy.
(3) It is therefore proposed, subject to the agreement of the United States, to interpret C.C.S. 228/3 as including Merchant seamen and civil aircrews among the non-combatants who may be carried if sick, wounded or shipwrecked.
(4) Request you seek early concurrence of United States C.C.S. to above interpretation which will end exceedingly anomalous position of British Merchant seamen or civil aircrews wounded in a theatre of operations not being entitled to carriage in hospital ships.
(Admty. 022356B to B.A.D.).

27

2.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 833.

May 1st. Paras. 12 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.

(5) Previous night M.T.Bs. sank 7 heavily laden westbound enemy barges off Wewak Coast besides destroying two beached barges same sector coastline. Also contacted possible submarine off Uneilis Land 19 miles Northwest Wewak.

(12) 35 Dauntless 18 Avengers cratered entire length Lakunai runway forenoon 30th while 20 Warhawks 9 Lightnings scored 8 hits Vunakanau strip and 2 Liberators attacked Rapopo. Meanwhile 28 Dauntless 12 Avengers continued reduction supplycentres Talili Bay and fighters sank two troop laden barges destroyed beached floatplane all Rabaul Harbour firing several trucks in vicinity.

(16) R/C. plane sighted possible enemy S/M. 200 miles Northeast Nissan Island midday 1st.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 020952Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. Transit A/C sighted U/boat at 0620Z/1 in 43° 00' N. 09° 58' W.

(2) A/C. sighted U/boat at approx. 2355Z/1 in 42° 40' N. 15° 27' E.

Para.B. (1) A/C. of 612 Squadron made A.S.V. contact at 2245Z/1 in 47° 00' N. 09° 14' W. (D.D.I.C. 021018B).

U/boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 021411B, 021412B).

3.5.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Schiffahrt (Greenland)

Operation
 F.Z.
 One U-Boat
 damaged.

1. At 2230B to-day, when Convoy R.A.59 was about 300 miles E. by S. of Seidisfiord (Iceland) steering 196 degs at 9½ knots, C.S.1 in DIADEM (S.O. of Escort) with 3 destroyers left the Convoy for Scapa with U.S. Naval personnel, and FENCER with 3 destroyers was detached for the Clyde with U.S. and Russian Naval personnel. Air Striking Forces from the Escort to-day attacked five separate U-Boats, of which one was damaged.

Convoy
 C.U.22
 attacked.
 U.S. Des-
 troyer DON-
 NELL torpedoed.

2. At 1000Z to-day the 14 knot Tanker Convoy C.U.22 was attacked by a U-Boat about 680 miles West of Lorient. The U.S. Escort Destroyer DONNELL of the Convoy Escort was torpedoed aft, both her propellers were destroyed, and 27 of her crew are missing or dead and 15 more wounded. She was later taken in tow by the U.S. destroyer REEVES; and at 1258B. the five sloops of E.G.2. (S.O. in STARLING) were ordered to hunt the U-Boat which is believed by the Admiralty to be proceeding on a mean N.W. by W. course.

Mediterranean

AVONVALE.

3. The destroyer AVONVALE was due to be recommissioned on 30 April at Chatham as Greek Ship AEGEAN. The Greek crew are considered operationally unreliable on account of their political sympathies, and the ship is therefore being recommissioned with a British crew.

U.S.S.
 MENGES and
 French
 SENEGALAIS
 torpedoed:
 U-Boat
 sunk. (U.371)

4. U.S. destroyer MENGES, escorting Convoy G.U.S.38 was torpedoed aft by a U-Boat at 0142 to-day in 37.01 N. 05.29 E (off Bougie) and was towed to Algiers (arrived 4 May). The U-Boat was hunted and was sunk in 36.50 N. 05.34 E early on 4th May by BLANKNEY and U.S. ~~destroyer~~ *m/s* SUSTAIN, but not until it had torpedoed the French destroyer SENEGALAIS in the early hours. ~~and~~; the latter was towed to Jijeli. The C.O. and 48 of the complement of the U-Boat were taken prisoners.

[Details of attack on MENGES. page 382A]

3.5.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd

- Bridgehead. 5. 20 enemy A/C bombed the Beachhead and Anzio port last night. No damage was caused to shipping but an ammunition dump on shore was set on fire. 8 of the enemy are claimed as shot down. There was a little shelling to-day.
- Air Operations. 6. Minor air attacks were made last night on Piacenza, Genoa, Leghorn and Spezia. Civitavecchia harbour was attacked to-day; dock installations were hit and a ship was left listing. Shipping was successfully attacked between Piombino-Cecina and at Follonica.
- Adriatic. 7(a) LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD last night shelled the coast road near Maitika (Southern Albania) where traffic was seen. No shipping was sighted during their patrol.
(b) The Italian destroyers GRANATIERE and ORIONE had a short engagement last night with 4 E-Boats and shore batteries off Menders Point (near Yugoslav-Albanian border).
?ORIANI
- Aegean. 8(a) AJAX carried out a bombardment of Rhodes town and harbour last night, firing 307 rounds. There was no effective opposition.
(b) The French destroyers LE FANTASQUE and LE MALIN carried out a sweep in the south-east Aegean last night and bombarded Kos harbour: there was no opposition and no shipping was seen.
(c) One Wellington laid mines successfully last night in Khalkis harbour. Two large caiques were set on fire to-day in Cephalonia harbour, one being left with ammunition exploding.
(d) UNRULY reports that she sank three caiques between 19th and 21st April during a patrol in the Aegean.
- Black Sea. 9(a) N.L.O. Black Sea reports further successful attacks by Soviet E/Boats and aircraft on enemy shipping and on coastal and landing craft in the Black Sea. On 27th and 28th April E/Boats sank 3 merchant ships, total tonnage 6000.
(b) The Admiralty, however, consider these reports to be unreliable. The total tonnage of merchant vessels reported sunk by N.L.O. in his last 3 reports exceeds the total Axis merchant shipping estimated to be in the Black Sea.

3.5.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

U/Boat
destroyed
(U-852)

10. 3 Wellington aircraft of the Aden Command on A/S patrol carried out a succession of attacks on a German U/Boat south-west of Socotra from first sighting at 0245 yesterday. The enemy was reported in the early hours of today near Ras Hafⁿ (south of Cape Guardafui) damaged and unable to dive. Her crew blew her up at 0224 as she approached the shore, where she grounded at 0224 in 09.35 N. 50.48 E. and FALMOUTH landed a party who rounded up survivors. The midships section of the vessel and the conning tower were intact and some gear was recovered.

U/Boat-
operated
A/C .

11. The Admiralty consider it possible that U/Boats in the Indian ocean carry and operate an aircraft to locate our merchant ships.

S.O.G.

12. The formation of a Small Operations Group is recommended by C. in C.E.F.

Australia and New Zealand

New
Britain

13. L.H.Q. Melbourne reports that an Allied raiding party landed at Palmamal (Jacquinot Bay) on 20th April and captured a quantity of arms, stores and equipment. The small number of enemy who were located fled.

Solomons.

14(a) It is also reported that allied troops made an amphibious landing (date not stated) near Mavavia in support of an Allied attack in the Sapa River area. By 24th April, the Mavavia River had been crossed.

(b) M.T.Bs. last night damaged 3 enemy troop laden barges off south-eastern Bougainville and sank a barge and damaged a small freighter off New Hanover.

New Guinea.

15. M.T.Bs. last night destroyed 3 barges along the Hansa Bay - Wewak coast. Shore fire was encountered from Hansa Bay and Nightingale Bay, the latter was silenced.

3.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Transfer of
Warships to
Soviet Navy.

H.M.Gs. policy in connection with impending transfer of British warships to the Soviet Navy is that every possible effort should be made -

(a) to fit out the ships to the satisfaction of the Russians,

(b) to impress favourably the Soviet personnel

with the British war effort and British way of life.

2. The presence of about three thousand Soviet Officers and men in the United Kingdom presents a unique opportunity of creating good-will in the Soviet Navy which may have excellent effects on Anglo-Soviet relations. Great importance is, therefore, attached to (b) above. As one measure in this direction it is approved to victual the Soviet Officers and men at the expense of Navy Votes from the date of arrival in this country to the date of their departure. You should also submit as soon as possible proposals for the entertainment of the personnel during their visit, together with an estimate of cost.

3. Further signal will be made concerning ceremony for change of Flag.

(1st Lord 030304B to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.S. F.O.C. Reserve Fleet.)

WESSEX.

On satisfactory completion of acceptance trials about 11th May, request you will sail WESSEX to Scapa to work up under V.A.D.H.F.

(D.O.D.F. 031942B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Scapa
defences.

Your 021318. Request ST. MARGARETS be sailed 5th May, as in my 011721, not to all addressees.

ELDORADO instructed to load cable and proceed Scapa soonest to take up station until KILMUN returns to Scapa on completion of refit.

(D.A.S.M. 031546B to A.C.O.S.)

1. If 135th Flotilla is sent away it will leave this area dangerously weak. The reduction of magnetic sweepers was agreed to originally on the basis that 1st and 18th M.S.Fs. would remain available. This is not now so.

2. The Bouvets that would remain are not suitable for other than local operations.

3. I consider minimum force that should be retained at Scapa should be either A. six M.M.S. and six Bouvets or B. eight M.M.S. surrendering the Bouvets to Clyde for their local operations, and so allowing them to release more for the required Link Flotilla.

4. In any case, I have an important minesweeping commitment at an East Scottish Port and must retain six M.M.S. until after 14th May.

(A.C.O.S. 091634B to Admty.)

31A.

Preparations for Operation Overlord.

RESTRICTED

MESSAGE

032240B/May

From: C. in C. Home Fleet

Date: 4/5/44

Time: 0415

P/L BY T/P

Addressed: Home Fleet O2 Z
Info: A.G.O.S., A.S. Orkneys.

BASEGRAM.

It will be obvious to everyone that important events are impending. I hope therefore that during this month ships and shore establishments will cheerfully accept

- (A) Changes of programme at the shortest notice and other restrictions.
- (B) The maximum overtime where necessary to ensure fleet maintenance and readiness for service.
- (C) Helping the untrained by the trained.

It is essential that Junior Officers and men should be ready to take over at short notice the duties of those more experienced and I would wish Commanding Officers of worked up ships to pay particular attention to this aspect, the necessary opportunities being given for assuming responsibilities.

032240B.

Advance Copy D. of P.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pin
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
D.S.D.9 (2)
W.D.
I.P. (3)
D. of P. (3)
Ad. Blake (4)
File M.A. In.

3.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.Z. R.A.59. Several U-Boats still in company. No further attacks on convoy. A number of attacks on U-Boats some of which were damaged, but no sinking confirmed. My P.C. and S. at 0400, 067° 37' N. 001° 28' E. 202° 9½. Weather 3667 0514. (C.S.1 030504B to H.F.)

1. During course of day air striking forces attacked 5 separate U-Boats (German) 1 of which was damaged. No U-Boats (German) sighted since 1400B.
2. FENCER, WALKER, WHITEHALL and BOADICEA with U.S. and Russian Naval personnel detached to Clyde at 2230B.
3. C.S.1 in DIADEM, VERULAM, ULYSSES, and VIRAGO with U.S. Naval personnel left R.A.59 for Scapa Flow at 2230B.
4. ACTIVITY, MILNE (3rd D.F.) MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, MARNE, METEOR with U.S. Naval personnel will detach at position G for Scapa Flow.
5. P.C. and S. of R.A.59 at 2230B, 065° 02' N. 003° 45' W. 196° 9½ knots. (C.S.1 032346B to A.I.G.48.)

Biscay A/S Operations. Enemy force composed of 3 subs and one suspected surface vessel. (A/C PZB 14 030605B to 19 Group.)

Convoy C.U. 22 attacked. Submarine attacked convoy 47.48 N. 19.55 W. at 1000Z. (Any U.S. Warship 031004Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U.S. destroyer DONNELL torpedoed. If not in contact 2nd E.G. proceed at best speed to hunt U-Boat attacking C.U.22 in 047° 48' N. 019° 55' W. at 1200B. My 031255 refers. (C. in C.W.A. 031258B to E.G.2.)

C. in C.W.A. 031255B and 031258B. My P.C. and S. 050° 54' N. 017° 22' W. 209° 18 knots. E.T.A. 2330Z/3. Request names of hunting ships. (E.G.2 031425B to C. in C.W.A. C.U.22.)

Your 031425B. U.S.S. HOPPING, U.S.S. REEVES hunting ships and standing by U.S.S. DONNELL. (S.E.C.C.U.22 031502 to E.G.2.)

Last contact U-Boat 47.57 N. 20.10 W. at 1250Z/3. Plots indicate retirement to northward. Originator conducting Box search in area. REEVES screening disabled DONNELL. Intend to effect tow first daylight fourth, proceeding North Channel. (HOPPING 031755Z to CHARLES LAWRENCE.)

If not in contact with enemy discontinue hunt. (C. in C.W.A. 032030Z to HOPPING, REEVES.)

D/F bearings of U-Boat transmission at 1722Z indicate position within 20 miles of 48.10 N. 20.15 W. This transmission is thought to have been made by U-Boat which torpedoed DONNELL and position indicated shows U-Boat's course of mean advance to be 300°. Rate of advance is likely to rise to ten knots after dark. (D.D.I.C. 032034B to E.G.2, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.)

Following is a recyphered version of 031635 from C.T.G.21.6.

Begins:-

/My...

3.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. Convoy C.U. 22 attacked. U.S. destroyer DONNELL torpedoed. (Contd.) My 031025 and 031145 summary of which follows. DONNELL torpedoed aft at 1000Z/3rd, lat. 47.48 long. 19.55. Watertight forward of frame 124. Both screws gone. Believe salvageable if tow available. Casualties 27 missing or dead, 15 wounded, count not complete. HOPPING, REEVES hunting and standing by. 3 escorts and 32 ships proceeding. (Cdre. D.W.A. 032201 to Admty. C. in C.W.A.) Originator screening. Compliance your 032030 hunt discontinued. DONNELL under tow of REEVES. Estimated speed 3 knots. Course 040. Request air coverage and towing assistance. Escort Control Londonderry pass to C.T.G. 21.6 whose C.C.M. inoperative. (HOPPING 032330Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation "Croquet". My 301843. Operation may be postponed or lengthened as necessary on account of weather provided Force returns to Scapa by p.m. 8th May. (C. in C.H.F. 031129B to BERWICK.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.portsmouth 031145B.) (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 031252.)

Operation C.W. By D/F at 0906Z U-Boat making weather report in area within 60 miles of 52 N. 30 W. (D.D.I.C. 031330B to VINDEX, E.G.5, HOSTE.) ORPHEUS (U.S.) straggler from U.C.21 unable to hold course due heavy seas has not rejoined. Last known position 0200Z 56.05 N. 11.10 W. U.C.21 P.C. and S. 54.14 N. 13.54 W. 225, speed 14 at 1200Z. Weather. (C.T.G.21.5 031351Z to C. in C.W.A.) TRACKER, E.G.1st AFFLECK, GORE, GARLIES, BENTLEY vicinity 052° 05' N. 017° 40' W. (C. in C.W.A. 031404B to Ships.) 5th E.G. BICKERTON, BLIGH, GOODSON, AYLMER, KEMPTHORNE, KEATS operating with VINDEX (S.O.) vicinity 052° 31' N. 029° 45' W. (C. in C.W.A. 031409B to Ships.)

S/M Patrols. Position of submarines at 0800B/4 and movements following 24 hours. A. STATESMAN and STRONGBOW unescorted, probably on surface, approaching Lerwick from the north. B. VIGOROUS 61° 10' N. 00° 20' W. probably on the surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles for Lerwick. (F.O.S. 031724B to Admty.)

War Diary.3.5.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Sunk Head Fort. Following from C. in C.Nore. Repeats C. in C. Nore 021907B.
2. Request that this matter may be taken up with the appropriate U.S. Authorities at an early date. (Head of M. II 031413B to Air Min.)

R/C off Ile de Vierge. Request P.R. of position 48° 40' 30" N. 04° 23' 06" W. early tomorrow. Object to ascertain damage to enemy destroyer. (D.D.I.C. 032251B to A.D.I.Ph.)

Enemy Air Activity.

North Russian waters. German air force activity April 16th/30th as reported by Russians.
A. Zenit and sea R/C flight. Barents sea 18th, 20th 3 aircraft 29th Greenland Sea 23rd, 24th 2 aircraft 27th, 30th.
B. Other R/C (?on 27th) front line Motovski Gulf and approaches to Murmansk by 2 Me.109, 26th front line and Sredni Peninsula by 2 Me.109.
C. Fighter activity 23rd Russian aircraft on the way to attack a convoy in Varanger Fjord were attacked by 25 Me.109 off Rybachi Peninsula. Russians claim 8 Me.109 shot down also 2 He.115 over target.
D. Bombing. No bombing report. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 030905B to C. in C.H.F.)

Mining.

Portsmouth. At 301438 April one mine detonated by sweeper in 116° Nab Tower 7 miles. (C. in C.Portsmouth 031741B to Admty.)
At 290918B April one mine detonated by sweeper in 273° Needles Light 5 cables. (C. in C.Portsmouth 031744 to Admty.)
At 291714 April one mine detonated by sweeper in 297° Needles 1.5 miles. (C. in C.Portsmouth 031748B to Admty.)

Navigational.

S/M Sanctuary off Port HHZ. Concur with C. in C.W.A. 021533 on assumption that term Sanctuary is as now defined in C.B.03092 (43) para. 15.
2. If approved it is requested that when promulgating this information the attention of all authorities may be drawn to the fact that C.B. 03092 (43) has superseded C.B.03092 (42). (F.O.S. 031642 to Admty.)

3.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- MASTADONTE. Steering gear carried away. Request assistance of tug to proceed to dry dock.
(MASTADONTE 030607B to Capt. Tilbury.)
- L.C.F. 26 & L.C.F. 36. After full investigation my 241855 April is confirmed.
(Com. Force G 031259 to Admty.)
- UNRUFFLED. My 241150 and 291350 April. Telemotor System still defective on trial. Necessary postpone sailing until trial definitely satisfactory. Estimate 48 hours.
(F.O.I.C. London 031515B to C. in C.Nore.)
- WOODCOCK. Repairs to Bofors Twin Mk.IV gun mountings completed satisfactorily. My 211825 April refers. Messrs. Vickers consider that with proper care and maintenance the mountings will remain in a serviceable condition.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 031525 to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- Straggler. Stragglers return week ending 0915B/2nd May. O.S.75/K.M.S. 49 BADJESTAN. Firemen unable to maintain speed.
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 030915B to Admty.)

3.5.1944.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. INDAUCHU intercepted and boarded position 036° 55' N. 008° 46' W. proceeding course 117° speed 8 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300B/4. Request pilot for Merchant ship. Weather 4572 2121. (HAARLEM, 031245B to F.O.G.M.A.).

Contraband control. My 232251 April. C.C.S.O. should select one outward bound from Mediterranean ports. (D.E.W.D. 031444B to F.O.G.M.A.).

British Refugees. Following has already been made as my 031630 / begins:-
Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. in C. Med., B.N.A. Lisbon, B.C.ILA REAL DE SAN ANTONIO from F.O.G.M.A.
My 301041x April. SS. TENDERFOOT arrived with 48 Poles and one French. Ends. (F.O.G.M.A. 031838B).
/ N.T. of receipt in W.R.
x Circulated under T.O.O. 301109 (Embarkation of Polish Refugees).

South Atlantic

Routes of O.S. Convoys. A.M. 010924. Agree. (N.O.i/c W.Af., 031120Z).

War Diary3.5.1944
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

AVONVALE H.M.S. AVONVALE was due to be recommissioned on 30th April as Greek Ship AEGEAN. Greek Naval Attache reported, however, that six officers and large number of ratings had signed memorandum advocating new Gov. based on E.A.M. In view of recent occurrences in the Med., Greek N.A. has been informed that we do not consider the Greek crew operationally reliable, and, in the present circumstances, cannot proceed with the commissioning AVONVALE is, therefore, being commissioned with British crew. (V.C.N.S. 030010B.)

Disposal of Italian S/Ms. Your 211150B. BANDIERA not expected ready until (?August) delay in supplying batteries Italians consider her better proposition than four referred to in para. 2B., but final assessment should be deferred until she reaches Taranto at end of June. (F.O.T.A.L.I., 031101 to C. in C. Med.)

Fixes of U/Bs in W. Med. There is considerable difficulty in fixing a U/Boat by D/D in the Western Med. west of Greenwich Meridian due to the poor cuts obtained from North African D/D Station.
2. It is for consideration that bearings obtained in the U.K. of U/Boats in this area should be given special priority for transmission to Gibraltar in order that earliest possible action may be taken. (F.O.G.M.A. 031132B to Admty.)

SS.GERTRUD P.R.U. sighting 1130 3rd GERTRUD plus 2 coasters 4 Escorts 20 miles S.S.E. Milos course N.W. (F.O.L.E.M. 031216C to 1st S/M F. (R) SPORTSMAN, UNSWERVING.)

Black Sea From Intelligence report 28th April to 1st May inclusive.
1. A/C attack on enemy shipping.
27th April 1 R/Boat sunk, 1 1000 ton merchant vessel and 1 F lighter damaged. 30th April 57 lighters 1 (?tug) (?lighter) large landing craft 1 R/Boat and 1 M.L. sunk and 2 Me. 109 shot down.
2. Naval. Soviet E/Boats on April 27th sank 2 merchant vessels, 5000 and 3000 tons and on April 28th sank 1 merchant vessel 3000 tons and 1 R/Boat and damaged 2 R/boats. April 28th 2 enemy S/Ms (?returning) 17 miles apart about 100 miles N.E. Bosphorous. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 031505.)

Night air attacks. Following points are promulgated as a result of experience in recent night air attacks on Mediterranean convoys. (A) - (C) tactical. (C. in C. Med., 031614.)

/S.O.M. ...

3.5.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.S.O.M.
Daily
Sitrep
No.19.

7. Sea operations. Greece. "Dastard" successful by submarine approx. 22nd April. Three Greeks personnel with W/T set Slipstream and stores infiltrated. "Butterdrop" one successful 24th April 3rd 1/2 stores infiltrated 15 Italians, six Greeks, one Belgian, one Frenchman evacuated. (H.Q. Somto, 031700B.)

MIRROR:
Gibraltar -
Anzio Cable.

On completion of operation (D) of A.M. 011210 April not to all. Request you arrange for Master to provide Gibraltar Anzio Cable by extension of Anzio-Malaga. Master has details and should be informed that attention cannot at present be given at distant end. (C. in C. Med., 031804 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Bosphorus.

My 011155 (not to Captain (S) 1.) Turks now start closing Bosphorus Boom Gate at night. HD motor launches stand by. Fact.

2. Shipping ordered not to enter or leave

Bosphorus or Dardanelles in the dark. B.3.

3. Special low speed power searchlight now plays over Bosphorus throughout dark hours. Fact.

4. Am endeavouring to obtain more details. (S.O.(1) Istanbul, 031905C.)

S/M hunt.

S/M hunt is being abandoned at 0600/4th unless contact is made. Will confirm this at 0600/4th. (Capt. (S) 10, 031917B to LA SULTANE.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

Of 248 men so far interrogated 119 are considered (?usual+) 35 doubtful and remainder either definitely bad or suspect. My 021942 position in Helli Camp remains unaltered and without incident. It is now hoped that the situation there may be resolved quietly and steps are being taken to this end. (F.O.L.E.M. 032007C.) +may be casual.

Procedure
and code
for Naval
bombardment.

The need for a common procedure and code for Naval Bombardment by ships of various Allied Nations with shore and Air Observation involving different services has been keenly felt in the Mediterranean during the past 18 months. My 222205 November 1943 refers.

2. Discussions with U.S.Navy, French Navy and Allied Army Artillery in this Theatre have led on to the production of a proposed common procedure and code for Naval Bombardment with Shore Observation for ships of any allied Nation. This has been forwarded to Admiralty in my letter 3137 Med. 00225/4 of 24th April and also to Cominch by Comnavnav.
3. Technical.

War Diary

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Procedure
and code
for Naval
bombardment.
(Contd.)

4. A similar procedure for Control of Naval Bombardment with Air Observation involving the same principles has also been agreed with U.S. Navy and Allied Air Authorities and has been forwarded to Admiralty under my 2728 Med. 00225/4, of 9th April.
5. Suggest steps may be taken with U.S. Authorities to authorise the general use of these or similar common procedures and codes for Naval Bombardment with Ground and Air Observation.
(C. in C. Med., 032017 to Admty.)

Situation
report
No. 350.

1. 3658 tons discharged Anzio 2nd May. No enemy activity.
2. U.S.S. MENGES escorting convoy G.U.S.38 torpedoed aft by U/Boat at 0142/3rd in 037 degs. 01' N. 005 degs. 29' E. Ship now in tow proceeding Algiers. U/Boat hunt in progress some attacks have been carried out.
3. Italian destroyers GRANATIERE and ORIANI during sweep off Dalmation coast night 1st/2nd May had inconclusive engagement with 2 E/Boats off Menders Point and shelled Bar town and harbour.
4. Coastal forces sank 3 I/Boats off Brac Island during night 1st/2nd May, one M.G.B. damaged 2 ratings wounded.
5. P.49 UNRULY reports sinking 3 30 ton Caiques between 19th and 21st April during Aegean patrol.
(C. in C. Med. 032155.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/boat No.16. Area C. U/boat attacked and damaged by
dispositions aircraft at 0425Z/2nd in vicinity Ras Hafun last
reported unable to dive in 009° 32' N. 050° 49'
E. at 1655Z/2nd. Scale of air escort Z.
Area D. Reduced scale of air escort to W. Other
areas. No fresh information, no change in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 030324).
Ref. No. (?16) Area C. Owing to destruction of U/boat
reduced scale of air escort to W.
(C. in C.E.F. 030513Z).

Allocation After consultation with Capt.S.4 and Capt.S.8
of S/Ms. who has just returned from Australia, my proposals
at for the allocation of submarine forces at Fremantle
Fremantle. in the autumn of 1944, A.M. 211341 February refers,
are as follows -
MAIDSTONE 3 "T" class and six "S" class at Fre-
mantle.

(2) The preponderance of "S" over "T" class in the Fremantle force
is desired because the operational areas envisaged by Commander
Task Force 71 are in many cases more suitable for the smaller
submarines.

(3) It is furthermore desirable that a number of "T" class should
be retained in Ceylon to meet the requirements of special
operations.

(4) The final proportion of "S" to "T" class at Fremantle can be
adjusted later should circumstances so demand.

(C. in C.E.F. 030403Z to Admty.).

Junk As a result of attacks by our S/Ms. on shipping
traffic in in the Malacca Strait it seems probable that the
Malacca Japanese will make use of junks since so far the
Straits. latter have been immune from attack.

(2) I consider that the junk traffic offers
suitable and profitable target for attack and that
such attack will promote reluctance on part of junk
owners and crews to participate in coastal traffic.

(3) Request I may be informed if there are any political or any
other objections to including junks and other craft of 20 tons
and over as objects for attacks by our submarines. I am aware
an occasional junk is employed for clandestine operations but the
small success achieved in their employment for this purpose
appears to be far out weighed by the advantages to be gained by
effective action against all types of enemy shipping.

(C. in C.E.F. 030436Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.). *See also 131237 Z p.183.*

140513Z p.199.

U.852 U/boat FALMOUTH reports U/boat was blown up by own crew at
destroyed 0224/3 as she approached. U/boat was close
off Cape inshore last reported position being 009° 32' N.
Guardafui. 050° 45' E. Landing party is now ashore rounding
up survivors.

(2) The destruction of this U/boat was entirely
due to aircraft of the Aden Command who had carried out a
succession of attacks from 1st sighting at 0245 2nd May and
damaged the U/boat to the extent she was unable to dive.

(C. in C.E.F. 030514Z).

W.D. Note:(c.f. C. in C.E.F. 030324).

/ Replacement...

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WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.

- Replacement of lost cargoes. Reply to Air Min. 131435Z para.3, 1 - 4. This is not practicable. (5) it is appreciated that immediate replacement of items in short supply may not always be possible but for reasons given in S.E.A.C.O.S.125 must still press for earliest replacement possible. (6) Above agreed by ARMINDIA. (S.A.C.S.E.A. 030545Z to A.M.S.S.O.).
- Move of 11th E.Af. Division. Concur with programme for moving of 11th East Africa Division for Colombo to Chittagong contained in your 271258 April. (2) As it will be necessary to withdraw certain escort vessels from H.C. cycle to meet this commitment request early information. (A) Date of which last H.C. convoy will leave Calcutta. (B) Detailed requirement for M/T ships between Vizagapatam Calcutta and Chittagong whilst H.C. convoys are not in operation. Your 280519 April refers. (3) It is suggested M/T ships in para. (2) (B) should run on a 4 day cycle from Vizagapatam if possible so use may be made J.C. convoy on every other voyage. (C. in C. E.F., 030607Z to P.S.T.O. India.)
- Small operations group. Careful consideration has been given to the proposal to form a Small Operations Group. Your 231847 April refers. The principal advantage to be gained is that it brings under one control the 7 or 8 different types of Combined Operations special boat units including C.O.P.P. parties such as beach reconnaissance parties, demolition parties, parties for attacking ships in harbour, markers for assault landings etc. Administration. 2. This concentration will simplify the administration of the various parties and will economise in the provision of administrative personnel. 3. C. in C. E.F. will be the Administrative Authority for the S.O.G. operation. 4. Operationally the main advantage to be gained is that all the various experts will be concentrated and that when planning an operation all types of experts will be immediately available in the same place. Co-ordination of activities with other irregular organisations. 5. This co-ordination is undertaken by the P division at Supreme Headquarters who is responsible for the co-ordination of work between the S.O.G., S.O.E., I.S.L.D., and O.S.S. 6. The formations of the S.O. Group greatly reduces the number of separate organisations for which P division is responsible. Composition of Group. 7. The establishment appears satisfactory for the numbers envisaged as eventually forming part of this group. The proposal that the headquarters staff and the new entries to be trained locally should be Royal Marines except where the inclusion of other services is concurred in. Recommendation. 8. It is recommended that the formations of the S.O.G. be approved and that the advance party of R.M. Detachment 385 may be sailed at an early date and that arrangements be made for the main party to follow about 5 weeks later. (C. in C. E.F., 031159Z to Admty.) / apparently words omitted.

/ATHOS II ...

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.

ATHOS II

With personnel for U.S.A. and Capetown which apparently exceeds unescorted numbers permitted C.A.F.O. 2247/43 request provision escort or permission proceed unescorted. My 020915 refers. (P.S.T.O.(I) 031227Z).

Bombay
docks
explosion.

For Chiefs of Staff from General Auchinleck.
(1) Bombay. Summary of shipping losses is as follows:-

Probable total loss 7 ships, damaged 8 ships, total gross tonnage involved about 60,000.

(2) Repairs to Princes Dock estimated to take about 2 months. Victoria Dock about 6 months.

(3) Hope by 10 May to have 16 berths with cargo tonnage 10,200 a day working in Alexandra and Princes Docks compared with previous capacity 17,800.

(4) Joint Transportation Committee have prepared detailed plans for short term reconstruction, bearing in mind also long term.

(5) Over-all results of explosion not as disastrous as first feared.

(Armindia, T.O.O. N11).

U/boat
operated
A/C .

Pass to N.C.S.Os.

It is possible that U/boats in the Indian Ocean carry out operate and aircraft to locate our merchant ships. Such aircraft would necessarily be small, probable of floatplane type with a single engine and of limited range. They would

not be fitted with wheels and could only be operated in calm weather.

(2) The sighting of such an aircraft is therefore a strong indication of the presence of a U/boat within about fifty miles and calls for an immediate W/T report as air or other forces in vicinity may then be able to intercept and destroy the U/boat.

(3) As the positions of friendly aircraft are known to our own forces little harm will be done if aircraft so reported eventually prove friendly. Much may be lost if a report is withheld solely because a Master is in doubt as to identity.

(4) Ships fitted with H/F should use it for these reports in preference to 500 kc/s. The standard aircraft distress message may be used but should be amplified when practicable to make it clear that a U/boat aircraft is suspected.

(5) The foregoing should be explained to Masters.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 031603B to C. in C.E.F.,C. in C.S.A., Info. A.C.N.B.,N.Z.N.B.). Note: Cancelled by A.M. 091713B q.v.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 031527Z, Cominch 031550Z.)

Mobile A/S Para. 1 of your 281833* April. I do not know
establish- your requirements for mobile A/S Establishment
ment. but suggest CORSAIR might be more suitable for
CORSAIR. conversion than a Maritime Commission Frigate.
CORSAIR is coming to Bermuda shortly for refit.
CORSAIR's U.D. complement is now R.N.V.R.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 031609Z to Admty.)
* Re conversion of Maritime Comm. Frigate as
mobile A/S Establishment.

H.X. 287. Average speed 9.6 off Oversay at 1100/25th
April. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 031908B.)

4 escort It is hoped to sail next four escort carriers to
carriers. U.K. as follows:

Ship	Convoy
QUEEN	T.C.U.24
PREMIER	C.U.25
ARBITER and RULER	C.U.26.
(B.A.D., 032017Z.)	

A/C & U/B Para. B. CROATAN A/C sighted possible wake 31.26
incidents. N. 37.18 W. 020557Z and had Radar contact 30.27
N. 37.10 W. 022307Z.
Para. C. C.87 sighted U-Boat 02.35 S. 08.50 W.
011440Z.
Para. D. Navy transport A/C reports A/A fire 41.05 N. 31.22 W.
031030Z.
(Cominch, 032107Z.)

Tugs for 13 coal burning tugs are being delivered for
passage to British M.W.T. account on west coast at intervals
Gibraltar. during April to September inclusive. An
additional tug is being delivered in Gulf. All
are for passage to Gibraltar.
(2) Owing to limited endurance of about 13 days
at 9 knots Admiralty have preferred that they be sailed in
groups to Ponta Delgada as convenient.
(3) U.S. authorities have been requested to sail tugs singly to
Bermuda for onward routeing in groups.
(4) The first tug ATENGO is due Balboa on 12th May and will
presumably be included in Z.G.68 and G.N.134 for detachment as
convenient for Bermuda.
(5) Further signal will be made regarding movement of subsequent
deliveries.
(B.A.D., 032121Z.)

/Clearance ...

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Clearance
of Trapani,
Marsala,
? Mazzara.

In order to expedite the clearance of Trapani, Marsala and Adgara (sic), Cominch recommends the Admiralty as executive agent of C.C.S. authorise the Italian Navy to proceed with salvage for their own account of all sunken vessels now obstructing these ports.
(B.A.D., 032321Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
834.

(6) M.T.Bs. off Vanimo daylight May 1st straffed Japanese party on coastal track killing about 20.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 030930.)

Operations
to 28th
April.

New Guinea. Bogadjim Madang area. Australian patrols moving North from Bogadjim unable to cross swollen Gogol River. Moved by P.T. boat on 23rd April to Bilibili where fresh troops landed same day. Combined forces moved forward on 24th April entering Madang after overcoming small enemy rearguard armed with automatic weapons and weapons and mountain guns one mile South Madang. 26th April Australian troops entered Alexishafen unopposed occupying two airfields some resistance encountered from Sek Island (two miles east Alexishafen) this reduced by ground forces with naval gunfire support. 25th April inland patrol reached Amele (six miles west Bilibili) without making contact.

Occupation
of Alexis-
hafen.

Landings
in north
New Guinea.

Aitape, Humboldt and Tanahmerah Bay areas. Assembling largest amphibious force yet used in S.W.P.A. Allied troops on morning 22nd April made simultaneous landings Tanahmerah and Humboldt Bays and vicinity Aitape. Covering operations Task Force bombarded landing areas and nearby airfields during day preceding landings. Other naval units neutralised enemy airstrips Wakde and Sarmi whilst land-based aircraft attacked Manokwari, Ceram, Aroe and Kai Island, Hansa Bay and Wewak.

Aitape Area. Landing made at Wapil (eight miles south-east Aitape), little resistance encountered. Shortly after midday Tadjil airstrips reached. R.A.A.F. works squadrons immediately commenced reconstruction and airfields operative by 25th April. Second force moving towards Aitape occupied village morning 24th April without opposition. Islands of Tumleo, Seleo, Ali and Angel occupied without opposition except slight resistance offered Tumleo Island quickly overcome.

/Subsequent ...

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to 28th
April.
Landings
in north
New Guinea.
(Contd.)

Subsequent patrols operated four miles west Aitape 13 miles east Tadjji airfields without contact. Enemy casualties to 25th April 102 killed, 17 captured Humboldt Bay. Landings made four points vicinity Capes Pie and Tjeweri. No beach defences encountered only slight opposition. Moving northwards Allied troops occupied Hollandia following day. Other forces moved westward to north-east corner Sentani Lake by 24th April where some opposition encountered 100 Japanese being killed. Amphibious movement across Sentani Lake to Cyclops airfield captured 25th April. Sentani airfield occupied following day. Latter airfield found serviceable for 3,300 feet.

Tanahmerah Bay. Landings effected Tablasoefa (2½ miles south-east Cape Tanahmerah) and Depapre (2¼ miles south Tablasoefa). Slight opposition encountered former landing quickly overcome. Troops from Depapre moved rapidly south to occupy Maribo (1½ miles from Depapre) thence to Sabron (6 track miles from Depapre) and by 25th April Hollandia airstrip captured. Apart occasional sniper fire no opposition encountered. Reports indicate Tanahmerah Bay area had not been fortified.

General Comment: Enemy appears to have been completely surprised by attacks this area. Large quantities stores ammn., food, secret documents and crate aircraft and aircraft motors captured. Considerable number enemy reported escaping westward by track-running from south-west corner Sentani Lake to Demta (26 miles west Hollandia). Very large naval support provided. In addition powerful elements 5th Fleet from Central Pacific acted as outer cover to forestall any attempt by Japanese Navy to contest landings. No enemy surface craft or air interference during landings. Would appear Japanese 18th Army concentrated Wewak Hansa Bay faces three courses -

1. Concentrate for protracted passive defence Wewak Hansa Bay.
2. Launch attack against Aitape perimeter.
3. Attempt evacuate by land by-passing to south Allied forces Aitape and Hollandia.

Course 1. In view almost impossible task obtaining supplies this could only be in hopes delaying our future operations.

Course 2. Considered required at least one week move sufficient force to Aitape area.

Course 3. Appears almost fantastic but similar long overland journeys have been attempted before. Jacquot Bay. Allied raiding party landed Palmalmal 20th April. Only small number enemy who fled located. Quantity arms stores equipment captured. Later reported no Japanese between Palmalmal and Esis River (15 miles north-east Palmalmal).

New
Britain.

Allied ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Operations
to 28th
April.
Solomons.

Allied troops made amphibious landing vicinity
Mavavia supporting Allied attack Saua River area.
By 24th April Mavavia River crossed enemy driven
from coastal positions to east. Other areas
patrol activity only.
(L.H.Q. Melbourne, 031730K.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C H/58 attacked U-Boat at 2313Z/
30th April in 46° 12' N. 07° 02' W.

(2) A/C attacked U-Boat at 0425Z/2nd in 10° 30'
N. 52° 00' E.

Para. B. (1) A/C S/53 sighted 3 U-Boats, course
240° and attacked with depth charges at 0208Z/3rd
in 45° 11' N. 08° 07' W.

(2) A/C S/53 sighted 2 U-Boats at 0405Z/3rd in 46° 40' N. 10°
10' W.

(3) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1520Z/2nd in 35° 57' N. 05°
42' W.

(D.D.I.C., 030945Z.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 031459B, 031504B.)

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- Flag of C.S. 1. 1. The Flag of F.O.C.S.1 was transferred from DIADEM to KENT at 1620 today.
- Flag of R.A.C.S.2. 2. The Flag of R.A.C.S.2 was hoisted in WARSPITE at 0800 today.
- Operation F.Z. 3. Convoy R.A.59 was about 200 miles W. by N. of the Faroes at 1130B today.
- Biscay A/S operation. 4. The U.S. Destroyer Escort DONNELL, damaged yesterday by U-Boat while escorting Convoy C.U.22, was about 630 miles West of Lorient at 2331B today in tow of the U.S. Destroyer HOPPING and escorted by the Sloops WHIMBREL and MAGPIE of E.G.2. The remaining three Sloops of E.G.2 (S.O. in STARLING) with TRACKER and E.G.1 are searching for the U-Boat about 450 miles W. by S. of Lands End.
- OFFA bombed. 5. At 0339 today, while on patrol about 22 miles S. by W. of St. Catherines, the Destroyer OFFA was hit by a bomb from enemy A/C which killed three ratings and seriously injured four others. But the ship was only superficially damaged and at 0400 she resumed her patrol.
- ELGIN mined. 6. At 1430 today, when about 15 miles South of St. Albans Head, the Minesweeper ELGIN was damaged by a mine believed to be of the ground acoustic type. Sweeping was not being carried out at the time.
- U/B sunk. 6A. The Admiralty reported on 9th May that Wellington aircraft M/407 at 0430 today sank a U-Boat in 46.04 N. 09.20 W. 9 bodies and 3 survivors were seen in the water.

South Atlantic

- U/B attacked by T.G. 21.11. 7. BLOCK ISLAND reports sighting a U-Boat at 0022Z today in about 16.15 N. 33.22 W. (480 miles west of Cape Verde Is.), and made a depth charge attack. An explosion was heard but darkness prevented results from being assessed. Surface and aircraft are continuing the hunt.

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

8. SENEGALAIS torpedoed: U/B sunk off Bougie. See 3rd May.

U.S.S.
FECHTELER
sunk.

9(a) U.S. destroyer escort FECHTELER, escorting Convoy G.U.S.38 was torpedoed by a U-Boat in 36.07 N. 02.40 W. (near Alboran Island) at 0446 today and sank later.

(b) C. in C. Med. considers the torpedoing of the FECHTELER indicates that the Mediterranean has been further reinforced by U-Boats.

10. 12 Baltimores attacked shipping and harbour installations at San Benedetto and Giulianova last night.

11. One of two Wellingtons laid mines at Rhodes harbour last night. Diversionary bombing was carried out.

Australia and New Zealand

12. Allied coastal craft sank 4 barges off the Hansa Bay - Wewak coast last night.

49

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicy

- ACTIVITY. On arrival in U.K. ACTIVITY is re-allocated to C. in C. W.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 040101B to C. in C. H.F.)
- Shipping in North Russia. Your 261134. It is desired that the 6 remaining ships should be brought back to the U.K. If no earlier opportunity is practicable, concur that their return should be deferred until June, possibly in conjunction with "Locomotive".
(1st S.L., 041034B to C. in C. H.F.)
- Entertainment of Russian personnel in U.K. A.M. 030304. Request you will forward proposal for entertainment of S/M personnel in consultation with C. in C. Rosyth. It is my wish that scale proposed should conform to that decided upon by him for surface ships.
(F.O.(S), 041556B to Capt. (S) 9.)
Please inform Admiral Levchenko of the following arrangements for the arrival and accommodation of Russian Naval personnel.
- (2) Rear Admiral Kharlamov accompanied by his staff and an interpreter will be at Greenock to meet Admiral Levchenko on arrival of FENCER. Arrangements are being made to accommodate both Soviet Admirals and their staffs in Glasgow.
- (3) Merchant ships carrying Russian personnel are expected to arrive in Clyde approximately 24 hours after H.M.S. FENCER. Special trains have been arranged to take the whole party to Rosyth on 8th May.
- (4) On arrival at Rosyth accommodation is available as follows:-
- (a) Admiral Levchenko in ROYAL SOVEREIGN at Rosyth.
- (b) Battleship personnel in transport EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at Rosyth.
- (c) Destroyer personnel in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and destroyers berthed at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Destroyer personnel can all be accommodated temporarily in ships at Rosyth if required.
- (d) Submarine personnel in CHASER at Rosyth.
- (5) The proposed plan is that Russian personnel shall gradually relieve British personnel until transfer is completed.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 042026B to FENCER.)
- Flag of C.S. 1. Flag of F.O. 1st C.S. will be transferred to KENT at 1620 today. Cancel my 181042.
(C. in C. H.F., 041558B to H.F.)
- O. 21. O.21 and escort vessel whose name will be signalled leave Holy Loch 2000B/6th for 180° Barra Head 10 miles, E.T.A. 1400/7th.
(2) Thence O.21 to westward.
(Capt. (S) 3, 042143B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

Biscay A/S operations. DONNELL in tow. In view of all circumstances I would prefer you to sink DONNELL after all personnel have been removed to avoid risk of further casualties. (2) 2 ships of 2nd Escort Group are being sent to assist you with their boats to transfer crew. (C. in C. W.A., 040046B to HOPPING.) Compliance C. in C. W.A.'s 040046B and 040049B effecting transfer DONNELL's personnel first light. Towing operations reference my 032330Z, possible at five knots. Request confirmation decision scuttle. (HOPPING, 040230Z to Admty.) C. in C. W.A.'s 040717B. Proceed to 048° 50' N. 018° 00' W. Indicate your P.C.S. (LOCHY, 041057B to SAMSONIA.) Fuel report (a) All ships over 65%. Position 49 22. (E.G.2, 041103B to C. in C. W.A.) Am patrolling vicinity 049° N. 022° 20' W., steering for that position. (E.G.2., 041210B to CAM.) A.M. 040855. Bearing of this U-Boat transmission at 040619Z now complete indicates position within 20 miles of 049° 50' N. 018° 45' W. Cancel all previous instructions and proceed to search this U-Boat on the appreciation that it is westbound. (2) WHIMBREL and MAGPIE continue to escort DONNELL and are not to consider themselves in the address E.G.2nd until further orders. (3) TRACKER is to be prepared to provide fighter support for DONNELL at short notice during daylight today. (C. in C. W.A., 041254B to TRACKER, E.G.2, E.G.1.) Your 041112B. P.C.S. at 2000B, 043° 04' N. 022° 20', 033°, 14. (GRINDALL, 041310Z to C. in C. W.A.) Steer position 051° N. 012° W.. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. (2) Report your P.C.S. and present situation concerning DONNELL. (3) Suggest you consider transferring all surplus personnel not required for working DONNELL to escort if this has not already been done. (C. in C. W.A., 041312B to HOPPING.) My 041300B. BENTLEY and GORE complying with your 041254B. (E.G.1, 041415B to C. in C. W.A.) Assumed S.O. (? of) screen DONNELL at 1430Z. (2) Tow parted in 047° 50' N. 019° 05' W. Previously making about 6 knots. Weather. (WHIMBREL, 041800B to C. in C. W.A.) HOPPING resumed towing. My 041800 refers. P.C.S. 047° 46' N. 018° 48' W., 050°, 4. Weather. (WHIMBREL, 042331B to C. in C. W.A.) P.C.S. of enemy, three destroyers, 47° 00' N. 06° 04' W., 300°, 10 knots. (A/C PJQ.32, 042352 to Chivenor.) O.S./K.M.S.50, for information reference DONNELL. Have 2 American tugs in convoy destination Gibraltar. My P.C.S. 54° 51' N. 11° 55' W., 225°, 5 knots. (B.4., 042359B to C. in C. W.A.)

/Operation ...

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "Overlord". All tugs allocated for "Mulberry" operational towing are required to be at assembly ports by Y - 7. Detailed lists of tugs and assembly ports are being sent by letter. On receipt request authorities concerned immediately confirm. (A.N.C.X.F., 040847B to Admty.)

Request photographic R/C of Southampton Water, Solent, and Spithead during assembly for operation "Overlord". Date to be decided later.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041351B to Admty.)

Operation C.W. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 2330B. My P.C.S. 1200B, 056° 34' N. 011° 50' W., 113°, 16 knots. (E.G.9, 040855Z to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.) My P.C.S. 054° 38' N. 032° 24' W., 169°, 9½ knots. (HSTE, 041005Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 040916. (1) ESSINGTON has a total fuel endurance remaining of 4 days.

(2) Accumulation of defects as follow. Details.

(3) None of above defects affects patrol efficiency, but operational value of ships is limited.

(4) Information as to combined operation programme of DUCKWORTH would be appreciated.

(E.G.3, 041201B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

VINDEX, 5th E.G. BICKERTON, KEATS, BLIGH, KEMTHORNE, AYLMER GOODSON near 051° 59' N. 029° 02' W.

(C. in C. W.A., 041346B to Admty.)

Situation at 042000.

(2) 3rd E.G., BLACKWOOD, DOMETT, BERRY, ESSINGTON patrolling vicinity 050° 30' N. 007° 02' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041434B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 041422B, 041727B.)

Operation F.Z. Position of R.A.59 at 1130B/4th passed from S.N.O. was 062° 31' N. 005° 07' W. Escorting aircraft estimated course and speed as 196°, 10 knots.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 041515B to C. in C. H.F.)

Air combats of Wildcat Vs. of 819 Squadron from ACTIVITY.

(1) (a) T.P. (b) 1340B/30th April. (c) 073° 55' N. 020° 04' E. (d) B.V.138. (e) Rear turret silenced, port engine on fire, aircraft appeared to be maintaining height when contact was lost.

(2) (a) Q.V. (b) 1145A/1st May. (c) 072° 20' N. 009° 13' E. (d) B.V.138. (e) Enemy aircraft crashed in flames in sight of the convoy.

(ACTIVITY, 041725B to Admty.)

R.A.59. E.T.A. Tiump Head 1700B/5th May. Escort detailed to remain with convoy to position "A" GROU. LOTUS to remain with convoy to position "A", whence she will be escorted to Londonderry by GROU.

(E.G.8, 041901B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.4.5.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.S/M
Patrols.

Submarines at 0801/5th May and for next 24 hours.

(A) STRONGBOW, STATESMAN, VIGOROUS and escort SARDONYX arrive off Switha Gate 0700/5th where RUBIS joins from Scapa then all to Holy Loch

10 knots, E.T.A. 2000/6th.

(F.O.(S), 041742B to Admty.)

P.69 (VIKING) is to leave area (P) a.m./5th May and proceed diving by day when west of longitude 007° W. to R/V trawler SCALPAY in position (VC) 000° Round Island 10 miles at 0700B/6th May. Thence VIKING and SCALPAY return to Plymouth through (VA) and Admiralty Message Q.Z.S. Channels. My 231353 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 041906B to VIKING.)

Allied Air ActivitySunk Head
Fort.

Admiralty 031413B.

It is noted with regret that an American aircraft had dropped stick of Bombs one thousand to thirty five hundred yards from Sunk Head Fort. You may rest assured that every possible precaution

will be taken to guard against a recurrence of any incident of this nature. While I have not yet received the report of the investigation, I am inclined to think that the occurrence was due to a mechanical failure. Whatever the reason, it is sincerely regretted.

It was also noted with some concern that the Commander in Chief Nore feels that any recurrence of such an act will leave him no alternative but for the Forts to open fire on the aircraft. I trust that no such instructions will be issued. If, in spite of all our precautions or as the result of an accident or mechanical failure, a bomb should be dropped near one of the Fort defences of the Nore, I cannot see how matters would be helped if fire were opened with the possibility of destroying an aircraft worth approximately half a million dollars. Eisenhower.

(S.H.A.E.F., 041225B to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE.

It is intended that a Firefly Squadron of 12 I.E. shall be allocated to INDOMITABLE air group in addition to the present two Hellcat and two Barracuda Squadrons. It is expected to be ready about September.

(D.N.A.O., 041616B to INDOMITABLE.)

P.P.I.
Speckling.

May 4th. Observers of 819 Squadron are reporting P.P.I. speckling on A.S.V. Mark VI serious enough to make search impossible. This speckling has been observed all round south-east coast from North Foreland to Dungeness and out to sea.

Proposed remedy. Assistance in locating source of interference most urgently required.

(N.A.S. Manston, 041730B to 16 Group.)

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

OFFA
bombed. Have been hit by a bomb.
(OFFA, 040339 to Portsmouth.)
Am resuming patrol.
(OFFA, 040400 to Portsmouth.)
Damage is superficial. One dead several
seriously injured.
(OFFA, 040403 to Portsmouth.)

Mining

ELGIN
mined. ELGIN has suffered damage by mine the full extent
of which has not yet been ascertained but
preliminary examination shows that while vessel
can in all probability be docked in A.F.D.33 the
large repair and renewals of auxiliary machinery
make the work beyond capabilities of this base unless new
auxiliary machinery can be supplied.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 041125 to Admty.)
ELGIN damaged by mine probably of ground acoustic type at
1430/4th in 50° 28'5" N. 02° 11'9" W. Sweeping was not being
carried out. Speed 8 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 042341B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy
Channel
Ports on
3rd May. P.R. sorties on 3rd May show -
Dieppe: Tanker T.24 still present in usual berth.
Naval shipping comprises one M-class tender, two
trawler auxiliaries, one paddler, one tug, four
T.L.C. type II, 7 T.L.C. type III, 4 E/R boats,
2 sub. chasers being reduction of 1 T.L.C.III
since 2nd May. Minelaying T.L.C. are alongside
at East Wall of Small Wet Basin between Bassin Paris and outer
harbour and appear to ship mines at this point. 8 light flak
in station.
Cherbourg: Digue Homet not covered. Naval shipping seen
comprises four MOEWE T/Bs., two large trawler auxiliaries, four
E/R boats, one M-class M/S. Change since 2nd May is arrival
of two large trawlers and decrease of two E/R boats visible.
Merchant shipping unchanged.
Le Havre: Shipping position remains unchanged and only internal
movements noted since May 2nd. Four invasion barges approaching
from Tancarvilles along Canal.
Ouistreham: No E/R boats. Coaster dredgers and small craft
only.
Fecamp: No change.
Honfleur: No shipping. Number of flats present increased
since 23rd April from 90 to present total 140.
Ostend: Port entrance not covered. Three E/R boats and approx.
twenty auxiliaries being decrease of one E/R boat since 30th
April.
Zeebrugge: Mole not covered and no shipping of importance at
Canal entrance. Two probable military train formations
garaged in sidings one of 26 flats and 26 box wagons and the
other of 30 flats and 21 box wagons.
(34 Wing, 040230B to T.A.F.)

/Portland ...

War Diary.

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Portland. 3 unidentified ships bearing 238° 5½ miles from you. Report identity.
(F.O. Portland, 040940 to Group 3.)

Technical

German A/C torpedoes. Recent developments. Details.
(D.T.M., 041603B to Cs. in C.)
See Lion Copy.

Casualties and Defects

R.C.M. gear for Mine-sweepers. Fitting of R.C.M. equipment in Minesweepers is of highest priority for which berths alongside are essential.
(2) Request you will report berths for 9th and 18th F.M.S. in Portsmouth Command in order that necessary arrangements may be made. A.M. 032152B refers.
(D.M.S., 041620B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

GOATHLAND. Have to report following damage sustained in collision with L.C.I.(L) 380 today. Hole on water bottom below waterline. Frames and gussets buckled. One in number scuttle fractured
3 Gerrard rail stantion broken and bent. Request dockyard assistance.
(GOATHLAND, 041725B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SECRET

54

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.)

German aircraft torpedoes.

041603B/May

To. All Cs. in C. At Home and Abroad. Date: 4.5.44.

Naval Cypher (X) & P/L by T/P

From Admiralty.

Up to the end of 1943 the standard German aircraft torpedoes were 18-inch torpedoes, speed 40 knots, range about 3300 yards, explosive 450 pounds. Gyro angle and depth setting could be adjusted in flight, and magnetic pistols were being used increasingly.

2. The intended conditions of release with these torpedoes are known to be, flying speed 150 to 175 knots, height 130 to 330 feet, range 2200 to 1100 yards.

3. Torpedo carrying aircraft and their maximum loading with 18-inch torpedoes are, Junkers 88 two torpedoes, Heinkel 111 two, Heinkel 115 one, Heinkel 177 four possibly five, and Junkers 188 two torpedoes.

4. There is some evidence that 21-inch aircraft torpedoes are now being used, and also that German fighter aircraft may employ a small 18-inch torpedo of which an Italian model is known to exist with range of 1100 yards.

5. There is also evidence that dusk attacks having proved too costly, training has been carried out in torpedo attacks by night, in which the targets are illuminated by high power flares and approach guided by light buoys, both dropped by pathfinder aircraft. Such attacks have been made in the Mediterranean Area.

6. German development is possible of an Italian radio-controlled torpedo, of which particulars are being given in C.B. 1815 April, 1944. Visibility of the torpedo tracks by the controlling aircraft is essential, and is achieved by green fluorescent dye, which should make such attack recognizable.

7. The use of parachuted circling torpedoes continues, especially against ships in anchorages. These may be used by any bomber, and do not require trained torpedo crews.

/8.....

8. Torpedo attacks have frequently been combined with H.S. 293 bomb attacks.

041603B.

for D.T.M.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vico Controller.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Nav. Sec.
Ops. (2)
O.D. (5)
D.N.A.O. (2)
D.T.M. (2)
D.T.S.D.
D.N.I. (5)
M. (2)
D.S.D. (2)
D.S.D. 9. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
D. of L.D. (3)
D.A.W.T.
Air Branch (2)
D.M.W.D.
D.G.D. (2)
O.I.C. (3)
Ad. Blako.
D. of P. (3)
A.W.D.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

4.5.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. QUANZA. QUANZA should be intercepted by 1130B approx.
Request A/C may remain until 1000 your 040323*refers
(BRILLIANT 040701B to F.O.G.M.A.)
* N.T. in W.R.

Portuguese QUANZA has been intercepted and is proceeding to
Gibraltar. Admty. 022554* May, not to B.N.A.Lisbon refers. E.T.
A.Gibraltar 1400/5th.
(F.O.G.M.A. 041628B to Admty.)
* 021354 intended.

If diamonds discovered in baggage of persons mentioned in my
021355 they might be samples V is taking to board of Angola
Company and not necessarily intended for enemy. This possibility
furnishes need for tact and utmost courtesy during examination of
V whose company's output is of vital importance to our war effort.
2. Equal courtesy required in examination of another passenger
Van Bree, head of Forminiere largest Congo diamond company.
3. Whatever explanations are given you all diamonds found must
be detained for consideration by M.E.W.
(D.E.W.D. 041631B to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)

CIERZO,
ABREGO. In view of agreement arrived at between Spanish
Government and United Nation submit War Shipping
Administration reconsider decision, your 181311
April.
(A.B.N.A.Madrid 041236B to Admty.)

S.L.155/
M.K.3.46. Convoy arrived U.K., May 3rd less EMPIRE KINGSLEY
(put into Gibraltar - straggler).
(D.T.D. 041245B.)

South Atlantic.

Radar
contact. Am investigating Radar contact now faded in 013°
46' N. 017° 01' W.
(MALCOLM 040224Z.)

U/B attacked My 031603 not to all. New contact 040002Z picked
by T.G.21.11. up on A/C Radar 16.15 N. 33.22 W. four miles. Saw
swirl on first approach. Started Sonobuoy pattern
getting immediate positive contacts. At 0022Z
sub was sighted coming tower depth in middle
Sonobuoy pattern course 280. Delivered depth charge attack. Ex-
plosion in white water. Further evaluation impossible due dark-
ness. Confirmed intermittent positive Sonobuoy indications until
0830Z. Des again could not develop positive contact. Continuing
hold down tactics with planes and escorts. This contact bears 100°
60 miles from contact of May 3rd and 110° 85 miles from contact of
May 1st. Concur CROATAN's evaluation "Nxmble" (?nimble) submarine.
Weather.
(C.T.G.21.11 041629.)

War Diary.

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TOURVILLE. 3. It is considered that repairs to this cruiser are of no importance at this critical stage of the war and that expenditure of material and effort required to put ship into running order is unjustified, further, as the climatic conditions at Dakar are bad, TOURVILLE ships company is due for relief and the ship can steam the C.C.S. may be inclined to reconsider their decision and allow her to proceed to Bizerta to pay off.
(Algiers No T.O.C/4.)

U/B hunt. Submarine hunt abandoned.
(Capt. S.10 040601 to LA SULTANE, (R) C. in C.Med. 10th S/M F.)

SICKLE. Proceed forthwith to patrol easterly approaches to Doro Channel.
2. Proceed on surface by day at your discretion as far as lat. 036° 30'.
3. AGATHE still in port Laki may sail shortly for Piraeus. BOCRAS (BOURGAS probably intended) in Piraeus ready to sail destination unknown.
4. UNRULY recent report considerable caique traffic in vicinity of Doro. Consider no objection to you sinking worth while caiques there for the present.
(Capt. S.1 041021B to SICKLE, (R) F.O.L.E.M. 1st S/M F.)

UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM. UNSWERVING has freedom of action in Western Aegean north of lat. 036° 26' and west of long. 024° 30'.
2. ULTIMATUM enter Aegean through Antikithera at dawn tomorrow for patrol - North coast Crete south of lat. 036° 05'.
3. SALVATORE in Piraeus ready to sail destination probably Crete. BOURGAS in Piraeus ready to sail destination unknown. Considerable caiques today reported between Port Nikolo, Mirabello and Heraklion.
4. Estimated SPORTSMAN westbound in approx. 035° 41' 023° 05' at 2005 today.
(Capt. S.1 041031B to UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM, (R) F.O.L.E.M. 1st S/M F.)

UNTIRING P.59 (UNTIRING) reports:- A. at 1901/27th April patrol report. in approx. 043° 00' 006° 00' fired 3 torpedoes at one of two large U.J.Boats. Torpedoes heard to explode 90 seconds later followed by breaking up noises. Other U.J.Boats counter attacked 15 mins. later dropping 82 depth charges causing considerable minor damage. Target sunk. B. At 0444/1 fired 4 torpedoes at 2000 tons darkened ships in 042° 31' N. 003° 54' E. range 1000 yards one hit seen amidship target seen to settle and considered sunk.
(Capt. S.10 041527.)

/PALOMARES...

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

PALOMARES
X.K.convoy
escorts.

Your 291632 April. Request you will arrange for PALOMARES to be towed to Bizerta.
2. PALOMARES in to of EMPIRE HARRY and EMPIRE SANDY escorted by CORIOLANUS and FLUELLEN will form convoy X.K.17 the passage of which should be expedited as far as possible. Any other ships

ready may be included but no delay on this account can be accepted.

3. It is unlikely that, for some time, any escorts can be provided from U.K. for a further X.K.

4. EMPIRE HARRY and EMPIRE SANDY due Suez about 15th May, F.O.C. R.I.N 290551 not to all refers, should be sailed in M.K.S. 50 breaking off at Bizerta.

5. Request defect list and As. and As. be forwarded in advance. (A.C.N.S.F.. 041822B to C. in C.Med.)

GUILIO.

Your 041410 April*. GUILIO should be released to the Custodian of Enemy Property at Port Said, date to be reported.

(Admty. 041850B to F.O.L.E.M.)

* re GUILIO unseaworthy. N.T. in W.D.

Joint Naval
Army R.A.F.
Intel. Ap-
preciation.

C.X.report. Survivors from SS. LUENEBURG arrived Piraeus.

(C. in C.M.E. 041915C.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

Inefficiency (?situation intended) in Elli Camp unchanged. Army hope to act against mutineers on Saturday. My 032007. Today Greek Naval Captain addressed Naval mutineers. As a result 20 men came out of camp. 2 of these had previously been

serving 20 years punishment and therefore can hardly be placed on credit side.

(F.O.L.E.M. 041954C.)

ERIDAN,
transport of
Italian
P.O.W.

Your 201743 April ERIDAN will complete the Libyan prisoners of war at Tripoli about 31st May but balance of 2350 Italian P.O.W. will still require lifting from Tripoli to Mid.East.

2. Request ERIDAN be allocated for this purpose.

3. If Admty. 201706 Feb. and C. in C.Med. 241330 could apply to these Italian P.O.W. one return

voyage of ERIDAN embarked to capacity would suffice remainder being lifted in store ships or when opportunity arises.

4. If C. in C.Med. sanction to para. 3 can be obtained ERIDAN should finally sail to you from M.E. in G.U.S.43. 5. Agreed. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 042016C to P.S.T.O.Med.) Reply see 071128B.

/SS. FORT...

War Diary.

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SS. FORT
LAWRENCE.

M.K.S.48. FORT LAWRENCE reports, coal cargo in No. 5 starboard hold badly overheated. Suspect fire. Suggest discharge. Ends.
(BARLE 042100B to S.N.O.E.Sy.)

Situation
report No.
351.

My 032155 para. 2, U-Boat surfaced at 0352/4th and was engaged by F.S. SENEGALAIS who forced U-Boat to dive. U-Boat then torpedoed SENEGALAIS. BLANKNEY and U.S.S. SUSTAIN gained contact and carried out depth charge attacks. U-Boat sank at 0440/4th in 036° 50' N. 005° 34' E. 49 prisoners taken including C.O. Oberleutnant zur See Fenski. U.37'. SENEGALAIS arrived Jijelli in tow. Hunting forces consisted of U.S. JE CAMPBELL (S.O.) U.S.S. PRIDE, U.S.S. SUSTAIN, BLANKNEY, SS. SENEGALAIS F.S. L'ALCYON with air co-operation.
2. 3903 tons discharged Anzio 3rd May two sharp air raids during night 2/3 May no damage in harbour 8 claimed shot down. Slight shelling p.m. 3rd May.
3. AJAX carried out bombardment of Rhodes town and harbour during night 2/3 May firing 307 rounds at target area no effective opposition.
4. Coastal force land delays action depth charges south of Vada rocks during night 1/2 May.
(C. in C.Med. 042058B.)

Summary of at-
tacks U/Bs
assessed by
Med. Joint
Assessment
Board.

Serial Number.	Assessment.
69A	H
72	F
73	H
74	G
75	G
75	F
76A	I
77	H
79	G
84	D
87	D

2. Credit for serial 84 apportioned 60% air and 40% surface forces.
3. Following not previously reported has been assessed H serial 78A. 271150 Feb. COLUMBINE 36° 04' N. 05° 12' W. 4. Following not previously reported has been assessed F serial 93 111918 April F.S. COMMANDANT BORY 38° 17' N. 06° 43' E. 5. Following not previously reported and not yet assessed. Serial 91 072355 April FARNDALE 37° 11' N. 06° 53' E. serial 92 081029 April FARNDALE 37° 24' N. 09° 36' E. serial 94 132255 April TERPSICHORE 41° 00' N. 18° 34' E. Serial 95 170735 April TENACIOUS 40° 16' N. 18° 57' E. Serial 96 210740 April F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT 38° 14' N. 07° 27' E. Serial 97 212307 April TROUBRIDGE 38° 53' N. 17° 36' E.
(C. in C.Med. 042220B.)

4.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

DEVON
 CITY.

Passage of H.M.S. DEVON CITY to U.K. should be expedited as much as possible.
 2. Request details of any cargo and confirmation that there are at present no defects which might prevent her immediate allocation to urgent work.
 3. A.M. 101737B April not to C. in C. Med. refer (D.B.D. 040327B to C. in C.E.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M.)

U/B
 dispositions.

No. 17 area G D/F bearings indicated probable presence of Japanese U/Boat south west of Ceylon. Scale of air escort Y. Area F reduce scale of air escort to W. Other areas no fresh information, no change in scale of air escort. (C. in C.E.F. 040346Z.)

R.N.A.S.
 Kantalai.

3. I now consider that we should plan Kantalai as a F.A.A. Station only.
 4. Request early decision to enable planning to commence. (C. in C.E.F., 040545Z to Admty.)

U/B
 destroyed
 off Ras
 Hafun
 3rd May.

The following in amplification of my 030514.
 2. U/Boat is lying aground in 009 degs. 35' N. 050 degs. 48' E. Midships section and conning tower intact and partially above water, for and after ends blown up with the torpedoes.
 3. Crew totalled 66. FALMOUTH has 5 officers including Captain and 30 ratings, PARRETT has 7 ratings and RAIDER 2 ratings. 3 known killed.

Remainder unaccounted for but unknown number killed by A/C. Search on shore is continuing.

4. RAIDER reported she has recovered portable gear including instruments and radar dipoles. Length of dipoles each 17 centimetres.

5. Wreck is being guarded and arrangements for further investigation being made.

6. Air H.Q. Aden reports 18 sorties were flown and locating attack made. U/Boat was shadowed night of 2nd/3rd May and bombed at dawn. U/Boat put up heavy and light flak.

(C. in C.E.F. 040924.)

T.L.'s congratulations on destruction of this U/B before it could commence operations.

(D.A.U.D. 042102B.)

Opsum
 781.

2nd May. 3 Wellingtons on A/S patrol attacked surfaced U/Boat S.W. of Socotra. Later reports state U/Boat sunk. No further details. (A.C.S.E.A., 041001Z.)

/Air...

4.5.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Air protection of shipping in Indian Ocean.

Your 121205 para. 8. Urgent representations have been made to Air Ministry who are keenly aware of gravity of situation and have taken up the matter with A.C.S.E.A.

2. 222 Group have copies of all relevant signals. You will note that all practicable steps are being taken to bring all units up to establishment of present target force.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 041207B to C. in C.E.F.)

U/B dispositions

Estimate.
(D.D.I.C. 041328B.)

D'ENTRE-CASTEAUX

D'ENTRECASTEAUX developed engine trouble and stopped to effect repairs. Unable to arrive Aden tomorrow Friday. Amended E.T.A. will be signalled later when again able to proceed and S. of A. known.
(FALMOUTH, 042105Z.)

U/B attack on P.A.69 23rd Feb.

Report of proceedings from H.M.A.S. TAMWORTH together with report of operations by aircraft and surface forces from Aden following attacks are being forwarded by air mail, under 942/E.F. 767/47 of 3rd May 1944.

(2) Your 221140* ref. attack on convoy P.A.69

(A) TAMWORTH ahead sweeping between positions L and B. Radar defective. ORISSA astern with Asdics defective and no Radar.
(B) TAMWORTH swept to Port and illuminated with star-shell, then carried out Operation "Observant" subsequently picked up survivors. ORISSA's movements not clear but appears to have remained in vicinity to pick up survivors.
(C) No. (D) TAMWORTH's Asdic oscillator shorting and ORISSA's amplifier burnt out. (E) (1) BATHURST and BANGOR class mine-sweepers, whose maintenance is a question of concern, provide only token escort protection. Situation was in this case aggravated by equipment defects.

(3) Endeavour is being made to reinforce these convoys in future with a long range frigate, but troop convoys and other commitments usually prevent this.

(4) There appears to have been no pre-arranged plan to meet an attack and both escorts should have fired star-shell to locate and put down the U-Boat.

(C. in C. E.F., 040441Z to Admty.)

* Requesting report covering attack on Convoy P.A.69 - N.T. in W.D.

War Diary.

4.5.1944.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- NEWFOUNDLAND. Diversion order.
(D.O.D(H) 041100B.)
- T.G.27.10 QUINCY hereby included in T.G.27.10 Comdeslant
QUINCY. sail QUINCY under escort to R/V designated by
C.T.G.27.10 during forenoon 6th May. My 211511
modified accordingly.
(Cinclant 041427.)
- M.V.PETER S. Further to my 011623 PETER S (Nor.) 274 gross tons
sailed Kingston April 29 for Havana May 3 your
301256 April refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 041522Z to Admty.)
- U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 041529Z, Cominch 041600Z.)
- Intercepted Your 041501/ When in 050° 14' N. 040° 26' W. at
signal. 0200Z/4th May very weak signals on R/T intercep-
ted. Thought to be from call sign "Blackwell",
"Stovepipe" referring to a S/M and survivors. My
P.C. and S. 048° 47' N. 043° 28' W. 236° 9.
Weather.
(S.O.E.G.C. One 041809Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.
Connav, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.A. A.C.I.C.
S.B.N.O. Azores, Cdr. D. Argentia, Cdre. D.W.A.
H.Q.C.C.) / See U/boat Campaign.
- Fuelling at It is suggested that full report on SAMINVER should
sea, SAMINVER. await experience in westbound voyage. Your 121230*
and 141157 April refer.
2. It is considered possible that these dry cargo
ships in ballast may yaw to such an extent that
their performance under these conditions should be embodied in
the report.
(B.A.D. 041839Z to Admty.)
* SAMINVER transferred 950 tons fuel in varying weather conditions.
- U/B attacked. Further to my 030800 (N.T. in W.D.)
Sound contact 30.13 37.15 at 031110Z held and re-
peatedly attacked by three Des until 031505Z then
lost. Hold down continues.
(C.T.G.21.5 041946 to Cinclant.)

/Stragglers...

4.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Stragglers report No. 50. Two arrived New York from H.X.M.289 BRITISH GLORY April 27, steering gear trouble, EMPIRE BERESFORD April 27, engine trouble. Two arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.157 MEANTICUT (U.S.) April 27, cargo shifted, WEST NILUS (U.S.) April 27, engine trouble. One arrived Halifax from O.N.F.32 DETFISS (Ice.) April 27, short bunkers. (N.S.H.Q. 042018Z.)

T.F.63. T.F.63 hereby constituted MACLEISH, JORDAN, Cortdiv 52 WINGFIELD Cortdiv 55 COWANESQUE. Landing craft by later despatch. Escort convoy U.G.S.42 departing Hampton Roads 13 May to Bizerta and return escorting G.U.S.42. (Cinclant 042028.)

3 L.S.Ts. for Med. 3 L.S.T. from U.S. to Med. My dispatch 041830*. Are each to carry one L.C.T. (Cominch 041830, 042038.) * re Transfer of 3 L.S.T. to U.K. for duty with 11th Phib. and 3 L.S.T. to Med. for duty with 8th Phib. in U.G.S.42.

U/B incidents. A. U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND reports series of contacts, sightings and attacks area 16.45 N. 34.45 W. between 2015Z/1 and 0515Z/3. D. U.S.S. BARKER attacked sound contact 36.28 N. 73.26 W. 0200Z/4. (Cominch 042052Z.)

MENGES (torpedoed 3rd May.) Enquiry re technical details. (Cominch 042125.) See Lion Copy.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. 835. May 3rd, paras. 16 - 18 cover S.Pacific Forces. 7. Allied party landed unopposed 2nd May at Wari, at track end midway between Humboldt and Tanamerah Bays. 8. Two alerts Hollandia night 2/3: minor damage suffered from bombs dropped. Few casualties during first raid.

4.5.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. 835.
(Contd.)

9. Aitape area: prisoner states submarine evacuated 30 Japanese Naval personnel 23rd April.
10. U.S. destroyer contacted possible S/M afternoon 2nd 60 miles north Hansa Bay. 3 depth charge attacks made without observed effect.
11. Japanese buried Admiralty Islands to 3rd May total almost 4,000. Estimate approx. 1,200 more dead unlocated. 41 Jap prisoners taken besides 31 Chinese and 71 Sikhs. Believe under 100 scattered Japs remaining Admiralties having abandoned all arms except grenades and bayonets.. Mopping up continues.
16. Night 2/3 May M.T.Bs. damaged three enemy troop laden barges, southbound off southeastern Bougainville with single enemy floatplane covering: other P.T.boats were ineffectually bombed by long floatplane off northeastern Bougainville; third pair patrol craft sank one barge damaged small freighter off east coast New Hanover.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 040738Z.)

S.T. organization for Red Ensign ships in Australia. Personal for Admiral Daniel. D. of S.T. requests you will investigate the question of Sea Transport organisation required to handle large numbers of Red Ensign ships which should be engaged in event of operations being undertaken from Australia.
(D. of P.(Q) 041215B to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack & sighting summary. Para. A. 1. A/C C/333 sighted U-Boat on course 130° at 1224Z/3 in 66° 14' N. 04° 11' W.
2. A/C attacked U-Boat with depth charges, course 225° at 0103Z/4 in 46° 35' N. 08° 10' W.
3. A/C attacked U/B with depth charges, course 316° at 0210Z/4 in 46° 04' N. 09° 20' W.
4. H.M.Ship sighted periscope at 0805Z/3 in 41° 20' N. 08° 34' E.
Para. B. 1. A/C V/502 attacked A.S.V. contact and swirl at 2132Z/2 in 47° 09' N. 09° 20' W.
2. A/C J/179 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2208Z/2 in 45° 41' N. 09° 42' W.
3. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0307Z/4 in 40° 40' N. 19° 10' E.
Para. C. 1. H.M.Ship obtained radar contact which faded at 0224Z/4 in 13° 46' N. 17° 01' W.
(D.D.I.C. 041140B.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 041501B, 041508B.)

C.A.S.O.No. 4. On two occasions recently U/Bs have succeeded in torpedoing escorts when surfacing at the end of exhaustion hunts. It can be expected, therefore, that further attempts of this kind will be made.
2. - 7. Technical.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 041932B.)

SECRET

USS MENGES 63^A.
(Forwarded 3 May)
Inquiry re Technical
details

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.)

042125/May.

From: Cominch.

Date: 5.5.44.

Recd: 1540

P/L BY D/R

Addressed: Com. 8th Fleet.

Info: Com. 12th Fleet, U.S.S. MENGES, U.S.S. CHINCOTEAGUE,
INSNAVAIR, STRATFORD, CONN.

CR. No. 1916.

MENGES 031200B and Comnavnav 031553 advise.

- (1) Type FXR gear and depressor in use and positions at which streamed.
- (2) More exact information of courses and speeds in use before and at time of torpedoing.
- (3) Speed at time of test of FXR.
- (4) Time range and relative position initial contact.
- (5) Visibility weather and sea conditions.
- (6) Contacts obtained by other escorts.
- (7) Tactics employed by escorts before and after torpedoing.
- (8) What was local U-Boat estimated.
- (9) Disposition of convoy and escorts prior attack.
- (10) Additional relevant information.

042125.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Asst. Contr. (R & D)
N.A. 1st S.L.
U.W.R.
D. Map Room.
Capt. Pim.
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.

M. (2)
A.S. (C)
D.T.M. (3)
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
D.G.D. (2)
D.T.S.D. (3)
D.M.W.D.
A.M.W.
D.S.R.
D.S.D. 9. (3)
D.E.E.
D.A/S.M.
C.A.O.R.
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Admiral Usborne
Ad. Blake.
U.S.N. (3)
D.R.E. (2)
F.O.S. by courier.
Dep. Contr. (3)
D.E.E. (3)
D.T.M.
D.R.E. (3)
D.A/S.M.
S.W.R. (6)

Bath (17) by
Courier.

5.5.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Exercise
"Fabius"

1. Exercise "Fabius" was completed at 0900 to-day. *Full Over Rehearsal for Neptune*

Operation
F.Z.

2. Convoy R.A. 59 was about 50 miles N. by E. of Cape Wrath at 0800 to-day.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

3(a) Three east-bound Destroyers were sighted early this morning by A/C about 140 miles West of St. Nazaire.

The Rescue Tug EMULOUS has been ordered to close the damaged U.S. Destroyer DONNELL in tow of HOPPING and to assist her until the Rescue Tug SAMSONIA arrives.

(b) At 1210B the three Sloops of E.G. 2 (S.O. in STARLING) were in contact with a U-Boat about 560 miles W. by S. of Lands End, and at 1801B the Escort Carrier TRACKER was ordered to join them.

M.T.B. 708
sunk.
M.T.B. 720
damaged.

Friend at Anzio found

Index 42

4. While returning from patrol on Exercise "Fabius" M.T.Bs 708 and 720 were attacked with cannon-fire by a formation of 16 Beaufighter A/C at 0720 to-day about 26 miles S.E. by S. of Anvil Point and severely damaged. M.T.B. 708 was set on fire and had to be sunk at 1050 by COTTESMORE, and M.T.B. 720 was able to return to Portland. Two Officers and 8 ratings seriously wounded, with one officer and 6 ratings slightly wounded, were brought into Portland by the Frigate STAYNER.

Mediterranean

Bridgehead.

5. There was no enemy activity at Anzio to-day. U.S. destroyers HILARY P. JONES and CHARLES F. HUGHES bombarded supply dumps and assembly areas: the result is reported to have been satisfactory. The enemy returned fire, but caused no damage or casualties.

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5.5.1944

Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

6. The attacks of allied A/C effected considerable destruction and damage amongst river craft in Burma to-day.

Australia and New Zealand

7. A patrol Liberator this forenoon sank 3 out of 5 small ships 150 miles west of Truk, heading towards the island.

5.5.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
R.A.C.S.2.

Flag R.A.2 C.S. hoisted in WARSPITE 4th May.
(R.A.C.S.2 051051B to Admty.)

Russian
personnel
in U.K.

Admty. 042026, para. 4A. Request Admiral Levchenko be informed that he will be accommodated to start with in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. The presence of a Flag Officer and his Staff is considered likely to militate against the smooth running of the transfer during the earlier stages when Captain and Ship's Officers will be fully occupied with their vis-a-vis and services of Interpreters already over-subscribed. In any case his Staff could not be accommodated in ROYAL SOVEREIGN except at expense of British and Russian Technical Officers and Interpreters essential for the transfer.

(C. in C.Rosyth 051740B to Admty.)

Your 041556. C. in C.Rosyth is making arrangements for the entertainment of S/M personnel with crews of other ships.
(Capt. S.9 052111B to F.O.S.)

O.21.

O.21 leaves 180° Barrahead 10 miles at 1400B/7th May routed as in F.O.S. 021116 E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 2000B/15th. "Chop", E.T.A. 2100B/11th.
(Capt. S.3 051809B to C. in C.C.N.A.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S
operations.

German U-Boat transmitted W.W. message at 2346Z/4. D/F places within 150 miles of 048° 00' N. 022° 00' W. Another at 2303/4 repeated at 2321/4 within 150 miles of 048° 00' N. 023° 00' W. same type and frequency.
(Cominch 050033Z to C.T.G.21.5, HOPPING, WHIMBREL, C. in C.W.A.)

My 2352. Still in touch with enemy previously reported.
(A/C PJQ 32 050045 to 19 Group.)

My 0040. 3 destroyers position 47° 05' N. 06° 01' W. course 090° speed 20 knots.

(A/C PJQ 32 050055B to 19 Group.)

My 0055. Still in touch with enemy previously reported.

Enemy has altered course to 045°.

(A/C PJQ 32 050110B to 19 Group.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 3 unknown vessels 47° 08' N. 05° 50' W. 090.5° 20 knots.

(A/C RLK 45 050125 to 19 Group.)

Tug EMULOUS has been ordered to close you and render all assistance until arrival of SAMSONIA. Approx. position 0800B 47.30 N. 20.00 W.

(C. in C.W.A. 051146B to WHIMBREL.)

Hunting U-Boat in ?048° 58' N. 022° 29' W. Weather.

(E.G.2 051210B to C. in C.W.A.)

/Your...

War Diary.5.5.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. (Contd.) Your 051210. Report whether you are still in contact. 2. Repeat latitude. (C. in C.W.A. 051505B to E.G.2.)
Your 051505B. Still in contact. Amended position 049° 20' N. 021° 02' W. (E.G.2 051551B to C. in C.W.A.)
Proceed forthwith to join 2nd E.G. in contact with U-Boat in 049° 20' N. 021° 02' W. Cancel para. 3 of my 041254B. (C. in C.W.A. 051801B to TRACKER.)

Operation C.W. By D/F at 2234Z/4 U/B making W.W. signal estimated within 60 miles of 52° 00' N. 27° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 050133B to VINDEX, E.G.5.)
Have passed Hospital ship in (?52°) (?20') N. (?30°) 07' W. not carrying identification signal for C.E.procedure, (?apparently) 200 miles ahead. (?VINDEX 050145B to C. in C.W.A.)

H/F D/F barred W.W. message bearing 170° 15 to 20 miles. My position 054° 25' N. 026° 51' W. Am investigating. Weather. (HOSTE 050233Z to Admty.)

By D/F at 0416Z U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 55° 40' N. 31° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 050718B to NEWFOUNDLAND.)

My 040233Z. Area swept with negative result. My P.C. and S. 054° 46' N. 026° 26' W. 082° 15 knots. (HOSTE 050845Z to C. in C.W.A.)

VINDEX, E.G.5, BICKERTON, GOODSON, KEATS, AYLMER, BLIGH, KEMPTHORNE operating vicinity 052° 10' N. 027° 30' W. (C. in C.W.A. 051336B to Ships.)

OFFA bombed on 4th May. At 0337/4th OFFA was in 050° 13' N. 001° 27' W. steer 067° at 11 knots on a zigzag course. The weather was calm and visibility good, the moon being 12 days old. The whistle of a bomb was heard on the port bow followed by a roar of aircraft engines and then 2 explosions.

An aircraft tentatively identified as a Me.210 had evidently dived in from the dark sector and released 2 bombs of about 250 pounds each. One was a near miss causing splinter hole in the hull while the other hit the upper deck under the port after oerlikon. The aircraft was engaged with all arms as it retired. Structural damage to ship was light. Casualties were 3 killed and 4 wounded. (C. in C.Portsmouth 050948B to Admty.)

Operation F.Z. Survivors of WILLIAM S. THAYER. R.A.59. SS. ROBERT EDEN has among his survivors the following:- cot cases, 4 Americans, 5 Russians. Walking cases, 6 Americans, 6 Russians. Medical Officer from INCONSTANT remains on board till arrival at destination. (E.G.8 051203B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
At 0001B/6th report your E.T.A. at 270° Skerryvore. (C. in C.W.A. 051551B to GROU.)

/Coastal...

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5.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 051413B, 051815B, 051915B.)
(C. in C.Portsmouth 051502B, 051557B.)

Operation "Overlord". A.M. 091905 April. All R.M.Ls. are to assume dispositions by May 15th.
2. C. in Cs. are requested to sail R.M.Ls. accordingly. A.M. 191902 April and A.M. 191841 April refer.
(D.D.O.D.C. 051417B to Cs. in C.Nore, W.A. Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

A.Ms. 111157 Feb. 081816 March, 181600 March and 192016 April are amended or cancelled as requisite in order to conform to paras. 2 to 7 following:-

2. All the M.Ls. of the 21st M.L.Flottilla are required to be at Dover by 17th May whether they have been fitted with Asdic type 134(c) or not.
3. C. in C.Nore is requested to divert M.L.467 at present on passage to Harwich to Dover.
4. A.C.O.S. is requested A. to sail M.Ls. 252, 286 and 445 to Dover B. to divert M.L. 452 at present at Inverness to Dover.
5. C. in C.Rosyth is requested to sail M.L. 442 at present at Peterhead irrespective of completion of conversion to type 134C to Dover so as to arrive by 17th May.
6. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail M.Ls. 276 and 466 at present in the Clyde to Dover, irrespective of completion of conversion to type 134C, so as to arrive by 17th May.
7. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail M.L.254 as soon as possible to Dover.
8. M.Ls. while at Dover are to be administered and maintained by WASP.
9. It is requested that the passage of all M.Ls. may be expedited as much as possible.

(D.D.O.D.C. 051603B to Cs. in C. V.A.Dover, A.C.O.S.)

Reference 21 A Gp/5250/11/Q (Maint) 2 dated 21st April, 1944.

Appendix A.

2. It is understood that decision has been reached by S.H.A.E.F. to run a shuttle service between U.K. and place of operation for maintenance of ESSO trawlers. Arrangements are therefore being made to coal 15 trawlers, at a time at Southampton and a further 15 at Portland during operations.
3. As no fog oil supply ships are being provided the fog oil will have to be supplied to the trawlers on their arrival for coaling. (4th S.L. 052240B to War Office.)

Operation "Furitan". Admiralty 020157. Request information (in case sailing asked by Soviet Naval Staff) when it is intended to close down operation "Furitan".
(Ad. Fisher 051540C to Admty.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

5.5.1944.

Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Implement". SCEPTRE and CUTTY SARK sailing Holy Loch 2000B/6th May at 11 knots to 000° Round Island 10 miles, E. T.A. 1200/8th, thence SCEPTRE to southwestward. (Capt. S.3 051813B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) SCEPTRE leaves A. 000° Round Island 10 miles at 1200B/8th diving by day 105 miles daily through B. 047° 25' N. 012° 52' W. at 0600B/11th C. 045° 01' N. 012° 52' At 2300B/12th D. 044° 01' N. 011° 50' W. E. 044° 02' N. 003° 03' W. E.T.A. 0300/17th to carry out operation "Implement" F.O.S. S.M. 04010/688 of 3rd May refers. (Capt. S.3 051817B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Exercises.

Exercise "Fabius". A.L.M. 056795/44 of 27th April para. 4. Exercise "Fabius" completed 0900/5th May. (A.N.C.X.F. 050855 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Sunk Head Fort. Many thanks for your 041225B which is being passed to C. in C.Nore with request that instructions should not be given to open fire unless there is definite reason to believe that Fort is being deliberately attacked. (1st S.L. 051909B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Sonderborg. U-Boat anchorage. U-Boats Sonderborg. My 021841. Anchorage for U-Boats is in centre of fairway due north of Northern Spit of Keynaes. Centre buoy area for trials is about nine cables to eastward of anchorage. This area is about (group omitted) cables long and extends only about three cables from Northern Shore (N.A.Stockholm 051717 to Admty.)

WORTH, PARAGUAY, JAAMERI damaged. A. Norwegian coast. My 201527 April para. 2A and your Natel April 2nd part 1 B. Large German tanker believed to be WORTH carrying herring oil was towed into Flokke Fjord damaged with large hole on starboard side abaft bridge which was badly damaged salvage work is in progress. B.2. B. Mining result Baltic. Danish PARAGUAY now vessel (corrupt group) company mined off Gillelete May 3rd en route for Ise Fjord for laying up. Vessel was towed to Helsingør. B.3. Press reports Finnish JAAMERI 2522 tons mined and sunk off German Baltic coast mid April. (N.A.Stockholm 051801 to Admty.) N.I.D. Comment: WORTH German tanker, believed to be ex Dutch OMALA 6256 G.T. was probably the tanker attacked by TERRAPIN on 24th March at same time as his attack on SCHWABENLAND. PARAGUAY is a new Danish vessel of approx. 4600 G.T. JAAMERI Finnish is of 2522 G.T.

5.5.1944.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- M.T.Bs. attacked by own A/C.
M.T.B. 708 sunk. M.T.B. 720 damaged.
1. At 0720 in 155° Anvil Point 26.4 miles M.T.Bs. 708 (S.O.) and 720 which were returning from covering patrol for exercise "Fabius" on a course 317° at 20 knots, were attacked by part of a formation of 16 Beaufighter A/C using cannon and possibly R.P. Both craft suffered severe damage and casualties.
 2. The aircraft were sighted ahead by both M.T.Bs. at some distance and recognised as Beaufighters. The aircraft steered south down the port side of the Unit and then attacked in small groups from astern. No recognition procedure was used prior to the attack. The M.T.Bs. were 13 miles north of the bombing area by QH. (confirmed by short Radar) and had no thought of impending attack. Cannon fire and possibly R.P. were used by aircraft, but no bombs were dropped. Both M.T.Bs. fired two Star cartridges after fire was opened and M.T.B. 720 replied to aircraft fire with available guns. No further attack was made by remaining Beaufighters.
 3. Casualties. Two officers and 8 ratings seriously wounded. One officer and 6 ratings slightly wounded.
 4. At 1050 M.T.B. 708 was sunk by COTTESMORE after a very serious fire throughout the ship, which could not be controlled, since all firefighting equipment was destroyed.
 5. M.T.B. 720 returned to Portland with two main engines out of action, a third damaged and forward petrol compartment and tanks punctured. Estimated time for repair six weeks.
 6. All casualties from both M.T.Bs. were transferred to STAYNER by M.T.B. 720 and taken to Portland.
 7. I am in communication with A.O.C. in C.C.C. regarding the possibility of improving methods for mutual recognition. (C. in C.Portsmouth 050936B to Adnty.)

L.C.Ts. 941, 940 and 567 and L.C.P. 534 stranded.

Exercise "Fabius". Following craft stranded Bracklesham high water today, L.C.T. 941, 940 and 567 also L.C.P. 534. Tonight tug standby to re-float next opportunity. Suspect L.C.T. 567 back broken.
(Cdre. Force J 051528B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

EMPIRE DIPLOMAT. SUPERMAN has succeeded in towing off EMPIRE DIPLOMAT Long tow standing by to give further assistance if necessary.
(SUPERMAN 052020B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

ORPHEUS (straggler). ORPHEUS returned from U.C.21. Unseaworthy due to heavy rolling and shifting ballast.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 051301 to C. in C.W.A.)

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5.5.1955
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. NEREUS. Intercepted message from Greek NEREUS reports tail shaft broken and propeller lost in 27.12 N. 19.10 W. H.E.Z. Berne has been asked by ship if Swiss SAINT CERGUE available to tow her to Las Palmas.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 051123B to Admty.)

3 Swiss ships. 3 Swiss ships leave Marseilles for Gibraltar as follows:
SAENTIS and ST. GOTTHARD 10th May and LUGANO 14th May.
(D.E.W.D. 051401B to F.O.G.M.A.)

SAUMUR German ex French SAUMUR arrived Barcelona 5th to load full cargo iron ore for French Med. Port.
(F.O.G.M.A.052032B to 10th S/M.F. LA SULTANE, S.O.(1) Med. Capt.(S) 10).

Fixes of U-Boats in W. Med. D/F bearings of U-Boats transmissions which appear to originate anywhere in the Med. are given special priority inside the Admiralty whence they are sent out with indication of priority "immediate" Higher priority as requested in your 031132B does not appear to be justified.
(D.N.I.052317B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Port Stanley fire. Town Hall Fire.
Enquiry finished, finding fire was accidental.
(Falkland Is. No T.O.O)

M.L's at Dakar. Suggest that in interest of manpower the 4 operative motor launches at Dakar should be turned over to the French on condition that they remain under my operational command. This would release about 13 officers and 60 men. Initial loss of efficiency could be accepted. If approved, suggest Admiralty raise matter with Navale France. Admiral Collinet has no objection but doubtful whether French personnel available.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 051251Z to Admty.)

5.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

A/S protection of Gibraltar Straits. A.M. 291800 April is passed to you for information.
(2) Request you will address any comments to Cominch.
(C. in C. Med., 051010B to Comnavnaw.)

Daily Opsum. No. 373. 3rd/4th May. 2 Wellingtons mining Rhodes harbour 1 failed to locate target due cloud, other laid 2 mines outside main boom, two Wellingtons diversionary bombing.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 051018Z.)

SS. INDAUCHU. Your 281918 April. Spanish INDAUCHU search completed. Found in order. Ship released.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 051157B to Admty.)

Sinkings of merchant ships in Black Sea. For your information. Figures of merchant vessels sunk given in Intelligence and Operational Reports quoted in your signals do not appear reliable.
(2) Total M/V tonnage reported as sunk in your last three signals amounts to over 60,000 tons. Total Axis M/V tonnage identified in Black Sea estimated here to be about 56,000 tons including tankers. (See Appendix C of Black Sea Intelligence Summary).
(3) Do you consider it impracticable to attempt to obtain names of ships reported sunk or damaged? Your 281748 March, para. 3 gives one such identification.
(4) After fall of Sevastopol Axis may have seagoing ships available for transfer to Aegean. Identification of Black Sea sinkings important to facilitate estimate of tonnage available for such transfer.
(D.N.I., 051323B to B.N.L.O. Black Sea.)

DEVON CITY. DEVON CITY is to communicate with G.U.S.39, no defects known per your 040327B. PHEASANT pass to DEVON CITY.
(F.O.L.E.M., 051355C.)

Balkan Situation Summary No. 3. Effects of Danube mining include hold up of Roumanian river-borne oil traffic which had previously substantially relieved pressure on railways. Germans very concerned over mining situation.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 051430B.)

S/M sightings in Sea of Marmara. Deputy Chief of General Staff is asking if I have any information to give him from our Naval Authorities. My 301355* refers.
(2) Can I be given an appreciation to pass to him.
(3) There have been several more wild rumours of submarine (? sightings) (? in) Sea of Marmara.
F.O.L.E.M. please pass to Admty.
(B.N.A. Ankara, 051645C.)
* 301300 intended.

/SS. SALVATORE ...

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5.5.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

- SS. SALVATORE. SALVATORE probably still in Piraeus. May sail for Crete at 2200 tonight escorted by 3 destroyers.
(Capt. (S) 1, 051701 to UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM.)
- 3 L.S.Ts. Your 041234*. British Chiefs of Staff consider loss of the 3 L.S.T. will have less effect on Mediterranean operations than on "Overlord", and Com. 12th Fleet has, therefore, been informed that they concur in the proposal in Cominch 031230/ (1st S.L., 051823B to C. in C. Med.)
* N.T. in W.D. Proposed to replace L.S.Ts. lost by 3 L.S.T. from Med.
/ Not to Admiralty.
- Sinking of L.AFOREY 30th March. Initial report sinking of L.AFOREY A.M. 011443 refers indicated use of "Gnat" but this has since been disproved.
(2) L.AFOREY not fitted Foxers and therefore hunting at 6 knots.
(3) Approach of torpedo heard on Asdic but slow speed did not permit ship to comb. track before being hit.
(4) Searchlight drill poor but not considered to have affected issue as torpedo probably fired before exposing beam.
(C. in C. Med., 051835B.)
- C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. is proceeding to Naples p.m./6th. Paras. 2 and 3 of my 161715 January apply.
(C. in C. Med., 051845B.)
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. Of 670 Naval ratings so far examined 340 are loyal, 214 definitely disloyal and remainder suspect. My 041954 military will surround camp Elli tomorrow and force Army personnel to surrender. After their removal Naval personnel will be ordered to surrender to Greek C. in C. and if they refuse will be isolated without supply of foodstuff or water.
(F.O.L.E.M., 052017.)
- Situation Report No. 352. Anzio discharge figures 4th May 3624 tons. No enemy air activity but some shelling of port area.
(2) During night 2nd/3rd May F.S. LE FANTASQUE and F.S. LE MALIN carried out sweep in south-east Aegean and bombarded Kos harbour no opposition no shipping seen.
(3) LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD night 2nd/3rd May shelled coast road in vicinity Maitika (040° 10' N. 019° 37' E.) where traffic was observed no shipping sighted during patrol. Same night Italian destroyers GRANTIÈRE and ORIONE had short engagement with 4 E-Boats and shore batteries off Menders Point, nothing else seen during sweep.
(4) U.S.S. FECHTELER escorting convoy G.U.S. 38 torpedoed by U-Boat in 036° 07' N. 002° 40' W. at 0446/4th and subsequently sank 30 missing hunt in progress.

/(5) ...

5.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation
Report
No. 352.
(Contd.)

(5) UNRULY reports in addition to action in my
032155 para. 5 attacking 2000 ton escorted
merchant ship and obtaining one possible hit
on leading escort on 17th April.
(6) Aircraft mined Khalkis night 1st/2nd May
and Rhodes night 3rd/4th May.
(C. in C. Med., 052140B.)

5.5.1944
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-Boat Situation. No.18. Areas A, B, C, D, E and F believed clear of U-Boats scale of air escort W. Area G Japanese U-Boats believed in area scale of air escort Y.
(C. in C. E.F. 050327Z)

Escort commitments in Indian Ocean. Para. 5 My 021327 for and H.M.S. AVENGER read and EMEER. Your Nr. 1/713 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 050626Z to Admty)

Destruction of U-Boat off Socotra 4th May. It is regretted that the S.E.A.C. communique of May 4th contained a reference to the sinking of a U-Boat by R.A.F. A/C. This information was supplied by A.C. H.Q. and as there is still no Naval representative in my Pr. organization it slipped through.
(2) I am going into this matter personally.
(S.A.C.S.E.A. 050830Z)

Communique concerning destruction of U-Boat off Socotra was issued without my knowledge or being consulted. I am taking up this matter with S.A.C.S.E.A.
(C. in C. E.F. 050830Z)

Future of Diego Suarez. A.M. 011544 to C. in C. E.F.
Para. 2. General Lelong, Supreme French C. in C. in Madagascar has always proved most friendly and co-operative as far as the Royal Navy is concerned.
Para. 3. Capitaine De Frigate Richard Evanou is also on excellent terms with the Royal Navy and I have never experienced the slightest difficulty with him. Opportunities for co-operation with the French Navy have been few as ?thy (1 grp missing) not the means to afford much assistance whilst we remain in control, but when it has been required as in the sailing of the French ship D'ENTRECASTEAUX recently it was readily given and there was no procrastination.
Para.4. There is little doubt that should it be decided to hand over Diego Suarez, both Lelong and Evanou will do everything in their power to assist the combined war effort as far as this port is concerned.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 050831Z to Admty.)

U-Boat destroyed of Rashafun 3 May. Your 040924. Asking for 10 prisoners and salved equipment to be sent to U.K.
(D.N.I. 051905B to C. in C. E.F.)

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B report. (?U/Boat) by D/F of 75 Group "Enigma" (?transmission) at (?00)29Z on 4185 K/cs within 90 miles of (?046 degs.) 00' N. 039 degs. 30' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 050157Z.)

U/B dispositions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 051457Z, Cominch, 051620Z.)

U/B and mining incidents. My 132132 March. VALERA+ probably mined.
(a) BLOCK ISLAND group attacked U/Boat 16.15 N. 33.22 W. 040224Z and Radar contact 15.46 N. 32.15 W. 050530Z.
(b) CROATAN des attacked sound contact 30.13 N. 37.15 W. 031110Z to 031505Z.
(d) P.C.E. 870 attacked sound contact 02.18 S. 39.39 W. 041834Z.
(Cominch 052130Z) +Pan. Tanker reported torpedoed 7th March.

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 836. May 4th. Paras. 12 to 17 cover South Pacific Forces.
9. Night 2nd/3rd May motor Torpedo boats destroyed three barges along ?Hansa Bay - Wewak coast; shore fire encountered from Hansa Bay and Nightingale Bay, latter silenced. Following night P.T. boats sank four barges.
16. Patrol A/C sighted enemy submarine eastbound 40 miles West (?Treasury) Island late afternoon 4th.
17. Motor torpedo boats observed probable Japanese S/M 14 miles N.W. Feni Island (off Eastern New Ireland) heading North (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 050720Z.)

U/Boat Campaign

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. 1. Swordfish A/C from ACTIVITY attacked surfacing U/Boat at 2235Z/31st April in 73 degs 26' N. 16 degs. 26' E.
2. Swordfish A/C from ACTIVITY attacked surfacing U/Boat at 0242/1 in 67 degs. 48' N. 00 degs. 45' W.

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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN -

Sub.
attack
and
sighting
summary.
(Contd.)

3. A/C sighted and attacked 2 U/Boats at 0130Z/5 in 46 degs. 34' N. 07 degs. 14' W. course 045 degs. speed 5 knots.

4. A/C sighted U/Boat at 0129Z/5 in 59 degs. 52' N. 19 degs. 26' W. Course 250 degs. speed 12 knots.

Para. B.

1. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2317Z/4 in 43 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 051139B.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 051437B, 051447B)

6.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U.473 sunk
by E.G.2.

1. The U-Boat U.473, which torpedoed the U.S. destroyer DONNELL on 3rd May, was detected by the sloop WILD GOOSE of E.G.2 at 1100B yesterday, was constantly attacked by STARLING, WREN and WILD GOOSE throughout yesterday, was followed by them one mile astern during last night, and, on surfacing at 0214B today, fired a torpedo at WREN which missed, and was sunk by gunfire from the three sloops at 0232B about 630 miles W. by S. of Lands End, thirty prisoners being taken.

U.765 sunk
by E.G.5 and
A/C from
VINDEX.

2. U.765 was sighted by A/C in fog at 0224B today, was attacked at 0420Z by the frigates KEATS, BICKERTON and BLIGH of E.G.5 and, having been forced to surface, was sunk at 0805B by A/C from VINDEX about 700 miles W. by S. of Valentia.

Operation
"Croquet".

3. An A/C attack upon two southbound enemy convoys was carried out at 0800B today off Christiansund by A/C from FURIOUS and SEARCHER under the orders of BERWICK supported by six destroyers. One 6000 ton and one 2500 ton M/V were destroyed, another 5000 ton tanker was hit by one bomb and two torpedoes, and one smaller ship and an escort vessel were damaged. Two of our Barracuda A/C are missing and two B.V.138 A/C were shot down by fighter A/C in the target area.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

4. The new cruiser NEWFOUNDLAND arrived in the Clyde today from the U.S.A.

South Atlantic.

U.66 sunk
W. of C.V.I.

5.(a). BLOCK ISLAND's group (T.G.21.11) made contact with a U-Boat apparently trying to R/V with a refueller, at 2222Z yesterday in 16.55 N. 32.06 W. (520 miles west of Cape Verde Is.) Early this morning the U.S. destroyer escort BUCKLEY, of the T.G. rammed and shelled and sank the U-Boat which was found to be U.66. A large number of survivors were picked up, BUCKLEY suffered considerable damage and her speed was reduced to 12 knots, necessitating the Task Group leaving the area on 9th May.

/(b)...

6.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U.66 sunk
W. of C.V.I.
(Contd.)

? Spanish

5.(b). At 1238, whilst reforming the T.G. after sinking U.66 a second U-Boat was attacked. This, too, was thought to be a refueller. An hour later the Swedish tanker SS. GOBEO was sighted acting suspiciously. - "Another coincidence at refuelling time" C.T.G.21.11 reports.

U/B S.W.
of Ascension.

6. SS. ANADYR, Trinidad for Table Bay, made at 2007 today a submarine distress signal and reported an explosion and ship on fire in 16.35 S. 27.32 W. (about 900 miles south-west of Ascension Island. It was subsequently reported that the ship was sunk at 2000 today in 10.55 S. 27.30 W.

Mediterranean.

Improper use
of Red Cross
by caique.

7. Capt. S.1 reports that on 21 April in 38.37 N. 26.02 E. (west of Khios) UNRULY boarded and sank by demolition charge a caique marked as a Greek Red Cross ship but carrying oil in drums. A Nazi ensign was found under the captain's pillow.

Aegean.

8. Aircraft mined the northern end of Petali Gulf last night.

Danube mined.

9. 31 night bombers of the Strategic Air Force laid mines last night in the Danube River.

East Indies.

10. CUMBERLAND arrived at Colombo today from Fremantle.

11. 6 U.S.Liberators in the early hours of today laid 30 mines in Kohsijangas harbour (Gulf of Siam).

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

12. U.S. aircraft did considerable damage today amongst river craft in the Gulf of Tongking area and to junks in the Lyang-Lichow area.

Australia & New Zealand.

Coastal
Force
Operations.

13. (a). 3 Allied M.T.Bs. last night, with air co-operation engaged 5 armoured barges covered by two floatplanes and shore batteries off the south-east coast of Bougainville. One M.T.B. was lost and some casualties were suffered.

(b). M.T.Bs. operating in St. George's Channel last night destroyed a lone barge unloading on the southwest coast of New Ireland. Other M.T.Bs. co-operating with 4 Corsairs destroyed a barge beached in Steffin Straits in the approaches to Kavieng.

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Loan of Warships to Russia. A.M. 030304B para. 3. It is desired, if possible to hold ceremony to mark formal transfer of ships to Soviet Navy when all the ships have been concentrated at Rosyth.

2. You are requested to forward as soon as possible your proposals for

- ~~for~~ ceremonial transfer;
- procedure for transference of command and responsibility from British to Soviet Commanding Officers bearing in mind that British Officers should command when ships are handled by British personnel and Soviet officers when ships are handled by Soviet personnel.

3. First Lord may decide to attend ceremony of transfer and approximate date should be reported as soon as possible. (1st Lord, 060025B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

ATTACKER,
HUNTER,
STALKER.

ATTACKER, HUNTER AND STALKER are required to proceed to the Med. sailing in convoy K.M.S.51 on 14th May.

2. They will be required to embark up to ten reserve Seafire L.II C each before leaving U.K. (V.C.N.S. 061233 to C. in C.H.F.)

ATTACKER, HUNTER and STALKER are required to embark 10 reserve Seafires L.II C each at airport wharf Belfast before sailing in convoy K.M.S.51 on 14th May.

2. These ships will sail Scapa a.m. 7th May and it is requested that you will arrange to berth them as quickly as possible after they arrive in Irish Sea.

3. On completion they should be sailed for Clyde to embark stores and await convoy.

(C. in C.W.A. 062316B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

COURBET

Your 141623 April. COURBET will be ready for sea by 14th May. Request French may take over ship on 10th May.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061500B to Admty.)

Operations

Biscay
A/S
operations.
U.473
sunk by
STARLING,
WREN, and
WILD GOOSE.

My 051210B. U/Boat sunk. Am picking up survivors in 049 degs. 29' N. 021 degs. 22' W. (E.G.2, 060237B to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 060237. Warmest congratulations.

2. Proceed with TRACKER and E.G.1st to search in an area bounded by parallels 050 degs. N. and 052 degs. N. and meridians 016 degs. W. to 019 degs. W.

(C. in C.W.A. 060543B to E.G.2.)

My 060237B. U.473 detected by asdic WILD GOOSE at 1100B/5. During day U/Boat subjected to many

attacks, both real and dummy by STARLING, WILD GOOSE and WREN. Enemy frequently used continuous circling tactics. After dark the 3 ships followed one mile astern. U/B surfaced at 0214B/6 for 18 minutes and was frequently hit by gunfire. During this period crew abandoned ship and U/B finished up circling at high speed. Torpedo missed WREN. U/B sank at 0232B/6.

/30...

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay A/S
 operations
 U.473 sunk.
 by STARLING,
 WREN and
 WILD GOOSE.
 (Contd.)

30 prisoners whose evidence shows that the U/B
 had torpedoed U.S.S. DONNELL.
 (E.G.2, 061100B to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation
 C.W. U/B
 believed
 U.765 sunk
 by E.G.5 and
 A/C from
 VINDEX.

U/B found sighted on the surface by A/C in fog in
 052 degs. (corrupt group) N. 028 degs. 26' W. at
 0224B. U/B dived 0239B. A/C over Markers and
 E.G.5 closing to hunt.
 (VINDEX 060259B to C. in C.W.A.)

Attacking submerged U/Boat in 052 degs. 30' N.
 028 degs. 37' W.
 (KEATS 060420Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 My 060259B. U/B sunk in 052 degs. 30' N. 028
 degs. 28' W. at 0805B. U/B surfaced after
 attack by 5th E.G. and was sunk by A/C. E.G.5, picking up
 survivors. Presume this is the right one or are weather reports
 still continuing? Information obtained from U/B Captain that
 another U/B is in vicinity.

(VINDEX 060826B to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 060826. Warmest congratulations.

2. From D/F evidence consider you have sunk weather reporter.
3. Information from U/B Captain is considered correct.
4. Search forthwith in area bounded by parallel 052 degs. N.
 and 054 degs. N. and meridian 026 degs. W. to 030 degs. W.
 commencing from the eastward.

(C. in C.W.A. 061126B to VINDEX.)

KEATS 060420. KEATS was detached from close screen pending
 arrival E.G.5. My 060826. BICKERTON and BLIGH carried out
 creeping attack. U/B believed U.765. 8 survivors.

(VINDEX 061232B to C. in C.W.A.)

U.S.S. REEVES dropped charges on doubtful sound contact at
 50.35 N. 15.50 W. at 1850Z.

(HOPPING 062130 to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation F.Z. Ref. A.M.749. A. 073 degs. 50' N. 017 degs.
 U/B attacked 22' E.
 by WASKESIU, B. 800 yards bearing red 60 degs., 1925.
 on (?) 1st C. No. S/M.
 May. D. U/B moving on Northerly course, altering to
 East during "Hedgehog" and depth charge attacks.
 Approximate course of U/Bs when explosion heard
 090 degs.

E. Periscope depth. F. WASKESIU altered course toward contact
 reduced speed to 70 revolutions (7 knots), passing over contact,
 opened range, came about and proceeded to attack with "Hedgehog"
 295 degs. This was followed up with depth charge attack at 160
 revolutions (16 knots). Ship's course 300 degs. Explosion was
 heard during depth charge attack.

G. 150 revolutions. H. None. I. 1941 G.M.T. Green 175
 degs., 440 yards astern of ship. U/B (German) bearing red two.
 J. Yes. 120 feet. K. No. Ship had streamed cat gear.

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Operation L. 740 C.T.316 using cat gear.
 F.Z. M. C.7, state of sea 3.
 U/B attacked N. Extended screen of R.A.59 in sector XJ with
 by WASKESIU GROU contact first obtained in position 230 degs.
 on (?)1st ZZ 7.7. Explosion occurred in position 218 degs.
 May. ZZ 6.2.
 (Contd.) O. No. P. Yes.
 Q. - Torpedo sighted ahead by starboard lookout,
 coming down starboard side. Sighting confirmed
 by two other members of ships company in different
 parts of the ship, not confirmed by an officer.
 (WASKESIU 060704Z to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation It is appreciated that the movement ordered in
 "Hoop". A.M. 061233 may interfere with Operation "Hoop".
 2. Reserve A/C can be made available for
 embarking by air at Scapa if desired.
 (V.C.N.S. 061254B to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation All M. launches of 21st M.L.F. are required to be
 "Overlord". at Dover by 17th May whether they have been
 fitted with asdic type 134(c) or not.
 2. M.L.276 and ~~456~~ are to be sailed to arrive
 Dover by 17th May. M.L.254 is to be sailed for
 Dover as quickly as possible. Passage of all M.Ls is to be
 expedited.
 (C. in C.W.A. 061303B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation Brief report on your operation would be useful
 "Croquet". to me if received before 2100 today. No
 apparent objection to breaking W/T silence but
 this is entirely subject to your discretion.
 (C. in C.H.F. 061342B to BERWICK.)

SEARCHER is required for operation "Hoops".
 2. My Force sails Scapa 0600 tomorrow passing W. of Orkneys
 and through 060 degs 30' N. 002 degs. 00' W. at 1340, S.O.A.16
 Request you detach SEARCHER to R/V me.
 3. When W/T silence can be relaxed, request you report time
 of R/V and aircraft state.
 4. Report as quickly as possible if SEARCHER unable to comply.
 (F.O.E.C. 061411B to BERWICK.)

Operation "Croquet" carried out at 0800B/6 approximately.
 Preliminary reports indicate one 5,000 ton Tanker probably sunk
 and 4 merchant ships average 2,500 tons, also 2 escorts severely
 damaged. 2 Barracudas missing. 2 Bv. 138's shot down by
 fighters over target area.
 My P.C.S. at noon 064 degs. 09' N. 004 degs. 46' E. 250 degs. 15
 knots.
 Weather 5782, 2044.

(BERWICK, 061606B to C. in C.H.F.).
 Following received from aircraft V 210 on landing Sullom
 1400/6th begins. Pass on landing to C. in C.H.F. from BERWICK.
 Operation "Croquet" postponed until 6th May owing to unfavourable
 weather over target area. T.O.O. 052230B. "Croquet" position
 052300B 064 degs. 02' N. 000 degs. 45' E. course 105 degs. speed
 15. Ends.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 061627B to C. in C.H.F.).

/ Your...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Croquet" (Contd.). Your 0161411B and C. in C.H.Fs. 061522B. Intend to effect R/V in 015° Noup Head 25 miles at 1045B/7th May.

(2) A/C state. 24 serviceable.
(BERWICK, 061838B to F.O.E.C.).

Your position was probably reported by enemy aircraft at 1757B/6th May.

(D.D.I.C. 061905B to BERWICK, FURIOUS).

My 061606 2 southbound convoys were attacked in 063° 00' N. 007° 06' E. and 063° 04' N. 007° 25' E.

(2) First convoy one ship of 2500 tons hit by bomb and possibly torpedo as well and was destroyed. A smaller ship damaged by near misses.

(3) Second convoy 6000 tons well-loaded ship hit by 2 bombs and one torpedo and there are indications she broke in two. One 5000 ton tanker in ballast hit by one bomb and 2 torpedoes. One escort vessel hit by bomb.

(BERWICK, 062224B to C. in C.H.F.).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061546B).

Allied Air Activity

Enemy Convoy attacked by aircraft off the Naze. P.C.S. of enemy, 4 large vessels, 15 medium vessels, unknown number small vessels, 57.58 N. 07.30 E. 090° speed unknown. Result of attack unobserved.
(A/C, 144 Sqdn. to 18 Group, No T.O.O. Recd. 060245).

Enemy Air Activity

Lerwick At 2255B/5th two Ju.88's flew at 100 feet North to South over Lerwick Harbour. Not detected before being sighted. All light and one heavy A/A batteries engaged. No hits.
(A.C.O.S. 060903B to Admty.).

Iceland One identified enemy aircraft plotted 5 miles south of Reykjaskindli 065° 15' N. 021° 08' W. at 1706. Course N.E.
(A.C.I.C. 061806B to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy Destroyer B.2 report states destroyer of Narvik class passed Aalesund Northbound on 2nd May.
O.I.C. Comment. Destroyer may be bound for Altenfjord making 6 Narviks now in North Norway.
(D.D.I.C. 061211B to A.I.G.47).

6.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

U/boats

U/boats reported. Amplification of Sup. 2/4 May re G/1560 1st. Contact (Radar) dead ahead 2 miles, then seen intermittently. Attack not made due to inability to manoeuvre into position to sight U/boat up moon sufficiently far ahead to attack in spite of repeated attempts.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 061300B to H.Q.C.C.).

U/boat sighted by civilians off Borgarfjordur 065° 33' N. (?013°) 47' W. between 051000 and 051400. Graded C.2.

(A.C.I.C. 061802B to Admt.).

Casualties and Defects

ELGIN ELGIN can be taken in hand on arrival at Chatham for repairs referred to in your 051908B and F.O.I.C. Portland 041125B.

(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail her, if necessary in tow, and arrange escort.

(3) Another ship of 4th M.S.F. may be employed to tow.

(D.M.S. 061709B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

P.325 My 261833 April. Anticipate P.325 will be ready for sea May 9th subject to trials proving satisfactory.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061733B to F.O.S.).

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Sailings of I.R.C. and Swiss ships. N.A. Madrid's 281955 April not to C. in C. Med. Geneva have once more been instructed that all sailings of Red Cross ships plying only between Lisbon and Marseilles (see A.M. 191936 April not to N.A.Madrid) must be notified to H.M.Embassy, Lisbon, N.A.Lisbon should then inform F.O.G.M.A. for such promulgation as is necessary. Geneva have also been warned of necessity for giving due notice when vessels make intermediate calls due to stress of weather, emergency, etc.
(2) Request F.O.G.M.A. will state what arrangements are made for notification of sailings of Swiss traffic to and from Marseilles, and promulgation by him.
(Admty. 060436B to N.A. Lisbon, F.O.G.M.A. N.A. Madrid. C. in C. Med.)

M.V. TIJUCA. Your 011735B/ arrived TIJUCA Beunos Aires 4th. (Pernambuco 060910Z to Admty).
/ Have you any news of TIJUCA (Urg).

U-Boats at Alboran. Following received from Almeria T.O.O.051915B May begins. Report just received that S/MS shelter at point approx. 002 degs. 58' W. in Coast Adra. No evidence of supplies but report insists probably at Alboran. Ends.
(2) Almeria has been asked to amplify as soon as possible.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 061120B to S.O.(I) Med.)

W/T watch by A/C. As from 0001Z/10th all A/C based at Gibraltar or Moroccan Sea Frontier will always keep W/T watch on convoy H/F when operating East of longitude of Europa Point irrespective of whether they are escorting a convoy or not. Times of change from day to night frequency are 0800B and 2100B.
(F.O.G.M.A.061133B)

4 destroyers for U.K. Intend to sail FAULKNER and URANIA at 2130B/6th and FURY and ISIS at 0230B/7 for Scapa in accordance A.M. 232349/
(2) FAULKNER and URANIA will escort U.S.S.GENERAL MANN to 34.37 N. 09.00 W. then part company and proceed to R/V FURY and ISIS in A (?) 6 05 10.34 at B 40.35 15.30 C. 45.00 15.30 thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A. S. Of A. 18.
(F.O.G.M.A. 061231B)
/ Destination of certain ships in U.K.

TERRAPIN, VIVID. My 011258. Leave patrol not before 1400/8th and R/V with KILMARNOCK in position (M) 041 degs.

N /...

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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

TERRAPIN,
VIVID.
(Contd.)

N. 012 degs. 20' W. at 1900/8th.
(2) Until R/V is made S/M not to be attacked on 8th unless definitely identified as hostile and total bombing restrictions 50 miles either side of line joining 039 degs. 40' N. 012 degs. 50' W. and 042 degs. 20' N. 012 degs. 50' W. from 0800/8th.
(3) KILMARNOCK escort you through (route) to Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A.061507B to P.323 TERRAPIN, P.77 VIVID)

MIRROR.

Master Cable Ship MIRROR reports he has been instructed by Cable and Wireless Ltd. to repair Gibraltar Lisbon No.2 cable in 35.59 N. 08.13 W. on completion of operation D.
(2) Request instructions in view of your 031804.
(F.O.G.M.A.061721B to C. in C. Med.)

MENGES
(torpedoed
3rd May)

Reply to Cominch's 042125 re technical details (Comnavnav 061736) ~~See Lion copy.~~ *See Lion Copy p.90A.*

South Atlantic

U-Boat
report.

Transmission at 0326/6th on 4790 K/cs indicates U-Boat within 100 miles of 018 degs. N. 034 degs. W.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 060647Z to C.T.G. 21.11)

Gen. H.W.
BUTNER
(U.S.A.T.)

Diversion order.
(C. in C. S.A. 060901B)
Acknowledge your 060901B.
(GEN. H.W. BUTNER 061531Z)

U.66 sunk
W. of C.V.I.

Nailed S/M apparently trying R/V with refueller BLOCK ISLAND had Radar contact 5000 yards off beam 052222Z 16.55 N. 32.06 W.
LEUX DE BUCKLEY and one unarmed Allnite patrol plane over contact. At 060328Z when T.G. clear same plane picked up surfaced S/M on Radar 20 miles from BUCKLEY. Plane closed to visual contact on twice observed S/M manouevering on surface. Directed BUCKLEY to scene. 0413Z S/M opened fire automatic weapons. BUCKLEY returned fire with plane spotting closed shelling point blank range. Armed planes (ordered?) to spot unable attack because ship and S/M too close together.

BUCKLEY /...

War Diary

6.5.1944
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U.66 sunk
W. of C.V.I.
(Contd.)

BUCKLEY rammed and rode over S/M. Latter badly battered got clear but BUCKLEY pursued pouring fire into conning tower which was shot away. S/M out of control collided with side of BUCKLEY and sank out 10 mintues leaving 32 survivors including executive officer, due darkness all not saved. Prisoners state S/M awaiting contact with refueller, Cominch H/F D/F bearing within twenty miles S/M. First trans-mission soon after place contact. Later ones while S/M was under fire. T.G. engaged throughout night will R/V later to-day. BLOCK ISLAND had two disappaearing Radar contacts 5000, 4000 respectively. Planes unable develop Sono buoy contact. Feel certain am in refuelling area, continuing hold down tactics on refueller. HOOI/ flush tonight. BUCKLEY reports no personnel casualties. First estimate shaft damaged beyond repair ships force speed reduced 10 knots. IIOV/ will advise further.

Weather 55.81 16.14.
(C.T.G.21.11 061323)
/ As received.

6.5.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Improper use of Red Cross by caiques.

S.1 reports:- At 1119/21 April in 38° 37' 26° 02' UNRULY sighted and opened fire on caique. On closing the range it was seen to be flying the Red Cross over a Greek ensign and to have large Red Crosses painted on either bow. Crew had by this time abandoned ship. The caique was boarded and found to be carrying oil in drums. A Nazi ensign was found under the captain's pillow. Charts and letters were removed and have been forwarded to F.O.L.E.M.
2. Caique was number KAL 98 of 36 tons bound Khios she was scuttled by demolition charge.
(C. in C.Med. 061156B to Admty.)

A/S protection of Gibraltar Straits.

A.M. 291800 April. Consider Blimps definitely preferable to Catalinas for night A/S patrol of Straits owing to low altitude at which Catalinas must operate.

2. There are no indications of cessation of flow of U-Boats into Med. but on the contrary torpedoing of U.S.S. FECHTELER points strongly to a further reinforcement.
3. Consequently any additional A/S measures such as Blimps which do not detract from "Overlord" effort are most essential.
4. B.A.D. pass Rafdel and Cominch Admty. pass H.Q.C.C. and Air Ministry.
(C. in C.Med. 061205.)

Sinkings of merchant ships in Black Sea.

Originator of A.M. 051323B should read "Director of Naval Intelligence."
(D.N.I. 061222B to B.N.L.O.Black Sea.)

UNSWERVING.

Leave patrol a.m. 8th through 036° 05' 023° 22' to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 29' at 0502/8th thence through Antikithera Channel.
(Capt. S.1 061252 to UNSWERVING.)

VAMPIRE.

VAMPIRE sailed from Malta at 1401/6th and passes position 035° 41' 023° 15' about 0502/9th thence to patrol in west Aegean north of lat. 036° 05' and west of long. 024° 30'.
(Capt. S.1 061409B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) 1st S.F.)

ATTACKER,
HUNTER,
STALKER.

Escorts will have to be provided in the Med. from your Command but the object will be achieved even if the ships spend most of their time in harbour. In fact a period at Gibraltar where they would be conspicuous appears desirable. A.M. 061233* and your 281027 April refer.

2. The air squadrons in these carriers are now in a high state of training which it is desired should be maintained by disembarking them if ships have to spend much time in harbour.
(V.C.N.S. 061440B to C. in C.Med.)

* See Home Commands, page 81.

6.5.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Rumour of submarine sighting in Sea of Marmara.

Appreciation of possible presence of submarines as follows. Your 051645A No* allied submarine was in any of the areas mentioned. B. There is no evidence of presence of German submarine from Med. but possibility of enemy submarine from Black Sea should not be ruled out.

(F.O.L.E.M. 061616C to B.N.A.Ankara.)

* ("No" omitted)

Mutiny in Greek Navy.

Helli Camp was cleared without incident today and naval personnel transferred to 307 P.O.W. camp. 1300 S.A. were found in camp. My 052017.

2. The personnel situation is now as follows.

Interrogation continues and it is considered that sufficient loyal personnel will be forthcoming to man all ships at Alexandria and FAPANICOLIS at Port Said within the next few days. Additional personnel required to complete surface seagoing ships in remainder of Med. will also be found though (?loyalty) may present some difficulty. After seagoing ships are manned it will take some weeks to sift the border line cases of whom there will be many or change their outlook. This is due to the fact that they make themselves out to be more disloyal than they actually are in fact. There are two main causes for this A. a reluctance to go to sea. B. Determined effort by the ring-leader to keep as many in the party as possible in the hope that disciplinary action against many will of necessity be less severe than against a chosen few.

3. Summary of interrogation to date. Examined 903, loyal 477, suspect 167, disloyal 259.

(F.O.L.E.M. 062016C.)

BOURGAS, SALVATORE and escort.

3 destroyers 2 escort vessels and BOURGAS departed Piraeus 1530 today destination unknown.

(Capt. S.1 062020 to UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM, (R) SICKLE.)

My 062020 destination Salonika.

2. SALVATORE with 3 destroyers and 2 escort vessels probably sail today for Crete.

(Capt. S.1 062235 to UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM, (R) SICKLE.)

USS MENGES 90A

(torpedoed 3 May)

Reply to enquiry re
technical details.

CONFIDENTIAL

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.

061736/May

From: Comnavnaw.

Date: 9.5.44.

Recd: 0134.

P/L BY D/R

To: Cominch.

Info: Com. 12th Fleet, C.T.F. 66, U.S.S. MENGES.

CR. No. 1344.

Your 042125.

1. 2 type mark 2 gear. 1 from stern chock with type B depressor streamed 500 feet, 1 from B/T boom no depressor streamed 700 feet.
2. Zigzagging on base course 120 degs. true at 20 knots. 2 minutes before torpedo hit reduced speed to 15 knots zigzagging base course 100 degs. true.
3. FXR tested at both 15 and 20 knots operating satisfactory.
4. At 030025B range 12, 000 yards bearing 103 degs. relative obtained radar contact.
5. Visibility 7 sea 0.
6. Other escorts obtained sound contact after torpedoing upon arrival on scene.
7. After torpedoing 2 escorts detached to hunt submarine.
8. U-Boat off North African coast this general vicinity.
9. Convoy in formation of 15 columns 6 to 8 ships deep. 3 escorts in outer screen. 8 escorts in inner screen. 4 on flanks and MENGES patrolling off stern of convoy.
10. Approximately 5 minutes before torpedo hit aircraft seen and heard passing over MENGES in direction of convoy. After torpedo struck plane passed over on reverse course. Picked up on radar screen. Sound contact obtained at range of 1,500 yards bearing 280 degs. relative. Ships head approximately 100 degs. true, before wheel could be put over ship was struck by torpedo. No hydrophone effect heard.

061736

Ref. 042125 MENGES 031200B and Comnavnaw 031553 advise (1) type FXR gear and depressor in use and positions at which streamed.

Circulation overleaf/

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controller
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Asst. Contr. (R. & D)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- U.W.R.
- D. Map Room
- Capt, Pim
- Ops. (2)
- Plot.
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Citadel
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A.U.D.
- M. (2)
- A.S. (C)
- D.T.M. (3)
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- D.G.D. (2)
- D.T.S.D. (3)
- D.M.W.D.
- A.M.W.
- D.S.R.
- D.S.D. 9 (3)
- D.E.E.
- D.A/S.M.
- C.A.O.R.
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)
- Admiral Usborne.
- Ad. Blake
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.P.E. (2)
- F.O.S. by courier.
- Deputy Controller (3)
- D.E.E. (3)
- D.T.M.
- D.R.E. (3)
- D.A/S.M.
- S.W.R. (6)

} Bath (17)
 by
 Courier

DS

6.5.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

SS. ALGIC 060900 H.P.B.P. Salvage vessel KILLERIG going to assist SS. ALGIC off Mucaras Reef approx. position 22.10 N. 77.20 W. (B.R.O. Kingston, 060550).

U/boat (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 061543Z, Cominch 061607Z).
dispositions.

U/boat (A) BLOCK ISLAND Escort shelled rammed sank
incidents. U/boat with 32 survivors 16.55 N. 32.06 W. about
0430Z/6th.
(D) Army Ferry Pilot sighted disappearing object
and swirl 21.30 N. 71.05 W. 1630Z/5th.
(Cominch, 062045Z).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial Paragraphs seven to twelve cover South Pacific
No.837 May 5th. Forces.
(11) Night 3/4 May M.T.Bs, attacked five heavily
armed enemy barges off Southeastern Bougainville
damaging two: single enemy floatplane attacked our patrol
craft causing minor damage nil casualties. Same night other
M.T.Bs. destroyed one loaded barge Empress Augusta Bay another
off Northeastern Bougainville.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 060942Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack Para.A. (1) A/C from VINDEX sighted U/boat on
and sighting surface at 0024Z/6 in 52° 00' N. 28° 26' W.
summary. (2) KEATS attacked U/boat with depth-charges at
0420Z/6 in 52° 30' N. 28° 37' W.
(3) E.G.2 hunting U/boat at 1010Z/5 in 49° 20' N.
21° 02' W.
(4) E.G.2 attacked U/boat at 0051Z/6 in 49° 29' N. 21° 22' W.
(5) A/C sighted periscope course 099° at 1945Z/5 in 36° 00' N.
06° 32' W.

/ Para.B. ...

6.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary
(Contd.).

Para.B. (1) A/C sighted swirl at 1700Z/5 in 35°
02' N. 07° 32' W.

(2) Transit A/C sighted U/boat on surface, course
108° at 1710Z/5 in 36° 00' N. 08° 00' W.

Para.C. (1) Fishing vessel sighted U/boat, course
S.W. during night of 5th May in 62° 15' N. 12°

00' W.

(2) A/C sighted U/boat, course 360° at 0630Z/5 in 38° 30' N. 09°
30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 060905Z).

U/boat
dispositions

Estimates
(D.D.I.C. 061444B, 061449B).

7.5.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Hoop".

1. At 0613B today F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with the cruiser JAMAICA, the escort carriers STRIKER and EMPEROR, and six destroyers left Scapa for an anti-shipping operation on the Norwegian coast. The escort carrier SEARCHER, returning from the similar operation "Croquet", joined F.O.E.C's force off Noup Head at 1045B.

ELBING class
destroyer
destroyed.

2. A force of six M.T.Bs. (S.O. in M.T.B. 673) left Plymouth at 2015 last night to attack the ELBING class destroyer run ashore on the rocks 8 miles E. by N. of Ile de Vierge (Brittany) after action with HAIDA and ATHABASKAN on 29th April. The destroyer was hit by one torpedo from M.T.B. 673 at about 0230 today and is considered a total loss. Our force was engaged by shore batteries, but returned without damage or casualty.

Operation
F.Z.

3. (a). Convoy R.A.59 which left the Kola Inlet at 281104B April, arrived in the Clyde at 0459 today.
(b). During the passage of this convoy one of its 45 M/Vs, the WILLIAM S. THAYER, was sunk by U-Boat on 30th April when one B.V. 138 A/C was shot down by A/C from the escort carrier ACTIVITY. On 1st May another B.V.138 A/C was shot down by A/C from ACTIVITY. On 2nd May an A/C from the escort carrier FENCER sank a U-Boat about 180 miles S.E. of Jan Mayen Island; and on 3rd May A/C from the escort attacked five U-Boats in contact with the convoy, of which one was damaged.
(c). Some three thousand Russian Naval Officers and men have arrived in the U.K. in this convoy to take over certain British Warships to be transferred to the Soviet Navy.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

4. Shipping and installations at Civitavecchia, Porto Ferraio and in Neretva Channel (between Hvar Island and the mainland) were attacked by aircraft today, and hits and near misses are claimed.

War Diary.

7.5.1944.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

5. (a). An M.L. sank two caiques last night between Symi and Rhodes.
(b). Two Wellingtons bombed Portolago Bay, Leros last night; bursts were seen in the jetty area.
(c). A convoy was attacked last night between Patmos and Lipsos; a large destroyer type vessel was straddled with 8 R/Ps. and was probably hit, it was left completely obscured by smoke.
(d). 2 Wellingtons laid mines in Khalkis Harbour last night. Rhodes was also mined.

America & West Indies.

VALLEYFIELD
sunk.

6. The Canadian frigate VALLEYFIELD with escort group C.1 was torpedoed by a U-Boat and sunk in the early hours of today in 46.03 N. 52.24 W. (40 miles southeast of Cape Race.)

Australia & New Zealand.

7. 7 enemy barges were destroyed last night in Empress Augusta Bay by landing craft gunboats.

War Diary7.5.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Hoops". Scapa departures F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with JAMAICA, STRIKER, EMPEROR, KEMPENFELT, ONSLAUGHT, SIOUX, MARNE, UNDAUNTED, WAGER.
(A.C.O.S. 070613B and 071053B to H.F.)
4 Sunderlands Mark III I.F.F. fitted are carrying out an A/S patrol from 1002 to 2003 tomorrow in area bound by 062 degs. 11' N. 001 degs. 07' E. 064 degs. 57' N. 001 degs. 27' W. 065 degs. 20' N. 001 degs. 00' E. and 062 degs. 40' N. 003 degs. 32' E.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 072207B to R.A.E.C.)

Operation F.Z. "Gnat" attack on 1st May. Reference A.G.M. 749A.
(a) 73 degs. 08' N. 09 degs. 50' E.
(b) No contact. (c) Sighted U-Boat on surface 0927B/1st May. (d) Unknown. (e) Unknown.
(f) Anti-Gnat tactics. Speed reduced to 7 knots when estimated to be 4,000 yards from scene.
(g) 60. (h) Unknown. (i) 1016B near but position unknown. (j) (k) (l) No.
(m) Clear, 10 miles. (n) Searching after sighting
(o) Heard by OUTREMONT. (p) Yes. (q) Nil.
(CAPE BRETON, 070618B to C. in C. W.A.)
R.A. 59. Arrived Clyde 0459/7th May.
(D.T.D.071742B to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Operation C.W. (1) VINDEX, 825 Squadron Swordfish II V.
(2) 0805B/6th May, 10 minutes before dawn.
(3) 052 degs. 30' N. 028 degs. 28' W.
(4) 2 - 250 pound Torpex depth charges.
(5) U-Boat broke in two and sank in 30 to 40 seconds leaving wreckage and survivors which were picked up by 5th E.G. (VINDEX, 071039B to Admty.)
My 061232. Prisoners of war confirmed U-Boat was 765 and was weather reporting.
(VINDEX, 071227B to C. in C. W.A.)
P.C.S. at 1400Z, 055 degs. 09' N. 022 degs. 10' W. 087 degs. 14. Weather 8471 1656.
(CALGARY, 071401Z to C. in C. W.A.)
2nd Escort Group, STARLING, WILD GOOSE, WREN, 2 Frigates of 1st E.G. 051 degs. 32' N. 019 degs. 27' W. to vicinity 055 degs. 03' N. 023 degs. 10' W. 15 knots.
VINDEX, 5th Escort Group BICKERTON, GOODSON, GAYLIMER, KEMPTHORNE, BLIGH, KEATS vicinity 053 degs. 01' N. 027 degs. 55' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 071415B to Ships)
REAPER, Escort Group 5th GOULD, 5 Frigates, vicinity 053 degs. N. 028 degs. W.
(C. in C. W.A. 071424B to Ships)

Enemy Destroyer destroyed. At 2015 M.T.B. 673, with M.T.B's 677, 717, 413, 414 415 left Plymouth to attack the ELBING destroyer on the rocks 075 degs. Ile de Vierge 8, where she had been forced after action by HAIDA and ATHA-BASKAN on morning of 29th April. The force arrived at scene of action at about 0230.
Considerable ground swell was running and so took M.T.B's 673, 677

7.5.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Enemy Destroyer destroyed. (Contd) 717 to within 200 yards of his objective leaving other 3 boats as a screen 3 miles to northwards. He found no opposition, examined his target, then withdrew to 600 yards and fired one torpedo which hit under bridge. The enemy destroyer was lifted bodily and appeared to slide a little further astern, the bridge funnels and superstructure disintegrating. No opposition from ship, but slight and fairly accurate firing from 3-inch and Bofors gun ashore and illumination by shore searchlight. Enemy is now considered a total loss. (C. in C. Plymouth, 071127B to Admty.)

Operation "Potato". C.P.G.O. 7400 para. 4. Carry out Operation "Potato" tonight.
(1) Unit B 257 (S.O) 253, 254, 256.
Unit C 450 (S.O) 452 453 454.
(2) 0030. (4) Unit B 49 degs. 46' N. 00 degs. 13' E. Unit C 49 degs. 57' N. 00 degs. 49' E. (5) Avoid areas B and E. (6) 50 degs. 20' N. 00 degs. 14' E. (7) as in 6.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071331B to AGGRESSIVE.)

Operation "Overlord". Your 201605 April. Total of 9 EAGLE ships can be accepted at Portsmouth on D. Day. Assume no ammunition required. ARISTOCRAFT may remain here after fitting out.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071814B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Allied Air Activity

South Spit Buoy attacked. Coastguard Margate has reported that on May 6th Auxiliary Watchkeeper on Rifles Range observed A/C making target of South Spit Buoy which is now missing.
Identity of A/C cannot be ascertained.
(C. in C. Nore, 071316B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Iceland. One unidentified enemy A/C plotted 40 miles W. of Reykjaskali 065 degs. 15' N. 021 degs. 08' W. at 0440, course N. Plot faded 0510. Cloud 8. 10th, 1000 feet, visibility 5 to 10 miles.
(A.C.I.C.071446B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy Destroyers. P.C.S. of 4 destroyers 44 degs. 38' N. 03 degs. 04' W. 030 degs. 20 knots.
(A/C K.T.L.56 070326 to 19 Group)

Casualties and Defects.

BOADICEA. On examination of BOADICEA bow plating is found to be fractured and bullring set back.

Repairs /...

7.5.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

BOADICEA.
(Contd.)

Repairs cannot be completed before 14th May and work referred to in Capt. D. Greenock 091226 April para. 7 cannot be commenced before these repairs are effected.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 071101B to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

North
Russia.

Your 042321. Should VERCHERES and PROWESS return to White Sea sufficient Russian Bunkers and timber will be available. Both American ships now at Molotovsk loading chrome ore, magnesite etc. about 3000 tons each. If necessary could complete with timber for U.K. as HARSHAW has authority to load provided minimum 700 standards.

(2) Meantime Russians have asked for use of British and American vessels to run for their account between White Sea and Kola Inlet similar to last years arrangements, see Admiral Fisher's signal to Admiralty 051729.

(3) Ice-run of Dvina is expected within next two days.
(Watson, 071615B to Admty, for M.W.T.)

99

7:5.1944.
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

4 Destroyers (for U.K.). Sailed 062335B URANIA, FAULKNER and 070320B FURY, ISIS. My 061231 refers. (F.O.G.M.A. 070832B).

4 Hunts for U.K. My 181252 and A.M. 232349 both April group A has been delayed 48 hours on U/boat Hunt. (2) Approve boiler hours on leaving Gibraltar BLANKNEY 120, HAMBLEDON 340, BLENCATHRA 480, MENDIP 140. (C. in C. Med. 070920B to Admty.). Intend to sail BLANKNEY, HAMBLEDON, BLENCATHRA and MENDIP at 0400B/8th for U.K. in accordance with A.M. 232349 not to all. 2 - 4. Route etc. (F.O.G.M.A. 071518B).

4 Destroyers for U.K. In accordance with A.M. 232349. Intend sailing GRENVILLE, URCHIN, UNDINE and ULSTER at 0300B/8th for Scapa (route). (F.O.G.M.A. 071135B).

Swiss traffic. Para.(2) of A.M.060436B May. Sources of this information have been - (a) Admiralty. (b) W/T intercepts from Swiss Gov. to ships. (c) Westbound Swiss ships arriving Gibraltar, from Marseilles.

(2) Information is promulgated to A.I.G.262 and S/M.F. 10th repeated Capt.(D) 10.

(F.O.G.M.A. 071156B to Admty.).

/ Re: What arrangements are made for notification of sailing of Swiss traffic to and from Marseilles.

SIRIUS Intend to sail SIRIUS at approx. 0400B/9th for U.K. (route). (F.O.G.M.A. 071746B).

SS. LUGANO My 051401 steamship LUGANO will sail 10th May. (Swiss). (D.E.W.D. 071852B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

U.66 (sunk 6th May). Second U/B. attacked. Times are Z. Caught sub thought refueller at 1238/6 while reforming task group after night action my 061323 Des AHRENS and ELMORE made positive Sonar contact and thereafter made 14 Hedgehog and depth charge attacks with very positive results.

/ Good...

7.5.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U.66
(sunk
6th May).
Second U/B.
attacked.
(Contd.).

Good S.M.S.D. contact on three H/H. Sub brought up to periscope depth by fourth D/c attack. Was fired on by three inch and 40 mm submerging immediately before arrival of plane. After sixth mark ton projector attack heard explosion five seconds later followed by two others six seconds later on. After eight attack oil indications appeared which developed into large slicks one bubbling spotted by planes positive Sonobuoy indications. No positive contact since 1622/6. Intend continue intensive hold down tactics for 60 hours. Sub. sunk my 061323 was U.66 commanded by Ober Leutnant Sechausen lost in action. Eight or nine weeks out of Lorient. Crew suffering from vitamin deficiencies. Prisoner testimony indicated attempting R/V with refueller. Once aboard BUCKLEY all showed concern time of day due expected R/V and danger getting torpedoed. Claimed to have on board two survivors from British ship JEAN HOLT sunk two days previous to her own downfall. One was Captain other passenger named Elliott. BLOCK ISLAND now has on board 36 survivors of U/boat including 4 officers two Commissioned Warrant officers including 11 wounded. BUCKLEY had real battle. Action report being forwarded first available air mail. Damaged as follows. Starboard shafting sheared outside skin of ship. Starboard side forward engine room holed one foot above waterline and side of ship buckled. Peak tank buckled prow bent but after bulkhead of peak tank intact. Ships starboard shaft now secured by lock bar and propeller shaft held to skin of ship by strap. Ship operating on one engine. Able make sustained speed 12 knots. Due logistic conditions and steaming status of BUCKLEY necessary task group depart area noon 9th preferable for Recife due to shorter distance and calmer weather en route. Can make Casablanca if so directed. Will need relief for BUCKLEY for next part of cruise. At 1333/6 sighted Swedish GOBEO position 16.40 N. 32.07 W. 110 7. Position O.K. but course questionable. Challenged, stopped, but would hoist no signal. Another coincidence at refuelling time. Weather 5280 1324. (C.T.G. 21.11 071832).

7.5.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.4 Hunts
for U.K.

C. in C.Med. 070920B see North Atlantic.

Non contact
hit.

SPORTSMAN obtained one non contact hit under 5,000 ton merchant ship estimated draught 20 feet torpedo depth setting 22 feet. Ship sunk. (S.1 071020.)

UNSWERVING.

From position 035° 41' 023° 15' about 1205/8 proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 1530/10 thence to Malta.
2. You are to dive by day on the 8th. Your surface speed is estimated as 8.5 knots.
(Capt. 3.1 071124 to UNSWERVING.)UPSTART -
patrol report.UPSTART reports A. at 2042/1 fired 23 rounds at presumed olive oil factory at Oneglia. 20 hits.
B. At 1858/2nd fired two torpedoes into Nice Harbour. Result unobserved.
C. At 2135/3 fired one torpedo at stopped R-Boat in Golfe de la Napoule. Missed.
D. 0826/4th fired 27 rounds at railway shed in 260° Cannes Harbour Light 2.63 miles 20 hits.
E. At 2045/4th fired 24 rounds at seaplane hangar in 250° Saint Raphael Light one mile. 23 hits.
(S.10 071125B.)Transport of
Italian P.O.W.Proposal in para. 3 of your 042016 is approved subject to revision in the event of an increase in enemy U-Boat activity.
(C. in C.Med. 071128B to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Convoys.

A.M. 060127*. In order to avoid unnecessary dislocation to the build up into Italy and disruption of the normal convoy and escort cycle would prefer to sail K.M.S.51 a.m. 28th May from Gib.
2. It can be assumed from past form that U.G.S.42 will pass Europa during daylight 29th.
3. S.L.139 would pass Gibraltar at daylight 30th May, R/V with M.K.S.50 to east of Europa and Combined Convoy pass Straits west-bound during night 30/31st.
(C. in C.Med. 071222B to Admty.)
* Top Secret Hush Distribution.M.E.Balkan
Sitrep No.
173.4. Sea Ops. Operation "Trinket 6" successfully carried out. Stores infiltrated on Pelion Coast and 2 Brit. personnel, 10 Russians evacuated.
(C. in C.M.E. 072010C.)

/Mutiny...

7.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mutiny in Greek Navy. Summary of interrogation to date my 062016. Examined 1085, loyal 568, suspect 192, disloyal 325.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 072011C.)

AGATHE Your 071246. These entered Doro Channel at 0545B. Fog prevented completion of attack. Not detected but assume your 061514B now cancelled. Weather report.
 (SICKLE 072019B to Capt. S.1.)
 AGATHE arrived Piraeus. Cancel my 061514.*
 (Capt. S.1 072325 to SICKLE.)
 *Not circulated in W.R.

Shadow Port Parties. Shadow Port Parties are in process of formation and are to be referred to as follows:-

<u>Port</u>	<u>Party</u>
Leghorn	How
Spezia	Item
Genoa	Jig
Marseilles	King
Toulon	Love
Venice	Mike
Fiume	Nan
Trieste	Oboe.

2. Personnel detailed for these parties should familiarise themselves with these ports although when the time comes they may be required to proceed to other ports not named above.
 (C. in C.Med. 072020B.)

Situation report No. 353. 1. 3725 tons discharged at Anzio 5th May and 2832 on 6th May. No enemy activity. U.S.S. HILARY P.Jones and U.S.S. CHARLES F.HUGHES carried out bombardment of supply dumps and assembly areas on 5th May result reported satisfactory. Enemy returned fire but caused no damage or casualties.
 2. Coastal forces operating off west coast of Italy nights 3, 4, 5 and 6th May sighted nothing except illuminated ship thought to be hospital ship which entered Leghorn on (?3rd) night.
 (C. in C.Med. 072125B.)

Air Cosit- Night 5/6th May 31 night bombers of Strategic Air Force successfully laid mines in Danube River. 3 Wellingtons are missing.
 intrep No.301. (Air C. in C.Med. No T.O.O.)

River craft for Adriatic. (Extract.)
 1. Aid to Tito. Force 266 are urgently requiring craft for distribution of stores from Vis to Dalmatian coast and Islands. Journeys are undertaken in hours of darkness only. Successful experiments have been made with R.C.Ls. and up to 12 are earmarked and will be manned by Jugoslavs. C. in C.Med. and P.S.T.O.Med. state no other craft suitable are available in this theatre. 2. Summer weather conditions in Adriatic will permit use of river craft. Are any such craft available.
 (A.F.H.Q.Algiers No T.O.O/7 to War Office.)

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.)

*Received by W.D.
too late.*

070626Z/May

From: C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

DATE: 7. 5. 44.

RECD: 1455.

NAVAL CYPHER 'C' by W/T

Addressed: N.O.I.C. Aden.
Repeated: N.L.O. Jibuti, Admiralty, Navale France, Algier,
C. in C. Mediterranean, F.O.L.E.M., F.O.Red S.
and Canal Area.

Owing to complete breakdown of D'ENTRECASTEAUX it is approved for her to be towed to Jibuti on account of berthing difficulty at Aden. She is to remain there until repairs are effected or her disposal decided.

(2) An early report is requested as to whether repairs sufficient to enable ship to proceed under own power to Suez are likely to be within capacity of local resources at Jibuti.

070626Z.

3rd S.L.
Vice Controller.
A.C.N.S.(F).
U.W.R.
Ops. (2).
Plot.
O.D. (5).
O.D.8.
O.I.C. (2).
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
M.
N.A.Mails.
N.A. 2nd S.L.(O.D.).
Mails.
Movts.
I.P.(3).
P.N.L.O.
B.N.L.O.(F.N.)(2).
D.57 O.B.1.
D.N.C. (2).
E. in C.
D. of S. (3).
D.A/S.M.
C.C.R.T. (2).
Dept.Cont. (3).
D. (4).
D.N.C. (2).
E. in C. (4).

Advance Copy sent Ops., O.D., P.

} D.A/S.M.(2).
D. of S. } Bath.
P. Br.
S.W.R.(6). }

W.D.

7.5.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

ATHOS II. Your 031227 and 040936 it would be acceptable for vessel to proceed unescorted on East Indies Station but in view of her onward passage it appears certain ships will have to conform to Atlantic Rules and decision must be obtained from C. in C. S.A.
(C. in C. E.F.070531Z to P.S.T.O.)

Daily
Opsum
No.784.

A.C.99 7 May. 5/6th May. 6 U.S. Liberators B.24 Kohsi jangas and Harbour (Gulf of Siam).
30 x 1000 lb. mines laid at 0044 0150 hrs.
Results excellent.
1 A/C searched for 3 enemy S/Ms reported S.E. of East Boronga. None seen.
(A.C.S.E.A.,071112Z)

HIGHLAND
PRINCESS.
GEN. H.W.
BUTNER.

Escort is being provided for HIGHLAND PRINCESS from Bombay to Australia and ship may be fully embarked. My 090711 April refers. It is probable that she will not be able to leave Bombay until May 20th as ocean escort may not be available before that date.

(2) It is not intended to provide ocean escort for GENERAL BUTNER between Bombay and Australia. Request numbers it is proposed to embark may be reported.
(3) D. of S.T's 060217 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 071207Z to P.S.T.O.I.)

Coast
watching on
Somalia
Coast.

Your cipher 84721 dated 25 March.
(1) C. in C. Eastern Fleet agrees your proposal abolish coast watching organisation owing unreliability reports and time lag but desires retention of organisation at Fortress Mombasa which has good communications and has proved its worth.
(2) Admiralty concurs with above views.

(3) Approval therefore given take necessary steps to abolish coast watching organisation as such with exception Mombasa and retain reduced establishments for security control duties along coast lines.
(War Office, 071210B to G.O. C. in C. E.Af.)

7.5.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

VALLEYFIELD sunk VALLEYFIELD torpedoed and sunk 046 degs. 03' N., 052 degs. 24' W. (GIFFARD, 070315Z.) Note: Message received from Halifax via C. in C. W.A. and has been passed to A.C.I.C.

Have picked up 38 survivors, 5 dead. Some in bad shape. Returning St. Johns N.F. forthwith. Have detailed EDMUNDSTON, HALIFAX, FRONTENAC to continue search. My p.c.s. 046 degs. 03' N. 052 degs. 24' W. 000 degs. 12.75.

(GIFFARD 070511Z to F.O.N.F., C. in C.C.N.A.)

Explosion heard at 0235 and VALLEYFIELD subsequently missed. On closing position A/S contact obtained having movement and Doppler this contact was attacked with Hedgehog at 0357 in 50 fathoms of water and resulting explosion heard too early to have been from bottom. Contact gained later and attacked with Hedgehog proved by debris to be VALLEYFIELD. HALIFAX and FRONTENAC carried out observant until W.2 Group joined; my 070811Z not to all addressees refers. All times G.M.T.

(EDMUNDSTON 071254Z.)

U/B Estimates.
 dispositions (Cominch 071521Z, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 071543Z.)

S.C.157 Off Oversay at 1600Z/30th April. Average speed 7.9 knots. All arrived except COLIN. (D.T.D. 071646B.)

ATHOS II C. in C.Eastern Fleet's 070531 and C.A.F.O. 2247/43 para. 3. Request you will obtain decision from U.S. authorities. (D.O.D.(F) 071735B. to B.A.D.)

U/B incidents
 A. H.M.C.S. VALLEYFIELD torpedoed and sunk 46.03 N. 52.24 W. prior to 070315.
 B. A/C from CROATAN Radar and Sonobuoy contact 29.03 N. 37.55 W. from 050425 to 050845.
 D. U.S.S. EXPLOIT Sub. contact 43.32 N. 70.00 W.
 070017. WHITE OAK sighted periscope 11.55 N. 73.38 W. 062044. (Cominch, 072033Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 838 May 6th. Paras 18 to 22 cover South Pacific Forces.
 8. One S/M seen forenoon, heading West off North Coast Ceram.

7.5.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 10. Torpedo boats destroyed 7 enemy same night
838 3 pairs motor barges severely damaging another
(Contd.) 2 whilst operating off shore between Hansa Bay
and Wewak also strafed 5 trucks on road near
Wewak. All barges beached prior to attacks
except 3 which were northbound. Another pair
operating with one Havoc attacked searchlight and shore
batteries Hansa Bay: Light destroyed positions strafed.
19. Night 4th/5th May motor torpedo boats encountered shore
fire several locations Borpop - Namatanas Coastal Sector. Next
morning 24 Dauntless scored several half ton near misses on
reported gun positions.
22. P.T. boats located possible Jap submarine off shore North
Eastern Bougainville early hours 6th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 070745Z.)

U/Boat Campaign

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. 1. Escort Group attacked U/Boat at 0605Z/6 in 52 degs. 30' N. 28 degs. 28' W.
Para. C. 1. A/C obtained radar contact and sighted possible wake at 0940Z/5 in 30 degs. 08' N. 11 degs. 02' W.
Para. D. 1. U/Boat sighted by civilians at approximately 1000Z/5 in 65 degs. 33' N. 13 degs. 47' W. Ref. A.M. 051139 para. A. (2) Time and date given are as reported by ship, but it seems that time and date may have been 3rd May.
(D.D.I.C. 071149B.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 071449B, 071518B.)

8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy
convoy
attacked.
One M/V
claimed
sunk.

1. At 0220 today the French-manned M.T.Bs. 239, 92, 227 and 91 on patrol engaged an enemy convoy of two M/Vs. and seven Escort Trawlers steering N.W. off La Corbiere (Jersey) in bright moonlight. Eight torpedoes were fired and one of the M/Vs is claimed to have been sunk.

Operation
"Hoops".
One M/V
damaged.
5 enemy A/C
shot down.
Kjeholm Oil
tank bombed.

2. At 0830 today A/C from EMPEROR, SEARCHER and STRIKER under the Command of F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST attacked a northbound Convoy 20 miles S.W. of Christiansand and left one enemy ship smoking. In a second strike no shipping was seen, but the oil tanks at Kjeholm (about 30 miles N.W. of Stadlandet) were hit. Five enemy A/C were shot down, and four of our A/C are missing. p.110

LÜTZOW

3. The pocket battleship LÜTZOW was photographed at 1130 today, partly camouflaged, alongside in the Sondre Frihaven at Copenhagen.

South Atlantic.

S.L.
convoy
escorts.

4. The average duration of passage for escorts of recent S.L. convoys has been 14 days. This means that corvettes are extended to their maximum endurance at economical speed, and refuelling at Dakar has on occasions been necessary, thereby reducing the escort with the convoy to 2 ships. F.O.C.W.Af. has as a temporary measure been reinforcing the escort off Dakar whilst the corvettes refuel, but this will not always be possible; and he is asking whether F.O.G.M.A. can in future provide three escorts with sufficient endurance to complete the passage from Freetown to Gibraltar, allowing for divergence or enemy action. This was accordingly arranged by F.O.G.M.A.

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8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Second Red
Cross ship
attacked.
SS. CRISTINA.

5(a) The Spanish press published today German reports that the Spanish SS. CRISTINA (2421 tons) chartered to the British Red Cross, has been attacked by British aircraft off the south coast of France. The Spanish authorities have asked for enquiries to be made. The Spanish Government subsequently reported that the ship went ashore near Sete with two holds flooded. There were 5 casualties including one killed. This is the second sinking of a Red Cross ship by British aircraft within a fortnight.

(b) C. in C. Med. reported (10th May) that at 2028B/6 a 1500 ton merchant ship was attacked in Sete harbour by Beaufighters and R.P. hits were seen. CRISTINA sailed from Gibraltar at 1400/3 for Marseilles, speed 8 knots and therefore should not have been in the position of the above attack until about noon yesterday. No other strikes on shipping about this time and place have been reported.

6. U.S. coastal forces from Bastia engaged an enemy convoy of R-boats and F-lighters east of Gallinara Island (44.01 N. 08.13 E Italian Riviera) last night. Torpedo attack was unsuccessful and one U.S. coastal craft was slightly damaged.

Aegean

7. An aircraft attacked a merchant vessel with 3 escorts at 2355C today in 325° Seriphos 6 miles (Cyclades) and reports probable hits.
(b) Khalkis Harbour was mined again last night by 3 Wellingtons.

East Indies

A/U carrier
escort
group.

8. C. in C.E.F. intends to form an A/U carrier escort group consisting of 6 frigates and 3 sloops under the command of TAFF, to operate with BEGUM and SHAH, probably commencing on 7th June (see 2nd May para 5B).

TANTALUS
patrol
report.

9. On return from her first Far East patrol TANTALUS reports that she sank a large tug on 19th April and a coaster on 29th, in the Straits of Malacca, and an escorted 4000 ton merchant ship on 1st May, 40 miles south of Port Blair, Andaman Island.

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8.5.1944.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

10. Liberators laid 30 mines in the Martaban - Moulmein Ferry area last night.

China

11. Liberators laid mines in the Satahib' area (Gulf of Siam) in the early hours of today.

12. Considerable damage was caused to river craft in the Yangtze by U.S. Kittybombers today.

Australia and New Zealand

13. M.T.Bs. last night destroyed 2 enemy barges beached on the north-east coast of New Ireland 30 miles from Kavieng and sank or seriously damaged three barges in the Choiseul Bay area.

War Diary.

8.5.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Soviet Personnel in U.K. Your 030304 para. 2. Admiral Levchenko considers Russian personnel have a specific and urgent job of work to complete and that entertainment cannot be considered at the present period. Everything will be done to entertain our guests and make them feel at home, but it is not practicable to forward proposal for entertainment which will be arranged as opportunity offers and officers and men can be spared by Levchenko.
(C. in C.Rosyth 081115 to Admty.)

ULA. It is not now desired to transfer ULA to 7th S/M F. ULA when ready about 19th May is therefore, to fill the A/S Training Commitment at Scapa. Capt. S.3 is requested to employ the working up S/Ms which would otherwise have carried out this commitment on A/S Training as required by Capt. S.7. My 291036 April.
(F.O.S. 081638B to Capts. S.9, S.3.)

Operations.

Enemy convoy attacked. One M/V claimed sunk. Three merchant vessels, 3 auxiliary vessels, course N.W., position 117° Les Hanois 13 miles.
(M.T.B. 227 080220 to Plymouth.)
Last night Force 113, consisting of "Fighting French" M.T.Bs. 239, 92 (1st Division) 227, 91 (2nd Division) made a raid on shipping off Guernsey. Force 113 divided into 2 divisions south of Guernsey, 1st division proceeding south and 2nd division proceeding towards Sark. At 0220/8 an enemy convoy was sighted by 2nd division consisting of 2 deep-loaded M.Vs. of 1000 to 2000 tons escorted by 3 trawlers ahead and 4 trawlers astern, off La Corbiere on N.W.course. The 2nd division of M.T.Bs. fired 4 torpedoes and claim one merchant ship sunk. 1st division of M.T. Bs. attacked the 4 rear trawlers with gunfire, but were at first unable to close nearer than 3000' owing to enemy's heavy and accurate gunfire. Last attempt to close succeeded, however, and 4 torpedoes were fired. No explosion seen, but 3 trawlers in sight afterwards, which were by then almost into St. Peter Port, Guernsey. Visibility was extreme in bright moonlight. 1st division closed scene of action to investigate blazing balloon on surface and hear men shouting in water. Owing to proximity of fire, prisoners could not be taken, and as it was then 0430, force returned to Dartmouth. No casualties and only minor damage was sustained by Fighting French Force.
(C. in C.Plymouth 081250B to Admty.)

Coastal Force (C. in C.Plymouth 081247B.)
Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 081507B.)

/Operation...

8.5.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Hoops". 1st strike 0830 on northbound convoy 20 miles S.W. Kristiansund. No direct hit claimed but 1 ship reported smoking. 2 Me.109s, and 1 F.W. 190 shot down. 2 Wildcats and 1 Hellcat missing.

2. Second strike. No shipping seen. Oil tanks at Kjeholm 62.31 N. 06.11 E. hit. 2 B.V.138 shot down - 1 Hellcat missing.

3. In view of weather repeat strike not being carried out. Warwicks not required. My P.C. and S. 063° 04' N. 003° 51' E. 230° 14. 4. Weather.

(F.O.E.C. 081253B to C. in C.H.F.)

Biscay A/S Operations. My 061100B. U.473 was at 250 metres depth through- out most of hunt. Asdic contact was undecided at U.473 sunk on 6th May. ?600 yards in most cases and pattern H for How frequently fired in creeping and other attacks. This accounts for their lack of success. Discrepancy between range losing contact and actual depth of U-Boat probably due temperature gradient. It is considered essential to provide accurate depth-settings of 800, 850 feet, and deeper, since 250 metres appears to be a popular U-Boat depth, vide U.202. (E.G.2 081331B to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation C.W. VINDEX, 5th E.G. BICKERTON, KEATS, BLIGH, GOODSON, AYLNER, KEMPTHORNE, vicinity 055° 01' N. 027° 59' W. 2nd E.G. STARLING, WREN, WILD GOOSE, also GARLIES GORE 055° 01' N. 023° 29' W. (C. in C.W.A. 081415B to ships.)

E.G.5 attacking U-Boat in 054° 05' N. 029° 10' W. at 2040B. (VINDEX 082108B to C. in C.W.A.)

My 082108B. Contact lost at 2220B after creeping-attack. E.G.5 now hunting and aircraft searching. (VINDEX 082255B to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation "Overlord". It is inferred from para. 1 of your 032117 that the assault will be carried out even though fighters cannot operate due to weather. Before replying to your 032117 request confirmation that this is the intention. (V.C.N.S. 081654B to A.N.C.X.F.)

The machinery for dealing with "Overlord" towing as a whole is not yet complete. The Admiralty is requested to call a meeting p.m. Thursday 11th or p.m. Friday 12th May. It is suggested that all addressees be asked to send a representative and that the agenda be:-

- A. the constitution of the "Overlord" Towing Committee.
- B. The sphere of responsibility of this Committee and the method of implementing their decisions.
- C. The date they should take over from the Admiralty Towage Section.
- D. Place of meeting and communications required.

(A.N.C.X.F. 082011B to Admty.)

/Your...

8.5.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
"Overlord":
(Contd.)

Your 081654. Inference is not entirely justified since the sense of para. 1 of my 032117 was governed by the words "at the critical moment".
2. Conditions can be visualised in which fighters though present could not spot whilst the low-flying air O.P. aircraft could do so, and it was the development of these conditions at a recent exercise which gave rise to the proposal.
3. As a general answer, however, it can be said that although the assault would never be launched unless there is every prospect of fighters being able to operate, we shall have to commit ourselves to a decision without certainty of this and once committed there is no turning back.
(A.N.C.X.F. 082351Z to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

One Ju.88 sighted over Akureyri at 1945. Aircraft approached from North and disappeared course S.W. Cloud 6/10th, 1000 to 2000 feet, visibility 15 miles.
(A.C.I.C. 082054B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
destroyers.

P.C. and S. of 5 destroyers 47 N. 05° 20' W. east 12 knots.
(A/C UAH 95 080155B to 19 Group.)

Enemy
warships.

A. LÜTZOW at Swinemunde April 26th.
B. ADMIRAL SCHEER, PRINZ EUGEN, EMDEN all at Gdynia April 28th. C. NURNBERG with one destroyer and 6 E-Boats arrived Copenhagen May 4th. All graded B.2. D. HIPPER. According to rumour in Naval circles Berlin on April 28th this vessel was very recently sunk in Danzig April 30th. Graded C.4.
(N.A.Stockholm 081707 to Admty.)
N.I.D.Comment. Paras. A. & B. Substitute LÜTZOW for SCHEER. SCHEER reported Swinemunde 25th April (B.2) LÜTZOW, EUGEN, EMDEN seen at Gdynia 29th April by P.R.U.
Para. C. NURNBERG seen at Gdynia on 29th April not seen at Copenhagen on 8th May when LÜTZOW was seen there (P.R.U.)
Para. D. HIPPER seen at Gdynia 29th April (P.R.U.)

Casualties & Defects.

CATTISTOCK.

CATTISTOCK taken in hand 8th May for defects and renewal of superheater tubes of No. 1 boiler by naval ratings. Date for completion under consideration. Work in hand will prevent vessel sailing at 24 hours notice.
(A.S.Chatham 081555B to Admty.)

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8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

MEYNELL.

MEYNELL taken in hand for docking, repairs and boiler cleaning 8th May. Date for completion 15th May. Work in hand will not prevent vessel sailing at 24 hours notice.
(A.S.Chatham 081602B to Admty.)

DONNELL.

Disposition at 082000.
CAM, LOCHY, SAMSONIA towing DONNELL 051° 05' N. 011° 25' W. to 180° Fastnet Rock 10 5 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth 081628B to Admty.)

My P.C. and B. at 2000B 051° 24' N. 009° 15' W. 075° 7 knots, to Q.Z.L.58. Ships in company LOCHY, U.S.S. DONNELL, SAMSONIA.
Weather.
(CAM 082001B to C. in C.W.A.)

MAGICIAN.

Following from Chief Salvage Officer begins:-
MAGICIAN attempt to refloat today not successful. All cargo will have to be discharged to lighten vessel as further damage has been received due to bad weather. Coaster ZEALOUS will go alongside tomorrow to receive remainder of dry cargo.
081845B ends.
(R.N.O.Peterhead 081927B to Admty.)

8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Destroyers
for U.K.

Sailed GRANVILLE, UNDINE, ARCHER, ULSTER. My 071136 refers. Also BLANKNEY, BLENCATHRA, MENDIP, HAMBLEDON, my 071518 relates.
(F.O.G.M.A. 080215B.)

SS. MELCHUCA.

The persons concerned with the arrangements at Ceuta are pressing for the undertaking asked for in my 251734 April.
2. Request early reply as opportunity may be missed.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 081536B to Admty.)

Sinking of
I.R.C.ships.

Arrangements have been made, see my 011535* for Shipping Attache to undertake promulgation requested in your 061101 para. 1.. Shipping Attache has arranged to receive information direct from International Red Cross representative in Lisbon. Request approval.
(B.A.Lisbon 081658B.)
* re Sailing of Red Cross ships arrangements have been made for shipping Attache to service these sailings.

SS. QUANZA.

Your 021355. Portuguese QUANZA.
2. Search completed no diamonds found. Abnormal quantity bulky third party mail removed chiefly from persons mentioned in above signal. Handed to Imperial Censor for further examination.
3. Vessel released.
(C.C.S.O.Gibraltar 081944B to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

SS. ATHOS II.

Your 080645. Max. number of passengers with which ATHOS II can sail from Capetown to U.S.A. is 250 unless B.A.D. directs otherwise ship should be embarked on this basis.
(C. in C.S.A. 081455B to P.S.T.O.I.)
See P.S.T.O.India 080645Z.

SS. ANADYR:
SSSS report.

Following received from British merchant ship read on 500 k/cs at 2007/6th May SSSS from ANADYR position 16.35 S. 27.32 W. explosion ship on fire.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 081622Z to Com. 4th Fleet.)

8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

S.L. convoy
escorts.

Study of recent reports of proceedings for S.L. convoys discloses that the average duration of passage for escorts is 14 days. This means that corvettes are extended to their max. endurance at economical speed and senior officers of escorts have on occasions rightly deemed it necessary for them to refuel at Dakar thereby reducing escort with convoy to 2 ships which I consider quite inadequate. As a temporary measure I have been reinforcing escort off Dakar whilst corvette refuels but this will not always be possible. Request information whether these (sic) three escorts with sufficient endurance to complete the passage Freetown to Gibraltar allowing for divergence or enemy action can be provided in future.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 081742Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

8.5.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CONSTANTINOS. Levant schooner force caiques CONSTANTINOS 30 feet one mast sloop forward rigging green sails colour grey sailed from Haifa on 7th for Gulf of Mirabello via Sertchen and Sephranaki Santaklays 42 feet one mast no bowsprit sloop rigged grey with blue bulwarks leaving Naxos 7th or 8th with caiques in tow for Sertchen via Heraklia and Sirina.
(Capt. S.1 080946B to 1st S/M F.)

Future British naval co-operations in Danube.

C. in C.Med. has accurate information of location of mines laid in Danube the type laid and also the technical problems involved in sweeping them. Suggest that when the appropriate time comes the Russians may be so informed in order that the necessity for our expert assistance in sweeping may provide a means of introducing British Naval co-operation on the river.
(C. in C.Med., Naples 081008B to Adnty.)

SICKLE, ULTIMATUM.

SICKLE leave present patrol to arrive in 036° 01' 026° 01' about 0205/10th thence to patrol off North Coast of Crete south of lat. 036° 01'.
2. ULTIMATUM leave patrol as necessary to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 29' at 0505/11th thence through Antikithera Channel.
(Capt. S.1 081047B to SICKLE, ULTIMATUM, 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M. S.O. Group 51, S.O. Group 52.)

Daily opsum 376.

W.X. 42275 A.313 8 May 0952Z. 6/7 May (extract) 1 Beaufighter sighted convoy of 2 large and 6 small vessels between Patmos? and Lipsos. Attack made in thick (Hmbd Ybn? as decyphered) 8 R.Ps. straddled 1 large (destroyer type) vessel with probable hits. A.A. from ship ceased on explosion of rockets and vessel completely obscured by thick grey-white smoke.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 081105Z.)

Italian Naval Personnel.

The number of Italian Naval Personnel employed at present is 75,000, which figure it is hoped to reduce progressively to 50,000. Italian Naval Personnel are under Command of the Royal Navy.
(Algiers 081158B.)

Oranges for Germany.

C. and D. arrived 7th.
2. Orange shipment from Gandia for Germany now terminated.
(R.O.Valentia 081247 to S.O.I. Gib.)

/U/Bs...

8.5.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- U/Bs in Dardanelles. My 031905C. Turks dropped 4 depth charges 0930 G.M.T. 5th inside inner loop-hole No. 5 in Dardanelles following (corrupt group). Understood there was no asdic contact. A.2. (S.O.I. Istanbul 081525C to B.N.A.Ankara.)
- U/B report. One U-Boat (German) 100 miles west of Cape Matapan at 2301/7th moving eastwards. (Capt. S.1 081543B to 1st S/M F.)
- Search. A/Cs. 1510*. Am sending TENACIOUS and TUSCAN to search the area arriving 1900. Propose subsequently they establish night patrol in lat. 40° 30' N. Remainder are complying with your 081131*. (Capt. D.24 081644 to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
* Not received in W.R.
- Black Sea: Russian figures of sinkings. Your 051323. Tonnages are undoubtedly exaggerated and several "sunk" probably reached port but total number of ships reported sunk or damaged presumably at least represent total attacked with some semblance of success.
2. Para. 3. Will try but do not anticipate much success. Doubtful how much Russians worry about identification.
(N.L.O.Black Sea 081950 to Admty.)
- Iron ore for Germany. 2. It is reported loading stopped last few days owing to sinking German vessel carrying iron ore from Barcelona.
(R.O.Valencia 082020 to Admty.)
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. Summary of interrogation to date. My 072011
1. examined 1272, 2. loyal 656, 3. suspect 209, 4. disloyal 407.
(F.O.L.E.M. 082020C.)
- SS. CRISTINA (Red Cross) reported attacked. Spanish press published today German reports that Spanish CH(?)TINA chartered to British Red Cross has been attacked by British aircraft off South French coast. Spanish authorities who are very concerned have asked enquiries to be made. Request instructions for my reply.
(A.B.N.A.Madrid 082036 to Admty.)
- Enemy convoy attacked. Nr. 1. Position of enemy 3 escort vessels 1 merchant vessel 325° Serifos 6 miles course 180° speed 6 knots. Result of attack - hits probable.
(A/C ANFW 082355C.)

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8.5.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Tug HESPERIA. My 110554⁺ not to all addressees and A.M.131655 April to C. in C.E.F. only refers. Further crew trouble is being experienced and Master now states that he will not take his ship to sea unless second engineer is removed. Chief Engineer is also understood to be insubordinate.

2. F.O.C.R.I.N. has been asked to take any action necessary regarding second engineer.

3. My 231234⁺ to Admty. regarding future employment of HESPERIA is also relevant.
(C. in C.E.F. 080144Z to Admty.)

+ Re: Crew of tug HESPERIA unwilling to sail for Vizagapatam.
Re: Articles allow for retention of present crew if necessary until September 1945.

✓ Re: Withdrawal of HESPERIA will mean no Rescue Tug available for Bay of Bengal.

U/B dispositions. No. 21. Although no fresh information continued lack of incidents in Area G may mean U/Boats may be moving northward into Laccadive Is. Malabar Coast area. Scale of air escort Area E increase to X. Scale of air escort in other areas no change.
(C. in C.E.F. 080433.)

ATHOS II Unless otherwise ordered by you ATHOS II embarking accordance my 031227 and 040936. C. in C. E.F. 070631 refers.
(P.S.T.O. India, 080645Z to C. in C.S.A.)
See C. in C.S.A. 081455B.

A/U Carrier escort Group. Intend to form A/U carrier Escort Group comprising TAFF (S.O. Escort) LOSSIE FINDHORN, AVON, PARRET, (NADDER) FLAMINGO, CAUVERY, GODAVARI.

2. Anticipate group leave to operate with (BEGUM) and SHAH 7th June.

3. Request Escort Group number be allocated also a spare number for an additional group which it may be possible to form later.
(C. in C.E.F. 080832Z to Admty.)

Convoy A.B.40A. Arrangements are being made for A.B.40A to be split into Bombay and Karachi sections after convoy has left Gulf of Aden.

2. It is considered undesirable to sub-divide the convoy still further owing to lack of escorts. If situation permits however faster ships will be sent ahead when approaching Bombay.

3. Your 030926 not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 081217Z to P.S.T.O.I.)

/TANTALUS...

8.5.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.TANTALUS
Patrol
reports.

Summary of (P.318) TANTALUS first Far East patrol.

2. 19th April 1700, 300 ton tug sunk by gunfire position 003 degs. 05' N. 099 degs. 58' E.
3. 29th April 1250, 400 tons coaster sunk by gunfire position 003 degs. 20' N. 099 degs. 22' E.
4. First May 0528 sight 4000 tons merchant ship escorted by minesweeper in 006 degs. 21', 097 degs. 33' 1747, position 008 degs. 00' 095 degs. 45' fired 4 torpedoes at vessel but missed due to zig zagging. Vessel was pursued until 2008 2nd May when one hit was scored out of 6 torpedoes and vessel stopped in 010 degs. 57' 093 degs. 00', 2357 coup de grace given with one torpedo and vessel sank. (C. in C.E.F. 081258Z.)

*Eastern Fleet
Commitments.**Admiralty 081959. (N.I. & W.D.) Reply: C.C.E.F.
160416Z, page 225A.*

8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Sub. No report since my 020731.
attack & A. H.M.C.S. torpedoed and sunk 46.03 N. 52.24
sighting W. at 0210Z/7th.
summary. (N.S.H.Q. 080630Z.)

M.V. COLIN Your 052248Z. Vessel now presumed sunk.
(ex S.C.157.) (D.T.D. 081031B to N.S.H.Q.)

PRESIDENT Your 262207Z April. PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE was a
HOUDOUCE. Free French unit which had originally been a
commercial vessel. She was not included in list
of French units presented by Admiral Fenard
for inclusion in C.C.S. 358 and is not mentioned
in C.C.S. 358 (revised). As she does not come under the head of
new vessels assigned to the French, it is not clear that C.C.S.
358 para. 2 applies.
2. No Admiralty objection to C. in C.Meds. 252153B April.
3. Suggest informal explanation to Cominch will be sufficient.
(Admty. 081257B to B.A.D.)

O.21. Grey friendly S/M O.21 (Dutch) passes 056° 47' N.
015° 02' W. 1200Z/8 on surface diving at will
making 10 knots for 057° 01' 024° 02' and 051°
03' 036° 59' unescorted.
(Cominch 081346Z to Admty.)

Zigzagging. The attention of all ships is called to the danger
of ceasing to zigzag in any water which may con-
tain U-Boats, the tendency to cease zigzagging when
nearing destination after being relieved at sea
must be resisted and has again recently produced disastrous
results.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 081540Z to Newfoundland Force.)

U/B (N.S.H.Q. 081546, Cominch 081601Z.)
estimates.

D'ENTRE- To be transferred from Diego Suarez to Bizerta
CASTEAUX. where ship will be kept in reserve commission
status. No repairs involving British or U.S.
resources are contemplated.
(Cominch 081603Z.)

U/B All times Z.
incidents. Para. A. BLOCK ISLAND Group made series of attacks
on sound contact and U-Boat at periscope depth
about 450 miles west Cape Verde Islands commencing
061238. Large oil slicks.
Para. B. A/C from CORE Radar contact 27.52 N. 26.51 W. 080315.
Para. D. Army Transport A/C sighted periscope and wake course
east 44.20 N. 44.35 W. 081345.
(Cominch 082120Z.)

/U/B...

8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B hunt.

Your 082102Z. Consider first attack was on S/M. Line of sounding was taken but result inconclusive. Intend to make further search tomorrow. (EDMUNDSTON 082315Z to F.O.N.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Logistics,
Southern
Pacific.

British Admiralty Pacific Mission reports:- prolonged stay in Noumea enabled Mission to obtain detailed information on logistic party in South Pacific Command and written report is being forwarded Admiralty by air mail.

2. Main recommendation is urgent necessity of developing our advanced bases and F.A.A. mobile organizations including establishment of Admiralty base requirements division, advance base supply depots and training centres, appointment of officers for training with U.S.Navy, adoption of U.S.N. functional component system and development and expansion of 1st E. or R.E. construction battalion for naval base work. Latter essential to operations in this theatre.

3. American Commanders consider that R.N. plans for Fleet training are generally sound. They agree that wherever possible advance base facilities should be ship borne and mobile but point out that A certain facilities, such as air, must be largely shore based. B. There is a limit, probably about 2000 miles, to distance at which a ship borne mobile advance base can be effectively operated from a rear base with shore storage transshipment and maintenance facilities. Ends.

(A.C.N.B. 080130Z.)

Digest 839.

May 7th paras. 15 to 22 cover S.Pacific Forces. 14. M.T.Bs. reconnoitred Bagabag Island (30 miles N.W. Alexishafen) morning 6th finding nil signs Jap. activity.

18. 3 Allied M.T.Bs. co-operating with Catalina engaged 5 armoured barges covered by two floatplanes and shore batteries off southeastern Bougainville night 5th. One P.T.boat lost some casualties suffered.

19. 7 enemy barges destroyed night 6/7th Central Empress Augusta Bay by landing craft gunboats, possibly 10 other barges observed hidden in river mouth.

20. Previous night P.T.boats operating Saint George's Channel destroyed lone barge unloading southwest coast New Ireland opposite Borpop and encountered enemy floatplanes also shore batteries east coast Gazelle Peninsula, floatplane possibly damaged. Other M.T.Bs. co-ordinating with four Corsairs destroyed barge beached Steffen Straits in approaches to Kavieng.

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8.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 839
(Contd.)

22. Ref. Digest 837 para. 12, five small ships attacked by patrol Liberator forenoon 5th 150 miles west of Truk now reported heading towards Truk and aggregate three sunk during attack. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 080950.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

1. Intruder A/C sighted partially submerged U-Boat lying N. x S. at 2206Z/7th May in approx. 49° 57' N. 01° 17' W. (D.D.I.C. 081114B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 081356B, 081357B.)

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9.5.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

LUTZOW

1. An A.3 report from Copenhagen received today states that the Pocket-Battleship LUTZOW left Copenhagen south-bound during last night.

Biscay
Operations

2. A force of five or six enemy destroyers on North Westerly courses was sighted several times by our A/C early this morning about 120 miles West of St. Nazaire.

E/Boats

3. Three E/Boats were sighted by A/C close off Portland at 0054 and again at 0141 today.

North Atlantic

4. The cruiser SIRIUS (Mediterranean Fleet) sailed from Gibraltar this morning for the U.K.

Mediterranean

P.C.558
sunk.

5. A U.S. S/M chaser P.C.558 was sunk by a U/B north-east of Palermo this morning. The U/B is being hunted.

9.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

VICTORIOUS On completion of repairs to VICTORIOUS about 27th May at Liverpool (A.M. T.O.O. 092151 refers) authorities addressed are requested to take the following action:-

(a) C. in C.W.A. (i) Sail ship for Eastern Fleet via Mediterranean.
(ii) Provide escort as far as 43° N.
(iii) Arrange R/V with Mediterranean escorts.

(b) C. in C. Mediterranean provide onward escort from 43° N. to Port Said.

(c) C. in C. Eastern Fleet arrange onward escort as necessary.
(D.O.D.(H), 092350B to C. in C.W.A.).

Operations

Biscay A/S operations. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47° 15' N. 05° 00' W.
(A/C, PYB 50, 090050B to 19 Group).
P.C.S. of 6 enemy warships 47° 15' N. 05° 52' W., 270° 10 knots.
(A/C PYB 50, 090050B to 19 Group).
5 corvettes 47° 24' N. 05° 28' W., course 205, 4 knots.
Request instructions.
(A/C PYB 50, 090110B to 19 Group).
Course and speed of enemy 270° 7 knots.
(A/C PYB 50, 090135 to 19 Group).
Position of enemy 47° 03' N. 05° 20' W.
(A/C UAH 95, 090145 to 19 Group).
P.C.S. of enemy 46° 26' N. 05° 01' W. 5 destroyers, 060° 23 knots.
(A/C UAH 11, 090220 to 19 Group).
Disposition at 092000.
(4) BLANKNEY, HAMBLEDON, BLENCATHRA, MENDIP 042° 50' N. 014° 50' W. 360° 17.
(5) GRENVILLE, URCHIN, UNDINE, ULSTER 042° 40' N. 015° 30' W. to 045° 01' N. 015° 31' W. 020° 18.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091620B to Admty.).

Operation "C.W." U/boat attacked by E.G.5. on 8th May. It is possible that U/boat attacked at 1903Z/8th May was sunk as large and persistent bubbles were seen clear of depth charge pattern and contact was not regained though Asdic conditions were very good. No evidence of oil or wreckage seen however.
(E.G.5, 090738Z to C. in C.W.A.).
VINDEX, E.G.2, STARLING, WREN, WILD GOOSE, operating with E.G.5 BICKERTON, BLIGH, KEMPTHORNE, GOODSON, KEATS, AYLMER vicinity 053° 30' N. 027° 01' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 091350B to ships).
Can be in R/V position 054° 22' N. 028° 45' W. after 1700B at any time indicated by you.
(VINDEX, 091353B to E.G.2.).

Operation "Overlord" A.N.C.X.Fs. 082011. Meeting will be held in First Lord's War Room Admiralty at 1500/12. Addressees of this signal are requested to send representatives.
(D.O.D.(H), 091234B to AN.C.X.F.).

/ A.M....

9.5.1954.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Overlord" (Contd.). A.M. 082133 C. in C. Portsmouth's 071814 and A.N.C.X.F. 1002/X/0909/13. Understand 9 Eagle ships can now be accepted Portsmouth on D-4. All ships are White Ensign and no ammunition will be required. (A.N.C.X.F. 092015B to Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091510B).

S/M patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/10th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SCEPTRE 048° 22' N. 010° 42' W. through 047° 25' N. 012° 52' W. towards 045° 01' N. 012° 52' W. diving by day 105 miles per 24 hours.
(B) SERAPH patrolling vicinity 050° 42' N. 010° 01' W. (F.O.S. 091728B to Admty.).

Operation "F.Z." WILLIAM S. THAYER. Only casualty in R.A.59 was American ship WILLIAM S. THAYER. Ship was torpedoed about 2000 on 30th April just south of Bear Island near the ice edge. Convoy had emerged from fog about an hour before the attack and was steaming through Brash ice. None of the escorts obtained any contact or sighting of a U/boat either before or after the attack. It is assumed that U/boat made a blind attack on the convoy from deep. The ROBERT EDEN who was the rear ship of one of the columns and had been previously detailed as rescue ship proceeded with three destroyers to stand by and pick up survivors. WILLIAM S. THAYER broke in half the after part taking about an hour to sink. Destroyers went alongside this portion and took off personnel. (C. in C.H.F. 091831B to Admty.).

Allied Air Activity

Taylorcraft in ARGUS. Your 032117. It is considered that Taylorcraft can be operated from ARGUS in light winds.
(2) It is necessary for the ship to be within 5° of the wind for landing and take-off and provided this can be assured ship need not be under way.
(3) ARGUS can stow 15 Taylorcraft in her hangar and operate a deck park of 6. She is not equipped with radar aircraft direction facilities or V.H.F./R.T., but presumable she is only required to act as an airfield and these facilities are not essential.
(4) If ARGUS is acceptable with these limitations she will be made available.
(V.C.N.S. 091709B to AN.C.X.F.).

Bomber Command operations. Gun-batteries at Gris Nez, Morsailles, and Berneval, and hangars at Brest were bombed in daylight yesterday. (H.Q.B.C. 091840B).

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9.5.1944.
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMining

Enemy Shallow Water mines. Danish west coast - seaminging. Reported from Jutland that shallow water mines are now being laid out in certain places off shore. They have formed an iron box with a vertical steel lever designed to be actuated by an approaching invasion craft. Graded B.2.

(2) These mines are manufactured at Tjaereborg east Esbjerg and are reported to be exported to Holland, Belgium, and France. Graded B.2.

(3) Suggest iron stakes revealed by P.R.U. on beaches of certain sections of French and Belgium coasts may be in reality these shallow water mines.

(N.A. Stockholm, 091543 to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence

E/boats off Portland. 3 E/boats sighted 050° 22' N. 002° 21' W., course 290° speed 20 knots.

(A/C WVC 11, 090054 to 19 Group).

Still in touch with enemy previously reported.

Vessels stationary in 50° 24' N. 02° 22' W.

IFF on STUD 4.

(A/C WVC 11, 090141 to 19 Group).

Opening of Baltic Iron Ore trade,

Port Lulea which is already open to ice-strengthened vessels will (?receive) first Ore Carrier for opening season on May 15th. Graded A.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 091201 to D.N.I.).

Enemy Warships.

P.R.U. shows following disposition of enemy forces in Western Channel on May 8th. At Cherbourg 4 Moire Class T/B one in dock. At Le Havre one Elbing now out of dock. At Brest one Elbing. At Cherbourg probably 12 to 15 E/boats of which

2 in dock.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091232B to Admty.).

My 091559. Reported from Copenhagen that LUTZOW sailed last night southward bound. Graded A3. Source personally No.3.

(N.A. Stockholm, 092156 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

MOURNE (Sabotage)

Bad case of suspected sabotage in engine and boiler rooms of MOURNE. Investigations proceeding. Ship will be delayed.

(N.O.I.C. Tyne, 090950 to Admty.).

M.L.466

Your 061202B para (2). M.L.466 is delayed at Greenock with engine defects and will not complete until 15th May. Craft will then require a further 36 hours to fuel ammunition and adjust compasses. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 091016B to C. in C.W.A.).

/CASTLETON...

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9.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd

CASTLETON
(Sabotage).

An attempt was made to sabotage Number 1 Dynamo.
(2) Discovery made at sea a.m. 7th May.
(3) Dynamo undamaged.
(4) No evidence at present available involving any individual.
(CASTLETON, 091100 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Shipping and Convoys

Straggler

Stragglers return week ending 0915/9th May.
U.C.21 ORPHEUS. Excessive rolling and cargo shifting.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 090915B to Admty.).

Shipping in
North
Russia.

M.W.T. agree to use of FORT VECHERES and EMPIRE PROWESS for one trip to White Sea provided
(a) Russians assure and you are satisfied that ships can be ready in time for homeward movement.
(b) 15 days British coal can be retained for passage to U.K.
(2) Decision regarding use of American ships rests with local U.S.A. authorities.
(3) M.W.T. advise they do not press to timber to be loaded in American or British ships for U.K. if Russians wish to use available space from White Sea to Kola Inlet.
(4) Admiral Fisher's 051729 and S.B.N.O. Russia's 062030 refer.
(5) C. in C.H.F. is requested to inform addressees of this signal of date by which ship should be ready to sail from Kola Inlet for U.K.
(D.O.D.(H), 092357B to Ad. Fisher, S.B.N.O. North Russia, C. in C.H.F.).

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9.5.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SIRIUS
(for U.K.)Departure 0400.
(F.O.G.M.A. 090408Z.)

AJAX.

Intend to sail AJAX at 0400B/10th for U.K. (route)
(F.O.G.M.A. 091204B.)

Swiss ships.

SS. SAENTIS and ST. GOTTHARD departure deferred to
14th May. My 051401 refers.
2. Swiss chartered Spanish SS. MANU also leaves
Marseilles for Gibraltar 14th May.
(D.E.W.D. 091318B to F.O.G.M.A.)Routeing of
sailing fish-
ing vessels.Your 061937. 5th Group will sail 17th May. 4th
Group will sail 18th May.
2 - 4. Arrangements.
5. Admiralty please pass to Cmdr. 10th Fleet.
(B.N.A.Lisbon 091747B to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.
Cmdr. 10th Fleet.)Sinking of
U.761 24th
Feb.)

Complete reports of U-Boat encounter in Straits of
Gibraltar of 24th February now received in Admiralty.
2. Following is our preliminary assessment begins
German U-Boat U.761 known sunk. The major share of
the credit goes to the two U.S.N. M.A.D. Catalinas,
planes 14 and 15 of V.P.63. ANTHONY and WISHART
aided materially in the action. U.S.N.Ventura S of V.B.127 and
British Catalina G of 202 contributed in less degree by ensuring
the destruction of the already stricken U-Boat. Ends.
3. In arriving at this assessment we have taken into account the
following factors.
A. Interference caused by destroyers ANTHONY and WISHART to each
other and to M.A.D.tracking.
B. Frustration of M.A.D. attack in early stages on account of A.
C. Prisoner of War evidence that U-Boat received damage when des-
troyers were not near.
D. ANTHONY's evidence that retro bombs exploded on the bottom.
E. U-Boat surfaced close to final pattern by ANTHONY.
4. Request your comments before confirmation of assessment.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 091945B to Cominch.) *Reply: page 213.*

South Atlantic.Routeing of
ships for
Cape Ports.Request that ships for Cape Ports ex T.J.convoys
and ships sailed from South American Ports north of
lat. 15° S. may be routed to pass north of St.
Helena.
(C. in C.S.A. 091011B to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

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Opsum 377 A.315 9th May 0947Z Secret.
Night May 7/8. 3 Wellingtons successfully laid mines Khalkis Harbour.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 091001Z.)

M.L.1330 missing. M.L. 1330^(X) is missing in Aegean. There is possibility following S.Ps. carried are compromised but no confirmatory evidence.
a. Authorized establishment of S.P.S. for a M.L. including current Medox and Foxo.
b. Naval code and decode and S.P. 02362 (67)
Believed 68 had not been received.
c. Agox and associated special Eastern Med. Publications for craft operating in Aegean.
2. Pending further evidence it is not intended to regard the above as compromised.
(F.O.L.E.M. 091115C to Admty., C. in C. Med.) ^{Amended} to ML1380
(FOLEM 150852C)

Re. report of loading of orange ships stopped. Request any information you may have with reference para. (2) of Valencia 082020.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid 091202B to S.O.(1) Gibraltar.)

ULTIMATUM From position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 15' about 1201 11th proceed to R/V with escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 1530 13th.
2. Dive by day on 11th thence 8½ knots.
(Capt.(S)1, 091515B to ULTIMATUM)

SICKLE. Remain East of longitude 025 degs. 35' until dusk, 10th.
(Capt.(S) 1, 091602B to SICKLE (R) ULTIMATUM, F.O.L.E.M.)

U.S.S. MANGES (torpedoed 3rd May.) Details of attack by Gnat.
(C. in C. Med. 091713.)

Foxers. Very recent experience with Gnat Torpedo attacks and defensive value of Foxers has been limited to ships fitted American Mark Two FXR Gnat.
2. Protective value of this gear is definitely open to doubt and may possibly be due to theory put forward under heading "Type of Listening Device" in Addendum No. 2 to AL M/TSD 556/43 of 29 September 1943.
3. F.O.G.M.A.'s 062141 and Comnavnaw's 061736 to Cominch paraphrased to Admty. in my 091713 refer.
(C. in C. Med., 091740 to Admty.)

M.E.Balkan Sitrep No. 175 Extract.
Agent in Athens reports Limpet was fixed M.V.
/GUNTHER...

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Sitrep.
No. 175.
(Contd.)GUNTHER of 40 tons. Limpet exploded and sank
ship.
4. Sea Ops. N.T.R.
(C. in C.M.E. 092000C.)Situation
Report
No. 354.

Anzio principal figures 7th May 2547 tons, 8th
May 2657 tons. Concentrated shelling of Port
area for period during the night 7th/8th May but no
naval damage.

2. M/L 360 captured and sank 2 small caiques
night 6th/7th May between Symi and Rhodes.

3. During night 7th/8th May P.T. boats at Bastia
had engagement with enemy convoy of R-boats and F. lighters East
of Gallinara Island (044 degs. 01' N. 008 degs. 13' E.)
Torpedo attack was unsuccessful slight damage to 1 P.T. boat.

4. P.C.558 whilst investigating radar contact was torpedoed
by U/Boat and sunk at 0520 9th in 038 degs. 31' N. 013 degs. 43'
E. Hunt in progress.

5. UNSPARING reports attacking escorted merchant vessel off
Kos on 12th April. Results not observed but explosions heard
and hits claimed.

6. A/C mined Rhodes night of 6th/7th May and 7th/8th May and
Northern end of Petali Gulf night of 5th/6th May.
(C. in C. Med. 092146B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 22 no fresh information, no change in scales of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 090316Z.)

Daily Opsum
No. 786.

Strategic 7/8 May. 13 Liberators detailed mine-laying Martaban - Moulmein Ferry area. 1 A/C failed take off 2 A/C jettisoned mines. 2 A/C made diversionary bombing attack battery point (Martaban) dropping 8000 lbs. inst. bombs. 8 A/C successfully laid 30 x 1000 lbs. U.S.A. mines in designated area.
(A.C.S.E.A. 090730Z.)

U/B sunk
off Ras
Hafun 3 May.

Following is precis reports from ^{RAIDER}~~Raider~~ and PARRETT which will be forwarded by air Admty. 051905 refers Submarine estimated to be 1200 tons 26 foot beam and about 250 foot length she is lying close in-shore in 3½ to four fathoms parallel to shore starboard side on with 30° list to port. Probably about two months out of dock and came straight from Germany. Most of bow and stern blown off midship section 156 ft. long apparently (?intact flooded) conning tower but lively at high water and may be possible to move to shallower and better protected position. (Armament and equipment - details). No cyphers or codes recovered.
(F.O.E.A. 091705Z.)

A/C operated
by U/B.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. It is possible that U-Boats in the Indian Ocean carry and operate an aircraft to locate our merchant ships. Such aircraft would necessarily be small, probably of floatplane type with a single engine and of limited range. They would not be fitted with wheels and could only be operated in calm weather.

2. The sighting of such an aircraft is therefore a strong indication of the presence of a U-Boat within about fifty miles and to whom the ships position would be reported, W/T silence should be broken and an immediate report made so that any air or other forces in the vicinity may then be able to intercept and destroy the U-Boat.

3. As the positions of friendly aircraft are known to our forces little harm will be done if aircraft so reported eventually prove friendly. Much may be lost if a report is withheld solely because a Master is in doubt as to identity.

4. Ships fitted with H/F should use it for these reports in preference to 500 k/cs. The standard aircraft distress message may be used but should be amplified when practicable to make it clear that a U-Boat aircraft is suspected.

5. The foregoing should be explained to Masters.

6. A.M. 031603 not to all addressees is cancelled.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T) 091713B to authorities E.I. and adjacent areas.)

/K.M.F.31 ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

K.M.F.31 Convoy K.M.F.31 sailed from U.K. 5th May comprising 15 troop transports, (names and 2 commercial freight ships for destinations in West and South Africa, Mediterranean, Middle East, India and Ceylon.

5. Vessels will join Convoy K.M.F.31 at Gibraltar and Oran. (D. of S.T. 091730B.)

U/B
near
Andaman
Is.

Lost contact with submerged enemy S/M at 1915 F.G. in 009 degs. 58' (or 51') 091 degs. 05' after 3½ hours hunt. Only periscope sighted but subsequent under-water contacts leave no doubt that this was a S/M.
My amended E.T.A. in 008 degs. 42' 081 degs. 59' is 1830 FG/11.
(TANTIVY 091831Z.)

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Tuesday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

O.N.S.233.

76 ships arrived New York 8th May.
(P.D. New York, 090218Z).

SS. ATHOS II

Comtenthfleet will not permit departure from prescribed passenger limit of 250 in accordance with C.A.F.O. 2247/43 which applies to entire voyage Bombay to U.S.A. Your 071735 refers. (B.A.D. Washington 090325Z to Admty.).

N.S.H.Q.
Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.B. My 080630Z. H.C.M.S. EDMUNDSTON attacks A/S contact 46° 03' N. 52° 24' W. at 0357Z/7th. Para.D. U.S. Army Transport A/C sights periscope wake course east speed five knots 44.20 N. 44.35 W. at 1345Z/8th. (N.S.H.Q. 090720Z).

U/boat
dispositions

Estimate.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 091330 Cominch 091622).

SS. PASTEUR

Diversion order.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) 091341Z to PASTEUR).

VALLEYFIELD
(sunk 7th
May).

Following is a resume of facts reference sinking of VALLEYFIELD.
(2) Ships were in line abreast two miles apart position from port to starboard HALIFAX, FRONTENAC, VALLEYFIELD, GIFFORD, EDMUNDSTON. Course 003°

13 knots.

(3) Ships were not zig-zagging Cats were not reamed. Transmitting watch was being kept investigating A.R.C.250-290. VALLEYFIELD was torpedoed port side amidships at 0210/7th May. H.E. was heard in VALLEYFIELD bearing Red 60.20 second before explosion. Ship broke in half bows sinking in two minutes stern in about five after primers withdrawn.

(5) EDMUNDSTON closed position gained contact with movement and Doppler and carried out attack with H.H. at 0357 in 50 fathoms. Resulting explosion considered too early to have been bottom. Another contact attacked later proved by debris to be wreck of VALLEYFIELD. First contact considered by EDMUNDSTON to have been submarine.

(6) HALIFAX and FRONTENAC carried observant round EDMUNDSTON. GIFFORD picked up survivors and proceeded St. Johns. (C. in C.N.A. 091517Z).

LE TRIOMPHANT

Will it be the intention to assign French destroyer LE TRIOMPHANT to Mediterranean Fleet on completion of refit in U.S.

(2) A reply will enable a C.C.S. decision to be taken in good time to prevent any delay in her becoming operational.
(B.A.D. 091525Z to Admty.).

/ TOURVILLE...

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TOURVILLE If French still insist they are unable to undertake repairs at Dakar with present facilities you are authorised to lay up TOURVILLE at Dakar or at Bizerta at your discretion provided she can proceed under her own power then use crew elsewhere. (Cominch and C.N.O. 091640Z to A.F.H.Q. Algiers).

U/boat report By D/F of 117 groups Emergency message at 1612Z on 10935 K/cs U/boat in 43° 20' N 53° 30' W. accuracy 60 miles. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 091645Z to E.Gs.W.2, C.5, W.9). Additional information indicates U/boat within 20 miles of 043° 15' N. 054° 15' W. at time of transmission, my 091645Z/ refers. (N.S.H.Q. 092107Z to E.Gs.W2, C5, W7).
/ Reporting approximate position of U/boat by D/F.

Certain ex-American S/Ms. L.O.R.S.A.17636/. The ex-American S/Ms. P.511, P.555, P.556, and P.552 are no longer economical to run and they have been accordingly paid off. (2) P.553 and P.554 are being relieved by U-class in July, 1944 and P.512 in September 1944, and will also be paid off. (3) These submarines were all acquired from the U.S.A. under lease lend. P.552 is at Durban and the other three mentioned in para.1 are in U.K. They could not make the passage to U.S.A. without a very lengthy refit which could not be carried out as the repair capacity is already overloaded. (4) Requested you will ascertain views of U.S. authorities as to their disposal. Arrangements could probably be made for them to be broken up in U.K. (5) P.553 and P.554 are at Halifax and P.512 at Bermuda and will be relieved in July, July and September respectively. The views of the U.S. authorities on their disposal on reliefs should be obtained. (Admty. 091659B to B.A.D.).
/ 162253 March.

Sailings of tankers. Cancel my 131403/ of April. Resume independent sailing of Tankers 10 to 14.5 knots in East Sea from per my 031812Z/ of February. My 062117/ of April remains in effect. Distribution A.C. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.). 091811Z).
+ Re amending tankers sailing independently despatch on account U/boat situation.
/ Re tankers not carrying A.V. gas shall be sailed independently.
/ Re special instruction that all A.V. gas tankers be escorted is moved.

Sinking of U.761 24th Feb. A.M. 091945B see North Atlantic.

Air co-operation in bombardment. Following from Chiefs of Staff. (2) Combined Code has not aimed at standardisation / of...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Air cooperation in bombardment (Contd.) of method as time available for preparation for "Overlord" has not permitted. We consider it is most desirable ultimately to adopt a uniform combined method for controlling both artillery and naval gunfire.

(3) We could not contemplate such a change until the Assault Phase of "Overlord" is completed, and recommend that until that time theatre Commanders should be left discretion to decide method and procedure for their theatres. (A.M.S.S.O. 092059Z to J.S.M. Washington).

German air-craft torpedoes. Japanese tactics similar to those outlined in your 041603 para.5. have been in force in the Pacific for some time and you have doubtless enough details from U.S. Combat and British Observers' Reports, the sinking of CHICAGO being a case in point. We can probably obtain further information should you require it. (B.A.D. 092103Z to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 840.

May 8th paras. 15 to 18 cover S. Pacific Force.

(5) Unconfirmed aircraft sighting submarine off Wake Island midday. Possibly same unit observed by photo plane near Wewak afternoon 7th.

Wewak night 6th/7th.

(11) M.T.Bs. destroyed two moored enemy barges near

(17) Following night (7/8 May) M.T.Bs. destroyed 2 enemy barges beached northeast New Ireland 30 miles from Kavieng and sunk or seriously damaged three barges Choiseul Bay area.

(18) Destroyers engaged in hunting for Submarine previously reported approaching Buin encountered shore fire six inch battery Shortland Island area forenoon 7th. Later 12 Mitchells 6 Dauntless bombed suspected gun position southeastern Bougainville. Submerging submarine sighted by transient Mitchell midday 8th attempting to approach Buin from south.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090810Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

Para.A. E.G.5 attacked U/boat at 1840Z/8 in 54° 05' N. 29° 10' W.

(2) Br. ANADYR made SSSS signal and reported explosion and fire at 2007Z/6 in 16° 35' S. 27° 32' W.

/ (3)...

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TuesdayWar DiaryU/BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack and sighting summary. (Contd.) (3) U/Boat reported, course E. at 2101Z/7 in 36 degs. 20' N. 20 degs. 25' E. Para. B. (1) H.M.C.S. EDMUNDSTON attacked contact at 0357Z/7 in 46 degs. 03' N. 52 degs. 24' W. (D.D.I.C. 090913Z.)

U/Boat dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 091426B, 091431B).

Attack on U/Bs. My 221059 July 1942.
(1) L.L. Wellington W/612 at 0405/28 in 45 degs. 45' N. 09 degs. 33' W. attacked a U/Boat with depth charges. Hit claimed on starboard bow and remainder fell close to port.
(2) Swordfish aircraft from FENCER operating with convoy R.A.59 attacked 3 U/Boats.
(a) At 0307B/1 May in 73 degs. 24' N. 15 degs. 32' E.
(b) at 0412/2 May in 70 degs. 38' N. 15 degs. 00' E.
(c) at 1645B/2 May in 69 degs. 20' N. 06 degs. 20' W.
(3) Liberator aircraft S/53 at 0408/3 in 45 degs. 11' N. 08 degs. 07' W. attacked a U/Boat.
(4) Wellington aircraft M/407 at 0430/4 in 46 degs. 04' 09 degs. 20' W. sank a U/Boat. 9 bodies and 3 survivors seen in the water.
(5) BLANKNEY in company with U.S.S. SUSTAIN at 0440/4 in 36 degs. 50' N. 05 degs. 34' E. sank a U/Boat (49 prisoners taken including the Commanding Officer.)
(6) H.M. ships STARLING, WILD GOOSE and WREN sank U.473 at 0237B/6 in position 49 degs. 29' N. 21 degs. 22' W. Prisoners taken.
(7) E.G.5 and aircraft from VINDEK sank U.765 at 0826B/6 in position 52 degs. 30' N. 28 degs. 27' W. Prisoners taken. (D.A.U.D. 092250B.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Enemy coastal batteries bombed.

1. Seven enemy gun positions, including the batteries at Calais, Gris Nez, Berneval and St. Valery-en-Caux, were bombed by our A/C during last night. The defences in each case are reported to have been negligible, and all our A/C but one returned safely.

Minelaying by A/C.

2. 71 mines were laid last night by A/C of Bomber Command off the French coast and Frisian Islands.

South Atlantic

SS. ANADYR.

3. Four lifeboats were sighted today in 15.37 S. 28.15 W. (560 miles east-south-east of Bahia) from SS. ANADYR which is presumed to have been torpedoed on 6th May, on which day she made a submarine distress signal (see 6th May, para.6).

Mediterranean

AJAX.

4. AJAX (15th C.S.) sailed from Gibraltar today for the U.K.

Italian merchant ships in Spain.

5. Under the terms of a recent agreement the Spaniards agree to release all Italian merchant ships in Spain.

Bridgehead.

6. About 25 aircraft attacked the harbour and anchorage at Anzio last night. LOYAL was straddled by bombs but was undamaged; P.C.556 was damaged by near misses but had no casualties. Mines were also laid.

7. Coastal forces from Bastia sank one of two southbound F lighters east of Grosseto Rocks last night.

/Air ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air
operations.

8. 23 Wellingtons of the Strategic Air Force bombed harbour installations and shipping at Genoa last night and 7 Wellingtons bombed similar targets at Leghorn and report hits along the quays and near the power station and oil storage plants.

Mining.

9. Liberators of the Strategic Air Force dropped 48 mines in the Novi Sad area of the Danube (45 miles north-west of Belgrade) last night.

A Wellington successfully mined the approaches to Lavrion harbour, Greece.

Australia and New Zealand

10. Naval Liberators based on Manus raided Truk shortly before noon.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U.S. Amphibious Base at Poole. U.S. Naval Advanced Amphibious Base Poole will be placed in commission 11 May 1944 with Commander U.S.N.R. in command. (Comlan crab 11th Phib., 101147 to Admty.)

SIRIUS, AJAX. On arrival in U.K. SIRIUS and AJAX are to come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. (D.O.D.(H), 101656B to C. in C. H.F.)

Destroyers for Soviet Navy. Following is a repetition of my 081839 begins. At meeting this afternoon Russian Admiral demanded highest priority for boiler work on destroyers. Request instructions as this will affect present Naval and Merchant ship commitments to a certain extent. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Tyne; 101950B to Admty.)

Operations

Operation C.W. VINDEX operating with Escort Group 2nd STARLING, WILD GOOSE, WREN and Escort Group 5th BICKERTON, AYLMER, GOODSON, BLIGH, KEMTHORNE, KEATS vicinity 053° 20' N. 028° 02' W. (C. in C. W.A., 101316B to Ships.)

Coastal patrol. C. in C. Plymouth's 101438+. M.T.Bs. 713, 664, 677 will form Force 114. M.T.Bs. 430, 413, 414 will form Force 11. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 101623.) + Patrol night 10th/11th - N.T. in W.D.

S/M Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/11th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SCEPTRE 47° 17' N. 12° 52' W. to the southward. Dived by day. 105 miles per day. (C) SERAPH (P.219) as in my 091728. (F.O.(S), 101737B to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity

Enemy coastal batteries bombed. Gun positions at Merville - Franceville, Mardick, Gris Nez, Mersalines, Berneval, Calais and St. Valery-en-Caux bombed on night 9th/10th May. Details. (H.Q.B.C., 101500B.)

Enemy Intelligence.

LÜTZOW. A.M. 090423B. Reported A.3 that LÜTZOW left Copenhagen southward bound during night 8th/9th May. (D.D.I.C., 101001B to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

KILLINGHOLME. KILLINGHOLME in collision with 70 ft. lock Royal Dock, Grimsby at 0700/8th May. Ship sustained no damage and no casualties.
(Capt. Grimsby Base, 101605B to Admt.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. MELCHUCA. Your 251734 and 081536. (Extract.)
Ship is clearly liable to condemnation in prize.
2. It has been agreed, however, that release of ship can be arranged on political grounds. Assurance can therefore be given that H.M.G. will not retain ship in prize.
3. Financial.
(Admty. 100240B to F.O.G.M.A.)

AJAX Sailed.
(for U.K.) (F.O.G.M.A. 100403B.)

S.L.convoys - F.O.C.W.Af's 081742 which is being passed to Admty. endurance of and C. in C.Med.
escort. 2. Intend following exchanges whilst 38th and 41st Escort Groups are on Gibraltar/Freetown run KILBURNIE, KILBRIDE, KILMARTIN, KILMELFORD for COLOMBINE, PIMPERNEL, AUBRETIA and STONECROP.
3. Further signal will be made giving groups to which ships have been allocated when above has been implemented.
4. COLOMBINE, PIMPERNEL, AUBRETIA and STONECROP will be absorbed into Gibraltar escort force.
(F.O.G.M.A. 101059B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Unexplained Transit aircraft reports sighting seven lights on lights. sea 0100 G.M.T. vents at 45.25 N. 14.35 W. from 6000 feet.
(Commorseafron 101135B to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. RITA My 232251 April SS. RITA GARCIA left Teneriffe 8th GARCIA. due Cadiz 12th May.
(D.E.W.D. 101434B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

SS. EMPIRE Due Buenos Aires fourth from Capetown not yet MORTIMER. arrived.
(A/S.O.I.Recife 101230Z.)

R.N.A.S., Your 031856 January. Air Ministry have agreed accommoda- that in the absence of any unforeseen increase in tion. Komenda their own commitments in the area, R.A.F. will pro- to close. vide lodger facilities for two R.N.Air Squadrons at R.A.F. Station Takoradi, if the need arises.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

R.N.A.S.
accommoda-
tion. Komenda
to close.
(Contd.)

2. In view of the above, concur with your 291452
February that all works at Komenda should be dis-
continued except those necessary for preservation
of the station.
(5th S.L. 101801B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Routeing of
ships for
Cape ports.

If routeing referred to in your 091011 is intended
to be permanent propose to include in M.A.R.I.
provided you concur.
(D.T.D. 101847B to C. in C.S.A.)

SS. ANADYR:
SSSS report.

ANADYR: if you have no further information than
in your 081622Z request you will order ship to
report during dark hours her position.
(D.T.D. 102017B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

U/B contact.

4 charges dropped in 009° 20' N. 014° 40' W. No
further contact.
(COPINSAY 102140Z.)

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- | | |
|---|--|
| Bombardment procedure. | Remarks.
(C. in C. Med. 100210B to C. in C.E.F.) |
| UNSPARING, SICKLE. | Proceed direct to arrive in 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 06' about 0030/12th. Thence through Antikithera Channel to patrol off North Coast of Crete West of longitude 024 degs. 30' and South of Latitude 036 degs. 01' |
| 2. P.224 (SICKLE) is to remain East of Longitude 024 degs. 30' (Capt.(S)1, 101109B to UNSPARING, SICKLE.)
Para. one my 101109 refers to UNSPARING. (Capt. S.1, 101841B.) | |
| ARCHIMEDE. | ARCHIMEDE sails from Algiers 1900/11 through 041 degs. 22' 008 degs. 18' at 0500/13. E.T.A. Maddalena 1030/13.
(Capt. (S)10, 101223 to LA SULTANE, LE CURIE, P.67., 10th S/M F.) |
| Italian merchant ships in Spain. | According to term of recent agreement Spaniards agree to release all Italian Merchant ships in Spain. It is proposed to take advantage of this to try to get CESENA.
2. Request crew for this ship be sent to Gibraltar in case she is released. My 091731 7 para. one refers. |
| 3. MADDA and TROVATORE will be ⁺ chartered to Spaniards. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 101316B.)
* re Visas for 17 for ship CESENA.
+ As received. | |
| SS. CRISTINA (Red Cross) | At 2028B/06 a merchant ship of 1500 tons was attacked in Sete Harbour by Beaufighters and R.P. hits observed.
2. CRISTINA sailed from Gibraltar 1400/03 for Marseilles speed 8 knots and therefore should not have been in position of above attack until approx. noon 7th. |
| 3. No other strikes on shipping about this time and in this vicinity have been reported. | |
| 4. A.B.N.A. Madrid, 082036 refers. (C. in C. Med., 101816B.) | |
| Mutiny in Greek Navy. | R.N.G.H.Q. prisoners about 1500 Greek in camp Helli are now refusing to come out for interrogation. Greek C. in C. Alexandria has arranged for loyal Greeks to get them out using force if necessary. I have approved this and will cut off supplies as required.
(?F.O.L.E.M. 102024C.) |

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U-Boat
dispositions. No.23. No fresh information, no change in scale
of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 100356Z)

Daily
G.R.Opsum
No.787. Strategic 7/8 May. 4 U.S. Liberators Mk. B.24
minelaying Satahib area (Gulf of Siam). 1 A/C
not returned. 9 mines at 0032-0110 hours. Suc-
cessful but some slightly out of briefed area.
(A.C.S.E.A. 100819Z to A.M. Whitehall, etc.)

Helicopter
Kite. In view of fact that Helicopter kite is now known
to have been supplied to U-Boat operating in
Indian Ocean and that other U-Boats will undoubtedly
be similarly equipped for future operations in
this area request Merchant ships be given partic-
ulars of equipment and use. They may enable shipping to give
early warning of presence of U-Boats. F.O.E.A.'s 071410 to
C. in C. E.F. repeated Admiralty refers.
(C. in C. E.F.100917 to Admty.)

TANTIVY. Have been further delayed by A/C and adverse
current. My P.C. and S. at 1915 F.G. was 009
degs. 33' 087 degs. 08' 264 degs. 11 knots. Intend
to reduce speed at dawn so as to arrive position
008 degs. 42' 081 degs. 59' at 0630 F.G. 12th May.
(TANTIVY 101701Z to Capt.(S) 4)

U-Boat
report. S/M reported by TANTIVY on 9th May, in 09 degs.
55' N. 91 degs. 05' E. if hostile was probably
a Japanese outward bound.
From D/Fs 0532Z/29th April and 0346Z/4th May one
Japanese U-Boat probably now on patrol off S.W.
India.
(D.D.I.C. 102014B to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)

10.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- O.21. To avoid convoy lanes and shorten route request you direct D.S.O.21 to proceed on following route (details).
(C. in C.C.N.A. 100129Z to F.O.S.)
- DONNELL,
MENGES. Latest information obtainable here, re "Foxers" when torpedoed (technical.)
(B.A.D. 100143Z.)
- WELLINGTON. If situation permits WELLINGTON will visit U.K. on completion of refit before returning to West Africa.
(V.C.N.S. 101336B.)
- Intelligence. Informing him of positions of independent merchant ships.
(N.S.H.Q. 101350Z to S.O.E.G.C.2.)
- U/B dis-positions. (N.S.H.Q. 10150Z, Cominch 101525Z.)
- H.X.3.. 288 Average speed 8.5 knots. Off Oversay at 1600Z/3 all arrived.
(D.T.D. 101713B.)
- CORE's group. C.T.G.21.11 and 22.2 C.T.Fs. 66 and 62. C.T.G. 21.16 reports CORE and five escorts noon Z 10th lat. 28° 57' N. long. 34° 49' W. course 270, speed 13 to establish patrol against submarines within 200 miles 29 (corrupt group) N. 38.30 W. unless otherwise directed. W.X. 45, 78, 13, 34.
(Radio Washington 101740 to C. in C.Lant.)
- Convoy T.C.U.24B. (12 ammunition ships.) Comeastseafon delete the 12 ammunition ships now loaded and ready at New York from convoy T.C.U.24 and sail them as convoy T.C.U.24B from New York to U.K. as soon as practicable. Cinclant provide escort and escort oiler if required. Requirement for two surface support groups my 081940 of April suspended until completion this task. Ammunition ships will be returned after discharge in U.K. in appropriate U.C. or U.C.T.convoy.
(Cominch 101745Z.)
- U/B contact. Attacked doubtful contact in 047° 29' N. 059° 22' W. carrying out observant in area.
(GANANOQUE 101942Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B.)

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10.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Operations to (Extract). 2. May second landing Wari (12 miles 5th May. N.W. Hollandia) resulting one Jap killed 8 captured.

28 April Allied landing in force Demta (17 miles W. Depapre). Purpose cutting enemy escape route from Hollandia area. Enemy casualties to 3 May 685 killed 107 captured.

3. General comment. Enemy rapidly withdrawing from South Hansa Bay also indications movement north from Hansa Bay area suggesting concentration 18 Army Forces Wewak area. Signs of westward movement from Wewak suggest intention either launch attack upon or by-pass Aitape. Voluntary surrender 107 enemy troops Hollandia area significant. May indicate general deterioration morale this area.

(L.H.Q. Melbourne 101400K.)

Stockpiling of fuel oil at Darwin. 1. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff are gravely concerned over the current shortage in tankers which present information indicates will continue through first quarter of 1945. All steps possible are being taken to reduce this shortage.

2. It has been reported that there is included in the British programme a project to stockpile fuel oil at Darwin, Australia for Royal Navy and that it is planned to ship this fuel oil to Darwin from Persian Gulf south-about Australia and via Torres Straits.

3. Since proposed stockpiling will require the assignment of 26 tankers, it is suggested that investigation be made of the practicability of deferring this programme until after 1st January, 1945 and also of advantages and disadvantages of the proposed route as compared to the materially shorter, approx. direct route from Persian Gulf to Darwin. Ends.

2. Please inform us of the reply which should be made. (J.S.M. 101627Z to A.M.S.3.O.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary.

Para. B. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0712Z/10 in 46° 06' N. 15° 25' W. (D.D.I.C. 101049B.)

U/B dispositions.

Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 101427B, 101436B.)

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11.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Iceland.

1. The Admiralty C/M and A/S F.D. stations at Seidisfjord ceased to operate at 0159B today.

Engagement off Schouwen. One Enemy trawler probably sunk. Two Enemy trawlers damaged. M.T.Bs. 438, 456, 467 and 455 damaged.

2(a) At 0310 today M.T.Bs. 445, 441, 443 and 438 on patrol off Schouwen on the Dutch Coast engaged three enemy trawlers and set one of them on fire. M.T.B.438 was also set on fire, but was towed back to Lowestoft by M.T.B.445. (b) At 0345 M.T.Bs. 458, 467, 456 and 455 of the same patrol engaged four northbound trawlers, setting one on fire with gunfire; and a second trawler was hit by a torpedo from M.T.B.467 and seen to break in half. (c) M.T.B.438 was badly damaged, and M.T.Bs. 456, 467 and 455 slightly damaged. One rating in M.T.B.455 was killed, and two other ratings in our Force were seriously wounded.

E-Boats off St.Catherines.

3. Four E-Boats steering West were sighted by A/C at 2337B today about 27 miles S. by W. of St. Catherines.

Enemy coastal battery bombed.

4. The enemy gun-positions at Dieppe were attacked last night by our A/C who encountered no enemy fighters and only slight ground opposition.

Danzig Bay minelaying.

5. It is known today that the mines laid by A/C of Bomber Command near Danzig Bay on the night 9th/10th April held up normal traffic for 15 days and closed the Ports of Königsberg and Pillau for 13 days.

Minelaying by A/C.

6. 80 mines were laid last night off Heligoland, the Frisian Islands, and the French Coasts by A/C of Bomber Command.

Mediterranean

Red Cross ships.

7. All sailings of Red Cross ships from Marseilles have been temporarily suspended in consequence of the attacks by the R.A.F. on the Red Cross ships EMBLA and CRISTINA (see 8th May, para. 5).

/Convoy ...

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11.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy
U.G.S.40
attacked
off Dellys:
~~3 ships~~
sunk.

8. About 2100 today some 25 enemy aircraft * attacked Convoy U.G.S.40 off Dellys, in 37.03 N. 04.12 E. No damage was caused to the convoy, but V.A. Malta reported on 14th that one or two ships (his signal is not clear) arrived with torpedo in net defence. Fighters claim to have destroyed 5 and damaged 3 of the attacking aircraft. Escorts claim to have shot down 11 of the enemy.

9. Coastal forces attacked an escorted merchant ship near Vada Rock last night, and apparently torpedoed the ship and damaged an R-Boat. Shore batteries engaged our forces but the latter suffered no damage or casualties.

Bridgehead.

10. BICESTER bombarded targets in the Ardea area (41.36 N. 12.33 E.) with good results today.

Air
Operations.

11. Porto Ferraio (Elba) and Piombino were bombed today. At the former, a 200 ft. merchant ship was destroyed and the quays and wharves, power plant, rail tracks and blast furnaces in the west part of the harbour were covered. Successful attacks were also made on shipping off Kornat (Yugoslavia) and at Marina di Pisa.

Aegean.

12(a) ULTIMATUM reports that whilst on patrol in the Aegean she destroyed 6 and damaged 5 caiques on 1st and 2nd May.
(b) Two Wellingtons mined Melos and Syros last night.

* A later report by C. in C. Med. says 40 to 60 aircraft.

Australia and New Zealand

Small
craft
operations.

13(a) M.T.Bs. operated off the south-west coast of New Ireland last night and sank or destroyed 3 enemy barges. Gunboats destroyed a small ship in Empress Augusta Bay.
(b) M.T.Bs. this forenoon, in co-operation with Kittyhawks set on fire a large fuel dump on Kairiru Island (New Guinea).

11.5.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

AJAX, SIRIUS. A.M. 101656. AJAX will join 1st C.S. SIRIUS 10th C.S. (C. in C.H.F. 111033B to AJAX, SIRIUS).

Transfer of Warships to Soviet Navy. A.M. 060025B. Vice-Admiral Lefchenko is in full agreement as regards assembly of units at Rosyth and formal transfer procedure with "plenty of pomp". He particularly stresses that incident shall be pictorially reported for cinema. Vice-Admiral also agrees to condition requiring Capt. to command when own nationals handle ship and that responsibility for ship-handling and operation of armament or machinery rests with personnel in control according to nationality. Vice-Admiral is very emphatic in expression that British Ensign only be worn until actual transfer, a breakout of Soviet Ensign and strike British Ensign should form climax of ceremony. (C. in C. Rosyth, 111525A to Admty.).

Operations

Operation "C.W." Intercepted naval enigma message at 0332B bearing (?071, 235, 241 or 355°) estimated distance 18 - 30 miles. My position 055° 36' N. 011° 07' W. Am returning to investigate. GORE in company. U.C.22 in vicinity has been informed. (GARLIES, 110332B to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 110332B. This transmission fixed by D/F from within 100 miles of 53° 30' N. 28° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 110756B to GARLIES, GORE).

A.M. 110702B. Bearings of U/boat transmission 0131Z/11th now complete indicate position within 20 miles of 52° 20' N. 29° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 111056B to VINDEX, E.G.5, E.G.2.).

VINDEX, E.G.2nd STARLING, WREN, WILD GOOSE, Plus KEMPTHORNE, KEATS, GOODSON operating vicinity 052° 57' N. 027° 55' W.

E.G.11th, OTTAWA, KOOTENAY, CHAUDIERE, ST. LAURENT vicinity 055° 01' N. 023° 05' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 111410B to Ships).

Request you will convey Their Lordships congratulations to the ships and aircrews concerned in the destruction of U.765 on 6th May 1944.

(1st S.L. 111457B to VINDEX, E.G.5.).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 111354B, 111433B). (C. in C. Plymouth, 111420B). (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 111723, 11929).

Biscay A/S operations. U.473 sunk on 6th May. We congratulate STARLING, WILD GOOSE and WREN on the destruction of U.473 on 6th May, 1944. (1st S.L. 111452B to STARLING, WILD GOOSE, WREN).

War Diary11.5.1944.
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.Operation
"Overlord"

Request confirmation that during operation "Overlord" merchant ships may continue to sail independently as ordered in your 261127 of May 1943.
(D.T.D. 111651B to C. in C. Plymouth).

S/M.
patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800/12th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SCEPTRE 45° 50' N. 12° 52' W. dived by day 105 miles per 24 hours through 45° 01' N. 12° 52' W. 44° 02' N. 11° 50' W. thence to eastward.
(C) SERAPH as in my 091728.
(F.O.S. 111749B to Admty.).

Engagement
off
Schouwen.
One Enemy
Trawler prob-
ably sunk.
Two Enemy
trawlers
damaged.
M.T.Bs. 438,
456, 467 and
455 damaged.

Report of M.T.B. operations night 10th/11th May.
(1) Forces taking part. Unit X. (No torpedoes), M.T.Bs. 445, (S.O.), 441, 443 and 438. Unit Y (with torpedoes) M.T.Bs. 458, 467, 456, 455.
(2) Units swept southwest from the Hook at 0120 with orders to attack any shipping found. Unit Y was to seaward of Unit X.
(3) Unit X.
At 0310 off Schouwen 3 trawlers were engaged on opposite course. Many hits seen and one trawler on fire. At 0317 M.T.B. 438 reported she was on fire. Unit turned north and extricated 438 in tow of 445 to whom crew except C.O. 1st Lieutenant, and motor mechanic were transferred. 438 was successfully towed back to Lowestoft.

(4) Unit. Y.

5 miles NW. of Unit X. Observed action and turned towards. At 0338 sighted 4 trawlers steering 060° 0345 engaged with gunfire and set two trawlers on fire. 458 and 467 then tried zone attack but 458's torpedo-sight jammed. 467 attacked two leading trawlers which were overlapping at range of 1200 yards. Both torpedoes seen to run correctly, second trawler being hit and seen to break in half with large explosion. This is confirmed by other boats. Unit then circled remaining boats being ordered to attack independently. All three fired at about 0408. Results not observed owing to blinding effect of heavy gunfire from enemy. At 0409 several boats felt two heavy under water explosions. All this time unit was fighting a brisk gun duel in which many hits were seen on enemy who appeared well armed maintaining heavy fire throughout.

(5) Results. One trawler broken in half both ends burning. One trawler well on fire. Third trawler also damaged.

(6) Casualties. 455, one rating died of wounds, one rating dangerously wounded. 438 and 443 one rating seriously wounded.

(7) Damage. 438 extensively damaged will be out of action for some months. 456 and 467 minor damage expect to complete repairs in 10 days. 455 minor damage completing in 3 days.

(8) All boats of Unit Y. Fired 2 torpedoes.

(9) Q.H.2. Worked well and was not jammed.

(C. in C. Nore, 112217B to Admty.).

E/boats
off

P.C.S. 4 E/boats 50° 08' N. 01° 29' W. 270° 20 knots.
St. Catherines. (A/C JYF 83, 1123377B to 19 Group).

/My...

11.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Training
S/M

If available request an X Class Training Submarine may be allocated to Gibraltar for A/S training purposes.
(F.O.G.M.A., 111228B to C. in C. Med.)

SS.
CRISTINA
(bombed
8th May)

A.B.M.A. Madrid's 082036 May (not to N.A. Lisbon) regarding alleged attack on Red Cross vessel CRISTINA. Air Ministry are making enquiries and will request Foreign Office to make any necessary communication to Spain, when details are known. Meantime request you will signal whether movements of CRISTINA were notified by Geneva and duly promulgated to all Naval and Air Authorities.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 112239B, to F.O.G.M.A., N.A. Lisbon, A.B.N.A. Madrid, C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic

U/B
report.

D/F bearings at 2328Z/10th indicate a U/Boat probably Japanese within 120 miles of 023 degs. N. 034 degs. W.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 110112Z to C.T.G. 21.11.)

Routeing
of ships
for Cape
ports.

Routeing referred to in my 091011 is intended to be only temporary to meet present situation. Your 101847 refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 111102B to Admt.)

11.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

- UNIVERSAL. One telemotor operating by pass valve defective. Air leaking past tuxorom ring in other petrol accumulator. Chief E.R.A. has very severe cut. Returning along reverse route diving in 042 degs. 06' 006 degs. 16' at 0515. Request instructions. (UNIVERSAL, 110340B to Capt.(S) 10, (R) 10th S/M.F.)
- Cositintrep Strategic Air Force night 9/10th May 8 Liberators 305. dropped 48 mines in the Novi Sad Area of the Danube river. (Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil)
- Daily 9/10 May. 1 Wellington successfully mined approaches to Lavrion Harbour Greece. Opsum (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 110846Z) No.379.
- SICKLE, SICKLE leaving patrol a.m. 14th and passing through UNSPARING. position 036 degs. 01' 024 degs. 30' and 036 degs. 01' 023 degs. 50' to arrive vicinity of Antikithera Channel about 2002/14th thence passing East of Pondko Nisi to arrive in position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs 06' at 0102/15th. (2) All times Zone B. (3) UNSPARING is to keep clear of this route on 14th. (Capt.(S)1, 111130B to SICKLE, UNSPARING, (R) 1st S/M.F. F.O.L.E.M) From position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 06' at 0101/15th proceed on surface at 11 knots to R/V with escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' my 1130/16th. (2) All times zone B. (Capt.(S) 1, 111132B to SICKLE)
- FOUDROYANT, Admiralty 231223 March Refers. French now wish PRES. to sail FOUDROYANT in addition to 4 trawlers mentioned. Ship is required as a Fish Carrier. HOUDOUCÉ. (2) Intend to concur with French request observing that ship is a Merchant Vessel. (3) Early decision on A.M.081257 would be appreciated. (C. in C. Med. 111137)
- M.V. ELISE My 101852. Black Tanker ELISE in collision (Tanker) damaging shear strake port side forecastle. Vessel continuing with convoy. (F.O.L.E.M.111315C)
- Sinking of T.L's congratulations. U-Boat (1st S.L.111504B to C. in C. Med.) 4th May.

War Diary11.5.1944
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.I.R.C. ships
CRISTINA
and EMBLA.F.O.G.M.A. pass to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med's
101816. Spanish Govt have received information
that CRISTINA is ashore near Sete with 2 holds
flooded. Engineer killed 4 including Inter-
national Red Cross wounded.(2) Ships (?Registrarte) have been asked by M.W.T.
to try to charter a further Spanish ship for British Red Cross to
carry P. of W. (corrupt group) Lisbon to Marseilles during month
of June.(3) Spanish Authority very upset by sinking of EMBLA by British
Aircraft off South France about a fortnight ago and attack on
CRISTINA. Ship (?Registrar) states it will be not easy to
obtain any further permit at present and that as both ships were
chartered to British Red Cross, navigated under auspices of
International Red Cross and sunk by British aircraft a very bad
impression has been created and unless we can give some explana-
tion and guarantees we will be discredited and unable to get any
more Spanish ships for this traffic. Request instructions.
(A.B.N.A.Madrid, 111506B to Admt)Re: Merchant ship of 1500 tons attacked in Sete Harbour by
Beaufighters.Red Cross
sailings
suspended.Lisbon Delegate of International Red Cross informs
me that until further directions are received by
him all sailings of Red Cross ships from Marseilles
have been temporarily suspended.
(N.C.S.O.Lisbon, 111735B to C. in C. Med.)Situation
Report
No. 355.3982 tons discharged Anzio on 9th May and 2974
tons on 10th May. About 25 A/C attacked harbour
and anchorage night 9th/10th May. LOYAL was strad-
dled by bombs but sustained no damage, P.C. 556
damaged by near misses no casualties. Mines were
also laid.(2) During night 9th/10th May Coastal Forces from Bastia engaged
2 Southbound F lighters east of Grosseto rocks. One lighter
sunk by torpedo with non contact Budrum and a possible hit
obtained on second lighter. Enemy returned fire but casued no
damage or casualties.

(C. in C. Med. 111810)

ULTIMATUM.

Detected at 0400 May 10th off Souda (?Suda intended
Bay while attacking 2 U J Boats accurate counter
attack followed.(2) There has been a regular air and surface
A/S patrol off Souda Bay morning and evening. No shipping
encountered.(3) Sank 1 caique May 1st. Destroyed 5 large caiques and 5
damaged 3 at Koroni (Bay?) May 2nd.Weather report 9070 1712 36 degs. 23 degs.
(ULTIMATUM, 112000B)Mutiny in
Greek Navy.My 102024. Greeks intend to act tomorrow if
dissidents are not amenable. State of examina-
tion is now as follows. Total examined 1835.
Loyal 800. Doubtful 312. Disloyal 723.
(F.O.L.E.M. 112013C)

11.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

LA SULTANE.

Port propeller shaft defective. Speed for return
routeing 7 knots. 3 Torpedoes fired. 1 hit on
S/M chaser believed sunk.
(LA SULTANE, 112349B)

War Diary.11.5.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesU/B
report

By R.D.F. at various times between 1423Z and 1922Z on 10th on 12385, 10820, 8030 and 5575 k/cs. the position of a U-Boat (German) was within 200 miles of 003° N. 090° E.
(C. in C. E.F., 110127Z.)

U/B
dispositions.

No.24. U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1448Z/10th within 200 miles of 003° N. 090° E. probably moving into Area G. No other fresh information. No change in scales of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F., 110316.)

SPEY and
TAFF.

Owing to doubt as to future effectiveness of SPEY it is intended to transfer her special equipment including type 147B Asdic to TAFF to fit this ship as escort group leader. In order to preserve efficiency of S.O. 10th E.G. teams it is intended to interchange entire ships' companies of TAFF and SPEY with exception of engine room ratings on 23rd May.
(C. in C. E.F., 110819Z.)

S.O.G.

Request information whether proposed S.O.G. absorbs irregular organisations quoted in para. 5 of your 031159 May and C.O.P.P. already on station.

(2) If so request report of strength of such parties already on station.
(Admty., 111155B to C. in C. E.F.)

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11.5.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Gnats and foxers. U.S. Authorities request brief details may be signalled of any known cases in which Gnats have been fired at ships towing British Foxer gear. (B.A.D., 110059Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. Sub. attack and sighting summary. No report since my 090720Z. Para. C. A/C F/10 disappearing Radar contacts approx. 43.08 N. 53.15 W. 0235Z to 0430Z/10th. (N.S.H.Q., 111012Z.)

Sinking of U.761. My 091945B*. Address has been amended to include Comnavu. (D.A.U.D., 111337B.)
* See North Atlantic, 9th May.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE. Diversion order. (Com. 10th Fleet, 111417Z.)

Convoy T.C.U.24B: 8 destroyers and 18 P.T. boats for U.K. C.R.1314. Mydis 101745. Total 8 DD is to be made up from support groups and DD 692 Class. Upon arrival U.K. all 8 are to report Comtwelfth Fleet for temporary duty. (Cominch & C.N.O., 111430.)
Comnavu advises that Admiralty has stated need for 16 destroyers and some P.T. boats in U.K. and asked to what extent this requirement can be met by U.S. Naval Forces in Mediterranean. I view with concern this proposal to weaken Hewitt's Forces and therefore am ordering to 12th Fleet to arrive 4th June 18 P.T. boats that were allocated to Pacific and am also authorising 12th Fleet to retain 8 destroyers escorting convoy T.C.U.24B arriving U.K. 24th May. I have taken this action without consulting you because time factors permit no delay. (Cominch & C.N.O., 111431 to Admty.)
Reply see V.C.N.S.121512Z in Home Commands.

U/B dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 111457Z; Cominch, 111532Z.)

Stragglers Report No. 51. One returned New York from T.C.U.23, HAEPSBURG (U.S.) May 4th no reason given. One arrived Halifax from T.C.J.23, EMPIRE BOUNTY May 6th boiler defects. Two arrived Bermuda from U.G.S.41, NORDEN (Nor.) May 6th could not maintain convoy speed; FELIX GRUNDY (U.S.) 9th refrigerator trouble. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.M. 234, ESTRELLA (Nor.) May 8th engine trouble. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 112028.)

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11.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
842.

May 10th. Preliminary reports relate that Manus based Navy Liberators raided Truk shortly before noon starting two large fires. 20 Zeros intercepted. Paras. 11 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces.

(8) Allied patrol craft attacked possible submarine contact without observed results off shore 15 miles north Alexishafen night 8th/9th.

(10) 1 escort aircraft carrier accompanying substantial south-bound convoy reported dawn 8th off north-east (?) Luzon.

(12) Following night (9th/10th May) M.T.Bs. probably destroyed two beached barges on south western coast opposite Borpop (New Ireland).

(15) Next night (9th/10th May) P.T. boats destroyed single barge located Central Empress Augusta Bay.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 110700Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) H.M.T. COPINSAY dropped four depth charges on contact at 2140Z/10th in 09° 20' N. 14° 40' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C made Radar contact at 0022Z/10th in 04° 16' N. 08° 40' W. Ref. A.M. 101049B

A.S.V. contact now considered non U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C., 111057B.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 111350B, 111404B.)

12.5.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Potluck".

1(a) At 1459 to-day V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS with the Fleet Carrier FURIOUS and with C.S.1 in KENT, DEVONSHIRE and six destroyers left Scapa, followed at 2110 by F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with the Escort Carriers STRIKER and EMPEROR, the Cruiser SHEFFIELD and seven destroyers.

(b) At 0830B Capt. D.3 in MILNE reported to V.A.2 that his destroyers approaching Skaalefiord (Faeroes) had been sighted by Enemy A/C.

LÜTZOW.

2. P.R.U. at 1330 to-day shows that LÜTZOW has returned to Gdynia.

Engagement
off Cherbourg.
One Enemy
vessel and
2 Trawlers
damaged.

3. At 0305B to-day M.T.B's 450 (S.O), 453, and 454 attacked three Trawlers and two larger Vessels, all west-bound, about 2 miles N.W. by N. of the western entrance of Cherbourg Harbour. The largest Enemy Vessel was torpedoed and left well on fire, one Trawler was also set on fire, and another was hit by gun-fire. The M.T.B's were slightly damaged, and sustained ten casualties of which one was fatal.

Enemy
Coastal
Batteries
bombed.

4. The Enemy Gun-positions at Trouville and Colline-Beaumont were attacked last night by our A/C without any serious opposition.

South Atlantic

SS. JANETA,
(sunk 1st
May S.W. of
Ascension).

5. A U.S. warship has picked up 10 survivors of SS. JANETA, Gibraltar for Rio, which was torpedoed on 1st May in 18.14 S. 20 degs. W. (about 360 miles S.S.W. of Ascension). Two more Life-Boats are reported to be making for the coast of Brazil.

12.5.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
PINDOS.

6. The Greek destroyer PINDOS at Taranto refused to proceed to sea to-day. The crew were ordered on shore, disarmed and placed in a P.O.W. camp. The officers are remaining on board under close arrest and will be sent under arrest to Egypt.

Air
Operations.

7(a) 56 Wellingtons successfully attacked Piombino, Porto Ferraio and San Stefano last night.
(b) Throughout today the Strategic Air Force made widespread sorties on harbours and dock installations in central and northern Italy, including Civitavecchia, Genoa, Porto Ferraio, Marina di Pisa, Spezia, Piombino, San Stefano, Chiavari, the seaplane base at Ortobello Island, and shipping on the Dalmation coast. About 441 U.S. heavy bombers were used.

Australia and New Zealand

Bombardments,
New Guinea.

8(a) 3 U.S. destroyers heavily bombarded 29 gun positions in the Wewak coastal sector in the early daylight hours of to-day. Return fire from the shore caused no damage or casualties.
(b) Soon after daylight to-day an Australian naval escort vessel bombarded Karkar Island (30 miles north-east of Alexishafen) and two similar warships repeated the operation on 13th. Buildings, gun positions and an ammunition dump were destroyed. Light return fire was experienced on the first day, but none on the second day.

9. Surface craft attacked a suspected submarine off Madang this evening.

Solomon Is.

10. A large force of aircraft attacked waterfront targets in the Buka Passage area to-day. Four piers in Matchin Bay were rendered unserviceable and severe damage was inflicted on supplies.

Rabaul
attacked.

11. Allied aircraft attacked Rabaul in some strength to-day and report destroying at least 30 barges in Simpson Harbour.

War Diary12.5.1944
FridayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

INDOMITABLE. INDOMITABLE is placed under the orders of C. in C. H.F.
 (2) When ready for sea C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail INDOMITABLE to Scapa to work up.
 (3) INDOMITABLE will be required to sail for the Eastern Fleet about the end of the first week in June.
 (D.O.D. (H), 121410B to C. in C. H.F.)

12th Fleet. Your 111431. Reinforcement of 12th Fleet by eight destroyers and 18 P.T. boats is noted with satisfaction.
 (V.C.N.S. 121512Z to Cominch)

Transfer of ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Russian Navy. My 111525 May. A letter has now been received from Admiral Levchenko putting forward certain proposals for transfer of ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
 (2) The letter gives the impression that Russians are taking over ships on a contract basis and stipulates all sorts of test-trials, inspection, inventories etc.
 (3) Summarized briefly, letter proposes:
 (A) Acceptance armament installations unit and apparatus to take place both in harbour and at sea between 9th and 25th May.
 (B) Ship to put to sea for test on 25 May.
 (C) Signing of act of transfer to take place 27th May after (?elimination) of defects noted whilst underway, supply of insufficient equipment and spare parts and completion repairs on apparatus found to be defective during trial.
 (D) hoisting of flag of U.S.S.R. on 28th May.
 (4) T.L. views as to what extent Russian demands should be implemented would be appreciated at very early date.
 (5) As far as can be foreseen at present there should be no difficulty in keeping to the dates proposed.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 121740B to Admty.)

S/M's and Eire shipping. Submarines on passage in Bay of Biscay Area may encounter Eire Merchant ships proceeding between Eire and Spain and Portugal. In practice these ships may not adhere to standard route and their movement cannot be forecast with sufficient accuracy to ensure that submarines are always warned of the possibility of an encounter. To avoid compromising of routes submarines are therefore to avoid disclosing their presence to Eire shipping. S.I.S.152 list G refers. All these ships are of small tonnage.
 (F.O.S.122118B to 74 SMZ)

Defence of U.K.

Seidisfiord. Admiralty 290217. C/M and A/S F.D. stations Seidisfiord ceased operating from 0159B/11th May.
 (A.C.I.C.121420B to Admty.)

War Diary

12.5.1944
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Potluck". Destroyers were sighted by Ju.88 approaching Skaalefiord.
(Capt. (D) 3, 120830B to V.A.2)
Scapa departures V.A. 2 H.F. in VICTORIOUS, FURIOUS, C.S.1 in KENT with DEVONSHIRE, SAVAGE, VENUS, VIGILANT, UNDAUNTED, WIZARD, SCOURGE.
(A.C.O.S. 121459 to H.F.)
Scapa departure F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with STRIKER, EMPEROR, SHEFFIELD, WAGER, ONSLOW, URSA, OBEDIENT, WAKEFUL, BLYSKAWICA, PIORUN.
(A.C.O.S. 122110 to H.F.)

Operation C.W. E.G.11 OTTAWA, KOOTENAY, CHAUDIERE, ST. LAURENT vicinity 054 degs. 58' N. 023 degs. 32' W.
E.G.2, STARLING, WILD GOOSE, WREN operating near 052 degs. 57' N. 027 degs. 58' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 121401B to Ships)

Following received from SS. SOLBRITT "At approximately 0400Z/10th May in 59 degs. 46' N. 12 degs. 22' W. sighted Danish Fishing Boat, length 100 feet, cruiser stern painted green, cage aerial. Apparently avoided contact".

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 121556B to C. in C. W.A.)
U-Boat transmitting weather report at 1315Z from area within 60 miles of 51 N. 26.30 W.
(D.D.I.C. 121624B to VINDEX, E.G.5, E.G.2, C.T.G.27.10)
Your 121624B. Nothing heard. My position at 1315Z was 052 degs. 15' N. 028 degs. 43' W.
(E.G.2, 121750B to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121408B, 121438B, 121554B)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121416B)
(V.A. Dover, 121642B)

Operation "Overlord". Your 111651 May confirmed subject to modification if U-Boat threat necessitates.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121524B to Admty.)
You will no doubt have seen Cominch 111431 repeated to S.H.A.E.F.

C. in C. Med. had already replied that he could not spare any destroyers.
(V.C.N.S. 121711B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Your 212148 April para. 2 (a), see Admiralty 102340 May. Reference para. 2 (b) not more than two commercial ships will be remaining Plymouth at D minus 8. Intended port should be clear of commercial shipping by D day. Military shipping, two ships intended to arrive about D minus 1. One of these ships will require berth to commence loading military vehicles on D day the other ship is intended as reserve.
(D. of P. 121921B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operation /...

War Diary12.5.1944
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "Potato". CPGO 7400. Carry out operation "Potato" tonight.
 (1) Unit M, M.T.B's 254 (S.O) 253, 256.
 (2) 0015. (3) One NAN. (4) 50 degs. 05' N.
 01 degs. 03' E. (5) Avoid area B.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121634 to AGGRESSIVE)

*Convoy
Action off
Cherbourg.* Between 2330B/11th and 0140B/12th enemy shipping was plotted patrolling off Cherbourg Peninsula. Information was passed to Unit B. M.T.B's 450 (S.O), 453, 454 which closed to 1½ miles from Cherbourg Harbour entrance and detected enemy entering at 0230B. At 0305B Unit made contact with 3 Trawlers and 2 larger vessels of M/V type estimated at 3000 and 1500 tons in 330 degs. Western Entrance 2 miles; course West. M.T.B's attacked largest vessel at once with 4 torpedoes and obtained one hit. In subsequent gun action 2 Trawlers were hit and one was left on fire amidships. Large vessel burst into flames and was still burning vigorously with intermittent explosions 50 minutes later. Unit sustained slight damage. One boat estimated operational in 3 days. Remaining two in one week subject to confirmation. Casualties 1 killed, 9 wounded.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121650B to Admty.)

S/M Submarine positions at 0800/13th and movement for
 Patrols. 24 hours following.
 (A) SERAPH patrolling vicinity 50 degs. 43' N.
 10 degs. 35' W.
 (B) SCEPTRE 44 degs. 08' N. 12 degs. 01' W. dived
 by day 105 miles in 24 hours through 44 degs. 01' N. 11 degs. 50'
 W. thence 090 degs.
 (F.O.S. 121747B to Admty.)

Operation Reference U-Boat attack R.A. 59 on SS. WILLIAM S.
 F.Z. THAYER.
 WILLIAM S. Request information may be signalled under the
 THAYER following headings:
 sunk on (a) Position of torpedoed ship in convoy.
 30th April. (b) Disposition of close screen at the time.
 (c) Disposition of the outer screen during the
 previous two hours.
 (d) Anti-U-Boat sweeps and searches by surface and
 aircraft in the white and blue areas vide Admiralty's 241826A,
 para. 4, throughout the day prior to time of torpedoing on 30th
 April.
 (e) Co-ordinated action immediately after torpedoing in order to
 locate and destroy U-Boat.
 (f) Other points of interest and lessons learnt.
 (A.C.N.S.U.T. 121938B to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air ActivityCoastal
Batteries
Bombed.

The Enemy Gun-positions at Trouville and Colline-
 Beaumont were attacked last night by our A/C
 without opposition.
 (H.Q.B.C. 121600B)

12.5.1944

Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard 0525 South of Islands, South Westerly course. (A.C.I.C.121200B to Admty.)

U-Boats

Search for U-Boat. Keep west of longitude 010 degs. 30' W. until further directions.
(2) Aircraft will be hunting suspected U-Boat reported in 050 degs. 44' N. 007 degs. 36' W. at 2017B/11th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121144B to SERAPH)

Casualties and Defects.

FROBISHER. A.M. 031916 and FROBISHER 051511. FROBISHER cannot use fire and bilge pumps for discharging diesel oil owing to probable contamination of fuel by salt water.

FROBISHER can use oil-fuel pumps for discharging oil-fuel to auxiliary craft but it will be necessary to close down one boiler-room during operation.

Intend FROBISHER clean out all forward oil fuel tanks at Tail o' the Bank. These tanks will be left empty until FROBISHER is released from bombardment group.

Intend FROBISHER remain in Clyde area to complete working up. (C.S.2, 121007B to Admty.)

RUSHEN
CASTLE. Owing to an accident to the SS. RUSHEN CASTLE when entering Harbour to-day the normal sailing of the Mail steamer a.m. tomorrow for Douglas to Fleetwood has been cancelled. Intend sailing RUSHEN CASTLE at 0330B/13 for Liverpool for repairs. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 0800B/13.
(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 122110B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

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12.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar
G.R.Opsum
sup. 11 May.

C 202 0724 day M.K.11 disappeared radar contact
(my?)
obtained 4 times in 35.50 N. 06.10 W. dropped
2 D.C. on position on fourth run in. All times B.
(A.H.Q.Gibraltar 121711B.)

SS. NYASSA.

Ministry of Marine communicate Portuguese Mer-
chant Vessel NYASSA leaving Cochin 13th May for
Lisbon via Aden and Alex., if Admty. authorize
this call (my 251753 to Admty. only refers.)

Will follow route laid down in Admty. 202238 Dec.
2. Admty. please pass to C. in C.E.F. and C. in C.Levant.
(N.A.Lisbon 121750B.)

SS. LUGANO.

My 071852 sailing of SS. LUGANO postponed until
about 14th May.
(D.E.W.D. 121945B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U/B contact.

Aircraft had radar contact 2015Z, lat. 30.12
long. 39.52, range 14 closed to 4 miles when lost
unable sight in sun glare heard faint noise Sono
buoy. Surface and air hold down established W.X.
42 80 21 15.
(C.T.G. 21.16 122310.)
W.D.Note. See further message 150955.

South Atlantic.

SS. JANETA
(sunk 1st
May.)

U.S.Warship has picked up 10 survivors ex British
ship JANETA torpedoed 0200 G.M.T. 1st May in
018° 14' N. 020° W. 2 more lifeboats heading for
Brazilian Coast. Understand these are survivors
reported in my 111936*.

(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 122108Z.)

Amended 131313Z.

* U.S.destroyers searching for life raft with 8
survivors - name unknown. (N.T. in W.D.)

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12.5.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- LA SULTANE. Your 112349 acknowledged. Leave patrol to pass $043^{\circ} 09' 007^{\circ} 33'$ at 0100/13th, $042^{\circ} 20' 007^{\circ} 47'$ at 1500/13th thence direct E.T.A. Maddalena 1130/14th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 120833 to LA SULTANE.)
- SS. SAUMUR. German SAUMUR completed loading at Barcelona and expected to sail north any time.
(F.O.G.M.A., 120929B to 10th S/M.F., LA SULTANE, LE CURIE, ARCHIMEDE, S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10.)
SAUMUR is expected to sail from Barcelona at nightfall today 12th May, for French port.
(F.O.G.M.A., 122026B to 10th S/M.F., LA SULTANE, LE CURIE, ARCHIMEDE, S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10.)
- VICTORIOUS A.M. 092350. Escort will be provided from 43° (from U.K. N. by 3 destroyers of 13th D.F. Request early for E.F.) information of actual time and date of R/V in order that destroyers can reach R/V at slow speed.
(2) Intention is that VICTORIOUS will pass Straits of Gibraltar in daylight and spend one day at Algiers. Escort will be relieved off Europa.
(3) It may be advisable for VICTORIOUS to spend one day at Gibraltar in addition.
(C. in C. Med., 121232B to Admty.)
- ULTOR. Keep east of $006^{\circ} 50'$ after 2200/15th and leave patrol passing through $042^{\circ} 58' 007^{\circ} 05'$ to $042^{\circ} 20' 007^{\circ} 47'$ at 1630/16th thence direct arriving Maddalena 1000/17th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 121243 to ULTOR as amended 121547.)
- UNIVERSAL, ARCHIMEDE, UNTIRING. (1) Intend sailing UNIVERSAL at 1700/13th via Q.B.B. 312 through $041^{\circ} 25' 008^{\circ} 12'$ at 2300/13th, $042^{\circ} 00' 007^{\circ} 43'$ at 0401/14th, $042^{\circ} 28' 006^{\circ} 00'$ at 0001/15th to patrol in SU and SW.
(2) Intend sailing at 1715/13th via Q.B.B. 312 (A) ARCHIMEDE through $042^{\circ} 15' 008^{\circ} 04'$ at 0130/15th, $042^{\circ} 57' 007^{\circ} 53'$ at 0530/15th to patrol in Zone SS.
(B) UNTIRING through $041^{\circ} 25' 008^{\circ} 12'$ at 2300/14th, $042^{\circ} 00' 007^{\circ} 43'$ at 0401/15th, $042^{\circ} 40' 006^{\circ} 55'$ at 2100/15th to patrol in Zone ST.
(Capt. (S) 10, 121301 to C. in C. Med.)
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. PINDOS. PINDOS at Taranto has informed F.O.T.A.L.I. that neither Officers nor men intend to obey orders to proceed to sea at 2000 today Friday. C.O. has been given until 1500 to think this over and if at that time he persists in his attitude the crew will be ordered on shore disarmed and placed in P.O.W. Camp while the Officers will remain on board under close arrest prior to being sent under arrest to Egypt. Should crew refuse to come on shore peaceably ample British Force is available and will be used to enforce the order. Greek Flag will remain hoisted for the time being but ship will

/be ...

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12.5.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny in
Greek Navy.
PINDOS.
(Contd.)

be in charge of C. & M. party from LOYAL. PINDOS is in my opinion by far the worst of the three Greek Hunts in this area and I consider strong measures against her may have decisive effects upon waverers in other ships who have been corrupted by PINDOS. L.S.T.36 at Brindisi is now showing signs of similar attitude but may benefit by PINDOS experience.

(C. in C. Med., Naples, 121302B to Admty.)

I have instructed S.Os. of escorts of convoys in which Greek warships who have practically mutinied are included either as extra escort or part of the convoy that should such Greek ships attempt to leave the convoy except with permission or in unavoidable circumstances, he is to use such force as he thinks necessary to prevent them to the point of opening fire and sinking them if other action fails.

(F.O.L.E.M., 121358C to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med. Naples.)

No resistance was offered by PINDOS, ship's officers and crew are now in custody as detailed in my 121302B.

(C. in C. Med. Naples, 121723B.)

My 112013. Greek party to (? deal) with dissidents in Camp Helli was inadequate and no action was taken. Food and water promised cut off tomorrow. British military police will try to restore order on Monday forenoon and (corrupt group) fail strong party of armed loyal Greeks will enter the camp in afternoon and use force if necessary.

(F.O.L.E.M., 121936 to C. in C. Med. at Naples.)

M.V. MONTE
ALTUBE.

Report received by Spanish Authority that MONTE ALTUBE which sailed from Havana May 11th was intercepted by British patrol who took charge of ship. Request instruction what reply I may give.

(A.B.N.A. Madrid, 121330B to Admty.)

Opsum. 380.

10th/11th May. 2 Wellingtons mined Melos and Syros. 2 more Wellingtons returned with mines. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 121355C.)

TOURVILLE.

C.C.S. have decided that TOURVILLE is to be paid off into reserve at Bizerta. Request she may be sailed for that port as soon as convenient. (C. in C. Med., 121403 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

I.R.C. .
vessel
CRISTINA.

Your 112239. CRISTINA sailed from Lisbon 26th April for Marseilles her departure was notified by shipping attache in Vesca Telegram of 27th April to Admty. repeated Gibraltar. (N.A. Lisbon, 121632B to Admty.)

Sinking of
U.S.S.
LANSDALE
20th April.

Following is an extract from O.W.I. report from Washington dated 10th May begins:-
U.S. Navy announced today that the 1630 ton destroyer LANSDALE was torpedoed and sunk by

/German ...

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12.5.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Sinking of German planes in the Mediterranean on April 20th. Navy spokesman said loss of life was moderate, although destroyer virtually was torn in two by torpedo and sank quickly. Ends. (2) While it was agreed by me? and by Comnavaw to release news of loss of this ship it is considered that in future such details as date, method of attack, etc. should not be released. (C. in C. Med., 121725 to Admiralty, (R) Comnavaw.)

S/M Friendly aircraft has reported attacking S/M attacked. (? in your area) have reminded all aircraft stations of your presence. Was this you. (Capt. (S) 10, 121731 to ARCHIMEDE.)

H.M.S. To be towed Bizerta to U.K. PALOMARES. (C.O.S.(A), 121856C.)

A.N.D. In view of recent attacks on convoys off Algerian Coast, request attention of Commodores be drawn to the importance of streaming nets in accordance with M.S.C.I.43 para. 4. Para. 2 frequent cases occur of ships unable to stream net defences owing to deck cargo and other causes. Request necessary action may be taken. (C. in C. Med., 121916 to Admty., Com. 10th Fleet C. & R., (R) Comnavaw, B.A.D.)

Situation • 4017 tons discharged at Anzio on May 11th no Report enemy activity. BICESTER bombarded target in No. 356 the Ardea area 041° 36' N. 012° 33' E. with good results. (2) Coastal forces twice attacked (? northbound) merchant ship escorted by 5 R-Boats in the vicinity of Vada Rock during night 10th/11th May. One torpedo hit claimed in first attack and 2 in second when large explosion seen non contact pistol used. One R-Boat also damaged. Enemy left firing at each other. (No ?) damage or casualties to our forces who were also engaged by shore batteries. (3) Convoy U.G.S.(?40) was attacked by about 30 aircraft with torpedoes and bombs about 2100/11 in 037° 03' N. 004° 12' E. No damage to convoy*. Fighters claim 5 destroyed and 3 damaged. White smoke had been started at sunset and was still in use when attack commenced. (C. in C. Med., 122135.) * Cf. Air C. in C. Med. Cositintrep No. 306.

Part III Air Operations ending 1800/11th. Cositintrep At 2055/11th about 25 E/A attacked a convoy off No. (?306). Delys reports so far show three M/Vs. sunk.* 5 Ju.88 destroyed and 3 damaged for one Mosquito damaged. Vis was raided on night 10th/11th May by 10 plus E/A, a petrol dump was fired, no other damage or casualties. (Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O./12.)

* Inconnu, 131345C.

War Diary.12.5.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U/B dis-
positions.

No. 25. No fresh information. Position is assessed as follows -
Areas A. B. C. D. and F. believed clear of U-Boats scale of air escort W.
Area E. possibility Japanese U-Boat may be in southern part of the area. Scale of air escort X.
Area G. Japanese U-Boat believed patrolling in Maldive Is. or 8th Degree Channel area. Indications U-Boat (German) S.E. of Ceylon moving towards area. Scale of air escort Y.
(C. in C.E.F. 120332Z.)

D'ENTRE-
CASTEAUX.

Jibuti reports:-
local resources at Jibuti are insufficient to repair dynamo crank shaft but work is being carried out to fit remaining crank shaft to good dynamo and ship should be ready for sea in about one month.

2. There is always the risk that a Verage crank shaft will break after a few days.
3. Am awaiting instructions from Algiers, C. in C.E.F. 070626 refers. Ends.
(Com. Aden 120815Z to C. in C.E.F.)

U/B destroyed
off Ras Hafun
3rd May.

S/M is open end to end and pumping ineffective (?but) divers will examine ends and try to close bulkhead doors. Diving is restricted due to swell but possible early morning and night. Certainly 2 and possibly 4 complete torpedoes stored in upper deck stowage. 3 explosions in vicinity of S/M on Monday 8th, reported by army, thought to be depth charges. Lighters obtained locally near Dante. No sign of air party.
(FISHGUARD 121530Z.)

Preliminary interrogation prisoners from German U-Boat beached Bander Beila made today has established following intelligence.

- A. Officers, (names).
- B. Details. Complement 66 of whom seven dead. Number not yet established. Field Post No. M52771. No device. Tonnage 1200. Described as an "old boat" building yard not yet established. Armament forward one 10.5 c.m. bridge two c.m. Bandstand one 3.7 c.m. Torpedo tubes six, four forward, two aft. Torpedoes - number not established but T.5 carried. R.D.F. and G.S.R. carried.
- C. Movement. Left Kiel about 18th January, 1944 for trials in Baltic. Patrol began about 14 days later without re-entering a German port. On passage to operational area no ships sighted and no torpedoes fired. Not previously attacked.
- D. Orders. To attack shipping between Aden area and Bombay. Not intended as supply U-Boat. Attacked immediately on reaching operational area. Crash dived but forced resurface owing D.C. damage.
- E. Captain on first operational command. Aged 28 previously 1st Lieut. in U-Boat operating North Atlantic.

/F....

12.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B destroyed
off Ras Hafun
3rd May.
(Contd.)

F. Survivors exceptionally secure and strongly
Nazi. Morale very high.
G. Three Officers and 31 Petty Officers and rat-
ings embarking in SUSSEX 15th for Suez for
C.S.D.I.C. Mediterranean. Captain and nine
others as requested by Admiralty being flown to
U.K. by first opportunity. 15 cot cases remaining
Aden.
(Com. Aden 121705Z.)

ATHENE,
ENGADINE.

C. in C.E.F. 070628. On completion of unloading
at Cochin C. in C.E.F. is requested to sail
ATHENE to Kilindini to load a full cargo of air-
craft as in A.M. 281642 March, para. 1C for U.K.
2. Com. N.A.S. E.A. is requested to ship to U.K.
by Commercial shipping any aircraft outstanding under A.M.
281642 March, para. 1C after loading ENGADINE as in A.M. 201917
April and ATHENE.
(D.N.A.O. 121937B.)

12.5.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(Cominch 121525Z, N.S.H.Q. 121534Z.)

T.G.21.8

T.G.21.8 U.S. cruiser MARBLEHEAD, S.O. U.S.S. AMESBURY, BATES, BLESSMAN, BULL, BUNCH, RICH, ESCALANTE (A.O.) BROUGH, STURTEVANT.
(P.D. New York 121532Z.)

U.S.S. WAKEFIELD. Diversion order.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 121728Z.)

Routeing of
ships for
Cape Ports.

Comply C. in C.S.A. 091011.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 121806Z to U.S.R.O. Port of Spain.)

Routeing con-
trol over neu-
tral shipping
in Atlantic
east of Azores.

Your 102030 April. Portuguese, Spaniards and Swiss are being requested to state whether they will accept routeing proposed by you and amended by F.O.G.M.A's 161037 April. They will probably require to secure Axis consent. Further signal will be made when recommendations are known.
2. These modifications will not of course apply to I.R.C.C. ships Gothenburg trafficships or Swedish vessels engaged for Greek relief, routes for these have already been agreed by all belligerents.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 121834B to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

2 U.S. C.V.Es.
and 6 D.Es.
for Med.

Due to indefinite status of operations for which two C.V.Es. and 6 D.Es. para. B Mydis 281455 March were intended and urgent need for additional aircraft ferry service in Atlantic the reporting date of these ships in the Med. is deferred until further notice.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 122046.)

U/B incidents.

Para. C. BLOCK ISLAND reports series of contacts oil slicks one attack area 18 N. 32.15 W. 0240Z/8th to 0745Z/10th.
Para. D. Transit B.25 sighted sub. ?06.50 S. ?24.30 W. 1250Z/10th course 090. No report since my 082120.
(Cominch 122127Z.)

12.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 843. May 11th. 17. Following night (10/11 May) one pair M.T.Bs. sunk or destroyed three enemy barges at apparent unloading point southwest coast New Ireland opposite Namatanai and another couple were bombed slightly damages by single floatplane further south along same coast. Gunboats destroyed small ship central Empress Augusta Bay.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 120700Z.)

Pacific War Strategy. 1. No provision is included for stockpiling at Port Darwin and no shipments are contemplated at present.
2. In order to provide for possibility of Eastern Fleet operating from Northern Australia, Port Darwin was taken for purpose of calculations as the port to which supplies to meet a proportion of Eastern Fleet's requirements in Australia would be delivered.
3. Measures necessary for opening up of Northern sea route to Port Darwin from westward are under consideration here as a matter of urgency.
(A.M.S.S.O. 121520Z to J.S.M.Washington.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack & sighting summary. Para. A. 1. A/C attacked A.S.V. contact with depth charges at 0540Z/12 in 35° 48' N. 06° 09' W.
(D.D.I.C. 120830Z.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
Four lifeboats sighted on 10th May in 15° 37' S. 28° 15' W. are from SS. ANADYR. U-Boat which torpedoed this ship may now be about 26° 00' S. 11° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 121350B, 121406B.)

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13.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E-Boats in
Channel. 1
E-Boat sunk
and one
damaged by LA
COMBATTANTE.

STAYNER +
TROLLOPE
frigates.

1. Four groups of E-Boats from Cherbourg were operating in the Channel last night. One of these located between St. Albans Head and Portland at 0030 today, was not intercepted and returned to Cherbourg; but the remaining three groups were all engaged. At 0040 one was intercepted 18 miles S. by E. of Selsey Bill by LA COMBATTANTE and STAYNER when one E-Boat was sunk and another damaged by LA COMBATTANTE; a second group was engaged at 0150 by STAYNER and later by LA COMBATTANTE and M.T.Bs. 680 and 608 in a running fight S.W. of St. Catherines; and the third group was engaged by TROLLOPE at 0050 about 15 miles south of St. Catherines and chased to the southward by STEVENSTONE who claims one possible hit. All the E-Boats were thus driven off; and six survivors from the E-Boat sunk by LA COMBATTANTE were rescued by STAYNER and landed later.

Engagement
off The Hook.
M.T.B. 715
damaged.

2. At 0001 today four M.T.Bs. of the 54th (Nor). M.T.B. Flotilla were suddenly illuminated by star-shell apparently from shore batteries when close north of The Hook and engaged at close range by four trawlers and then by some possible E or R-Boats north of the trawlers. The Force returned safely; but M.T.B. 715 was damaged by gunfire; and four ratings in the Force were wounded, one seriously.

Action off
Guernsey.

3. Inconclusive actions took place during last night between four M.T.Bs. on patrol and two enemy patrol vessels with three T.Bs. to the S.W. of Guernsey. Our Force returned without damage or casualty.

Kiel Canal
mined.

4. (a). Mosquito A/C laid specially prepared mines in the Kiel Canal last night.
(b). 181 mines were laid by A/C of Bomber Command during last night off the Kiel Canal, Heligoland, the Frisian Islands as far as the Elbe, and Northern French ports.

South Atlantic.

U/B sunk.

5. On 16th May C.T.G.22.2 reported that he considered U.S.S. ROBINSON probably destroyed a U-Boat by combined hedgehog and depth charge attack in 18.33 S. 10.20 W. (St. Helena area) at 1901Z, today.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Bridgehead.

6. There was considerable shelling of Anzio port area last night and during the night 11 /12th May, but no naval damage was caused.

7.(a). The Strategic Air Force last night attacked docks at Porto Ferraio, San Stefano and Piombino.
(b). About 20 enemy aircraft raided Naples last night, dropping bombs and circling torpedoes. No naval damage was caused.
(c). Bastia was also attacked but no damage ensued.

8. Two Wellingtons successfully mined Syros and Naxos harbours last night.

East Indies.

S/M patrol reports.

9. C. in C.E.F. sends today a summary of the recent Far East patrols by STOIC, TANTIVY and TEMPLAR. STOIC carried out a special operation successfully and TEMPLAR a special operation which was 90% successful. Apart from this, the total bag was one junk sunk in 07.00 N. 99.20 E. (Penang area) by TANTIVY.

Australia & New Zealand.

Enemy carrier & cruiser force near Natuna Is.

10. A U.S. submarine reports sighting at 0100 G.M.T. today a force of 3 carriers, 5 heavy cruisers and an unknown number of destroyers in 05.37 N. 108.37 E. (near the Natuna Is.) proceeding at 20 knots in the southern part of the South China Sea. A later report stated that the force was steering a southerly course.

Solomon Is.

11. M.T.Bs. operated last night against barges in the Buka Passage and Kieta areas.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of C.S.2. My flag is to be transferred to MAURITIUS at 1400 on 14th May.
(C.S.2 130953B to MAURITIUS, WARSPITE.)

LA FLORE. A.M. 311934A March and F.O.C.R.Fs. 111040B April. It is anticipated that LA FLORE will be ready for transfer to French Naval Authorities a.m. 16th May complete with Naval victualling, armament stores, and 12 pdr. ammunition. Intend, subject to your approval, to discharge officers to home addresses in accordance with your 121157B and ships company to respective depots a.m. 16th May.
(LA FLORE 131328B to S.O.R.F.Tyne.)

Operations.

E-Boats on East Coast. Unknown number of enemy war motor-boats bearing 010° distant 2 miles. My position 094° 55 B Buoy 4 miles.
(FERNIE 130107 to Nore.)
Consider that E-Boats did not operate on East Coast last night 12/13th. Flare sighted by FERNIE was probably dropped by aircraft several of which were heard by C/F units at this time.
2. Evidence concerning presence of other possible types of enemy craft is not convincing but reports of FERNIE and WALFOLE will be carefully studied on receipt.
(C. in C.Nore 131836B to Admty.)

Engagements with E-Boats in Channel. One E-Boat sunk and 1 damaged by LA COMBATTANTE. Have engaged four E-Boats at 0030 in 140° Nab Tower 22 miles. 1 E-Boat sunk, 1 damaged. Subsequent running fight with several other groups who retired under smoke. Five survivors from E-Boat sunk rescued later by STAYNER. LA COMBATTANTE picked up one dead.
(LA COMBATTANTE 130420B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Record of actions with E-Boats on night 12/13th.
1. At 2330 track of four groups of E-Boats were obtained by shore Radar 10 miles north of Cap Levi. Radar conditions were A. Two groups steered north, one north east, and one north west, all at about 35 knots.
2. The easterly track was intercepted by LA COMBATTANTE and STAYNER in 170 Selsey Bill 18 miles at 0040. One E-Boat was sunk by LA COMBATTANTE and one damaged. The remainder split, two boats disengaging to the southward and one to the eastward at high speed. M.T.Bs. 452 (S.O.) 447 and 449 had been moved southward to an intercepting position. This easterly group was detected by hydrophone in 190° Beachy Head 32 miles at 0240. Contact was not however made owing to unit following a spurious Radar contact, and the E-Boat retired towards Cherbourg.
3. The two centre groups steered north together. The easterly of these two groups turned east at 0050 in 170° St. Catherines Point 10 miles and were engaged by STAYNER an hour later in a running fight to the southwestwards. LA COMBATTANTE joined in this action later. M.T.B. 680 (S.O.) and 608, which had been ordered south from St. Helens clear of our own patrols, had a long-range action

/with...

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagements with E-Boats in Channel. One E-Boat sunk and 1 damaged by LA COMBATTANTE. (Contd.)

with these E-Boats who continued to disengage to the southward.
4. The westerly of the two centre groups turned west at 0035 in 180 St. Catherines Point 15 miles and was engaged by TROLLOPE at 0050. They were then chased to the southward by STEVENSTONE who claims one possible hit. This group retired towards Cherbourg.

5. The westerly group steered towards Anvil Point and at 0030 in 180 Anvil Point 10 miles turned westwards. M.T.Bs. 689 (S.O.) and 702 were vectored to intercept but E-Boats passed close in poor visibility and no contact was made. This group proceeded westwards until it was S.W. of Portland Bill when it steered south and eventually turned towards Cherbourg.

6. All the E-Boats were driven off. Six survivors were landed from the E-Boat sunk by LA COMBATTANTE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 131701B to Admty.)

Following activity occurred on night of 12/13th May.

1. At 0055 the westernmost group of 2 or 3 E-Boats who were operating in Portsmouth Command were plotted on westerly course 8 miles south of Portland. At 0119 they altered to W.S.W. Portland, at 0132 to the southward. Force 113 who had been put under control of KINGSWEAR to intercept (corrupt group) then held back as the enemy were making for the patrol line occupied by TANATSIDE and WENSLEYDALE. They turned south-easterly shortly before crossing the patrol-line and passed about 7500 yards east of TANATSIDE who did not make contact. Between 0119 till 0245 the E-Boats were plotted at an average speed of 40 knots. Wellington aircraft on patrol did not make contact.

2. Force 114 (M.T.B. 239 S.O. 92, 96, 227) operated south Guernsey in 2 divisions. One division had an inconclusive gun action with a patrol vessel and were shortly after illuminated and engaged by 3 T.Bs. The other division closed the T.B. and were also illuminated but neither division was able to close the torpedo range on account of heavy and accurate gunfire. The T.B. appears to be on patrol between Roches Douvres and Les Hanois. A further engagement with patrol vessel off Guernsey took place between one division and a patrol vessel but without result. The force then retired at 40 knots passing between Guernsey and Casquets. No damage or casualties.

(C. in C. Plymouth 131355B to Admty.)

Operation "Overlord".

N.C.W.T.F. has informed me that eight additional U.S. destroyers have now been allocated to Supreme Commander for service in "Overlord". Request very early confirmation.

(A.N.C.X.F. 130915B to Comnavu.)

On 11th May Cominch informed Admiralty that he was assigning to 12th Fleet for service in "Overlord" eight destroyers from Admty. Escort Forces and 18 P.T.Boats from Pacific allocations. Destroyers arrive with T.U.C.24B on 24th May. E.T.A. of 18 P.T.Boats is 4 June. Will inform you of any variation in this E.T.A. Will direct P.T.Boats and destroyers to report C.T.F.122 for duty on arrival.

(Comnavu 131021 to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Your...

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation "Overlord". (Contd.) Your 111431. I am very grateful for the action you have taken which will improve the position considerably.
(A.N.C.X.F. 131225B to Cominch.)
- Operation "Implement." Present disposition of your target is MIDS LAND at Bilbao, HOCHHERINER, SPERBER and BORDSEE at Bayonne, SCHARLACHBERGER, BALDUR and RASTENBURG at Bordeaux.
(F.O.S. 131100B to SCEPTRE.)
NORDFELS and MIDS LAND sailed 1300 G.M.T. 13th. Arrived 1215 G.M.T. 13th, SCHARLACHBERGER, BORDSEE, SPERBER.
(Consul Bilbao 131835 to Admty.)
Disposition at 132000. SCEPTRE 044° 03' N. 011° 35' W. daily advance 105 miles.
(C. in C.Plymouth 131447B to Admty.)
- Operation C.W. STARLING operating with WREN, WILD GOOSE (E.G.2) vicinity 053° 05' N. 028° 27' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 131420B to Ships.)
Escort Group 11th OTTAWA, KOOTENAY, CHAUDIERE, ST. LAURENT, operating near 055° 05' N. 023° 35' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 131425B to Ships.)
- Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 131432B.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 131436B.)
(V.A.Dover 131844B.)
- S/M Patrols. Submarine positions 0759/14th and movements in following 24 hours.
A. SCEPTRE 44° 01' N. 09° 29' W. dived by day, course 090° daily advance 105 miles.
B. SERAPH diving by day in vicinity 50° 44' N. 10° 36' W.
(F.O.S. 131706 to Admty.)
- Search for U/B. Take ABELIA, CELANDINE and GERANIUM under your orders and proceed as necessary to pass The Gate at 0900 tomorrow and thence at 13 knots by Standard Route as far as St. Agnes Head.
2. Thence proceed to R/V with and relieve 3rd E.G. (S.O. in DUCKWORTH) who is patrolling in area within 60 miles of 50° 44' N. 07° 37' W.
3. S.O.E.G.3 will be ordered to signal R/V.
4. Information. A. Sighting by aircraft of suspected U-Boat was made at 2017B/11th in position given in para. 2.
B. Considered possible that U-Boat is reconnoitering North Cornish shipping route and retiring to the westward to change and pass information by V/S to German Ju.88 Fighters which have been observed in this area lately.

/C...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for U/B (Contd.) C. Constant air R/C is being made between the North Cornish Coast and Ireland. Details of call signs of these aircraft will be signalled. 5. Carry out A/S search in the area given in para. 2 but do not enter Q.Z.X.293 or 1018X. If no contact is made, you may expect to be recalled about noon 15th. (C. in C.Plymouth 131742B to AZALEA.)

Engagement off The Hook. M.T.B. 715 damaged. Report of M.T.B. operations night 12/13th. 1. 54th (Nor.) M.T.B. Flotilla Nos. 715, 627, 653 and 688 ordered to sweep from the Hook to position off Walcheren arrived in a position north of The Hook at 0001 and turned to S.W. whereupon they were illuminated by starshell apparently from shore batteries and engaged by four trawlers on Port Bow at range of 1500 yards closing to 800 yards. M.T.B. 715 hit by first burst in petrol compartment, engine room, and port 5 turret. Unit disengaged north and were then fired at by possible E or R-Boats north of the trawlers. Unit disengaged to S.W. and then swept south until 0130 when petrol leakage in 715 produced large quantity of petrol in bilges. S.O. decided to return to base. 2. Hits were observed on trawlers but extent of damage not known. 3. Casualties. 4 ratings wounded, one seriously. 4. Damage, M.T.B. 715 hole in petrol compartment and engine room. Time to complete repairs estimated as 2 weeks. 5. Failure of M.T.Bs. Radar to detect trawlers is being investigated. (C. in C.Nore 131837B to Admty.)

Operation F.Z. WILLIAM S.THAYER sunk on 3rd May. A.M. 121938. A. 3rd column from port, 3rd ship in four. 2 explosions were seen judged to be before amidships. Ship broke in half before she was clear of convoy. B. Disposition A.C.1 article 130 diagram C.C.1 as follows: positions L, A.2 and B, N, D, P, F, G, X, I, and S. C. A.C.1 105 app. 11.2 ships to each 90° sector distance 6 miles. D. A/S air patrols by Swordfish from escort carriers. Information about movements of 6th E.G. at time ship was torpedoed not yet available. Believed first known contact with a submarine for this convoy. E. Artichoke (A.C.1 119) and anti-quat procedure (A.C.1 138) carried out. At no time was any contact made with the submarine nor apparently was any torpedo or track heard or sighted. F. Blank. (C. in C.H.F. 132348B to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Kiel Canal mined. On night 12/13th 20 - 22 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.F.) Group carried out a special minelaying mission. One A/C is missing. (H.Q.B.C. 131700B.)

The C. in C. asks that his congratulations and thanks may be conveyed to all concerned in the speedy preparation of the special mines laid by Mosquitoes of his command in the Kiel Canal last night. Their remarkable effort enabled the operation to take place at the most propitious moment under favourable conditions and has contributed greatly towards our common task of breaking the enemy's sea communications. (H.Q.B.C. 131830B to Admty.)

Operation N.L. 132. My 131844B. Operation N.L.132 abandoned owing to weather. (V.A.Dover 132204B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

LÜTZOW. LÜTZOW sighted by seaplanes at Swinemunde, yesterday May 12th. Graded B.2. (N.A.Stockholm 131206 to Admty.) P.R.U. 1330/12 shows that LUTZOW has returned to Gdynia. (D.D.I.C. 131229B to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.T.B. 744. Admiralty 121320B.
1. Serious accident occurred to H.M.C. M.T.B. 744 early this morning when in No. 2 L.M.S.Dock, Holyhead. On first highwater after docking, Caisson carried away bowing wires and allowed dock to flood rapidly. M.T.B. 744 filled in all compartments due to underwater damage and eventually sank after being positioned between centre line chocks and dockside.
2. There were no casualties.
3. As officers and crew are fully worked up, recommend they should be kept together as provisional estimate of damage shows that M.T.B. 744 is likely to be paid off for repairs. (BEE 131009 to Admty.)

COURBET. Admiralty 111339 and A.N.C.X.F. 111435. By sacrificing a useful crane berth in dockyard COURBET can be retained till 5th June subject to her being removed earlier on giving three days notice. (C. in C.Plymouth 131148 to Admty.)

IRWELL. R.F.A. IRWELL collided with AGIA VARVARA whilst berthing alongside at Hvalfjord a.m. today. Bilge damaged below water line and leaking. Fleet Salvage Officer in attendance. (S.S.T.O. Iceland 132055B to D.S.T.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

CONTENDER.

My 131748B. CONTENDER returning with boiler trouble.
(Care. Southend 132309B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SERAPH.

V/S from SERAPH. Can submerge. Intend to proceed to position GBAT (SBAT)* at dawn - C. in C. Plymouth.
(Dunkeswell 132350B to 19 Group.) *As recd.

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- SS. SAUMUR. German SAUMUR sailed Barcelona 1925/12th proceeding north.
(F.O.G.M.A., 131031B to 10th S/W.F., LE CURIE, LA SULTANE, ARCHIMEDE, S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10.)
- I.R.C. ship CRISTINA. Spanish CRISTINA sailed from Gib. 1400/3 May for Marseilles, declared speed 8 knots, A.M. 112239B May refers.
(2) Movements promulgated to S/Ms. by my 031550 May and to A.I.G.262 by my 031433B May.
(F.O.G.M.A., 131106B to Admty.)
Re Air Ministry making enquiries re attack on Red Cross vessel CRISTINA.
- Gibraltar 12th May.
G.R. Opsum. (G) 07 to 08 W and North of 35 N. Z E B 222/144-2155-night-S/E not used-36.35 N. 04.30 W.- suspicious wake thought to be from periscope moving slightly S.S.W. Aircraft investigated and at 2207 dropped 2 D/Cs. spaced 60 feet straddling head of wake which then disappeared one Sono Buoy dropped no return signal received. All times (sic).
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 131615B.)
- SS. RITA GARCIA. Your 241037 April. Spanish RITA GARCIA crew reluctantly admit hiding place in position mentioned. Number two hold full bulk wheat 250 tons coal in cross bunker. Several other skilfully constructed secret compartments disclosed. Search proceeding.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 131811B to Admty.)
- SS. CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA. HIGHLANDER was ordered to board CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA. Result not yet known. Weather report.
(B.4., 132037B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

- SS. JANETA. My 122108 amend latitude to read 018° 14' S.
(B.N.S.O. Rio Janeiro, 131313Z.)

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- LA SULTANE. Intend to sail LA SULTANE at 1600/14th to Algiers to R/V with (? escort) 036° 57' 003° 06' at 0930/17th surface passage. (Capt. S.10, 131101.)
- PALOMARES, MALINES. C.O.S.(A) 121856 is being passed Admty.
2. Request information whether this affects decision in A.M. 041822.
3. It is considered that both EMPIRE tugs should be used for PALOMARES as her steering gear will be out of action.
(C. in C. Med., 131136B to Admty.)
Your 131136B. Admty. agreement was conditional on your acceptance of only one tug for PALOMARES and of second tow in convoy. In view of your para. 3 both tugs should be used for PALOMARES.
2. MALINES should not be towed to Bizerta as proposed in C.O.S. (A) 121856.
3. Agreed with M. of W.T.
(D.O.D.(F) 131952B to C. in C. Med.)
- WHITE EAGLE. WHITE EAGLE is suitable for conversion to escort vessel. Your 042108 refers.
2. Despite the situation referred to in my 291447 April consider conversion should be authorised as ship should be useful whatever the outcome.
3. Technical details follow in my 131220.
(C. in C. Med., 131215 to Admty.)
- K.M.F.31 U/B contact. K.M.F.31 EXMOOR, GROOME hunting contact classified S/M 035° 45' N. 002° 34' W.
(S.O.E.G.4, 131251Z to C. in C. Med.)
H.M.S. EXMOOR now unable to (?confirm) and is rejoining. My 131251 refers.
(S.O.E.G.4, 131400B.)
- Air cositintrep No. 307. It is now reported that no ships were sunk or damaged in attack on convoy off Dellys.
(Air C. in C. Med., 131345B.)
- Policy for running Foxers. (C. in C. Med., 131632B to Med. Stn.)
- Air operations 247 Spitfires flew fighter sweeps Western Italy and coastal areas. Straffed 150/200 feet M/V Fort Del Marmi. Left smoking and damaged, oil on water. Destroyed 90 feet tanker of Viareggio, destroyed 1 barge, straffed another.
(M.A.A.F., 131819B.)

/Attack...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Attack on U.G.S.38 20th April. A.M.011131B.
A. 2105. B. Torpedo Bomber. C. Torpedoes.
D. Enemy aircraft first detected at 2026 to N.E. of U.G.S.38. Plots subsequently faded. Convoy 100 miles to N.E. of U.G.S.38 attacked at 2045 with Glider bombs and torpedoes. Glider bomb signals from this attack intercepted. "Tiptree" ordered in U.G.S.38 at 2045 and cancelled at 2052. Aircraft approached U.G.S.38 very low and red warning passed 2058.
E. Preliminary reports indicate success in attack due to
1. Skilful execution, training and timing, although night fighters were present, attack took place from landward side ten minutes after day fighters left.
2. Intensive R/C effort during previous 24 hours. Only one of ten R/C aircraft taking part was shot down.
3. Failure of convoy to make timely and adequate smoke.
(C. in C. Med., 131935B.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No.26 No fresh information, no change of scales
dispositions. of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F.130328)

Operation Intend sailing convoy J.C.49A at 1100Z/20th to
"Toddy". arrive Chittagong at 0600Z/26. Route by normal
coastal lane and Rumble route.
(2) Convoy will comprise IPELA, IPSOVA, RAJULA,
IKAUNA, RISALDAR and FLOLA.
(3) Escort SUTLEJ, KISTNA, SNOWFLAKE and VIOLET.
(4) After unloading at Chittagong ships are to be sailed as
follows:
(a) RAJULA embarked with 500 invalids for Madras escorted by
SNOWFLAKE and VIOLET.
(b) Remaining ships for Calcutta escorted by (?SUTLEJ) and
KISTNA.
(5) N.O.I.C. Calcutta is requested to sail ships and escorts in
para (4) (b) for Colombo as soon as bunkering and provisioning
has been completed. Ships and escorts in para. (4) (a) are
to join this convoy off Madras for passage to Colombo.
(C. in C. E.F. 131034Z)

STOIC, STOIC 2nd Far East Patrol Summary.
TANTIVY, (2) 28th April. Medium sized merchant ship
TEMPLAR, apparently undamaged but apparently beached in
patrol position 182 degs. Sabang occulting light 5 cables.
reports. Attack attempted but STOIC was sighted and counter
attacked. 6th May. Above mentioned ship
attacked with 3 torpedoes but no explosion heard.
(3) Special operation successful.
(4) TANTIVY 2nd Far East Patrol Summary.
(5) 29th April reconnoitred and made unsuccessful attack on large
ship with heavy list with 1500 ton steamer alongside in Puket
Harbour this ship is thought to be scuttled Italian ship that
has been refloated. 2 sunken vessels also seen.
(6) 4th May 1550 missed Japanese U-Boat off Sebilan Is.
(7) 7th May sank large trading junk position 007 degs. 00' N.
099 degs. 20' E.
(8) 9th May 1545 in 009 degs. 51' N. 091 degs. 05' E. sighted
S/M periscope asdic contact maintained until 1915 but no further
sightings.
(9) P.316 (TEMPLAR) 6th Far East Patrol Summary.
(10) S/M was employed on special operation only which was 90%
successful.
(C. in C. E.F. 131158)

Junk traf- Request reply to my 030436 observing interrogation
fic in of prisoners obtained by TANTIVY confirms Japanese
Malacca Straits. employ all Junks of over 20 tons to carry rubber,
timber, tin, rice and tea.
(C. in C. E.F. 131237Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.) See also p. 199.

U-Boat /...

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.

U-Boat ashore at Ras Hafun. Details of documents from German U-Boat so far received Aden and information extracted therefrom. (4) From (B) (Navigator's rough work book). U-Boats positions were as follows.

19th Feb.	37	degs.	17'	N.	42	degs.	12'	W.
23rd "	30	"	10'	"	40	"	27'	"
25th "	26	"	04'	"	39	"	09'	"
28th "	19	"	36'	"	37	"	12'	"
2nd Mar.	10	"	21'	"	32	"	27'	"
4th "	07	"	27'	"	28	"	21'	"
7th "	04	"	17'	"	22	"	46'	"
9th "	01	"	58'	"	19	"	12'	"

(5) Both documents being photographed before transmission to Admiralty.

(Com. Aden, 131513Z)

Report when you expect to have complete torpedoes from upper deck stowages reported in your 121530 ready for removal from S/M so that suitable vessel to hoist them in can be arranged to transport them for expert examination. Signal early description of all information about them obtainable.

(F.O.E.A. 132055Z to FISHGUARD)

S.O.G. Your 111155B. S.O.G. does not absorb S.O.E., I.S.L.O. and O.S.S. but forms a 4th Group as stated in para. 5 of my 031159.

(2) All Copp Teams already on station will become part of S.O.G. as soon as latter organisation comes into force i.e. on arrival of R.M.D. 385 H.Q. personnel.

(3) Present strength of parties earmarked for S.O.G. in this theatre. Copp 3 teams total 15 officers 18 ratings. 2 S.B.S. total 6 officers 32 other ranks. Considerable increase is expected shortly.

(4) The general policy of S.O.G. including manning training and allocation of operations is responsibility of S.A.C.S.E.A. Fully concur with his proposed organisation and have agreed to administer the S.O.G. base depot.

(C. in C. E.F. 131612Z to Admty.)

U-Boat report. By D/F of transmission between ?1928Z and 2109 on 13th May on 5575 K/cs the position of a U-Boat was in the northern entrance to Malacca Straits. (C. in C. E.F. 132219Z)

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13.5.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U/boat contact. Have investigated doubtful contact in 047° 35' 059° 20' carrying out observation. (LISCOMB, 130025Z).

C.N.M.O. (A) Effective 15th May 1944. The offices of Senior Canadian Flag Officer (Overseas) and Senior Canadian Naval Officer (London) will be combined and known as the Canadian Naval Mission Overseas - (short title C.N.M.O.). The head of the mission will be Vice-Admiral P.W. Nelles, R.C.N. (S.C.F.O.(O) 131040).

T.C.U.24 Diversion order. (Com. 10th Fleet C and R, 131437Z).

U/boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 131444Z, 132005Z, Cominch 131515Z).

A.T.114A Diversion order. (U.S.S. WAKE-FIELD.). (Com. 10th Fleet C and R, 131540Z).

U/boat incidents. Para.A. JANETA torpedoed sunk 18.14 S. 20.00 W. 010200Z. Para.B. CORE A/C Radar contact 30.12 N. 39.52 W. 122015Z. (Cominch, 131835Z).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest No.844. May 12th. Para.13 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces. (4) 3 medium merchant vessels with one escort described as Yubari class Light Cruiser attacked by R/C aircraft noon 17 miles West Manokwari. Bombs missed but merchant ships strafed. 5 enemy planes encountered over convoy. Ships believed Eastbound although on westerly course when observed. (6) 3 U.S. Destroyers heavily bombarded Wewak coastal sector early daylight hours plastering 29 gun positions with 5 inch shells while shore fire probably 3 inch guns encountered from but (corrupt groups?) nil damage casualties. Forenoon previous day motor torpedo boats co-ordinated with Kittyhawks strafed set afire large fuel dump Kairiru Island. (10) Possible enemy submarine attacked 85 miles South Lorengau night 11th. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 130710).

/ SS. JOHN ...

13.5.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

SS. JOHN
M. CLAYTON.

Have you any news of JOHN M. CLAYTON (Am.) due
Milne Bay 1st May from San Pedro.
(D.T.D. 131345B to D.N.I. Melbourne).

Enemy
carriers and
cruiser force
near Natuna
Island.

U.S. S/M reports sighting 3 carriers 5 heavy
cruisers and blank number destroyers at 0100/13
G.M.T. in 005° 37' N. 108° 37' E. Speed 20
course garbled.
(C. in C. Pacific Fleet, 132140Z to C. in C.E.F.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.C. (1) A/C X/172 sighted surfaced
U/boat course N.W. at 1817Z/11 in 50° 45' N. 07°
36' W.

(2) A/C J/110 obtained Radar Contact at 0728Z/12
in 50° 40' N. 07° 19' W. and at 1402Z/12 in 49°

40' N. 08° 40' W.

Para.D. (1) H.M. Trawler reported doubtful contact at 0025Z/13th
May in 47° 35' N. 59° 20' W.
(D.D.I.C. 131131B).

U/boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 131518, 131525).

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Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
 "Potluck".
 One M/V
 and two
 Armed
 Trawlers
 damaged.

1a. At 0500 today the Force commanded by F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST, consisting of the Escort Carriers STRIKER and EMPEROR, the Cruiser SHEFFIELD, and seven Destroyers, which left Scapa on 12th May, were sighted and shadowed in maximum visibility by Enemy A/C off the Norwegian Coast. At 1300 however their own A/C attacked Enemy Shipping in the anchorage at Rorvik and claim to have hit one M/V of 4,000 - 6,000 tons and possibly to have damaged three others of the same size. Four Enemy A/C were destroyed and a fifth probably destroyed, and one of our A/C was lost. At 1800 the Force was attacked while withdrawing by six Me. 110 A/C who were successfully driven off by gun-fire from ROYALIST and Hurricane A/C from STRIKER.

b. During a subsequent attack^{*} a fish-oil factory close to Stadlandet was bombed, and two Armed Trawlers were damaged by Fighter A/C.

** on May 15 (W.I.R. 227/24)*

Enemy off
 Selsey Bill.

2. At 0348 today the plots of two Enemy Forces, suspected to be S/MS or W/Boats, faded when 18 miles South of Selsey Bill. An A/S sweep by two Destroyers and Coastal Forces failed to locate the Enemy.

SERAPH
 damaged.

3. At 2350B last night the S/M SERAPH while exercising about 50 miles South of Cape Clear informed an A/C on patrol that she was unable to dive and was proceeding towards the Scillies. The A/C stood by and homed the Frigates BERRY and DOMETT on to SERAPH who at 0531B today was proceeding under her own power with both frigates in company. At 2030 today the Frigates were relieved off the Scillies by NEAVE and ABEILLE IV who at 2108B were escorting SERAPH to Plymouth. SERAPH has sustained some damage to her machinery from grounding lightly in 500 feet.

Southsea
 bombed.

4. At 2313B today about seven Enemy A/C were operating, probably minelaying, to the S.E. of the Isle of Wight, and one of them dropped one 250 kg. Bomb on Southsea which did no naval damage.

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Independent sailings, Gulf of Guinea.

5. F.O.C.W.Af. today ordered independent sailings east of Takoradi to be resumed; it is appreciated that no threat to surf ports exists east of 3 degs. W.

Mediterranean

Mutiny in Greek Navy.

6. The crew of Greek L.S.T. 36 mutinied today and were removed to a prisoner of war camp without incident by a British Naval force. The officers are reported to be loyal.

Bridgehead.

7. Patrols sank one or probably two E/Boats off Anzio last night.

8. About 25 A/C attacked the Naples area last night with bombs and circling torpedoes. No naval damage was caused. Three A/C are reported to have been shot down.

U/B attack on G.U.S. 39. 2 ships torpedoed.

9. A U/Boat attack was made on Convoy G.U.S.39 in the early hours of today and the large tanker G.S. WALDEN and SS. FORT FIDLER were torpedoed in 36.46 N. 00.52 E. (North-east of Oran). Both ships proceeded to Oran under their own power. C.T.F. 60 reports that one ship in the convoy opened fire at the U/Boat and made one 3 inch hit forward of the conning tower. It is thought that possibly more than one U/Boat was present. Escorts are hunting.

Aegean.

10. UNSWERVING reports sinking 5 caiques by gunfire north-west of Melos between 3rd and 5th May.

Aircraft today sank or damaged several caiques and lighters amongst the islands of the Aegean.

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Dhow
sunk
11th May
60 miles E.
of Maldives.

11. GERALDTON today picked up 4 natives from the dhow reported as GANJA AMUDI which is said to have been sunk by a U/Boat on 11th May in 05.18 N. 074.48 E. (60 miles east of the Maldives.)

Australia and New Zealand

New
Ireland.

12. P.T. boats with fighter cover destroyed 3 barges in harbour at Dyaul Island last night. On the previous night M.T.Bs. destroyed 3 barges at a pier on the south-west coast of New Ireland.

Japanese
battleship
force
sighted.

13a. A U.S. submarine at 0500 today sighted a force comprising one carrier, 3 battleships, 3 heavy and 1 light cruisers, and several destroyers in 05 degs. 30' N. 119 degs. 40' E., near and apparently en route for Tawi Tawi (Sulu Archipelago.) where a Japanese naval force was subsequently reported to be.
b. Another U.S. S/M sighted two Japanese cruisers 3 destroyers and a HOSHO type carrier off Davao (southern Philippines) at 0800 G.M.T. today.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Iceland. A.M. 290217. A.S.F.D. Station Grof ceased operating from 1400B/14 May.
(A.C.I.C.141402B to Admty.)

Scapa defences. Orders issued by H.Q. A.D.G.B. in A.D.G.B. Operational instruction number 5/1944 para.17 dated 19th April, 1944 conflict with Orkneys and Shetlands war orders issued by me for defence of the Fleet Base against air attack (O.S. W.O. number 1 (one) Section IV 535 23).
(2) It is essential that no risk be taken where defence of Fleet is concerned and any aircraft in inner artillery zone at Scapa which is not at once identified as friendly must be engaged without any delay.
(3) Intend above policy shall continue to (operate?) at Scapa and request that A.D. G.B. be asked to amend operational instruction quoted to conform to my War Orders.
(A.C.O.S. 141135 to Admty.)

Operations

M.T.B.604 damaged. M.T.B.604 rammed. Lost touch with enemy last seen by merchant vessel in vicinity 4 Buoy.
Request convoy be warned.
(A/C 3 WXG 140245 to Gt. Yarmouth)
Request urgent assistance for M.T.B.604.
(A/C 3 WXG 140312 to Gt. Yarmouth)

Operation C.W. U-Boat transmitted WW signal at 2308Z from within 50 miles of 51 degs. 40' N. 26 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 140407B to E.G.2)
A.M. 140407B. Additional bearings now received give better fix within 60 miles of 52 degs. N. 25 degs. W.
(D.D.I.C. 140909B to E.G.2)

Search for U-Boat. On night May 13/14 an unidentified Radar Plot appeared at 0315B in 175 degs. St. Catherine's Point 23 miles, steering N.E. at an approximate speed of 17 knots. This was also reported by Air Patrol. At 0333B the Plot split into 2 parts in 168 degs. St. Catherine's Point 20 miles. Both plots at 0344 and 0348 respectively in approx. 155 degs. St. Catherine's Point 18 miles, simultaneously the Air Patrol reported fading of both Plots. Patrols were ordered to investigate. Nothing was found and no further Plots appeared. Submarines or W Boats were suspected and under the orders of BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, THORNBOROUGH, KREISIS, VIMY, WOODCOCK and NASTURTIUM were ordered to carry out an A/S sweep in an area covered by the following positions.
50 degs. 18' N. 1 degs. 30' W. 0 degs. 40' W.
50 degs. 30' N. 1 degs. 30' W. 0 degs. 40' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 140856B to Admty.)

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SundayHOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation "Overlord". Eight additional U.S. destroyers have now been detailed for "Overlord". These are allocated to N.C.W.T.F. in place of four frigates which are re-allocated as follows DUFF to 116th Escort Group vice TROLLOPE. TORRINGTON to Force S vice RETALICK. TYLER to 115th Escort Group vice STAYNER. HOTHAM to 116th vice THORNBOROUGH.

(2) TROLLOPE, RETALICK, STAYNER, and THORNBOROUGH allocated C. in C. Portsmouth as Coastal Force Control Ships.

(3) WOODCOCK and REDPOLE re-allocated to N.C.E.T.F. for assault phase.

(A.N.C.X.F. 141235B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

O.N.8 is being amended as follows. Paras.1 (A) and (B) and para. 3 for SIRIUS read DIADEM, for DIADEM read SIRIUS, for JAVELIN read EGLINTON. WARSPITE will assemble with bombarding force D in Clyde instead of at Portsmouth if a berth in Clyde is available. C. in C. W.A. is requested to confirm.

(A.N.C.X.F. 141445B to Admty)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141449B)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141458)

Operation "Potato". Carry out operation "Potato" tonight.
(1) Unit "D", M.T.B's 452, S.O. 447 and 449.
(2) 0001B/15th. (3) E.A. 5 Buoy.
(4) 49 degs. 50' N. 01 degs. 13' W.
(5) Not to proceed West of 01 degs. 30' W. unless in action.

(6) 50 degs. 10' N. 01 degs. 05' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141519 to AGGRESSIVE)

Carry out Operation "Potato" tonight.

(1) Unit ABEL, M.T.B's 254 S.O. 253, 256. (2) 0001. (3) A. C2 Buoy. B. 50 degs. 33' N. 01 degs. 14' E. C. 50 degs. 22' N. 01 degs. 23' E.

(4) 50 degs. 15' N. 01 degs. 23' E.

(5) Unit not to proceed North of 50 degs. 20' N. after 0001 unless in action. (6) One Sugar.

(7) A. 50 degs. 09' N. 01 degs. 23' E.

B. 50 degs. 07' N. 01 degs. 18' E.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141611B to AGGRESSIVE)

My 141321B, 141549B, 141611B. Postponed 24 hours.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141817B to AGGRESSIVE)

Operation "Implement". Position of submarines at 0800B/15 and movements for following 24 hours.
SCREPTRE 44 degs. 01' N. 07 degs. 05' W. dived by day, course 090 degs. Daily advance 105 miles.
(F.O.S.141742B to Admty.)

Spitzbergen /...

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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Spitzbergen. As from 0001, 16th May, codeword "Locomotive" is "Ploughshare". cancelled.
 2. New codeword for territory previously known as "Locomotive" is contained in my immediately following signal.
 (D.O.D. H. 142344B to C. in C.H.F., "Locomotive!")
 New codeword for territory referred to in my immediately preceding signal is "Ploughshare".
 (D.O.D.H. 142353B to C. in C.H.F., "Locomotive".)

Allied Air Activity

U.S. Commencing about 20th May and extending over a
 A/C for period of some months P.B.N. Catalina type flying
 Russia. boats in pairs or groups of about four will be
 ferried over North Atlantic route to Russia.
 Planes will be painted as follows.
 (C. in C.H.F. 141700B to H.F.)

Mining

Operation Carry out operation Q.U.30A night 15th/16th May.
 Q.U.30A. 2. Forces employed 51st M.L. Flotilla, 21st and
 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla.
 3. Laying instructions. Scattered lay along con-
 voy route in a direction 214 degs. Lay at 0200B/
 16th May.
 (C. in C. Nore, 141736B to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence

Off Cape P.C.S. of enemy 3 unknown vessels, 50 degs. 13' N.
 Clear. 09 degs. 23' W. N.W., 20 knots.
 (A/C JCH.73 140300B to 19 Group.)

Casualties and Defects

SERAPH Are you all right? Report position and
 damaged. intention. Your V/S message to A/C D/110 refers.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 140020B to SERAPH.)
 Following from VIKING to C. in C. Plymouth Flag
 Sub. from SERAPH: My position 50 degs. 45' N.
 09 degs. 33' W. last routine, reads:
 0200 main motors flooded, W/T unserviceable in 500 feet dive,
 unable to dive, main engine endurance 24 hours. Intend to
 proceed towards position SB at 0430. Request escort 0030.
 (A/C JCH.67 140030B to 19 Group.)
 V/S message received by A/C from SERAPH at 2018/13th in
 050 degs. 38' N. 009 degs. 53' W. indicates SERAPH may be damaged
 and proceeding toward position SB 000 degs. Round Island 15
 at dawn (? 14th) presumably on the surface. My 140017B refers.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 140032B to E.G.3.)

/VIKING...

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14.5.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

SERAPH damaged (Contd.)

VIKING (?SERAPH intended) in distress position 50 degs. 45' N. 09 degs. 24' W. (A/C 58 Sqdn. 140050 to 19 Group.) Detach one ship forthwith to proceed to assist SERAPH in approx. 050 degs. 45' N. 009 degs. 24' W. 0050B. Halifax A/C is standing by. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140110B to E.G.3.)

Remaining VIKING 0445. (?SERAPH intended) (A/C JCH.67, 140250B to 19 Group.) S.M. in 50 degs. 41' N. 09 degs. 42' W. course 135, speed 5 knots. (A/C JCJ.24 140301B to 19 Group.) (Corrupt Group) Escort Vessel reached VIKING. (?SERAPH intended) (A/C JCH.67, 140500B to 19 Group.) I am in company with SERAPH. My P.C.S. 050 degs. 44' N. 009 degs. 44' W. 103 degs. 7 knots. S/M proceeding under own power. (E.G.3, 140531B to C. in C. Plymouth) SERAPH reports having struck bottom lightly at 500 ft. Main motor and 80 per cent electrical auxiliary machinery flooded. Engine undamaged, but endurance of circulating pumps, unknown. BERRY and DOMETT standing by. Am proceeding in accordance with previous orders. (E.G.3, 140615B to C. in C. Plymouth.) Cancel paragraph B. of my 131706B and substitute:- SERAPH unable to dive and probably escorted approx. 50 degs. 38' N. 08 degs. 55' W. proceeding through 000 Round Island 15 to Plymouth (F.O.S. 140617B to Admty.) I am most grateful for the very efficient co-operation of A/C of 19 Group in locating and reporting (SERAPH) early this morning and for the way in which the A/C stood by until they had homed a surface vessel on to her. But for the A/C report the precarious condition of SERAPH would have been unknown, and no steps could have been taken to ensure her safety. Would you please convey my thanks to air crews and all concerned. (F.O.S. 141238B to H.Q.C.C.) Intend rejoining E.G.3 on handing over SERAPH to NEAVE and ABEILLE IV. (BERRY, 141828 to C. in C. Plymouth.) Your 141851B. Relieved by NEAVE and ABEILLE IV at 2030 in 336 degs. Round Island 13. SERAPH proceeding Plymouth, speed about 9 knots. BERRY and DOMETT to Belfast 18 knots. (BERRY, 142108B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

RAPIDOL. Your 110535. RAPIDOL has sustained following defects as result of collision. Details. Vessel requires repair before undertaking operational duties and F.O.I.C.N.I. intends carrying these out 24 hours after relief arrives Belfast. Estimated time for repairs 4 days. (N.S.O. Belfast, 141130 to Admty.)

14.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. RITA
GARCIA
(Spanish).

My 131811.
(1) Coal shifted by ship's crew under our supervision.
(2) Hiding place disclosed and found empty.
(3) Search completed, ship released.
(4) Details by air.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 141457.)

SS. ZURICH
(Swiss).

Sailed Gibraltar 1500/14 for Marseilles, proceeding by standard route to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise, Carries national markings and Switzerland in white on black hull. Is not to be molested. Is 1928 tons gross, speed 8 knots.
(F.O.G.M.A., 141653B to 10th S.F., LE CURIE, (R) Capt. (S) 10th S.F.)

Sailing of
Red Cross
ships.

Your 081658, procedure approved.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 141940B to N.A. Lisbon, Info.
F.O.G.M.A., N.A. Madrid, C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic

Travel of
Allied Naval
Personnel.

Information received from G.O.C. in C. West Africa that War Office has directed that no Allied Service Personnel except U.S.A. and Russians will be permitted to travel from his Command to U.K. except when units are moved. Request information whether similar instructions apply to Allied Naval Personnel in my Command which includes Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 141220Z to Admty.)

ANNAMITE.

Leave track of S.L.158 at daylight 17th May to meet R.S.17 routed from (RT) 030° 00' N. 013° 30' W. to (RU) 023° 45' N. 017° 48' W. thence 180°, speed 13 knots. Estimated R.S.17 passing through (RU) 0800Z/17th. On joining place yourself under the orders of MALCOLM S.O. Escort. F.O.G.M.A. pass to MALCOLM.
(N.O.I.C.W.Af., 141222Z to ANNAMITE, F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. JANETA
(sunk 1st
May).

My 122108. 10 survivors ex British ship JANETA landed Bahia today 14th. Names following in my 141845. Full report will be sent as soon as possible. Lifeboat number 3 with 15 and number 1 with 9 survivors last seen making for Trinidad Island. 14 of crew believed missing when mustered.
(Rio de Janeiro, 141839Z.)

/Gamma ...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

Gamma
search.

Intend sailing ROTHER, WYE, DOVEY to carry out
Gamma search between 02.20 N. 03.20 N. in 10.00
W. starting dusk 15th May.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 142037Z.)

Independent
sailings,
Gulf of
Guinea.

Resume independent sailing (East) of Takoradi
appreciate no threat to surf ports exists east
of 3° W. Request PORTSDOWN, INKPEN and BIRDLIP
be relieved at earliest convenient opportunity
boiler clean if required and report earliest
date group can sail for Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 142058Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R)
N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty.)

14.5.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

. FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

I.R.C. ships
CRISTINA and
EMBLA.

Your 111506. Air Ministry are still awaiting report on facts.

(2) Inter-departmental meeting is being held early next week to consider adequacy of existing arrangements and with a view to arriving at fool-proof routine, to safeguard these vessels. (Admty., 140022B to A.B.N.A. Madrid.)

U/B attack
on G.U.S.39:
2 ships
torpedoed.

G.U.S.39 believed one ship torpedoed by submarine (COLOMBO, 140454B to C. in C. Med., (R) C.T.F.60.) My 140454 second ship torpedoed CALCATERRA and JONES detailed by Cdr. U.S. Task Force 60 to hunt until relieved. (COLOMBO, 140500B.)

G.S. WALDEN (Tanker) and FORT FIDLER torpedoed in estimated position 036° 45' N. 000° 55' E. at 0444B. My 140454 and 140500.

(2) Escorts hunting as ordered by C.T.F.60.

(3) Both ships closing the land. Tug NIMBLE standing by. (COLOMBO, 140743B.)

Preliminary report action refer my 140503B* not to all. 2 hours prior to attack made emergency turns to right and back to avoid eastbound convoy using coloured light signals. Convoy in 15 columns, BIBB 4000 yards ahead of column 7 patrolling station. At 0408 made sound contact 800 yards port bow crossing and closing. At 0410 fired 2 charged set 150 feet from K guns. Turned and manoeuvred to regain contact. Unsuccessful in this when 1250 yards ahead convoy turned to resume station. Gunfire from column 10 leader at 0432. Ship states saw sub. which had just surfaced on port bow crossing to starboard with men talking loudly in German manning guns. Opened fire with two 20 m.m. guns and crew went below. Claims one 3-inch hit forward of conning tower. Sub. listed to starboard and submerged alongside starboard side passing down column. Ship position 102 was hit at 0435 and number 784 hit at 0443. VANCE attacked dummy periscope astern of convoy at 0454. Wakes of 4 torpedoes at different angles and times reported by column leader leads to consideration more than 1 sub. present. 102 had nets rigged out other not fitted. Reports from other vessels not yet available.

FORT FIDLER 102 and G.S. WALDEN 84. Position of attack 36.46 N. 00.52 E.

(C.T.F.60, 141220B.)

* No trace in War Registry.

Daily
Opsum.
No. 382.

12th/13th May. 2 Wellingtons successfully mined Syros and Naxos Harbours. Another Wellington returned with mines. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 140951Z.)

Repairs to
merchant
ships.

To assist turn round of ships, Masters in G.U. and T.O. convoys are to inform the Cdre. of any voyage repairs required. The Cdr. is instructed to pass this information to the S.O. Escort. (C. in C. Med., 141042.)

/German ...

14.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

GRADISCA?

German H.S.
YTISCA.

German hospital ship ^{GRADISCA?} YTISCA now at Marseilles is expected to sail shortly for Barcelona probably arriving 16th/17th May.

(2) Routed to Port Vendres along the coast thence to Cap Creus, Cap San Sebastian and Barcelona.

Ship will return to Marseilles by reverse route.

(3) Movement is in connection with P.O.W. exchange.

(4) It is believed ship will return to Trieste or Venice from Marseilles upon completion of exchange. Further signal will be sent.

(5) Ship is not to be molested.

(C. in C. Med., 141259 to F.O.G.M.A., F.O.W.It., F.O.I.S., Capt. (S) 10, S/Ms. on patrol, (R) M.A.A.F., M.A.C.A.F.)

LA SULTANE,
patrol
report.

LA SULTANE reports:

(A) At 2056/9 off Cape Ferrat fired three torpedoes at UJ boats range 1500 yards. One loud explosion heard 75 seconds later and at 2102 nothing was in sight. Target considered sunk.

(B) At 2052/12 off Cape Gros fired three torpedoes at Aviso type escort vessel range 2000 yards. Missed. Counter-attacked by 11 depth charges which caused no damage.
(S.10, 141617.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

On Saturday evening C.O. of Greek L.S.T.36 reported to N.O.I.C. Brindisi that he could no longer control his crew and asked for British Naval assistance.

(2) At 0900 today Sunday the entire crew were removed to a P.O.W. Camp without incident. It is hoped to segregate the subversive members of the crew and to give the remainder an opportunity of returning on board.

(3) Officers are reported to be loyal. My 121303 refers.

(C. in C. Med. Naples, 141626B.)

Military authorities consider drastic action in 307 P.O.W. Camp may lead to repercussions in Naples Camp. My 121936 therefore decided to proceed with entry of Military Police tomorrow and if this fails to carry out one more step before using force. Second step will be to order mutineers to transfer to another camp and to sort them out while embarking in lorries this method proved effective yesterday during transfer of inmate 306 Camp to 307. Use of drugs by Greek JU loyalists will be kept as third and final alternative.

(F.O.L.E.M., 141840C to C. in C. Med. (Naples).)

U.G.S. 40
(attacked
11th May):
one or two
ships with
torpedo in
N.D.

Arrived U.G.S.40. PORT MELBOURNE, JAMES W. FANNIN torpedo in N.D.
(V.A. Malta, 141701.)

U/B report.

U-Boat reported in 038° 53' N. 007° 55' E. at 1440B/15th.

(Cdre. Algeria, 141728B to LA SULTANE.)

/SICKLE ...

14.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

SICKLE. (1) Three hours early at R/V.
(2) Three Greeks on board W/R 4470 1583.
(SICKLE, 141918B to Capt. (S) 1.)

U/B attacked. Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force.
12th May add. 13 Beaufighters, 3 Warwick's on
Air/Sea Rescue Mission attacked surfaced
submarine 95 miles east of Minorca. Submarine
crash dived.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 141958.)

Situation Report 357. Considerable shelling of Anzio port area during
nights 11th/12th May and 12th/13th May causing
no naval damage. 4137 tons discharged 12th
and 4041 on 13th.

(2) SS. G.S. WALDEN and FORT FIDLER in convoy
G.U.S.39 torpedoed by U-Boat at 0444/14th in 036° 45' N. 000°
55' E. both ships hit forward and proceeding under own steam
to Oran with tugs standing by. U-Boat hunt in progress.
(3) P.63 (UNSWERVING) reports sinking 5 caiques by gunfire
north-west Melos between 3rd and 5th May.
(4) A/C mined Lavrion night (group missed) 10th Melos (?Patras)
Syra 10th/11th and 12th/13th and Naxos 12th/13th.
(C. in C. Med., 142204B.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B dispositions. No.27 no fresh information, no change in scales of air escorts.
(C. in C. E.F., 140417Z.)

C.H./H.C. Convoys. F.O.N.I.C.403. C.H. - H.C. convoy release class D ships on May 16th.
(C. in C. E.F., 140439Z.)

Junk traffic in Malacca Straits. Prisoners who are all Chinese state there can be no unfavourable reaction to sinking of Chinese Junks while in Japanese employ. My 131237 refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 140513Z to S.A.C.S.E.A., ULYSSES, S.O.E.F.Kandy, Admty., Capt. (S) 4.)

OPHIR. Concur in retention of OPHIR until end of June. Your 120929 refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 140748Z to R.N.L.O. Delhi.)

U/B ashore near Ras Hafun. Further to my 131513 following additional documents received from German U-Boat.
(C) Photographs have been taken and originals are being despatched.
(Com. Aden, 140915Z.)
Commander Fox Pitt and party arrived p.m.
Divers have hope of completing sealing fore end p.m. tomorrow with wooden pad in (warping ?) of distorted door. After end similar but more difficult. Report required by your 132055 will be made after further examination.
(FISHGUARD, 141820Z to N.O.I.C.E.Af.)

Dhow AMAD sunk 10th May 60 miles E. of Maldives. At 1130Z/14th picked up 4 natives adrift in boat position 004° 53' N. 076° 26' E. Brief details obtained. Remaining 4 crew of Dhow of 10 shelled by S/M approx. 1530Z/10th position 005° 33' N. 074° 48' E. 4 rounds fired course south course S/M east. Sailed from Colombo about 17th April Maldiva Is. Name AMAD. Company N.P. All details obtained from sketch and simple Urdu. Cannot conduct proper interrogation as unable to speak Urdu.
(2) MASULA sighted and identified at 1025Z/14th.
(GERALDTON, 141201Z.)

Enemy Carrier force near Natuna Is. At 130100 G.M.T. in 005° 37' N. 108° 37' E. U.S. submarine sighted three carriers, five heavy cruisers and unknown number of destroyers course garbled speed 20 knots. Above received from C. in C. Pac.
(C. in C. E.F., 141617Z to all F.Os. taking part, (R) Admty.)

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14.5.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Gnats and
Foxers. Your 110059Z. The difficulty of determining when
Foxer has saved ship will be appreciated because
Gnat will sink itself silently at end of run unless
pistol prematures.

2. On 11th Jan. PETUNIA with British Twin Foxer
operating attacked U/B with depth charges set for 150 and 250 ft.
One additional explosion in pattern gave plume 200 feet high.
Port displacer of Foxer damaged. Considered certain that Gnat
was circling Foxers. AGM.386A (B3) of 26th January refers.

3. On 10th/11th Feb. GERANIUM and SCARBOROUGH hunting with
British twin Foxers operating experienced several explosions
including one astern which caused moderate shock. Considered
probable two were Gnats prematuring whilst sinking at end of run.

4. It is believed that Gnat torpedoes have been used
increasingly since Sept. 1943, and the reduced rate of British
escort casualties by Gnats (estimated two since Feb.) is
attributed to Foxer as well as to tactical countermeasures.

5. No ship has so far been hit by Gnat whilst towing British
Foxer.

(D.T.M. 141211B to B.A.D.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 141452Z, Cominch 141537Z.)

PRESIDENT Proposal of French Naval staff to demilitarize
HOUDOUCÉ PRESIDENT HOUDOUCÉ approved.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 141509Z.)

M.V. A.B.N.A. Madrid reports: Report received by
MONTE Spanish Authority that MONTE ALTUBE which sailed
ALTUBE. from Havana May 11th was intercepted by British
Patrol who took charge of ship. Request
instruction what reply I may give. Ends.
2. Request your remarks.
(Admty., 141722B to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Stragglers Stragglers arrived week ending 13th May - 8th
report. ESTRELLA (Nor.) O.N.M.234 engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F. 141817Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest Paras. 11 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces .
No.845. Three aircraft carriers five heavy cruisers also
destroyer observed by U.S. Submarine vicinity
Natdena Island (South China Sea) on southerly
course speed 20 knots forenoon.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

- Digest
 No.845
 (Contd.)
6. Two submarines sighted between Biak Island and North Eastern extremity Geelvink Bay.
 8. Australian Naval Escort Vessel bombarded Karkar Island (30 miles North East Alexishafen) early daylight 12th and two similar Warships repeated operation same time next day. Buildings gun positions and ammunition dump destroyed. Light return fire encountered first day: nil second day.
 9. Suspected S/M attacked by surface craft off Madang evening 12th.
 12. Following night P.T. Boats destroyed single barge on reef 10 miles South Buka passages.
 13. Same night M.T.Bs. with co-operating Catalina probably sunk Northbound Japanese Barge laden with supplies approaching Dieta.
 15. S/M sighted 300 miles N.E. Buka Passage evening 13th heading South West.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 140742,)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN

- Sub. attack and sighting summary.
- Para. A. 1. A/C reported over surfaced U/B at 1030Z/13 in 38 degs. 20' N. 10 degs. 30' E.
 2. Two ships of G.U.S.39 torpedoed at 0254Z/14 in 36 degs. 45' N. 00 degs. 55' E.
- Para. B. 1. A/C obtained Radar contact at 0810Z/13 in 46 degs. 26' N. 09 degs. 57' W.
 2. A/C Z/461 sighted possible periscope and oil streak at 1230Z/13 in 46 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 07' W.
3. Escorts of K.M.F.31 hunted contact at 1251Z/13 in 35 degs.45' N. 02 degs. 34' W.
4. A/C obtained Radar contact at 2217Z/13 in 35 degs. 23' N. 03 degs. 44' W.
- Para. C. 1. Gibraltar A/C dropped D/Cs across head of wake of possible periscope at 2007Z/12 in 36 degs. 35' N. 04 degs 30' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 141119B.)

- U/B dispositions. Estimates.
 Life-raft sighted on 10th May now known to be from SS. JANETA.
 (D.D.I.C. 141405B, 141410B.)

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Southampton
bombed.

1. At 0140B today about sixty enemy A/C were operating between Bournemouth and Southampton. A few H.E. bombs were dropped in Southampton which did no Naval damage.

Bristol and
Avonmouth
bombed.

2. Between 0200 and 0300 today about ten enemy A/C, operating over the Bristol Channel, dropped five H.E. bombs at Bristol and killed one man on the searchlight site about 1½ miles from Avonmouth docks. Smoke screens were in full operation during the attack.

Portsmouth.

3. Owing to suspected minelaying by A/C last night the eastern entrance to Portsmouth Harbour was closed at 0254B today, and partially opened again to controlled traffic only at 2034B. The inshore route by the Looe Channel however was reopened completely at 1618B.

Large
convoys.

4. Owing to the difficulty of signalling, wheeling and stationing the close escorts of large convoys, C. in C. W.A. considers that no convoy should in future sail with a front of more than sixteen columns.

North Atlantic

U/B
destroyed
in Straits.

5. At 1635B today M.A.D. Catalinas P.12/63 and P.1/63 on patrol in the Straits of Gibraltar attacked a U-Boat contact in 35.58(or 56) N. 05.45 W. AUBRETIA, BLACKFLY and KILMARNOCK, who were on patrol carried out depth charge and hedgehog attacks in 36.00 N. 05.38 W., an underwater explosion being reported after the latter. AUBRETIA reported thick diesel oil and bubbles rising at 2200; and an oil patch was reported throughout the full length of the Straits on 16th, with oil still rising very slowly.

U.731 sunk

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

A/S searches. 6. Three U-Boats are estimated to be on passage in the Freetown area. 13 escort vessels of the West Africa Command are searching for them.

Mediterranean

Air Operations. 7. The Tactical Air Force attacked shipping and quays at Ancona last night and again today, a 220 ft. warship and a tanker being near missed and hits made on the wharves and quays causing explosions and fires. Porto Ferraio (where one or two ships were hit) was attacked today, as also were San Stefano and Piombino harbour, where the jetty was hit. Off Marina di Pisa a 120 ft. merchant ship was sunk. The Coastal Air Force operated on the Dalmatian coast.

Operations in Italy. 8. DIDO carried out a bombardment in the Gulf of Gaeta today in support of the Army attack. Good results are reported. Enemy counter fire was sporadic. DIDO suffered no damage.

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

THOROUGH, Submarines leaving Scilly Isles at 0900B/18th
TUDOR, May for Gibraltar.
ZWAARDVISCH. (A) THOROUGH on surface for 120 miles at 10
knots, then diving by day by route Green.
(B) TUDOR and ZWAARDVISCH diving by day through-
out by route Green and Brown respectively.
(C) E.T.A. 043° N., THOROUGH 0130/24th, TUDOR 0130/25th,
ZWAARDVISCH 0400/25th May. Onward routes by F.O.G.M.A.
(D) All make good 100 miles a day where diving by day.
(Capt. (S) 3, 151117B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Transfer of Admiral Levchenko has presented a letter covering
Warships to his requirements in the matter of turn-over. A
Russia. further conference is taking place at 1130
tomorrow. He wishes to hoist U.S.S.R. Ensign
in destroyers on June 1st. Admiral Levchenko
returns to Rosyth from Newcastle 16th.
(N.O.I.C. Tyne, 151644B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Defence of the United Kingdom

Akureyri. C. in C. H.F. 292002B April. Approved for C.M.
(O) and C.M.(L) at Akureyri to be placed in state
of care and maintenance and such personnel I can
be spared from base camp released.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 151041B to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.)

Spithead Serious damage to the underwater defences and
approaches. communications to Isle of Wight in the Eastern .
Approaches to Spithead has been caused by a
partly sunken "Whale" which was being towed to
Peel Bank. These defences and communications
are vital to Operation "Overlord". Tugs arriving with tows
which could endanger cables or loops in Isle of Wight area
must be instructed to proceed to Selsey in the first instance.
Such tows should be retained at Selsey unless S.N.O. Selsey is
satisfied that no damage can be caused to the underwater defences
or communications by the tow itself or by any equipment that
may have broken adrift and be dragging on the bottom.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 152356B to Admty.)

Operations

Biscay A/S 3 flak ships or destroyers estimated course 270,
operations. 47.08 N. 05.27 W.
(A/C NCX.90, 150250B to 19 Group.)
S.L.157. One unidentified aircraft. My P.C.S.
041° 51' N. 018° 31' W., 000°, 8.
(HESPERUS, 151005Z to C. in C. W.A.)
NAIRANA and 15th E.G. proceed forthwith at best speed to provide
fighter protection to convoy S.L.157/M.K.S.48. P.C.S. at
2000B/15th, 042° 57' N. 018° 30' W., 000°, 8 knots.
(2) HESPERUS amplify your 151005B giving course of A/C and
whether and for how long convoy was shadowed.
(C. in C. W.A., 151847B to NAIRANA, E.G.15, HESPERUS.)

/Your ...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

- Biscay A/S operations. (Contd.) Your 151847B. A/C was sighted astern of convoy flying west for a few minutes at long range. Not identified.
(2) No further indication either visual or by Radar.
(HESPERUS, 152025B to C. in C. W.A.)
- Operation "Overlord". Authorities concerned are requested to sail ships in accordance with para. 4 of A.N.C.X.F. letter 1002/X/0909/13 dated 5th May as amended by 1086/X/0909/13 dated 13th May.
(2) Certain ships in Appendix II and IV will not be ready to sail by dates indicated A.M. 150336 refers. Cs. in C. and authorities concerned are requested to inform A.N.C.X.F. the actual dates vessels referred to will sail.
(D.O.D.(H), 150347B to Cs. in C.)
C. in C. Plymouth 131148. Request COURBET may arrive Weymouth Bay about 24th May unless berth is urgently required earlier.
(A.N.C.X.F., 151115B to Admty.)
When completed in accordance with A.M.131126B, 132nd M.S.F. should be sailed to Plymouth. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to place this flotilla at disposal of N.C.W.T.F.
(D.M.S., 151542B to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C.Liverpool.)
My 111043B. Owing to deferment of completion dates by Ministry of Supply of units A.1 number 7, 8 and 9 to 17th, 18th and 19th respectively, it will not be possible to complete parking of A units at Selsey before May 22nd.
(C. in C. Nore, 151836B to Admty.)
My 291847 March, para. 1 (d) is to be amended to read O200B/28th May to O200B/30th May.
(2) Period of silence for June in sense of XF NO X/0730/10/1 dates 8th December para. 2 is to be O200B/21st to O200B/30th.
(3) N.C.W.N.T.F. is requested to inform forces O, U and B.
(A.N.C.X.F., 152249B to N.C.F.N.T.F., N.C.W.N.T.F., Forces S, J, G and L.)
- Operation "Potluck". One Enemy M/V and two Armed Trawlers damaged on 14th May. "Potluck" (able) 14th May. Force sighted at 0500 and subsequently shadowed in maximum visibility. One Focke Wulf 200 damaged. Strike on Rörvik anchorage at 1300 claim bomb hit on 1 and possibly damage to 3 other 4-6 thousand ton merchant ships. 4 Heinkel 115s. destroyed and one probably destroyed. One Hellcat lost.
(2) During withdrawal about 1800 an attack by 6 Messerschmitts 110 successfully driven off by long range gunfire from ROYALIST and forced to jettison bombs by Hurricanes from STRIKER who damaged one aircraft.
(F.O.E.C., 150549B to C. in C. H.F.)
- "Potluck" (B). No big ships seen. Fish oil factory position 062° 20' N. 005° 38' E. hit 2 armed trawlers damaged by fighters. Weather conditions bad and unsuitable for further strike. Am returning West of Shetlands. Weather.
(F.O.E.C., 150641B to C. in C. H.F.)
Estimate approx. P.C.S. of F.O.E.S. force at 1200B today, 062° 25' N. 002° 00' E., 228°, 15 knots. Request earliest possible A/S air patrol to cover track until sunset today.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Potluck".
One Enemy M/V and two Armed Trawlers damaged on 14th May.
(Contd.)

(2) C. in C. Rosyth pass to 18 Group C.C.
(C. in C. H.F., 151032B to 18 Group.)
My 151032. Following is amended estimated P.C.S. of R.A.E.C. at 1200B today, 062° 15' N. 002° 30' E., 235°, 15 knots.
(C. in C. H.F., 151132B to 18 Group.)
Expect A/S escort by one Sunderland from 1301 till 2259 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 151145B to R.A.E.C.)

Search for U-Boat.

If nothing sighted your force is to leave patrol at 2200/15th and return to Plymouth by standard route.
(2) Report E.T.A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 151016B to AZALEA.)

Disposition at 152000.
(2) AZALEA, ABELIA, CELANDINE, GERANIUM patrol vicinity 050° 45' N. 007° 38' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 151621B to Admty.)
Cancel my 151016. Aircraft reports disappearing contact in 50° 10' N. 08° 22' W. at 1651B/15th. Search within 20 miles of this position.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 151813B to AZALEA.)

Operation "Implement".

Arrived 13th SPERBER, BORDSEE, SCHARLACHBERGER.
Departure 13th NORDFELS, MIDSLAND, BRAZMORE, RECEJA and SPES. SCHARLACHBERGER to Castro.
(Consul Bilbao, 151120 to Admty.)
0800 position of submarines on 16th May and movements for following 24 hours.
(E) SCEPTRE 43° 51' N. 004° 58' W., dived by day to westward to patrol off Bilbao.
(F.O.(S), 151729B to Admty.)

S/M Patrols.

Request you will sail VIKING for further patrol in exercise area as soon as possible. VIKING should carry as much of her personal gear as possible as she may not return to Plymouth on completion.
(H.Q.C.C., 151200B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation "Potato".

Cancel my 141611B. Carry out my 141549B.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151315B to AGGRESSIVE.)

Coastal Force Patrols.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 151318B.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151435B.)

Spitzbergen.

A.M. 142344. If concerned, request further information regarding this matter.
(Ad. Fisher, Moscow, 151625C to Admty.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

One Mine-sweeper and two M/Vs. damaged by A/C on 14th May.

On day 14th Beaufighters attacked convoy off the Dutch Coast. One 3000 ton merchant vessel seen hit by torpedo and left on fire. A second 3000 ton M/V seen with thick column of smoke rising from it to 200 feet. One Minesweeper left listing.
(H.Q.T.A.F.1, 150905B.)

Air Patrol off Ushant.

Halifax aircraft will patrol tonight as follows. Passing 048° 10' N. 006° 00' W. at 0115, thence to 048° 10' N. 004° 50' W., 048° 00' N. 004° 50' W. and 047° 45' N. 004° 30' W. and thence to fly second circuit as above.

Object to report enemy shipping. No contacts north of 048° 20' N. will be reported.

(3) 10 Group fighters will be in readiness to escort APOLLO and Force 26 at first light 16th if required.

If APOLLO or Force 26 is unable to keep to programme, S.Os. of Forces are to report intended P.C.S. at WZ light to enable fighters to join.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 151506B to APOLLO, BELLONA, TARTAR, HAIDA, HURON.)

Enemy Air Activity

Bristol and Avonmouth bombed.

Between 0200 and 0300 approximately 10 enemy aircraft operated over Bristol and Avonmouth. 5 H.E. bombs reported dropped at Bristol. One man killed on searchlight site 1½ miles from Avonmouth Docks. Flares dropped over Avonmouth. 2 enemy aircraft flew S.W. down Bristol Channel

at 10,000 feet and turned south at Penarth, Cardiff, and Barry. Smoke-screens were in full operation.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 151146B to Admty.)

Southsea and Southampton bombed.

At 142313B about 7 E/A operated to S.E. of I.o.W. probably minelaying. 1 E/A dropped one 250 k.g. bomb Southsea. No Naval incidents.

At 150140B - 60 E/A operated Bournemouth to Southampton area. A few H.E. and 1 O k.g. A.P. bombs dropped in Southampton. No Naval incidents.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151252B to Admty.)

Iceland.

One unidentified enemy aircraft plotted north-east of Thingvellir 064° 15' N. 021° 05' W. at 1150, course south. At 1222 aircraft was over Thingvellir and departed course east. Cloud 9/10 2500 feet visibility 12 miles.
(A.C.I.C., 151434B to Admty.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation My 141736B. Postponed 24 hours.
Q.U.30A. (C. in C. Nore, 151106B to BEEHIVE.)

Navigational

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth eastern entrance closed due to suspected enemy minelaying.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 150254B to Admty.)
My 150254. Inshore route via Looe Channel now open.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151618B to Admty.)
My 150254B.

Port of Portsmouth, eastern entrance is open to controlled traffic only by Q.Z.S.373 and 384. Uncontrolled by inshore route through the Looe. Q.Z.S.467 remains closed.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 152034B to Admty.)

No. 6 Buoy. ROSSUM in collision with number 6 Buoy at 0300. Buoy damaged and light extinguished.
(WESTMINSTER, 150635B to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects

WARSPITE. Confirmed that WARSPITE can be accepted in Clyde. A.N.C.X.F. 141445 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 151146B to Admty.)

ARCHER. A.M.291750 of February and A.M.272253 of March. Gearing for ARCHER should arrive in U.K. on 19th May.
(2) ARCHER can be taken in hand at Liverpool for fitting this gearing on completion of PURSUER about 30th May.
(D.O.D.(H), 151307B to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

A.N.D. Gear. Pass to N.C.S.Os. at Ocean Convoy Assembly Ports. In view of recent attacks off Algerian coast, Commodores of convoys bound for the Mediterranean are to be reminded of importance of streaming nets in accordance with M.S.C.I.43, paras. 4 and 5.
(D.T.D., 151730B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)

Large convoys. Large Convoys. Due to difficulties in signalling, wheeling, and stationing of close escort, it is considered that no convoy should sail with a front of more than 16 columns. It is proposed that M.C.I.77 be amended to read Article 77 omit "up to 90". Article 77A, 56 - 89 ships 12 columns, 90 - 97 ships 13 columns, 98 - 105 ships 14 columns, 106 - 127 ships 15 columns, over 127 ships 16 columns. (2) It is further proposed that a route be selected which avoids as far as possible alterations of course especially in areas where fog is prevalent.

(C. in C. W.A., 151932B to Admty.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. MONTE
SERANTES.

As first ship of May programme M.E.W. requests interception of SS. MONTE SERANTES due Las Palmas for orders about 16th May from South-America. (D.E.W.D., 151331B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Swiss
sailings.

My 091318 steamship SAENTIS now leaves about 17th May.
(2) Swiss chartered Spanish steamship BRIQUETAS ZORROZA leaves Caronte for Gibraltar about 18th. (D.E.W.D., 151601B to F.O.G.M.A., Info. C. in C. Med.)

U/B
destroyed
in Straits.

U. 731 sunk

Have attacked contact 358° Tarifa 4 miles. BLACKFLY 2 depth charge attacks, KILMARNOCK one depth charge and one hedgehog attack. Underwater explosion after hedgehog attack. Now lost contact. Investigating area with aircraft. (AUBRETIA, 151839B.)

Your 152030B*. Consider U-Boat destroyed. Oil patch one mile long examined, samples taken. Thick diesel oil and bubbles still rising. KILMARNOCK remaining in vicinity over night. (AUBRETIA, 152159B.)

* Not received. F.O.G.M.A. requested to pass.

I.R.C.
ship SS.
NURIA R.

Request confirmation that full particulars of route and speed of Spanish NURIA R in the service of I.R.C.C. has been passed to naval and air authorities concerned. Air Ministry and I.R.C.C. are enquiring. (Admty., 151901B to F.O.G.M.A., Info. N.A.Lisbon.)

South Atlantic

SS. ANADYR
(torpedoed
6th May.)

39 survivors ex SS. ANADYR landed at Recife. Names being reported in my 150045. Vessel torpedoed 2000/6th in 010° 55' S. 027° 30' W. Further details follow. (B.S.N.O. Rio de Janeiro, 150040Z (see 6th May para. 6.))

Herewith survivors report in accordance with N.I.D.18's N.I. 1427 of 14th October 1943.

(A) 39 including Chief and 2nd Officer, 2nd and 3rd Engineer and Chief Steward.

(B) ANADYR. (C) 13th May. (E) Torpedoed. (F) Sunk.

(G) As last message. (H) No. (I), (J), (K) All books were left on board in regulation metal boxes. (L) No likelihood of compromise. (M) Chief and 2nd Officer. (N) None.

/ (O) ...

15.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SS. ANADYR (torpedoed 6th May.) (Contd.) (O) None. (P) One - Yes. Two - Yes. Three - Not known. Types unknown. (Q) Not known. (R) None. (S) Vessel struck by 2 torpedoes, number 1 and 5 hatch port side. Large German submarine with twin A/A gun after end conning tower and 4 inch gun on after deck. (T) A. One. (U) 150045 and 151730. One boat with Master and 7 men not arrived yet. 6 men believed killed. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 151959Z.) Re survivors ex SS. ANADYR, Names being reported.

U/B contact reported 12th May. During hold down tactics discovered and sank large Can buoy at 0715Z/13th floating in lat. 30.12 long. 40.14. Absence other contacts reduces evaluation contact reported my 122310. Position 0900Z/15th lat. 37 N. long. 38.20 W. advancing northerly 5 knots between 38 W. and 39 W. (? In) 51 80 24 64. (C.T.G. 21.16, 150955.)

A/S searches. Disposition and forces engaged on A/S searching as follows:-
(1) E.G. 58 ROTHER and DOVEY gamma search between 002° 10' N. and 003° 10' N. on longitude 008° 00' W. starting 2000/15th.
(2) E.G. 57 LOWESTOFT, FAL, CROCUS, KILDWICK, KILKENZIE from Freetown to 004° 25' N. 009° 50' W. E.T.A. 2000/16th then to search area south of Cape Palmas which will be signalled later.
(3) HYDRANGEA, DITTANY, KILDARY from Takoradi to 004° 00' N. 006° 00' W., E.T.A. 1600/16th cleega search to south-west.
(4) INKPEN, BIRDLIP, PORTSDOWN searching vicinity of 100 fathom line between 004° 40' W. and 005° 40' W.
(5) N.Os. i/c. pass to air authorities.
N.O.I.C. Takoradi keep surface craft informed of call signs of aircraft operating from Takoradi category.
(N.O.I.C.W.Af., 151738Z to E.G. 58, E.G. 57, HYDRANGEA, INKPEN, (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty.)

SS. JANETA (sunk 1st May). Ref. my 141839 herewith survivor report. (A) 10 including 3rd Officer and 1st wireless operator. (B) JANETA. (C) May 14th. (E) Torpedoed. (F) Sunk. (G) 018° 14' S. 020° 00' W. 0200 May 1st. (H) No. (I) and (J) All books in steel box left on board. (K) 2500 fathoms. (L) None. (M) 3rd Officer, first wireless operator and seaman gunner. (N) None. (O) None. (P) Medium frequency D/F only. (Q) Sunk with ship. (R) None. (S) Large submarine one gun forward one gun aft of conning tower. (T) A. 1. (U) 141845. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 152051Z.)

SS. BARONESA. S.O.(I) Buenos Aires reports BARONESA has not arrived Santa Cruz. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 152130Z.)

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15.5.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanM.L.1380
missing.

M.L.1380. Your 122028+ refers.
(F.O.L.E.M., 150852C to Admty.)
+ Re request repetition of M.L. number quoted in
F.O.L.E.M. 091115 (re loss to M.L.1330) as accord-
ing to information in Admiralty H.D.M.L.1330 is
building Durban.

Somdaily
Sitrep
No.30. *(Post Med)*

(6) Sea Operations. Night 11th/12th May
operation "Moonshine" successful.
(Sonito, T.O.O./Nil, received in W.R. 1606/15th.)

Reporting
of Spanish
Ships.

Order of reporting Spanish ships under 1000
trading in enemy interest will cease until further
orders and or+ French ships and Spanish ships of
over 1000 tons trading on enemy account are to be
reported as heretofore.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid, 151406B to C.G. Barcelona,
Consul Valencia, Alicante, (R) C. in C. Med.,
F.O.G.M.A., Admty.) + As received.

M/V G.S.
WALDEN.

G.S. WALDEN torpedoed port side forward (details
of damage). Temporary repairs enable vessel
proceed U.S. or U.K. in hand estimated time three
weeks. Crew all well.
(Comnob. Oran, 151715B.)

UNRULY.

UNRULY sailed from Malta at 1803/15th and passes
Pondiko-Nisi and Crete about 0302/18th. Thence
through 036 degs. 01' 023 degs. 50' and 036 degs.
01' 024 degs. 40' to patrol in the vicinity of
Candia east of 024 degs. 45'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 151817B to 1st S/M.F.)

UPSTART.

Intend sailing UPSTART at 1715/17th (route) to
patrol in zone SX.
(Capt. (S) 10, 151947B to C. in C. Med.)

I.R.C. ship
CRISTINA
(attacked
by R.A.F.
6th May.)

My 082101. Request instructions.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid, 152001B to Admty.)

ULTOR,
patrol
report.

11th May sank 800 ton K.T. ship. 15th May
attacked by guns 80 ton vessel result damaged
and beached, both attacks south and west Cape
Camarat. Recent night Asdic destroyer sweep
encountered (? from south) east Cape Camarat.
(ULTOR, 152348B.) *(See p. 241)*

15.5.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat dispositions.	No.29. Survivors picked up on 14th of dhow sunk by S/M 1530Z/10 in 005 degs. 33' N. 074 degs. 48' E. confirms S/M was operating in Maldiva Is. area. No changes in scales of air escort. (C. in C. E.F. 150407)
Opsum 792.	Part 3. 15th May. 11/12, 12/13 and 13 May. 2 Beauforts investigation possible enemy S/M off Colombo harbour. Nothing seen. (A.C.S.E.A. 151037Z)
Carrier and cruiser force sighted 13th May.	Reference sighting by U.S.S/M of carrier and cruiser force in vicinity Natuna Is. 0100 G.M.T. 13th May course Garble, have you now received definite information of course of force. (C. in C. E.F. 151645 to Compac Fleet)

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15.5.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

T.C.U.23. Off Oversay at 1100Z/13. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 151325B.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 151330Z, Cominch 151612Z.)

M.V. MONTE Have you any information regarding Admiralty's
ALTUBE. 141722 being passed to you.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 151330Z to B.A.D. S.B.N.O.
Trinidad, S.O.I. Jamaica, (R) Admty.)

U.S.S. Diversion order.
WAKEFIELD. (D.O.D.H. 151617Z.)

ERLANGEN. Cr. No. 2797. State advices former GENERAL
GOVERNOUR/CAMBON will be used by Germans as
hospital ship under new name ERLANGEN. Length
345 feet width 45 feet draft 19 feet speed 11 - 12
knots. Gross tonnage 3508. 1 funnel, 2 masts, vessel will be
marked in accordance with provision of Geneva Convention. Pass
to appropriate Air Commands. Cos Army informed.
(Cominch 151640 to U.S.Fleet.)

U/B sunk in Your 091945. Appreciate opportunity for comment
Straits of on this co-ordinated action. Concur in your pre-
Gibraltar liminary assessment except consider major credit
24th Feb. for sinking should be shared equally by two M.A.D.
planes and ANTHONY and WISHART. Para. 3C not
substantiated by information available to U.S.
Final report on interrogation dated 4th May mailed
B.A.D. 9th May.
(Cominch 151838Z to Admty.)

U/B incidents. No report 14th. Para. A. ANADYR torpedoed and
sunk 10.55 S. 27.30 W. 2000Z/6.
Para. D. A.T.C.plane sighted sub 39.50 N. 29.10
W. 1050Z/15 course 132.
(Cominch 152025Z.)

SS. Safe conduct granted Swedish 14.5 knot ship
DROTTNINGHOLM. DROTTNINGHOLM sailing 18 May from Gothenburg by
standard Gothenburg River Plate route to 38.00 N.
35.00 W. and Ponta Delgada for bunkers then to
36.44 N. 35.00 W. 25.00 N. 34.30 W. 15.00 N. 30.00
W. 05.00 S. 10.00 W. 30.00 S. 10.00 E. 36.00 S. 16.00 E. 37.00 S.
21.00 E. then Port Elizabeth. Returns via above route to 15.00
N. 30.00 W. then 35.00 N. 18.00 W. to Lisbon en route U.K.
Characteristics. Notto be molested while in proper position on
route.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 152103.)

15.5.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U.575
(sunk 13th
March.)

Attack beginning 130810 March 46.18 N. 27.54 W. assessed. A. Known sunk. U.S.S. HAVERFIELD, H.M.C.S. PRINCE RUPERT, U.S.S. HOBSON and Plane T.10 of V.C.95 receive major credit T.3, T.5 of V.C.95 and R.A.F. Fortress R/206 minor credit. (Cominch 152152Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial
No. 846 May
14th.

Paras. 11 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces. 12. Same night (12/13 May) M.T.Bs. destroyed 3 barges whereof 1 loaded at pier S.W. coast New Ireland opposite Borpop. Following night P.T. Boats with covering fighters destroyed 3 barges in Harbour Dyaul Island. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 150616Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C sighted and attacked U-Boat prior to 2013Z/14 in 37° 19' N. 00° 59' E.
2. AMAD (Dhow) sunk by gunfire from U-Boat at approx. 1530Z/10 in 05° 33' N. 74° 48' E.
Para. B. 1. Unknown unit reported U-Boat at 1240Z/14 in 38° 53' N. 07° 55' E. (D.D.I.C. 150915Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

(D.D.I.C. 151405B, 151406B.)

16.5.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Potluck".

1. At 0559B today F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with STRIKER, EMPEROR, SHEFFIELD and six destroyers returned to Scapa from the Norwegian Coast.

Isle of Wight and Portsmouth area bombed.

2. At 0001B to-day about sixty enemy A/C were operating over the Isle of Wight. Six Mines were dropped in the Isle of Wight and two near Bosham as well as four objects in the Solent which did not explode and have been swept to-day without result. Some civil damage and casualties were caused at Cowes, where VECTIS also was damaged and sustained two slight casualties; and requisitioned property at Portsmouth and Hayling Island was damaged.

Portsmouth Harbour.
U/boat attacked.

U 240 sunk

3. The Port of Portsmouth was fully re-opened at 2031B today except for Q.Z.S.467.
3(a). Sunderland V/330 attacked a U/boat in 63.05 N. 03.10 E. at 1725 today. After the attack the U/boats bows were seen at a very steep angle, but the aircraft was severely damaged during the attack and returned to base immediately.

Mediterranean

Analysis of casualties.

4a. The Admiralty state that an analysis of H.M. Ship and Merchant Ship casualties (lost and damaged) due to U/Boats and air attack during the period August 1943 to April 1944 shows that the greater majority occurred in the Western Basin, particularly between 5°E. and 8½° E. The Admiralty are asking C. in C. Med. to consider whether some reduction of escort in the Eastern Basin may be justified in order to provide increased protection in the threatened area in the Western Basin.

b. C. in C. Med. replied that the statistics on which the Admiralty conclusions are based, are misleading. The loss of the Greek ships and the ban on the use of American escorts in the Eastern Mediterranean has led to a situation where the escorts there are at an irreducible minimum despite the fact that he has accepted the mining risk and is using the available minesweepers as escorts.

c. The air forces available for the protection of shipping have been concentrated in the Western basin, but this concentration was largely nullified by the removal of some of the air forces to other theatres.

/d. ...

16.5.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Analysis
casualties.

4d. In conclusion, C. in C. Med. expresses the opinion that analysis of world-wide statistics of casualties would show that, proportionately to the figure of losses incurred other stations have been unduly favoured in the number of escorts allotted, at the expense of the Mediterranean.

Operations
in Italy.

5. The U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN carried out a bombardment in the Gulf of Gaeta today, in support of the army attack. Good results are reported. Enemy counter fire was heavier than yesterday, but caused no damage.

Air
Operations,
Italy.

6. The Tactical Air Force today bombed Foligno and Piombino harbours and the Coastal Air Force shipping at Viareggio harbour, Castiglione and on the Dalmatian coast.

Aegean.

7. Further successful air attacks were made today on small enemy supply vessels in the Aegean.

War Diary

16.5.1944
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- LA FLORE. A.M. 311934B. March. F.O.R.C.R.F's 111040B May. LA FLORE has been transferred to French naval authorities A.M. 16th. Complete with all stores. (LA FLORE, 160912B to F.O.C.R.F.)
- Flag of Rear-Admiral Jaujard F.N. A.M. 160603. At earliest opportunity after arrival Rear Admiral Jaujard F.N. is to take command of French Division of Cruisers. (2) He will hoist his flag in MONTCALM. (Head of M.II, 162142B to C. in C. H.F., A.N.C.X.F)
- Operation "Potluck". Scapa arrivals F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with STRIKER, EMPEROR, SHEFFIELD, ONSLOW, OBEDIENT, URSA, WAKEFUL, BLYSKAWICA, PIORUN. (A.C.O.S. 160559B to H.F.)
- Operation "Implement". German SCHARLACHBERGER, BORDSEE and SPERBER should complete loading to-day and ready for sea. Arrivals 15th PRESIDENT DE LAVIT, MARIE GABRIELLE, NORDSEE. (Consul, Bilbao, 161110 to Admty.)
- My 161257. NORDFELS left Bilbao 13th. (F.O.S.161301B to SCEPTRE)
Position of S/Ms 0800/17th and movements for following 24 hours.
(G) SCEPTRE on patrol off Bilbao. (F.O.S. 161733B to Admty.)
- Operation "Tarbrush". Carry out operations "Tarbrush" three, five and ten tonight. (V.A. Dover, 161152 to M.T.B.F.5, 2 and 29)
- Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161415B)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161437B, 162009B)
(V.A. Dover, 161748B)
- S/M patrol. VIKING. S/M exercises Area (P) as in my 261032A March is cancelled.
(2) VIKING will exercise with 19 Group A/C in area (R) within 20 miles south of line joining 051 degs. 20' N. 008 degs. 00' W. and 051 degs. 02' N. 009 degs. 00' W. from 18th May until further notice.
(3) Request ships may be routed clear of this area whilst exercises are in progress.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161542B to C. in C. W.A.)
VIKING escorted by trawler PEARL is to pass Gate at 0900B/17th and proceed by standard route through position (VA) 270 degs. Longships 4 to (VB) 000 degs. Round Island 15.

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TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

S/M patrol. (2) PEARL is to part company at (VB).
VIKING. (3) From (VB) VIKING is to proceed diving by day
(Contd.) to area (R). My 161542B refers.
(4) VIKING is to carry out exercise with 19 Group
CC A/C in area (R) in accordance with F.O.(S)
number S/M 04310/746 of 24th December as follows.
Patrol AA to be carried out on odd dates between 051 degs. 17'
N. 008 degs. 00' W. and 051 degs. 00' N. 009 degs. 00' W.
commencing at Western End. Patrol BB to be carried out on even
dates between 051 degs. 00' N. 008 degs. 00' W. and 050 degs. 43'
N. 009 degs. 00' W. commencing at Eastern End.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161645B to VIKING, PEARL)

Operation "Overlord". Pass to all concerned. "Curtail" Stage I in
operation Portsmouth Command from 190001B to
200001B. C.A.F.O. 756/44 refers.
(Head of M.11, 161854B to A.I.G.12)
Your 151115. Towage of COURBET arranged for 21st
May. C. in C. Plymouth's 151818 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 162012B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Allied Air Activity

Operation "Overseer". Position 49 degs. 42' N. 02 degs.
"Overseer". 35' W. best times during daylight or dark three
hours before to three hours after high water.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161052B to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C.)

Enemy Air Activity

Northern Waters. German Air Force activity May 1st to 15th as
reported by Russians. Details.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 161145B to C. in C. H.F.)

Cowes and Portsmouth bombed. At 160001B, 60 plus E.A. operated in Portsmouth
I.O.W. area. Scattered bombing mostly over
I.O.W. Reference C.A.F.O.587/40. (A) Grammar
School uninhabitable.
(B) 2 slight casualties VECTIS. (C) Nil.
(D) Serious blast damage to Grammar School neces-
sitating evacuation. Blast damage NORTHNEY and
VECTIS R.Y.S. some Civilian damage and casualties.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161438B to Admt.)

The following damage was caused by enemy action on night of 15/16
April to Admiralty requisitioned property in Portsmouth and Hay-
ling Island: Details.
Repairs are being put in hand.
(S.C.E. Portsmouth, 161730B to C.E. in C. Bath)

Mining.

Operation K.N.19. Prepare to carry out operation KN 19 on next suit-
able night. (A) (i) Two M.T.B's.
(iii) Three M.T.B's.

(C) /...

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TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Mining

Operation K.N.19 (C) E A three buoy at 2200 via 49 degs. 52' N. 01 degs. 32' W. thence to position of lay.
(D) 49 degs. 45.8' N. 01 degs. 29.8' W. 0230B, 160 degs. 300 ft.
(E) From waiting position to E.A. three buoy.
(F) 49 degs. 48' N. 01 degs. 36.9' W. 0300, 100 degs. 300 ft.
(G) From position of alternative lay via waiting position to E.A. three buoy.
(H) (I) Minelayers patrol from (D) to 49 degs. 48' N. 01 degs. 20' W. thence to waiting position at 50 degs. 10' N. 01 degs. 20' W. or if (F) is used, return direct to waiting position.
(II) Escorts part company with minelayers in 49 degs. 52' N. 01 degs. 32' E. and proceed through following (A) 49 degs. 49' N. 01 degs. 42' W. (B) 49 degs. 50' N. 01 degs. 42' W. thence returning to waiting position. Escorts and minelayers are to leave waiting position at 0515B.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 160035 to M.T.B.F.64)
Carry out operation KN 19 tonight. My 160035 add:
(A) (1) M.T.B. 738, S.O. 724 unit H.1.
(2) M.T.Bs. 725, 749, unit H.2.
(3) M.T.B. 246, 251, unit H.3.
(H) Add M.T.Bs 246, 251 part company with escort in position (A) and patrol in vicinity of 049 degs. 44' N. 001 degs. 40' W. to be outside visibility distance from enemy coast by daylight.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161411B to M.T.B.F.64, M.T.B.F.14)
My 161331B postponed 24 hours. My 161411B postponed 48 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162011B to V.12, V.14, V.64)

Operation Q.U.30A. My 141736B. Postponed until first suitable night.
(C. in C. Nore, 161211B to BEEHIVE)

French and Belgian Coasts. Following is repeat of Berlin notice issued in Swedish notice to mariners May 11th:
Owing to danger of invasion mines have been laid out along Belgian and French coast. These mines are dangerous at any depth of water even to small vessels. Area along Belgian and French coasts from a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres seawards from lower water mark is declared dangerous. No vessel may anchor fish or pass through these waters.
Routeing instructions for swept channels can be obtained from local authorities.
(N.A. Stockholm, 161259 to Admty.)

Portsmouth and Isle of Wight areas. During A/C raid night of 15/16 6 G.G. mines were dropped as follows:-
2 near Shanklin one exploded one unexploded.
2 in East Cowes both exploded. 2 near Bosham both exploded. In addition 2 mines or bombs dropped in Medina River in soft mud near Chasseur Base, both unexploded.
4 objects dropped in Solent and did not explode. These have been swept without result.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162255B to Admty.)

Operation /...

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16.5.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMining - Contd

Operation My 161748. N.L.132 abandoned owing to weather.
N.L.132. (V.A. Dover, 162340B to Admty.)

Navigational

Portsmouth My 152034B. Port of Portsmouth, Eastern entrance
is now open except by QZS 467.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 162031B to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

MAGICIAN. MAGICIAN heavy seas breaking over vessel. Afraid
considerable damage to pumps.
(2) Will replace and attempt refloat when
weather moderates.
(Admty. Chf. Salvage Officer 161515 to D. of
Salvage, Admty.)

DONNELL. Your 051932 May. Discussions have been held
regarding repair of DONNELL.
It is proposed to proceed as follows. Details.
These measures would render the ship fit for
towing. Estimated time 3 to 4 weeks, during which period
ship will be continuously in dock. Docking operation was
satisfactorily completed p.m. yesterday at Dunstaffnage.
On completion of repairs it is suggested that ship should be
towed to Londonderry, there to await onward towing to U.S.
(F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 161659B to C. in C. W.A.)

UGIEBANK. My 121407B. UGIEBANK has fractured condenser
door and cannot now be ready before 22nd May.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 161730B to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

North Russia. Kola Inlet departure LACKLAN and Russian local
LACKLAN, escort for Molotovsk 152230B. Admiralty 241854
FORT VERCHERES, March refers.
EMPIRE (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 160945B to S.B.N.O.
PROWESS. Archangel)
A.M. 151637. Soviet Naval Staff have not yet
given assurance referred to in a.m. 092357 para.
(A) but have been hastened. It was not until
13th May that I was able to communicate date ships were required
to be ready for homeward convoy. A.M. 121302 refers.
(Ad. Fisher, 161221 to Admty.)
My 161221. Soviet authorities have given assurance asked
for and agree to conditions.
(2) Request S.B.N.O. North Russia will authorize loading to
commence and arrange all further details with Soviet authorities
in North Russia.
(Ad. Fisher, 161708C and 171000C to Admty.)

/Fighter ...

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16.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Fighter
Carrier
protection
for S.L.
and O.S.
Convoys.

If the protection of S.L. and O.S. convoys from air attack is considered to be a primary requirement it is intended to use the following carriers
ACTIVITY, TRACKER, CAMPANIA and FENCER.

(2) It is requested FENCER may be retained in my command instead of STRIKER in view of her superior fighter complement.

(3) As no carrier is available to escort S.L.158 and M.K.F.31 request consideration be given to transferring 1 Assault Carrier from O.S.77 to each of these convoys on passing.

(4) Should the threat be serious enough request urgent consideration be given to transferring 4 Fighter Carriers to my command. (C. in C. W.A., 161034B to Admty.)

F.N.Convoys
during
"Overlord".

During forthcoming operations intend to bring into force the following procedure for the sailing of F.N. convoys.

(1) Convoys to be assembled in the warp outside Thames Gate.

(2) The Commodore of each convoy to organise the convoy in this area.

(3) Convoys to sail daily at 0730 as medium convoys or at speed of slowest ship with a minimum speed of seven knots. S.O.A. will be agreed between the Commodore and S.O. Escort before arrival at 51 Buoy and shore authorities inform by signal accordingly.

(4) Ships unable to maintain a speed of seven knots will be ordered in to Yarmouth by the Commodore for onward passage by inshore route.

(5) This procedure to commence as from 0001 May 25th. (C. in C. Nore, 161901B to Admty.)

16.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U/B. sunk
in Straits
15th May.

U.731

Gibraltar Group Opsum. 15th May.
P.12/63 1624 day M.A.D. contact 35° 56' N. 5° 45' W. Attacked with 30 Retro bombs no results seen or heard contact attack by P.1/63 at 1652 no details yet available and later by 3 H.M. Ships considered probable kill.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 160255B).

At 1635B May 15th M.A.D. Catalina on patrol in Strait obtained contact in 35.58 N. 05.45 W. Both Catalinas attacked with Retro bombs.

(2) Hedgehog and depth charge attacks were carried out by surface ships on patrol. Underwater explosion reported after hedgehog attack.

(3) AUBRETIA reported thick diesel oil and bubbles rising at 2200. Sample of oil taken, oil patch reported full length of Straits today 16th.

(4) Further signal will be made.

(5) Straits patrol continues.

(F.O.G.M.A., 161151B).

Gib. G/R Opsum. Sup. 15th May.

(G) Western entrances to Straits ZE. P.1/63 1652 day had contact 35° 58' N. 5° 45' W. attacked with 30 Retro bombs nothing seen or heard. At 1751 36° 00' N. 5° 38' W. KILMARNOCK attacked with hedgehog resulting in 2 explosions and 2 large patches of bubbles. At 2159 oil patch 1 mile long, oil and bubbles still rising. By 1135/16 patch of oil was many miles long extending throughout length of Straits from point of attack. Oil still rising very slowly.

(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 161710B).

PRINCE
ROBERT

Request you will sail H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT, to operate under the orders of C. in C.W.A. as A/A escort for M.K.F.31 passing Gibraltar 22nd May. (D.O.D.(H), 161856B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

U/B attacked
in St. Helena
area.

ROBINSON had good sound contact 18.10 33.20 131901Z combined HH - MK8 D/C attack with two HH explosions after five sec. and three D/C explosions after 10 to 12 secs. all latter set magnetic. Thorough sound and air search failed obtain further sound contact. Air search until dark produced no surface evidence of damage. Recording shows six explosions on Sono Buoy about 2000Z. Plane obtained intermittent Radar contact 142240Z 14.12 33.00 range 15 miles holed to two miles when ship disappeared. Wire recording obtained from Sono Buoy pattern has possible submarine noises. Escorts at scene 48 minutes later unable obtain sound contact. Have since covered area 12.00 to 15.30 N. and 30.00 to 35.10 W almost continuously

/ without...

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16.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U/B attacked in St. Helena area. (Contd.) without result now moving. General area 10 N. 32 W. for further search. Propose operate this general area until relieved or until necessary depart to arrive Casablanca about 28th due logistics. Now consider ROBINSON attack probable lethal in spite no evidence damage. Am suspicious contact on 14th due lack further contact and advance U-Boat transmissions but intend establish barrier. WX 0883 1515.
(C.T.G. 22.2, 161200Z to Cinclant, Cominch.)

A/S searches. Escort Group 57 establish gamma search with LOWESTOFT, CROCUS, KILDWICK, KILKENZIE on 008° 00' W. between latitudes 003° 20' N. and 004° 10' N. Escort Group 58 ROTHER, FAL, DOVEY establish gamma search on 009° 00' W. between 002° 20' N. and 003° 20' N. HYDRANGEA, DITTANY, KILDARY from position 004° 00' N. 006° 00' W. search west to longitude 007° W. then search vicinity of 100 fathom line between 006° W. and 007° W. INKPEN, PORTSDOWN, BIRDLIP search vicinity of 100 fathom line 005° W. to 006° W. Estimated position of U-Boats at 2000/16. 1 within 60 miles 004° 00' N. 006° 00' W. 1 within 90 miles 003° 00' N. 009° 00' W. both moving west. 1 within 120 miles 002° 00' N. 010° 00' W. moving westwards.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 161307Z to E.G.57, E.G.58, HYDRANGEA, INKPEN, Info. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty.)

SS. JANETA. My 141839. Swedish ship HERA due Rio de Janeiro tomorrow 17th with 15 survivors.
(S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, 161332Z.)
Re survivors in JANETA.

Hulk
CORSIKA. Asking for her to be removed from Durban.
(Cdre. Durban, 161509Z.)
Admiralty owned hulk CORSIKA not economically repairable.

U/B report by T.G.21.16. At 1350Z/16th pilot sighted feather wake on smooth sea Sono Buoys gave indication presence submarine at intervals but not sufficient warrant attack. Position 25.50 N. 37.10 W. Search continues this immediate vicinity with air and surface craft. 54812284.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 161718Z.)

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16.5.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

THEMISTOCLES. Detached by GARLAND at 0930 following your 160804 not to all addressees in 039° 59' N. 005° 05' E. to comply with your 142256. S.O.A. 25 knots. E.T.A. Palermo 0230/17th. Estimate late arriving position 42.
(THEMISTOCLES 161005B to F.O.W.It. Com. N.O.B. Palermo, (R) C. in C.Med.)

SS. NURIA R. Full particulars of route and speed Spanish NURIA R. will be passed to ships and authorities Western Mediterranean including submarines at sea when vessel sails. Naval authorities will be requested to inform air authorities concerned. Your 151901 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 161019B to Adnty.)

Periodical summary of Balkan Situation No. 4. D. Roumania. 2. Crimea. High rate of sea activity coupled with heavy initial losses suggest major part of surviving garrison probably evacuated.
3. Bomb damage to railways has resulted in increased reliance on Danube traffic despite losses from mining. Armaments to Roumania being delivered by this route likewise greater part of coal for use on rail system.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers 161200B.)

Analysis of casualties. From information available in the Admiralty an analysis has been made of H.M. Ship and merchant ship casualties (lost and damaged) due to U-Boats and air attack during the period beginning of August 1943 to end April 1944.
2. This discloses that 72% of the U-Boat casualties occurred in the Western Basin with over 57% between longs. 5° and 8½° E. while about 93% of the air casualties have occurred between longs of Oran and La Calle.
3. Inference is that some reduction of escort in the Eastern Basin may be justified in order to provide increased protection in the threatened area in the Western Basin.
4. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S.F. 161255B to C. in C.Med.) See O.D.1275/44.
Reply: Page 240.

Neutral ships' movements. My 091318 SS. MANU now leaves about 17th.
2. SS. ZURICH leaves Marseilles for Sete about 22nd to tranship cargo from CHASSERAL thence for Gibraltar about 25th.
3. SS. ALBULA and GENEROSO leave Marseilles about 22nd for Gibraltar.)
(D.E.W.D. 161740B to F.O.G.M.A. Info. C. in C.Med.)

/SALVESTOR...

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16.5.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SALVESTOR. My 161820*. Recommend transfer to S.A.N.F. as a gesture in view of U.D.Fs. gift to Royal Navy of GAMTOOS.
(C. in C.Med. 162001.)
* S.A.N.F. offered to run and administer SALVESTOR.

Mutiny in Greek Navy. My 141840. Military entry into 307 P.O.W. Camp today resulted in 6 officers and 150 men coming out. Remaining 2400 mutineers still in camp refuse to go to sea or to be interrogated. They refuse to serve except under a completely E.A.M. Govt. and refuse to serve under Admiral Vulnaris under any condition. Am obtaining Greek C. in C. views now but it appears further argument at the moment is useless. Intend to wait until the formation of new Greek Govt. is announced and then to investigate if there is any change in spirit. If no change I consider that the majority are unfit for further Naval service and they should be sent to Bardia for inclusion in Military Harbour Corps. There are among them a large number of young seamen under 20. I am considering separating these when remainder go to Bardia and retaining them interned in a Naval camp for further treatment.
(F.O.L.E.M. 162028C.)

Situation report. One E-Boat sunk and another probably sunk by patrols off Anzio during night 13/14th May. Some shelling night 14/15th May. 3692 tons discharged 14th May 3757 tons 15th May.
2. My 142204 para. 2 both ships arrived Oran 15th May.
3. Enemy A/C raided Bastia night 12/13th May but caused no damage to harbour.
4. During night 13/14th May M.Ls. sunk an I-Boat south of Peljesac Peninsula.
(C. in C.Med. 162210.)

Aegean. Comment. Este lighter and 2 Magda barges attacked 14th May not located in any of above areas therefore presumed all 3 destroyed representing serious blow to shuttle service.
(C. in C.M.E. No T.O.O/16, Recd. 2203.)

TOP SECRETIN

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.)

Escorts - Eastern Fleet

160416Z May (Recd. 26 May)

Date 16. 5. 44.
Recd. 1230

From C. in C. E.F.

Naval Cypher (XD) Plug by W/TAddressed Admiralty
Repeated C. in C. S.A.IMPORTANT

It is forecasted that about 10 fleet destroyers will be required solely for troopship escort duties from end of June to October. My 021327 May refers.

2. Of remaining 14 fleet destroyers, six will be refitting or boiler cleaning and a further three will be required as escort for additional fleet carriers joining station and to escort H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS to port from refit in South Africa. This will leave only five destroyers available for fleet at Trincomalee.

3. Unless either partial immobilisation of fleet is to be accepted or alternatively a further frigate group is to be provided for period concerned it will not be possible to meet additional commitments outlined in your 081959.

160416Z

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D.(F)

SSL

1st Lord
1st S.L.
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
U.W.R.
B.C.
D.O.D.(H)(4)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Plot
D.D.I.C.(2)
Hd. of M.(2)
D.A/S.W.
D.A.U.D.
D.N.I.(4)
D.N.A.O.
D.A.W.T.
D. of P.(2)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(C)
D. of P.(Q)(2)
I.P.(2)

Reply: 231534 B, para 336.

W D

16.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/boat dispositions. No.29. No fresh information no changes in scales air escort.
(C. in C.E.F., 160352Z, 161413Z).

Plaisance. Re curtailing development of airfield.
(C. in C.E.F. 160554).

ATHENE. A.M. 121937. There is an urgent need to clear F.A.A. storage space in Ceylon of obsolescent type spares.
(2) Intend to retain ATHENE in Ceylon to load these stores which include those mentioned in A.M.'s 181658 December and 031903.
(3) The use of ATHENE will save much waste of time in crating and casing and will not interfere with the transport of erected aircraft. A delay of up to one month in ATHENE programme will be involved.
(4) Intend similar action to be taken in East Africa as far as possible.
(C. in C. E.F., 160633B to Admty.)

Flag of R.A.A.E.F. (1) As VICTORIOUS is not fitted as a Flagship it is intended that the flag of R.A.A.E.F. shall be transferred temporarily to UNICORN when ILLUSTRIOUS proceeds to refit and be subsequently transferred to INDOMITABLE when the latter arrives on the station.
(C. in C. E.F., 160850Z to Admty.)

Stragglers and bad smoking. By coal burning merchant ships in convoy. The following organisation has been brought into force. (Details).
(C. in C. E.F., 160957Z.)

Policy re Kilindini. Staff requirements for Kilindini have been reviewed A.M. 192248 March 1943 refers.
(2) Revised requirements are that facilities should be available to enable Kilindini to be used as a Fleet anchorage, to its fullest capacity. It will continue to be a base for escort forces.
(3) Policy for development of Kilindini as fleet repair base for all classes of ships remains unchanged.
(D. 1st S.L., 162156B to C. in C. E.F.)

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16.5.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Attack on ? wreck. Your 162015 received slightly corrupt there is no record of wreck within 20 miles of position indicated. Contact must be assumed to be U-Boat and is to be attacked.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 160622Z to S.O. E.G. W.11.)
E.G. W.2 detached at 0800Z to search in accordance with F.O.N.F. 151928. Prolonged variety of attack have obtained wreckage it is presumed from ship not U-Boat. E.G. C.2 proceeding St. Johns. Weather.
(S.O. E.G. W.11, 161329Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q. sub. attack and sighting summary. No report since my 111012Z. Para. B. (1) A/C R/5 reports A.S.V. contact 43.35 N. 52.20 W. 1909Z/15th.
(N.S.H.Q., 160741Z, amended 170815Z.)

M.V. MONTE ALTUBE. Your 151330* vessel sailed Havana 11th May for Gibraltar 7th June via neutral route through Caribbean passage and 34.00 N. 39.00 W., knots 9.5, no further information.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 160909Q to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
* Request information re interception by Brit. patrol of MONTE ALTUBE.
No information in Navy Dept. concerning alleged incident referred to by your 151330.
(B.A.D. Washington, 162229Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Nothing known of your 151330 by British or U.S. Authorities Trinidad.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 161202Q to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

SS. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Diversion order.
(D.O.D.(H), 160939B.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 161418Z, Cominch 161615Z.)

Elco coastal forces craft. Salor 13281. Asking whether 8 can be obtained for irregular operations in the Mediterranean.
4. C. in C. Med.'s 151250B April refers.
(D.O.D.(I), 161429B to B.A.D.)

U/B incidents. All times Z.
My 131835 para. B. evaluation now D.
Para. B. A/C sighted wake 25.50 N. 37.10 W. 1350/16th. U.S.S. ROBINSON attacked sound contact 18.10 N. 33.20 W. 1901/13th.
Para. C. A/C Radar contact 14.12 N. 33.00 W., 2240/14th.
Para. D. A/C Radar contact 43.55 N. 52.20 W. 1909/15th.
(Cominch, 162130Z.)

16.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Sighting of Japanese heavy units.

Subsequent report from Commander 7th Fleet indicates submarine reported force on southerly course. Your 151645. However past experience with contact reports this sort has shown that course reported at time of sighting not always indicative of destination. Estimate these carriers probably SHOKAKU, ZUIKAKU and TAIHO. Another U.S. submarine sighted 1 carrier, 3 battleships, 3 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser and several destroyers at 140500 G.M.T. in position 005° 30' N. 119° 40' E. apparently en route Tawi Tawi. 119° another U.S. submarine sighted 1 NACHI, 1 TENRYU and 3 destroyers plus 1 HOSHO type carrier off Davao at 140800 G.M.T. several of these cruisers believed Japanese cruiser AOBA and Japanese cruiser OI but HOSHO type carrier and carrier sighted near Tawi unidentified.

(C. in C. Pacific Fleet, 160219.)

Digest 847.

May 15th. Paras. 13 to 17 cover South Pacific Forces.

(7) Reference Digest 846 last sentence para. 5, 38 Mitchells participated strike against villages mainland opposite Wake Island morning

14th. These planes saw possible submarine five miles north Wake Island course 300°.

(12) Three large tankers three destroyers observed southbound 30 miles north-west Tawi Tawi Island (Southern Sulu Sea) before dawn 14th. Afternoon same date surface force described as three battleships, three heavy cruisers, one aircraft carrier, one light cruiser sighted same vicinity heading towards Sibutu Strait also destroyers patrolling Tawi Tawi anchorage area.

(15) Next night M.T.Bs. destroyed one beached whale boat near southern approaches to Kavieng and shelled single small schooner several lifeboats around Tingwon Island while single Jap. float-plane thrice attacked other boats operating off east coast Gazelle Peninsula causing few casualties.

(16) Aircraft sighted enemy submarine southbound 250 miles north-east Buka passage.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 160640Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 0550Z/16th in 37° 50' N. 00° 25' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C attacked contact at 1435Z/15th in 35° 58' N. 05° 45' W.

(2) A/C obtained contact at 2030Z/15th in 37° 40' N. 00° 18' E.

Para. C. (1) A/C obtained contact at 1451Z/15th in 50° 10' N. 08° 22' W.

(2) A/C sighted U-Boat on surface, course 096° at 1100Z/15th in 36° 00' N. 14° 20' W.

(D.D.I.C., 161122B.)

/ U/B ...

16.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 161330B, 161340B.)

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17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Iceland

1. The controlled minefield station at Akureyri . ceased to operate at 1400B to-day. As many C.M. Ratings as possible are to be released to VERNON, and the minefield is to be kept at one month's notice.

Engagement
off Hearty
Knoll.
One E/boat
damaged.

2. At about 0105 to-day the Destroyer QUORN on patrol chased and engaged a group of five or six E/boats to the South of Hearty Knoll and, after hitting one E/boat with a 4-inch shell, saw the flash of an explosion on its last bearing.

Defective
Assault
Pier Roadways

3. A.N.C.X.F. has to-day reported to the War Office that, in spite of careful handling in fine weather, eight Units of "Whale" pier-roadways have proved defective during assembly. He adds that unless these defects are remedied forthwith " few Units will be serviceable when they arrive on the far shore".

Mediterranean

U/boat (U.616)
sunk

4(a). After being hunted for 3 days by U.S. destroyers with air cooperation a U/boat apparently that which attacked G.U.S.39 on 14th May was brought to the surface and sunk this morning by gunfire in 37.48 N. 00.16 E. (90 miles north-north-west of Tenes), 53 prisoners being taken.
(b) ELLYSON, one of the U.S. destroyers engaged in the hunt was unsuccessfully attacked at 1250 to-day in 36.40 N. 00.23 W. by a second U/boat, which is being hunted.

Mines laid
off Leghorn.

5. M.Ls. covered by M.T.Bs. and P.T. boats laid 30 mines near 43degs. 10' N. 10degs. 30' E. (off Leghorn) last night.

6. P.65 reports that during patrol off the south of France she bombarded an oil refinery at Oneglia on 1st May, and, on 4th May a railway goodsyard at the head of the Gulf of Napoule and a seaplane hangar at the head of the Gulf of Frejus.

Air
operations.

7(a). The Strategic Air Force last night attacked Porto San Stefano, Porto Ferraiio and Piombino. All three ports were also attacked again today, as

/ also...

17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air
operations
(Contd.)

also was Ancona.
(b) The Coastal Air Force set a large ship on fire today at Viareggio Harbour.

East Indies

Air attack
on Surabaya
(Operation
Transom).

8(a) An attack by 85 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS and SARATOGA was carried out after dawn today on the Japanese Naval Base at Surabaya.

(b) The Fleet operated in two forces, viz:-
66 Force 65, RENOWN (V.A. of E.F.), ILLUSTRIOUS, SARATOGA, 4 Cruisers and Destroyer screen.

65 Force 66, (in support) QUEEN ELIZABETH (C. in C.E.F.) VALIANT, RICHELIEU, 2 cruisers and destroyer screen.

(c) These forces sailed from Colombo and Trincomalee on 6th May and refuelled at Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia, on 15th.

(d) Complete surprise was achieved and considerable damage was caused by direct hits on shipping, Naval Base installations, oil refinery and aerodrome.

Ten ships in harbour were hit, totalling some 35,000 tons, including a small tanker and possibly a destroyer. One ship blew up and others probably sank. Two floating docks were badly damaged, the oil refinery at Wono Kromo and the important Braat Naval Engineering Works were completely destroyed. A total of 21 enemy aircraft were destroyed. The only damage to the Allied forces was one aircraft missing. Two Avengers from ILLUSTRIOUS crashed on taking off, but the crews were rescued.

America and West Indies

H.X.M.
292.

9. It is estimated that 137 ships will sail in Convoy H.X.M.292.

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17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

New
Guinea.

10. A substantial American Army force landed at Arara on the mainland of Dutch New Guinea opposite Wakde Island shortly after daylight today. Allied Cruiser Task Forces cooperated by bombardment and aircraft cooperation was employed. No opposition was encountered. By nightfall the smaller^x of the two islands forming the Wakde groups was occupied without encountering any resistance. [see pp 401A]

x Inswemamai Island

U/boat
attacked.

11. A U.S. destroyer attacked and probably sank an enemy submarine last night 130 miles north-east of Buka Passage.

17.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

STATESMAN,
VIGOROUS.

Submarines leaving Scilly Isles at 0900B/20th May for Gibraltar.

A. STATESMAN and VIGOROUS on surface at 10 knots to 009° W. thence diving by day by route "Brown" and "Green" at 95 and 85 miles a day respectively.

C. E.T.A. 043° N. STATESMAN 1700/26th May, VIGOROUS 0300/27th. Onward routing by F.O.G.M.A.

(Capt. S.3 171201B and 180924B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Transfer of
Warships to
Soviet Navy.

Your 121740. Letter No. 2027/00958 dated 12th May to Admty. only.

2. Date proposed for transfer can be accepted and programme is not considered unreasonable provided Russians do not treat the trials as rigidly as in the case of a new ship.

3. It is agreed that we must be careful not to commit ourselves to make delivery as if the ships were contract built. You should therefore make it plain in your reply that you are undertaking to turn over the ships in the same condition as to a British operational crew and that defects will be made good in so far as they affect seaworthiness or operational efficiency judged by British standards.

(1st Lord 171408B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Irish South
Coast dan-
ger area.

Admiralty letter M. 0615/44 of 24th April, 1944, imposed the total prohibition of fishing by British and Allied vessels in the area extending northwards from the Bay of Biscay sink-at-sight area up to Irish territorial waters and bounded on the west by meridian of 11° W.

2. No instructions concerning this area have been broadcast, other than Admiralty notice issued on 15th February, 1944, amending Bay of Biscay danger area (Admty. 111902A February, 1944, refers.)

3. To prevent Irish or foreign vessels fishing in the area between the south coast of Ireland and the parallel of 51° N. where their presence is now a serious handicap to A/S hunting groups and A.S.V. fitted aircraft, it is requested that Admiralty instructions may be broadcast as soon as possible to extend the danger area as follows:-

A. Western Boundary, from 51° 00' N. 11° 00' W. to 51° 35' N. 11° 00' W. B. Northern Boundary, from 51° 35' N. 11° 00' W. by a

line drawn 090° true to The Bull, thence three miles off and following the south Irish Coast to The Tuskar, thence 090° true to 5° 40' W. thence 180° true to the northern limit of the Nymph Bank minefield, and thus to the English coast.

(C. in C.Plymouth 172035 to Admty.)

17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Akureyri
controlled
minefield.

A.M. 151041. Station ceased operating from 1400B/17
May.
(A.C.I.C. 171810 to Admt.)

A.M. 151041B. Object of placing controlled mine-
field in care and maintenance is to release per-
sonnel and to keep field at one month's notice.

2. Number that can be released will depend on local conditions at
the camp, precaution against sabotage etc.

3. Suggest officer in charge be instructed to use his own dis-
cretion as regards technical details involved, and to release as
many controlled mining ratings as possible.

(D.T.M.. 172012B to A.C.I.C.)

Operations

Operation
C.W.

2 suspicious contacts made on Radar 6000 yards
52 N. 20 W. Correction of my 162240Z.
(EMPIRE BOUNTY 170055Z to ?)

Engagement
with E-Boats.
One E-Boat
damaged by
QUORN.

Three E-Boats 200° Hearty Knoll Buoy 3 miles.
(QUORN 170110 to Nore P.W.)
Preliminary report of E-Boat activity night 16/17th
May.

1. At about 0105 QUORN (patrol 5) when between 4D
and 55A Buoys detected a number of E-Boats in swept
channel south of Hearty Knoll buoy heading west.
QUORN tried a stalk but was detected before getting
to close range. E-Boats retired N.E. and then east. QUORN
chased and engaged at ranges between 2600 and 4000 yards. 1 4
inch hit definitely seen. 2 pdr. bow-chaser also scored. About 5
minutes after action flash of an explosion seen approx. on last
bearing of E-Boats. Area has been searched, but nothing found so
far.

2. 3 E-Boats seen during action, but it is believed 5 or 6 were
present. No indication of object. Minesweeping in progress.

3. 3 C/F units ordered to close in did not make contact.

4. Shore Radar. Action took place outside normal range of shore
stations. K.135 detected unidentified plot (range 18 miles) in
channel south of Hearty Knoll Buoy at same time as QUORN made
contact (0105) and followed E-Boats until 0127 when echoes faded
at 23 miles.

(C. in C.Nore 171658B to Admt.)

Y supplement to my 171658B. *l.c.* *l.c.*
1. E-Boat traffic read by WINTERTON and GORLESTON on 45.7 m/cs
from 0114 to 0131, two possibly three call signs heard. No
reliable bearings or indication of enemy's object.

2. QUORN read R/T from 0106 to 0129 on 45.5 m/cs. Two call signs
heard. 0109 signal "look out destroyer" was heard and at 0123
leader signalled "last boat is hit" thus confirming QUORN's claim
to four inch hit.

3. Smudge signal at 0115, no bearing.

(C. in C.Nore 171700B to Admt.)

/Operation...

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17.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Overlord". My 131021. E.T.A. of P.T. with crews and spares is 31 May in U.C.25 convoy.
(Comnavu 171149 to A.N.C.X.F.)
During the assembly of about 50 whale pier roadways no less than 8 units Type B, C, and D, have proved defective. Some units have sunk and some partially submerged. The majority are damaged. Handling of these tows was carried out carefully in slow time and in fine weather.
2. Causes of defects are due equally to water entering erection tanks and to beetles flooding.
3. Request you will take immediate steps to remedy defects, otherwise few units will be serviceable when they arrive on the far shore.
4. Moreover salvage of defective units employs services of tugs mooring vessels and Naval personnel, which have important work to do.. Training is also suffering.
(A.N.C.X.F. 171411B to War Office.) [Reply: 190143B, p. 268]
A.N.C.X.F. has proposed that Clyde should be the assembly port for NELSON and that she should arrive by Y minus 4.
Request report whether berth could be made available. My 131733 and 151146 refer.
(C. in C.W.A. 171604 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation "Tarbrush 10" Carry out Operation "Tarbrush 10" tonight 17/18.
(V.A.Dover 171234 to M.T.B.F.5, M.T.B.F.2.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 171401B, 171719B.)
(C. in C.Portsmouth 171440B.)
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 171742B.)

Operation "Implement". Submarine positions 0800/18th and for next 24 hours SCEPTRE patrolling off Bilbao.
(F.O.S. 171732B to Admty.)

Operation "Potato". Carry out operation "Potato" tonight.
1. Unit K. M.T.Bs. 617, 624, 652, 668, 682, 630, 205.
2. 2330. 3. E.A.5 Buoy. 4. 50° 00' N. 01° 00' E.
5. Avoid areas B and E.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 171749B to HORNET, Capt. S.5.)

E-Boats. Position of enemy 8 E-Boats 49° 48' N. 2° 12' W. estimated at 2300. Course 330° speed 30 knots.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. 172349B to 19 Group.)
Nr. 4. My 2352. P.C. and S. of 3 E-Boats 51° 05' N. 05° 50' W. course 020° speed 30 knots.
(A/C MZB 31 172354 to 19 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. One Ju.88 flew over Seidisfjord at 170102, course E. Sighted Budareyri 065° 02' N. 014° 13' W. at 0120, course W. Fired on and hits claimed.
(A.C.I.C. 171236B to Admty.)

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 U.W.R.
 D. Map Room.
 Capt. Pim.
 Ops (2)
 Plot.
 O.D.(5)
 O.I.C.(3)
 D.A/S.W.
 D.A/U.D.
 W.D.
 D.S.D.9.(2)
 I.P.(2)
 Hydrog (2)
 D.N.I.(5)
 F.O.S. by courier.

UCM.
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17.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
convoys.

R/C report small convoy off Brest at 2125, course 240°. (C. in C.Plymouth 172319B to 26th Force, APOLLO.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat
reported.

18 Group C.C. reports 1 U-Boat 062° 25' N. 002° 05' E. course N. at 0045B/17th May, possibly disabled on surface after air attack.

2. Appreciation - U-Boat is bound for Atlantic and may be between 062° 45' N. 001° 30' E. and 065° N. 000° 01' E. p.m. today. If possible without unduly delaying passage request you carry out A/S air search in area of probability.

3. 18 Group C.C. Catalina, Sunderland and Liberator maybe operating in area.

4. C. in C.Rosyth pass to 18 Group C.C. (C. in C.H.F. 171151B to V.A.2.)

Casualties & Defects.

B.Y.M.S.2040
damaged.

B.Y.M.S. 2040 badly damaged in collision with CAMELIA carrying out patrol my 152005 refers, in 345° Rough Buoy 7 cables while anchoring with 165 M.S.F. on completion of night exercise at 0145. Ship towed to harbour and beached on Shotley Spit B.Y.M.S. 2262. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 171024B to C. in C.Nore.)

DONNELL.

Concur generally in proposal contained in F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 161659B. (C. in C.W.A. 171617B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

DROTTNINGHOLM. Repatriation ship DROTTNINGHOLM due pass Vinga 0800/18th May and Kristiansund p.m. 19th May. Expected arrive Faroes 21st May.

2. Speed 14½ knots and routed to Faroes as in A.M. 050445 July 1942. 3. Destination South Africa via Ponta Delgada for bunkers. 4. Vessel has no Control Officer on board. (D.O.D.H. 171211B to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

DROTTNINGHOLM. Your 161437B. German N.A. has just informed Sweden that German Admiralty agree to vessel sailing tomorrow. Please signal immediately you can confirm this permission official from Swiss Government.

(N.A.Stockholm 171524 to Admty.)

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17.5.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticSpanish
fishing
vessels.Proposals. (Formers are A.B.N.A. Madrid 041236,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 251830 March, 181311 April, A.M.
170552 February.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid, 171145B to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)U/B sunk in
Straits
15th May.U.7³¹Oil has been identified and is diesel.
(2) One Hedgehog hit by KILMARNOCK exploded 5
seconds after hitting water remainder of pattern
heard to explode on bottom.
(3) Surface ships concerned were BLACKFLY and
KILMARNOCK. AUBRETIA conducted operations as

Senior Officer.

(4) Consider U-Boat definitely sunk. My 161151 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 171220B.)

All times A. Navy P.B.Y.5 BU. No.08439 Pilot Lieut.
Vojatek Patron 63 established definite M.A.D. contact of submerged
U-Boat in 35.54 N. 05.45 W. at 151515 on assigned A/S patrol
altitude 130 feet. Clover leaf tracking commenced and British
surface vessels requested to close the area. Supplemented
immediately Navy P.B.Y.5 BU. No.08176 Pilot Lieut. Worrell.
Track well established and first plane fired 30 Retro bombs at
1530 at 35.55 N. 05.43 W. No results observed. Planes
continued tracking and at 1552 second plane fired 24 Retro bombs
at 35.56 N. 05.41 W. Only results observed small piece of wood
new appearance at position of attack. Magnetic contact persisted
and planes continued uninterrupted tracking. First ship call
sign "Triship" arrived at 1610. Aircraft requested ships to
attack U-Boat at end of line of float lights. Planes continued
to track during surface attacks. At 1630 first ship attack with
depth charges at 35.57 N. 05.37 W. At 1636 ship call sign 5-11
attacked with depth charges. At 1644 first ship again attacked
with depth charges at 35.57 N. 05.36 W. Above attacks not made
over U-Boat. Planes again requested ships to launch attack at
east end of string of float lights. At 1651 the 5-11 followed
down line of lights and launched accurately placed hedgehog attack
at 35.57 N. 05.35 W. Debris and discoloured water observed.
Planes had clearer area immediately prior to hedgehog attack and
after the attack contact was not regained by clover leaf passes
or trapping circle. Aircraft established barrier further east
in Straits supplemented by 2 additional M.A.D. Cats. of Patron
63 at 1707. 4 aircraft maintained barrier until last light.
Surface vessels and other aircraft observed thick diesel oil and
bubbles rise to surface at position of attacks continued to rise
during night. Oil spread over one mile length in one hour and
full length of Straits by 0900/16th. Following from Gib.
"KILMARNOCK reports underwater explosion after hedgehog attack".
From AUBRETIA - "Consider U-Boat destroyed". Latest information
oil slick now many miles long, oil still rising slowly forenoon
17th, from point of attack piece of rubber tubing recovered from
water. Oil sample obtained. No wrecks in Straits within 10
miles of point of attack, all evidence confirms U-Boat sunk.
Report delayed due collection of surface vessel reports.

(C.M.S.F.F., 171729B.)

War Diary.

17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A/S search by T.G.21.16. All times Z. At 0110 plane saw green flare rise from 26.11 N. 36.44 W. and heard faint submarine sounds briefly on Sonobuoy there. At 0115 three ships saw white flare rise from 26.00 N. 37.11 W. At 0405 plane heard strong submarine sounds for 10 minutes on Sonobuoy in lat. 26.20 N. 36.44 W. Believe two submarines present. Search continues.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 170901.)

A/S searches, Freetown area. My 171230 for 0800 read 1200 in 2 places if no contact or sighting ships are to proceed as follows at 1200Z/18th.

E.G.58, ROTHER and DOVEY to Lagos. FAL to join Escort Group 57.

Escort Group 57 search back along inside track to 003 degs. 30' N. 007 degs. 30' W., then carry out A/S sweep through 004 degs. 35' N. 009 degs. 05' W. and along 100 fathom line to latitude of Monrovia.

HYDRANGEA, DITTANY, KILDARY proceed direct to Takoradi carrying out A/S search on passage. Join Escort Group 56 at Takoradi as Escort to L.T.S.21.

INKPEN, BIRDLIP, PORTSDOWN A/S search along 100 fathom line to Takoradi.

Constant air patrol being established south of Cape Palmas to a depth of 150 miles for 24 hours from 1930Z/17. N.O.I.C. Lagos pass to FOLKESTONE.

(N.O.I.C.W.Af., 171825Z to E.G.57, E.G.58, HYDRANGEA, INKPEN, (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty.)

War Diary.

17.5.1944.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Yugoslav ships. Ref. Mediterranean Station Fleet state dated 30th April Supplement No. 31. Following information is required in connection with political negotiations

2. What ships in Class A are (i) capable of employment in Adriatic or elsewhere; (ii) already manned by Royal Yugoslav Navy.

3. What ships in Class C are capable of employment in Adriatic manned by either partisans or Royal Yugoslav personnel. (A.C.N.S.F. 170052B to C. in C.Med.)

Attack on U/B L'ALCYON had S/M contact position 041° 46' N. 008° 30' E. at 0800 with Chasseur is attacking. Am escorting WARDLE 2 to Ajaccio and will join attack later.

(FORBIN 170830B to C. in C.Med.)

My 170830. In company L'ALCYON and Chasseur and am searching area 6 miles radius position 041° 46' N. 008° 30' E. (FORBIN 17002B.)

My 171002. Last contact 1600B: depth charge dropped. Search is being carried out rectangle between meridian 008° 20' E. and 008° 35' E. and parallels 041° 35' N. and 041° 47' N. with patrol towards Point Senetos standard EF search is being continued day and night under orders of (remainder missed). (FORBIN 171916B.)

Second contact obtained and attacked in 041° 43' 008° 30' at 1600B. Contact apparently very deep and course S.E. at low speed. Contact lost after attack. Search continuing.

(L'ALCYON 172113B.)

U/B sunk 90 miles N.N.W. of Tenez. Nr. 1. Destroyers sunk U-Boat 37° 16' N. 006° 16' E. request instructions. (A/C C/S OLXU 170850B to 79P)
Note: See Situation Report No. 359, (C. in C.Med. 172146.)

UNSPARING. Keep clear of UNRULY route in my 151817.
2. Remain to the westward of long. 024° 40' after light buoy O2 18th.
(Capt. S.1 171019B to UNSPARING.)

Proceed to patrol in vicinity of Cape Agios Ioannis (Kos) at your discretion proceeding on surface to when south of lat. 036° 10'.
(Capt. S.1 171359B to UNSPARING.)

LE CURIE. Leave patrol to pass 042° 21' 005° 12' at 0600/20th 042° 04' 007° 45' at 2000/21st to arrive Maddalena at 0945/22nd.
(Capt. S.10 171047B to CURIE, U.S. S/M SALMON, 10th S/M F. F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Red Cross ships held up. As chartering of further Spanish Ship for British. Red Cross is held up pending clarification of CRISTINA incident (your 112239) submit it would be desirable for any communication on the subject or

/any...

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17.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Red Cross
Ships held
up. (Contd.)

any guarantee for the further* to be made to Spanish Govt. as soon as possible as it is reported that cargo is accumulating in Lisbon and it is desired to arrange to charter tonnage as soon as possible.

(A.B.N.A. Madrid 171106B to Admt.)

* As decoded. Alleged attack on Red Cross Vessel CRISTINA request Foreign Office to make any necessary communication to Spain.

M.V. SAGGAT.

Further to my 191048* April, S3. SAGGAT reported her position at 2200Z/16 as 36° 02' N. 14° 31' E. course 290°. From F.O.G.M.A's sailing signal 111-330 not to Admt. she should at this time have been in approx. 36° N. 24° E. Her 2200 position was first one received since leaving Gibraltar whereas reports should have been made daily.

(F.O.L.E.M. 171156C to Admt. Info. C. in C.Med.)

* re Broadcast positions of Swedish Red Cross Ships.

Analysis of
Casualties.

I agree that the threat to shipping is generally greater in the Western basin than in the Eastern basin. Statistics calculated on small overall figures such as those in your 161255 are however often misleading.

2. Furthermore they do not take into account the steady loss of caiques which is a constant worry in the Levant.

3. Nor does it appear to be recognised that the loss of the Greek ?ships and the ban on the use of American escorts in the Eastern Med. has led to a situation where the escorts there are at an irreducible minimum, despite the fact that I have accepted the mining risk and am using available minesweepers as escorts.

4. It will no doubt have been noted that the air forces available for the protection of shipping have been concentrated in the Western basin. This concentration was largely nullified by the removal of some of the air forces to other theatres.

5. It would be of great interest to me to have statistics comparing the present shipping losses in the Med. with those on other stations. I am unable to compile these for myself but I believe they would support my conviction that further escorts should be sent to the Med. from elsewhere.

(C. in C.Med. Naples 171213, 171223 to Admt.) Reply: 29000213, p. 425

Port Naussa,
Paros.

Germans have now constructed air field on Paros. Ref. your 131940 March and my 141231 March in view of no signs of use of Port Naussa by Swedish relief ships and necessity to stop supplies to this most inconveniently placed air field, request permission to mine harbour as soon as moon permits.

(F.O.L.E.M. 171221C to Admt.)

/Italian...

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17.5.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Italian
crew in
Canary Is.

If you have no objection it is proposed to arrange with Spanish Authorities for dissident Italian crew in Canary Islands and virtually take (responsibility) for return Italy. Request instructions. (B.N.A. Madrid 171233B to C. in C. Med.)
* Presumably word intended, signal received very corrupt.

ULTOR,
patrol report.

A. At 1430/11th in 043° 08' 006° 29' fired 2 torpedoes at escort Kt. 800 ton ship one non contact hit vessel broke in half and sank. No counter attack. B. At 1700(?15th) in 043° 09' 006° 38' fired 19 rounds at 80 ton motor (coaster?). Ship damaged and beached. Shore batteries forced S/M to dive.
(Capt. S.10 171739.)

U.S. ships
for U.K.

Intend to sail Comdesron 10 in ELLISON plus U.S.S. HAMBLETON, RODMAN and EMMONS to U.K. at 181200B. S.O.A. 20 knots, weather permitting. Cominch's 161942* refers. Further details will be signalled when known.
(Comnob Oran 171836.)
* Hush Top Secret.

SS. JOSE
ILLUECA
(sunk 19th
April.)

The attack on the JOSE ILLUECA (my 202032 April) is still the cause of unfavourable comment among Spanish shipping officials and shipping interests. Criticism is not because the ship was attacked but because the attack was carried out without warning and it is generally felt that if a warning burst had been fired the crew would have abandoned ship and lives would have been saved.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid 171927B.)

U/Bs attacked.

14/15th May add.
1 Wellington sighted surfaced submarine 80 miles North Cape de Garde submarine crash dived 8 x 250 D.C.. straddled wake of submarine oil seen on surface no further sighting 1 Wellington attacked surfaced submarine 55 miles N.N.E. Cape Tenez. 6 x 250 D.C. straddled submarine (?) scoring 1 hit no further sighting.
(M.A.A.F. 171949B, 171959B.)

Situation
report No.
359.

1. Naples area was attacked by about 25 aircraft night 13/14th May. Bombs and circling torpedoes were used. No naval damage 3 aircraft reported shot down.
2. DIDO carried out bombardment in Gulf of Gaeta on 15th May and U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN on 16th May in support of the army attack. Good results reported. Enemy counter fire was sporadic on 15th May but increased on 16th May. No damage to own forces.

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17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
report No.
359.
(Contd.)

3. 3285 tons discharged Anzio 16th May. No enemy activity.

4. M.Ls. covered by M.T.Bs. and P.T.Boats laid 30 mines in vicinity 043° 10' N. 010° 30' E. during night 16th May.

5. Following attacks G.U.S. 39 a.m. 14th May my 142204 para. 2 refers U.S.Cmdr. destroyer squad-

ron 10 in U.S.Dest. ELLYSON with U.S.S. HAMBLETON, U.S.S. RODMAN, U.S.S. EMMONS, U.S.S. MACOMB, U.S.S. NIELDS and U.S.S. GLEAVES commenced U-Boat hunt with air A/3 operation. Hunt was maintained continuously for 3 days until U-Boat was finally brought to the surface after deep attack HAMBLETON using 800 feet settings and sunk by gunfire at 0820/17th in 037° 48' N. 000° 16' E. 53 prisoners including C.O. in U.S.des. ELLYSON who was unsuccessfully attacked by a second U-Boat at 1250/17th in position 036° 40' N. 000° 23' W. Hunt continues.

6. P.65, reported following gun actions during patrol off south coast of France; 20 hits on oil refinery at Oneglia on 1st May 20 hits on railway goods yard at head of Gulf of Napoule and 23 hits on seaplane hangar at head of Gulf Frejus both on the 4th of May.

(C. in C.Med. 172146B.)

UNRULY.

Following is repetition of my 171730 begins: addressed as above. Cancel positions in my 151817 on passing east of Pondiko Nisi proceed direct your patrol area. Ends.
(Capt. S.1 172331 to UNRULY, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)

*U.616
Sunk*

(UPSTART)

17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B No.30. No fresh information, no change in scale
dispositions. of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F., 170329Z.)
After sinking of Dhow AMAD on 10th May N.E. of
Maldives Japanese U/B may have begun return
passage to Penang.
(D.D.I.C., 171716B to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)

Dhow Dhow GANJA AMUDI sailed from Colombo on 29th
G. AMUDI sunk April for Male Atoll, Maldive Is. with cargo of
by U/B 11th provisions for trading.
May. (2) Dhow fired on by S/M nationality unknown in
005 degs. 18' N. 074 degs. 48' E. at approx.
111630 May.
(3) S/M surfaced fired 5 rounds and dived after circling wreckage
once. Course of S/M surfacing and diving 090 degs.
(4) Owner of Dhow, Abdul Husain Noorbhai, Dungaree Bazaar,
Colombo.
(5) Written report follows.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 171032Z as amended 190540Z.)

China.

Intelligence. Air R/C shows increased enemy naval craft in Hong
Kong waters considered by Air Force to be on
convoy duties.
(M.A. Chungking, 170910G.)

17.5.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

My 160741Z. Cancel para. B.2.
(N.S.H.Q. 170815Z.)

QUEEN.

It is intended that QUEEN shall return to U.S.A. to ferry aircraft to U.K.

2. Request your concurrence for QUEEN to be included in U.C.T.24 notwithstanding that this may bring the number of ships in the convoy above 35.

3. No operational aircraft will be carried.

(D.O.D.H. 171334B to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Concur.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 171931.)

Large
convoys.

C. in C.W.A's 151932. Request early concurrence or remarks. Amendments to Mercantile Convoy Instructions will then be issued.

(D.T.D. 171338B to N.S.H.Q. Connav, F.O.G.M.A.)

15 1932 concur.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 172026Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 171457Z, Cominch 171620Z.)

H.X.M. 292.

Ref. Admty. 271701 March para. 6 present estimate 105 ships from New York 32ships from Sydney total 137.

(B.R.L.O. New York 171511Z.)

SS. MAURETANIA. Recommend diversion (details.)

(D.O.D.H. 171921B to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Diversion order.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 172041Z to MAURETANIA.)

Casualties
and U/B
incidents.

Chilean SS. RAPEL grounded and total loss 50.45 S. 74.25 W. night 15/16.

Para. B. MARINER had Radar contact 28.38 N. 67.09 W. 170820 and later reported oil slick 28.27 N. 67.46 W. All times Z.

Para. C. CORE A/C sighted green flare and had sound contact 26.11 N. 36.44 W. 170110. Escorts of CORE sighted white flare 26.00 N. 37.11 W. 170115. CORE A/C sound contact 26.20 N. 36.44 W. 170405.

(Cominch 172100Z.)

T.C.U.24.

Section B (diversion order) to avoid U-Boat.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 172105Z to C.T.G.21.1.)

/U.S...

17.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U.S.H.S.
EMILY H.
W.WEDER.

U.S.Army Hospital Ship EMILY H.W.WEDER was formerly U.S.Army H.S.IRIS. This amends my 151635. (Cominch 172330.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary.

- A. 1. Nor. Sunderland V/330 attacked U-Boat course 000° at 1545Z/16 in 63° 05' N. 03° 10' E.
- 2. A/C C/333 attacked surfaced U-Boat course 000° at 2216Z/16 in 62° 28' N. 01° 55' E.
- 3. A/C K/103 attacked conning tower course 180° at 1856Z/16 in 45° 41' N. 11° 15' W.

4. A/C sighted surfaced U-Boat which dived at 2050Z/16th in 37° 58' N. 00° 13' E.

5. A/C attack reported in A.M. 161122B para. B.1 followed up with attack by AUBRETIA, KILMARNOCK, BLACKFLY at 1435Z/15 in 35° 58' N. 05° 45' W. ^

B. 1. A/C L/86 obtained Radar contact at 0315Z/16 in 62° 20' N. 14° 27' W.

(D.D.I.C. 171128B.)

My 221059 July 1942.

E.G.5 attacked a U-Boat in 54° 05' N. 029° 10' W. at 2040B/8. Large and persistent bubbles seen clear of depth charge pattern.

2. Aircraft at 2145B/14 in 37° 12' N. 00° 59' E. attacked a U-Boat with depth charges. Estimated one hit.

3. At 1635B/15 two M.A.D. Catalinas on patrol in Gibraltar Straits obtained contact and made attacks in 35° 58' N. 05° 45' W. Surface craft on patrol co-operated. Explosion reported after hedgehog attack. Oil patch seen over full length of Straits by 16th May.

(D.A.U.D. 171304B.)

U/B dis-positions.

(D.D.I.C. 171454B, 171502B.)

U. 731
sunk

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18.5.1944
ThursdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

- Operation "Potluck".
1. At 2131B to-day V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS, with FURIOUS, KENT, DEVONSHIRE and eight Destroyers returned to Scapa from covering F.O.E.C's Force off the Norwegian Coast.
- U-Boat sunk by A/C.
2. At 0950 to-day a Catalina A/C reported having sunk a U-Boat with depth-charges in 63 degs. 36' N. 001 degs. 42' E. (about 130 miles N.W. of Stadlandet). Several bodies were seen in the water.
- E-Boats off Dungeness.
3. Six E-Boats from Boulogne were operating in the Convoy-route off Dungeness from 0025 until 0039 to-day. Our Coastal Forces failed to intercept them, and minelaying is suspected.
- Engagement off Lyme Bay.
One E-Boat probably sunk by TANATSIDE.
4. Eight E-Boats were operating last night in Lyme Bay. They were intercepted at 0010 to-day by our Destroyer Patrol about 40 miles S.W. of Portland when TANATSIDE claims to have probably sunk one E-Boat by gun-fire; and, having entered Lyme Bay, were chased and engaged as far as the Casquets by TANATSIDE, WENSLEYDALE, and A/C with inconclusive results. Minelaying is suspected; but Convoy W.P.523 was sheltering in Torbay and was not attacked.
- M.T.B. 203 sunk.
5. While engaged in the mine-laying operation N.L.132 about 4 miles W.N.W. of Etaples, M.T.B.203 was mined and sunk at 0121 to-day. One of her ratings is missing, one was seriously injured, and two Officers and eight ratings are slightly injured.

Mediterranean

- 6(a) About 20 aircraft operated off Anzio last night. Minelaying is suspected, but no mines were swept to-day.
- (b) The U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA gave fire support in the Gulf of Gaeta yesterday and DIDO to-day. The results are reported to have been satisfactory; hits were obtained on roads and guns. The enemy return fire was slight and ineffective.

18.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean. 7. 4 Wellingtons bombed Syros harbour last night.
To-day, Kalamata harbour was bombed.

Australia and New Zealand

8. Seven Liberators bombed targets at Surabaya
in the early hours of to-day.

Landing at
Wakde.

9. A landing was effected on the remaining
island^x in the Wakde Group at first light to-day,
supported by rocket firing landing craft and air-
craft. Slight opposition was encountered but was
soon overcome. The landing strip was occupied
by early afternoon although the enemy was still
resisting stubbornly.

x Insurmuar Island.

18.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Flag of V.A. 2 will be transferred from VICTORIOUS to ANSON about 2000B to-day. Cancel my 111517. (C. in C. H.F. 181555B to H.F.)

Transfer of Warships to Soviet Navy. My 121740 and A.M. 171408. Russians have put up a plan for sea trials prior to transfer of ROYAL SOVEREIGN (my 181947 refers). Admiral Levchenko has provisionally agreed to unbasin on 24th and to carry out trials on 25th and 26th, subject to agreement being reached on trials to be carried out, but refuses now to confirm any dates pending discussion at Admiralty tomorrow. I have endeavoured to make clear that present British crew is inadequate to carry out full power trials or any gunnery items in the plan requiring control parties, in addition to explaining the sense of A.M. 171408. But Admiral Levchenko is still insistent that all his proposed trials are essential.

(C. in C. Rosyth 181936 to Admty.)

Russians have requested that arrangements may be made to dock SUNFISH, URSULA, UNISON, UNBROKEN. Reason is that they wish to inspect the hulls and the underwater fittings. Request is considered reasonable and if docking can be arranged without undue detriment to important commitments it is considered this should be done.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 182004B to Admty.)

Operations

Engagement off Lyme Bay. 8 E/Boats. (TANATSIDE 180010 to Plymouth P.W.G.)
One E/Boat My 2333. Position of enemy 10 E/Boats 50 degs. 02' probably sunk N. 02 degs. 39' W.
by TANATSIDE. (A/C MZB 30 180019B to 19 Group)
Contact regained with E/Boat position 49 degs. 40' N. 02 degs. 30' W. 300 degs. 30 knots.
(A/C POO 99, 180026B to 19 Group)

Available M.M.Ss. to carry out search of area bounded by 50 degs. 22' N. and 50 degs. 30' N. and 03 degs. 10' W. and 03 degs. 25' W. commencing at Northern extremity.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 140401B to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Last night 8 E/Boats were reported by air patrol Q at 2332/17. They were shortly afterwards engaged by the destroyers patrol south of Lyme Bay, consisting of TANATSIDE (S.O) WENSLEYDALE, WATCHMAN and WANDERER. During the following action TANATSIDE claims to have probably sunk one E/Boat, obtaining a direct hit with 4-inch which produced a large column of smoke with a red centre. WANDERER also claims to have hit one with 4.7 inch which slowed it down but it escaped in smoke. 3 Boats were then plotted into Lyme Bay where they appeared to linger off the southern side of Torbay for approx. half an hour. Patrol 2 consisting of two D-class M.T.Bs were conned by Kingswear Control towards them. On leaving the vicinity of Torbay the E/Boats appear to have split. One party narrowly evaded patrol 2, while the other party just evaded patrol 1, which also consisted of 2 D-class M.T.Bs. On their way home the E/Boats again crossed the destroyer patrol line and were intercepted by TANATSIDE and WENSLEYDALE. TANATSIDE had two more actions the last being close

/off...

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagement
off Lyme Bay.
one E-Boat
probably sunk
by TANATSIDE.
(Contd.)

off the Casquets with what appeared to be stragglers. All these latter actions were inconclusive owing to the extensive use of smoke by the enemy. In addition, one hit is claimed by an Albacore aircraft. TANATSIDE was hit twice by Oerlikon and received very slight damage but no casualties. No other ships were hit. Convoy W.P. 523 was sheltering in Torbay and was not attacked. It is considered that about 10 or 12 E-Boats were operating. Minelaying is suspected.
(C. in C.Plymouth 181341B to Admty.)

Biscay A/S
Operations.

P.C. and S. of 3 destroyers, one merchant vessel,
48° 11' N. 05° 02' W. 230° 20 knots at 2359.
(A/C PZV 51 180025B to 19 Group.)

Further report at 0025. Convoy appears to be south bound. My 172319 refers.

(C. in C.Plymouth 180059B to 352 Aux. M/S Group.)

Sighted illuminated fishing vessel with aircraft escort position
46° 40' N. 04° 00' W. at 0224.

(A/C MAU 88 180257B to 19 Group.)

Carry out A/S search in area between parallel 048° 30' and 045° 01' N. between long. 030° and 034° W. commencing in N.W. corner. Take every opportunity of topping up Support Group with fuel.

(C. in C.W.A. 181155B to NAIRANA, E.G.15.)

NAIRANA, 15th E.G. LOUIS, INGLIS, LAWSON, LORING, MOORSOM,
MOUNSEY 048° 46' N. 028° 25' W. to vicinity 047° 30' N. 033°
01' W. 11 knots.

(C. in C.W.A. 181409B to Ships.)

E-Boats off
East Coast.

At 0041 Radar contact enemy, unknown type, position 110° 51 Buoy 5 miles, course 290°.

(C. in C.Nore 180046 to Aux. M/S Groups 309 & 330.)

At 0101Z Radar contact enemy, unknown type, position 030° 51 Buoy (?10 miles). Contact faded, course 290°. Investigate.

(C. in C.Nore 180104 to Aux. M/S Groups 309 & 330).

Radar contact enemy, unknown type, 51 Buoy at 0112.

(C. in C.Nore 180114 to Aux. M/S Groups 331 and 330.)

Radar contact at 0130 (E-Boat?) position 085° 51 Buoy 4 miles, enemy course is 090°.

(C. in C.Nore 180134 to Nore Local.)

Enemy submerged in 090° 51 Buoy 22.4 miles.

(Ship call sign 3 AKK 180208B to Nore P.W.G.)

E-Boat 118 54A Buoy 15 at 0200, course 085. Cover Hook.

(C. in C.Nore 180225B to Nore Local call sign.)

Radar contact at 0217, unknown, 137° 54A Buoy 2 miles, enemy course 250°. Investigate.

(C. in C.Nore 180227 to Ships on H.D.Broadcast.)

Preliminary report on E-Boat operations night 17/18th.

1. About 6 E-Boats came in on Q.Z.S. 446 at 15 knots about 3 miles south of Unit J (Z.48) reaching 51 Buoy about 0105 when they split into 3 small units presumably minelaying. At 0120 they started to retire forming 2 groups about 2 miles apart about 0125 steering 090° 30 knots.

/2...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

E-Boats off
East Coast.
(Contd.)

2. Due to delay in passing Vector signals and a delay in acting on them Unit J did not make Radar contact until E-Boats had started to retire. When Radar range was 700 yards unit fired star shell but saw nothing. Consider this contact may have been spurious. (?spurious intended.)

3. Unit W (Z.49) was successfully vectored on to retiring E-Boats at 0150 15 miles E. of 51 Buoy. Radar contact was made and several wakes seen. The fusing of W/T and T.C.S. hampered manoeuvring and enemy was not brought to action. Some curious features of Unit W's report are being investigated.

4. K.162 detected E-Boats at 0035, range 35500 yards, and plotted them consistently well until they faded at 0147 range 45000 yards. Harwich plot did well in the filtering and passing of plots. Roughs Fort and Sunk Head Fort detected the E-Boats at 12000 and 14,400 yards respectively and supplied useful information of their movements.
(C. in C. Nore, 182149B to Admty.)

Y supplement to my 182149. E-Boat traffic heard by Felixstowe on 41.8 m/cs from 0108 to 0125 and carriers and faint R/T heard until 0254. Six call signs in two groups.

2. Two bearings 120/3 at 0119 and 140/3 at 0123.

3. Bearings on smudge signal at 0014 indicated operations in North Sea.

(C. in C. Nore, 182200B to Admty.)

Operation
F.Z.

WILLIAM
S. THAYER

sunk in
convoy R.A.59.

A.M. 121938B to C. in C.H.F.

A. 3rd ship of 3rd column.

B. 12 escorts equally spaced in accordance with A.C.I.E.O. 130 diagram C.C.I.

C. 8 escorts disposed in accordance with Appendix 2 to A.C.I.E.O. 105 with one pair in each quadrant.

D. Blue area. On anti-submarine air patrols. Crocodile continuously after 1700. Before this patrols whenever weather permitted starting at

01(?19). White area. Swept as in C. above.

E. Operation "Artichoke" by close screen of which BOADICEA on quarter sighted periscope outside screen, counter attacked, and hunted unsuccessfully assisted by pair from extended screen. Operation observant round wreck by 2 escorts.

F. Probably browning shot from outside screen. 3 other U/Boats tried unsuccessfully to attack about same time, of which 2 dealt with by extended screen and one by close screen. None of these detected by A/C. Snow shower interfered with aircraft sighting and A.S.V. Temperature layers interfered with asdics. Many U/Boats tried unsuccessfully to attack during next 72 hours.

H/F D/F invaluable and Admty. 241826 March fully concurred in.
(C.S.1, 180122B to Admty.)

/E/Boats...

18.5.1944.

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

E-Boats off
Dungeness.
M.T.B. 203
sunk.

At 2335 last night shore based Radar detected six craft of E-Boat size in approx. 5 miles N.W. of Boulogne. Enemy proceeded on westerly course at about 36 knots and at 2337 when his position was 110° Dungeness 18.1 miles, Group B, at East Bullock Buoy, M.T.Bs. 692 (S.O.) and 694, was vectored to intercept and plots broadcast in the usual manner.

Plotted tracks of Group B and the enemy met at 2357 in 135° Dungeness 10 miles. Group B, however, failed to sight the enemy and P.P.I. in Capel Radar Station showed that our vessels passed ahead of him at close range.

At 0002 Group A M.T.Bs. 693 (S.O.) and 689, patrolling at West Bullock Buoy, was ordered to steer north for four miles at 0010 N.W. and at 0028, when it became apparent that interception could not be effected, Group A was vectored on a south westerly group. Enemy reached our Searched Channel, approx. two miles S.W. of C.1 Buoy at 0025 then proceeded along convoy route at about 18 knots until 0039 when, in approx. 1¼ miles N.E. of C.1 A Buoy. Plot turned to southward and retired at high speed.

At 0040, Group A, who was now about three miles to north eastward of enemy was ordered to attack. Interception was again frustrated by greater speed of enemy and plot faded at 0114 in 195° Dungeness 25 miles. Absence of Radar contact by Groups A and B is disappointing and subsequent report by S.O. that Type 291 detects D-Type Fairmile at 3000 yards only is being investigated. Head wind and driving spray reduced chances of sighting by Group B but use should have been made of 2 pdr. starshell to illuminate area. Aircraft were grounded for weather and therefore not available to attack retiring E-Boats. Minelaying is suspected between C.1 and C.1 A Buoys and shipping has been diverted accordingly.

2. While carrying out operation N.L.132, M.T.B. 203 was sunk by what may have been either a floating or moored mine at 0121. Craft was last seen in 294° Etaples Light 3.9 miles with about three feet of bow showing and could not be approached due to proximity of own mines which had just been laid.

A two hour search by aircraft of the vicinity in daylight today has revealed no trace of wreckage.

Casualties: 1 rating missing, 2 officers and 8 ratings slightly injured, and one rating seriously.

(V.A. Dover 180946B to Admty.)

Operation
"Overlord".

C. in C.W.A. 171604. NELSON can be accepted in Clyde on Y minus 4.

(F.C.I.C. Greenock 181026B to C. in C.W.A.)

In order to give recipients of A.N.C.X.F.'s operation orders for operation "Overlord" sufficient time to amend them and study them thoroughly it will be necessary to order them to be opened some time in advance of the operation. 2. C.Os. are to take every care that the security of the orders is strictly maintained. The contents are not to be communicated to any other officer unless it is absolutely necessary for the proper performance of his duties. Particular care is to be taken against them falling into enemy hands and prior to briefing for the operation itself destroyers and below are to land the orders before operating in dangerous waters.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Operation "Overlord". (Contd.) 3. Comnavu is requested to promulgate to all U.S. ships in European waters. (Head of M.II 181453B: A.Z. Message 89 AZ B.1.)
- Operation "Tarbrush 10". My 171234. Partially successful. Regret to report two officers of landing party and dinghy lost. Two hour search of vicinity by aircraft in daylight today has revealed no trace of dinghy. (V.A. Dover 181230B to Admty.)
- Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth 181429B.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth 181433B.)
(C. in C. Nore 181706B, 182132B.)
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 181722B)
- Operation "Implement." Submarine positions at 0759/19th and movements for following 24 hours.
A. SCEPTRE on patrol off Bilbao.
(F.O.S. 181723B to Admty.)
- Operation "Potluck". Scapa arrival V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS with FURIOUS, KENT, DEVONSHIRE, MILNE, SAVAGE, MUSKETEER, VENUS, VIGILANT, MATCHLESS, MARNE and ORIBI.
(A.C.O.S. 182131B to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

- Cherbourg. Daily armed R/C requested. Movements of E-Boats on night 12/13th and 17/18th May appear to indicate that the enemy must have left harbour at about 2230 on each occasion.
2. In view of the great value attaching to early information of E-Boat sorties would you consider arranging for an armed air R/C of Cherbourg between 2230 and 2300 daily.
(C. in C. Plymouth 182255B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Enemy Air Activity.

- Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard 0530/18th off Island.
(A.C.I.C. 181144B to Admty.)

Mining.

- Operation K.N.19. Carry out operation K.N.19 tonight. Cancel my 160035B and 161411B.
A. 1. M.T.Bs. 724, 738 unit item one.
2. M.T.Bs. 739, 742 unit item 2.
3. M.T.Bs. 725, 749 unit item 3.
4. M.T.Bs. 205, 206 unit item 4.
C. 1. 2. Pass F Buoy at 2230 and proceed in position 49.53 N. 00.51 W.

/Thence...

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation K.N.19. (Contd.)

Thence i. to position of Lay. ii. to position of Lay after waiting at this position for 20'.
 D.1. 49.45.3 N. 01.22.4 W. 0300B. 349° 300 ft.
 2. 49.46.4 N. 01.23.7 W. 0315B. 324° 300 ft.
 E.1. From position of Lay to waiting position 50.05 N. 01.40 W. leaving this position at 0515B.
 From position of laying waiting position 50.10 N. 01.10 W. leaving this position at 0515B.
 H.3. M.T.Bs. 725, 749 pass Fox Buoy at 2230 and proceed through following positions A. 50.05 N. 01.40 W. B. 49.50 N. 01.48 W. C. 49.50 N. 02.08 W. thence returning to A. leaving this position at 0515.
 4. M.T.Bs. 205, 206 pass Fox Buoy at 2200 and proceed via 50.05 N. 01.40 W. to patrol in vicinity of 49.44 N. 01.32 W. until 2230, thence to patrol to the westward, returning so as to be outside visibility distance from enemy coast by daylight.
 (C. in C.Portsmouth 181206B and 181525B and 191117B to M.T.B.F. 64 and M.T.B.F. 13.)

Yarmouth. One acoustic mine detonated by sweeper at 181225B in 52° 44' 36" N. 002° 11' 18" E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 181309B and 211935B to C. in C.Nore.)

Lyme Bay clearance. My 181639. On arrival at Brixham you are to assist S.O. M/S F.16 to clear area bounded by lines joining position Key A. 050° 30' N. 003° 25' W. B. 050° 30' N. 002° 55' W. C. 050° 22' N. 003° 25' W. D. 030° 22' N. 002° 55' W. (C. in C.Plymouth 181822B to M.S.F.31.)

Enemy Intelligence.

ERLANGEN. A.F.O. 1764144. German Government intimate that former GENERAL GOVERNOUR GAMBON will be used as a German hospital ship under new name ERLANGEN. Particulars are as follows.
 2. Vessel should be treated as a fully recognised hospital ship. Fleet order will be issued. (Head of M.I. 181151B. G.M. 65A.)

Enemy Shipping Casualties.

1. My 071823 para. 3.
 A. Vessels damaged or sunk in attack off Bodo April 26th now stated to be LOTTE LEONHARDT 4167 tons and EUGEN JOSE 6800 tons in addition to ITAURI and FRIED RICHHAFEN reported previously.
 B. BAHIA 4117 tons now reported sunk in North Norway and not in attack off Bodo as previously reported. B.2.
 2. Following ships reported sunk early May as result of air attack off Stadlandet, ALMORA 2433 tons and ERLING MORTENSEN collided after being bombed and afterwards grounded and sunk. B.3
 3. Mining results, Baltic. Norwegian vessel TENTO 4917 tons mined and sunk North Holtenau May 7th. B.3.
 (Naval Reporting Officer, Stockholm 181203 to Admty.)

/Comment...

18.5.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Enemy
Shipping
Casualties.
(Contd.)

Comment. 1A. EUGEN JOSE is probably intended for ex Italian EUGENIO C.4078 G.T. FRIEDERICHSHAFEN German of about 2500 G.T. from other reports cannot have been at Bodo and is probably the vessel sunk by VENTURER on 15th April, 15 miles S.S.E. of Egersund.

1B. BAHIA 4117 G.T. (German) is believed to have been the vessel sunk by H.Nor.M. Submarine U1A on 22nd April north of the Naze.

2. ALMORA, Nor. 2522 G.T. is probably the vessel claimed as destroyed by carrier borne A/C on 6th May, 18 miles W.S.W. of Christiansund North.

3. TENTO No. 4917. An unconfirmed report of other ships sinkings has been received from a second source.

U-Boats.

U-Boat sunk
by A/C.

Your 171151. 2 separate searches, each with 6 Barracuda carried out. Negative result. My P.C. and 3. 062° 37' N. 002° 14' W. 215° 15 knots. C. in C.Rosyth pass to 18 Group C.C. (V.A.2 180300B to C. in C.H.F.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Sunk.
(A/C TULS 180950 to 18 Group.)

In 63° 36' N. 01° 42' E. definite kill. Tail plane damaged.
E.T.A. 1200.

(A/C TULS 181025B to 18 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

WARDOUR.

My 171436B. WARDOUR towing one Beetle has fouled her propeller and is being towed back to Southend. (Care. i/c Southend 180631B.)

M.T.B. 462
and M.T.B.
353.

M.T.Bs. 462 and 353 damaged in collision while returning from operations early a.m. 17th. M.T.B. 353 damaged stern post, several planks of transom, ship's side and deck, also port rudder rendering steering gear inoperative. M.T.B. 462 seven frames damaged forward. (V.A.Dover 181337B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

LACKLAN.

LACKLAN arrived Archangel 0700B today. Your 160945B refers. (S.B.N.O.Archangel 180918B to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

Large
convoys.

Your 151932. Following are also suggested for convoys of more than 90 ships. A. A Vice Commodore to be stationed in rear half of convoy and whenever possible to be a Naval Commodore with full staff.

/B...

18.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Large
convoys.
(Contd.)

B. Two experienced masters in suitable ships with adequate signal staffs and equipment to be detailed as Rear Commodores and stationed in centre of third or fourth columns to port and starboard of Commodore respectively. These ships to carry out V/3 repeating duties.

C. Ships of Commodores and Vice and Rear Commodores to carry six inch Aldis or ten inch signalling projectors.

D. Convoys to be split into at least two easily manoeuvrable sections by detachment of fast portion(s) before approaching narrow or congested waters. Position and extent of split to be decided by controlling authority having regard to U-Boat and escort situation. When necessary anchorage must be accepted for ships so sent on ahead for whom berths are not available on arrival.

2. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 181423B to C. in C.W.A.)

DROTTNINGHOLM. British Minister, Berne, has been asked to obtain confirmation from Swiss Govt. and telegraph it Most Immediate to British Minister Stockholm referring to your 171524.
(Head of M.I. 181657B to N.A.Stockholm.)

FORT
VERCHERES.
EMPIRE
PROWESS.

1. EMPIRE BARD dry docked 1600/17th.
2. Admty. 092357 para. 1B. Expect to commence bunkering FORT VERCHERES and EMPIRE PROWESS 19th May. Vessels to be sailed White Sea on completion of bunkering.
3. Unable to advise vessels position earlier and hasten movement as definite instructions from Northern Fleet only received today.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk 181829B to Admty.)

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ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticSTATESMAN,
VIGOROUS.

Request sailing of three submarines[✓]referred to in your 171201B* may be deferred three days.
2. Request outward bound submarines may be sailed in groups of up to three at an interval of not less than five days. 261231B April not to

Admty. refers.

3. Having more than four passage submarines at Gibraltar severely overstrains dockyard facilities.

(F.O.G.M.A. 181133B to F.O.S.)

* Capt. S.3's 171201 presumably intended.

✓ Amended later to 2 S/MS.

As these S/MS less STRONGBOW to whom Capt. (S) 3rd 180924 refers have sailed request in these special circumstances you will keep them the necessary 3 days on patrol after crossing 043° N. Your 181133 which is being passed to Capt. (S) 3rd refers.

(F.O.S. 181847B to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS.
NYASSA.

My 121750 NYASSA due to arrive Aden 19th May.

Admty.* please pass to F.O.L.E.M.

(B.N.A.Lisbon, 181544B to Admty.)*Passing action being taken by War Registry.

DOLFIJN,
TRESPASSER

Intend sailing DOLFIJN at 0630/20 for U.K.

(Route and arrangements.)

(F.O.G.M.A. 181611B.)

Request you will arrange for DOLFIJN to be sailed with, and TRESPASSER if practicable to continue with M.K.S.49 to U.K.

2. If TRESPASSER cannot continue with M.K.S.49 she should be held at Gibraltar and sailed with M.K.S.50.

3. Destination of both boats is Holy Loch from which onward passage to refitting port will be arranged.

4. Escorts of M.K.S.49 pass to TRESPASSER.

(D.O.D.(F) 181931B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Large
Convoys.

Your 171338 May. Concur.

(F.O.G.M.A. 181629B to Admty.)

South AtlanticU/B
report

Good Radar contacts 1200 3112 2300Z/16th.

1154 3125 0410Z/17th. 1154 3132 2300Z/17th.

Last one simultaneous 2 planes all held to about mile. Maintaining continuous cover. WX. 6683 1414.

(C.T.G. 22.2, 181010.)

/3 Frigates...

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18.5.1944
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South

North Atlantic

3 Frigates

Re desire of Union Government to acquire and man
3 Frigates.
(C. in C.S.A., 181126B.)

Movements
of Allied
Naval
Personnel
to U.K.

Your 141220. Following (which also covers
movements of Allied Naval Personnel from West
Africa to U.K. is a repetition of A.M. 291658
April to Commander-in-Chief Med. (N.T. in W.D.)
Begins:(Extract).
"Movement of Allied Military personnel other than
Russian and American from North Africa to U.K.
is to be restricted to minimum.

2. Only such personnel who are required for interests of State
or for operational purposes, and whose arrival cannot be post-
poned will be allowed to travel."
(A.C.N.S.(H) 182059B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

T.G.21.11

Depart Casablanca when ready 23rd May. Operate
against southwest bound subs. east of Azores.
(C. in C. Lant, 182119 to C.T.G.21.11.)

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Mines and
demolitions
Black Sea.

Ground mine in rectangular wooden case has been recovered by divers in five fathoms 200 metres off quay near Yalta. Mine has magnetic unit with anti counter mining device, charge 700 k.g. and firing system as for C type mine.

(2) My 172345/para.2 general system of demolishing quays in Black Sea ports is to dig charges down water level behind stone facing. They may be placed as close as 7 yards apart.

(N.L.O.Black Sea, 180050) / re tour of Conimbes Port?

U-Boat
attacked in
Bonifacio
Str. 17 May.

Your 172202. Contact not regained. In my opinion submarine has escaped at a great depth and it is unlikely that contact will be regained. (L'ALCYON, 180601B to S.O.I.S.)

CASABIANCA.

Intend to sail IN 729 (CASABIANCA) at 1900/20th on the surface during daylight 20th through A 039 degs. 05' 002 degs. 43' at 0930/21st. B 039 degs. 30' 002 degs. 10' at 2130/21st to

C 041 degs. 12 mins. 002 degs. 07' at 0730/22nd for special mission. Position (as received).

(2) Return route through (C) at 0001/23rd dive during daylight 23rd through (B) at 1800/23rd omitting (A) to R/V Algiers escort in 036 degs. 58' 003 degs. 00' 177 degs. 1100/24th.

(3) All times zone minus 2 all positions North and East. (Comnob, Algiers, 181556)

U-Boat sunk
in Straits
15 May.

Request you forward report U-Boat encounter referred to in your 161151 direct to Admiralty copy to C. in C. Med. as required by A.M.011443. (2) Any further details for inclusion in Med. anti U-Boat summary would be appreciated. (C. in C. Med. 181730B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Balkan
situation
No.5.

(2) Yugoslavia (Extract).

(2) Enemy landings 500 and 300 strong have taken

Place on P.A.G_A and Pasman respectively.

construction of fortifications since reported on

P.A.G_A and operation probably part of German plan

for protection of coastal shipping. House to

house searches have been reported from Pasman and object in this case may have been to forestall Allied raid which had been projected.

(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 181830B)

Own /...

18.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Own S/M attacked 15/16 May. 15/16 May add. 1 Wellington attacked submarine 120 miles West Cape Magno, Sardinia 6 x 250 Torpex D.C. I.G. all overshoot. Submarine subsequently proved friendly. Another Wellington contacted sub. 40 miles East Cape Palos no attacked developed (H.Q. M.A.A.F. 181859B)

Situation Report No.360. (Extract). (2) 6183 tons discharged at Anzio on 17 May. No enemy activity. (C. in C. Med. 181933B)

Aegean Operations. UNSPARING on patrol off West Kos. (2) M.Ls patrolling round Kalymnos and Leros. (F.O.L.E.M.182026C to UNSPARING?, UNISON (R) Capt. (S) 1, S.O. Force 51.)

Mining of Paros. Your 171221. Swedes are being informed that safe conduct can no longer be given to Paros. You may, therefore, resume mining harbour. (A.C.N.S.(F) 182234B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Sailing of Red Cross Vessels held up. Your 171106. Air Ministry are now instructing Foreign Office regarding terms of a communication to Spain which will give facts. You should, therefore, state that a communication will be received from the Foreign Office at an early date. (2) In addition Ministry of War Transport will write fully to Leinster and are requesting him to do his best to re-assure Spanish owners. (Admty. 182353B to A.B.N.A. Madrid)

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18.5.1944.
Thursday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

- Air attacks on Surabaya. Operation "Transom". Operation carried out according to plan and with complete success.
- Operation "Transom". (2) Reference my 041329 para. One (b) not to all addressees the Fleet has not been sighted.. Ref. para.2. I suggest a communique be issued on the following lines on receipt of this message.
- Begins: American and British aircraft carriers operating in conjunction with supporting forces launched air attack on the Japanese Naval Base at Surabaya after dawn on Wednesday 17th May. Complete surprise was achieved and considerable damage was caused by direct hits on shipping, Naval Base installations, oil refinery and aerodrome as follows:
- (A) Hits were scored on 10 ships in harbour totalling some 35,000 tons, including a small tanker and possibly a destroyer. One ship was seen to blow up and others probably sank. A hospital ship close to the target area was carefully avoided.
- (B) 2 (?floating docks) were badly damaged by 5,000 pounds of bombs.
- (C) The oil refinery at Wonokromo was completely destroyed. A direct hit demolished the power house. Storage tanks and sheds were set on fire. Smoke rising to 5,000 feet.
- (D) Direct hits caused considerable damage to Naval (?installations). The important Braat Naval Engineering Works were completely destroyed by 15,000 pounds of bombs.
- (E) Total of 21 enemy A/C destroyed as follows: 2 were shot down. At Tanjong Priok aerodrome 4 A/C were destroyed on the ground. At Malang airfield a hangar was set on fire and 15 A/C were destroyed on the ground. Many other A/C were damaged at both aerodromes.
- (3) Despite considerable light A/A fire only one of our A/C failed to return. No other casualties nor damage were sustained by our forces. (Ends).
- (4) For your information, strike consisted of 12 Avengers 18 Dauntless 24 Hellcats from SARATOGA and 18 Avengers 16 Corsairs from ILLUSTRIOUS. 2 Avengers from ILLUSTRIOUS crashed on taking off, crew rescued. One Avenger from SARATOGA started but had to turn back thus reducing the total strike to 27 Avengers 18 Dauntless 24 Hellcats and 16 Corsairs.
- (5) My general impression is poor look out was being maintained by the enemy and that his fighter defence was quite inadequate. No attempt appears to have been made to locate or shadow the fleet after the attack although weather was clear and sighting was possible outside Radar range.
- (6) This concluded a profitable and very happy association of task group 58.5 with the Eastern Fleet.
- (7) We all appreciate so much the opportunity you have given us to stage this small play in your theatre.
- (8) I shall be grateful if you will convey to Admirals Kincaid and Christie my sincere thanks for their most valuable co-operation and assistance throughout this operation.
- (C. in C.E.F. 180239Z).

Add to my 180239 the fleet sailed from Colombo and Trincomalee on 6th May and after rendezvousing 100 miles south east of Ceylon proceeded as requisite to pass 150 miles southwest of Cocos. Destroyers were refuelled from battleship and carriers on the 10th May. Owing to the south east trade conditions were not easy. Exmouth Gulf was reached at 0900H on the 15th May and refuelling was commenced immediately from 6 tankers previously sailed from Ceylon. On arrival Admirals Kincaid and Christie and Commodore

/ Pope...

18.5.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air attacks on Surabaya. Operation "Transom" (Contd.). Pope boarded QUEEN ELIZABETH and gave me the latest information. This was most valuable and was very much appreciated. Fleet sailed at 1700HI/15 and made direct approach to a point (?408) miles south of Surabaya, proceeding at 20 knots by night and at 18 by day to reduce smoke. Strike took departure at 0715/17 and returned between 0940 and 1000 when landing on commenced. Latter was completed by 1050. Wind 120 degs. 8 knots. Subsequently fleet shaped course to south west to avoid disclosing use of Exmouth Gulf.

(2) Fleet operated in 2 forces in close support, Force 66 consisting of the carriers RENOWN 2 8-inch cruisers, 2 6-inch cruisers and screen remainder formed Force 65. Good visibility until late afternoon. Cloud 4/10th during strike.

(3) Photographs of attack indicate that there were between 2 and 5 submarines in Surabaya Harbour.
(C. in C.E.F. 180241Z).
/ Alternatives 584, 490, 355.

U/boat dispositions. No.31 no fresh information no change in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 180359Z).

SEA ROVER, patrol report 27th April. For "Main Breakwater" mentioned in para.3 of my 270713 read "jetty". There are no known breakwaters at Lho Somawe. Your 151909 refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 180537Z to Admty.).

ATHENE Your 160633 approved, but request delay be reduced to the minimum.
(D.N.A.O. 181018B to C. in C.E.F.).

ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft Further to my 031025 March. Following equipment not yet received.
(3) It is still therefore not possible to provide reserve Corsair aircraft fitted VHF for ILLUSTRIOUS or any other first line commitment.
(7) A.M. 082210 Feb. refers.
(R.A.N.A.S.10, 181311Z).
/ Details of equipment for Corsair.

China

Hainan. Consider likely that Hainan is being developed as supply base for invasion troops.
7(B) Comment: Para.3. Chinese DMI believes troops in Hainan area from Kwangtung Army en route
/Philippines...

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Hainan
(Contd.)

Philippines. Estimate eight Divs. believed
exaggeration.
(204 Mily. Mission Chungking, 181615G).

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Portuguese cod fishing fleet. N.A. Lisbon's 151158. Following are names of vessels in 4th and 5th Groups:
(3) Both groups are following the route laid down in A.M. 070302 March. The 5th Group, consisting of slightly faster vessels, will sail first.
(Admty. 181148B to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(Cominch, 181523Z, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 181524Z)

North Russia convoys. Request information as to any plans for resumption of convoys to North Russian ports.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 181808Z to Admty.) *Reply: 201314Z.*

U-Boat incidents. A/C sound contacts reported para. C: my 172100 were by sono buoy.
Para. B. Bogue A/C radar contacts 12.00 N. 31.12 W. 162300 and 11.54 N. 31.25 W. 170410 and 11.54 N. 31.32 W. 172300. All times Z.
Para. C. Panam A/C sighted submerged U-Boat 29.35 N. 64.55 W. 181525, course 300.
(Cominch, 181937Z)

Large convoys. Concur in C. in C. W.A.151932. Your 171338 refers.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 182254Z to Admty.)

Stragglers report No.52. 2 arrived St. John's N.F. from O.N.F. 235. EMPIRE GOLD May 14th engine defects. TYNEBANK May 15th straggled in heavy weather. One arrived Halifax from O.N.F. 235. GEORGE WALTON (U.S.) May 16th no reason given for straggling. 2 returned Norfolk from U.G.S. 42 SVERRE HELMERSEN (Nor) May 13th Machinery defects HIRAC S MAXIM (U.S.) May 13th engine trouble. One arrived Bermuda from U.G.S.42 HELENCREST May 16th unable to make convoy speed.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 182235Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest No.849. May 17th. Para. 10 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces.
(2) Substantial United States Army Force landed at Arara on mainland Dutch New Guinea opposite Wakde Island shortly after daybreak co-ordinated with bombardment by Allied Cruiser Task Forces and Aerial bombing involving Bostons Liberators attacking Wakde Island while two groups Mitchells struck targets Sawar Village at 13 miles West

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No.849.
(Contd.)

of landing point. Nil opposition encountered and by nightfall beachhead extended 8 miles wide and smaller of two Islands forming Wakde Group occupied without encountering any resistance.

(3) New unopposed landings made at Iris Bay (8 miles West Tanahmerah Bay.)

(14) Probable S/M contacted near Treasury Islands night 16th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 180908Z)

U-Boat Campaign.

S/M.attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) U.S. destroyers attacked U-Boat at 0650Z/17 in 37 degs. 47' N. 00 degs. 16' E.

(2) A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 0147Z/18 in 37 degs. 21' N. 00 degs. 38' E.

(3) U.S. ship unsuccessfully attacked by U-Boat at 1050Z/17 in 36 degs. 40' N. 00 degs. 23' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0024Z/18 in 46 degs. 40' N. 04 degs. 00' W.

(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0800Z/17 in 37 degs. 14' N. 07 degs. 16' E.

(3) F.S.L'ALCYON attacked U-Boat contact at 0600Z and 1400Z/17 in 41 degs. 46' N. 08 degs. 30' E.

(4) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1715Z/17 in 36 degs. 41' N. 00 degs. 32' W.

(D.D.I.C. 180915Z)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 181433B, 181438B)

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- E-Boats off St. Catherines. 1. Three groups of E-Boats were operating in the area south of St. Catherines Point between 0142 and 0343 today; and one group was intercepted and engaged at 0228 about 40 miles S.E. of the Needles by GREY OWL and GREY WOLF on patrol and retired under a smoke screen.
- TUDOR attacked by E-Boats. 2. At 0507B today the S/M TUDOR on passage to Gibraltar reported that she had been unsuccessfully attacked and hunted by three E-Boats during all last night about 80 miles W. by S. of Lands End.
- Cherbourg Air R/C. 3. An armed Air R/C of Cherbourg is to be carried out daily at first and last light to afford early information of the approach of E-Boats from that base.
- Enemy mines. 4. 21 ground mines were detonated off Harwich, and three acoustic mines off Hearty Knoll, during today. Seven G.M. mines were cut by M.S.F.16 today in Lyme Bay.

Mediterranean.

- U/B sunk.
(U960) 5. The U-Boat which attacked the U.S. destroyer ELLYSON on 17th May (q.v. para. 4(b),) was continuously hunted by U.S.S. WOOLSEY, BENSON, NIBLACK and LUDLOW, with air co-operation. It was forced to the surface and sunk by gunfire and bombing by a Ventura at 0720 today in 37.35 N. 01.39 E. (65 miles north of Tenes) a few survivors being picked up.
- Adriatic. 6. Coastal forces last night sank one E-Boat and probably also an I-Boat, and damaged other craft off Peljesac Peninsula (Yugoslavia). M.G.B. 661 was badly damaged and casualties were suffered.
- H.A.43, one ship sunk. 7. SS. FORT MISSARABIE in convoy H.A.43 escorted by an Italian escort group was torpedoed by a U-Boat at 1820 today in 38.20 N. 16.41 E. (30 miles N.E. of Cape Spartivento) and sank next day.

/Air...

War Diary.

19.5.1944.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air
Operations.

8. (a). Heavy air attacks were made today by the Strategic Air Force on the Porto Marghero Oil Refinery and on Genoa, Leghorn and Spezia harbours where oil depots and stores, docks, harbour installations and shipping were hit.

(b). The Tactical Air Force last night attacked Ancona and San Benedetto harbour.

(c). Small craft were damaged by the Coastal Air Force in a raid on Durazzo and Ulginje today. A radar station at Camarat (south France) was hit.

(d). The French attacked shipping at Civitavecchia without result and a vessel at Leghorn without seeing the results.

Aegean.

9. SICKLE reports sinking 3 small caiques in the Doro Channel on 8th May and a 200 ton caique by gunfire in 36° N. 25° E. (about 45 miles N.W. of Candia) on 13th. On 12th May she bombarded the radar station near Candia.

East Indies.

Convoys,
East Africa.

10. (a). C. in C. Eastern Fleet considers it now necessary to reinstitute convoys between Kilindini and Durban. Shipping from Aden, the Persian Gulf and Karachi is being diverted to Kilindini for onward escort.

(b). Shipping north of Kilindini will continue to sail independently for the present.

America & West Indies.

U.G.S.
Convoys.

11. The limit of 90 ships is effective for east-bound U.G.S. convoys until further notice. U.G.S. 42 sailed on 14/15th May with 103 ships.

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. Bostons escorted by Lightnings attacked shipping at Manokwari (New Guinea) today and destroyed 7 or 8 ships, mainly small ones of wooden construction but including one of 1000 tons and another of 2000 tons.

New Ireland. 13. M.T.Bs. operated with success again last night, destroying 4 barges or small craft around Selapiu Island (southern approach to Kavieng). An enemy troop laden barge was probably sunk between Borpop and Namatanai.

U/B destroyed. 14. A U.S. escort destroyer this afternoon attacked a submarine 120 miles N.E. of Buka Passage, Bougainville. A very heavy underwater explosion and wreckage resulted. This is the second U-Boat believed destroyed in this vicinity within 3 days (see 17th May.)

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19.5.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Transfer
of Warships
to Soviet
Navy.Your 131818. It is not intended to make any
presentation.
(D.F.S.L., 190046B to C. in C. Rosyth.)MONTCALM,
GEORGES
LEYGUES.Your 172029. Rear-Admiral Jaujard has taken
command of MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES. It
is anticipated that these ships will be ready
to sail for Belfast about 25th May. Hope
this will meet your requirements.
(C. in C. H.F., 191146B to N.C.W.T.F.)Defence of the United Kingdom

Seidisfiord.

Consequent on withdrawal of British Examining
Officer in accordance with decision contained
in A.M. 290217 April and at the request of U.S.
Army C.I.C. it has been decided to establish
a coast-watching post in Seidisfiord Town at Amveru early date.
My 081420 March and former signals refer. Crew of 3 are being
provided locally.
(A.C.I.C., 191954B to Admty.)OperationsOperation
"Overlord".Following from War Office. Begins. Your
171411B. Regret that certain manufacturing
and assembly defects have come to light but
these are being rectified. Certain damage and
losses would appear to be due to towing not
having regard to the nature of the tows and state of weather.
Ends.

(D.L.D., 190143B to A.N.C.X.F.)

From Gale signed Eisenhower.

S52103 reference MO565642. Minutes of meeting held at Admty.
on 12th May concerning "Overlord" towing arrangements. Para.
(4). Am concerned at view of A.C.N.S.(H) that Admiralty have
right to withdraw British tugs from "Overlord" should they at
any time become anxious about the need for tugs in the ports
of the U.K. or for towing damaged ships. My understanding is
that C.C.S. have allocated to S.C.A.E.F. for "Overlord" operation
certain British and U.S. tugs. Operational control of these
tugs has been vested by S.C.A.E.F. in A.N.C.X.F. If tug
"owners" were given authority to withdraw tugs at will for
other purposes execution of the whole operation and in
particular of "Mulberry" would be prejudiced. Circumstances
may arise as A.C.N.S.(H) suggests when tug owners may have
urgent need to employ for their own purposes tugs allocated and
under control of A.N.C.X.F. for "Overlord". Proper procedure
should then be that tug "owners" submit requirement to Cotug.
If this requirement cannot be met without prejudice to progress
of "Overlord" operations Command decision as to priority must
then be made by A.N.C.X.F. and C. in C. 21st Army Group with
reference in case of disagreement to S.C.A.E.F. Request you
clear (earliest possible) this point with Admiralty.

(S.H.A.E.F. G.4, 191145B to A.N.C.X.F.)

/My ...

19.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Overlord". (Contd.) My 171411. It is understood that there is an acute shortage of Mk. II concrete Beetles at Marchwood which are urgently required to replace casualties.
 2. Request up to a maximum of 50 in number Mark II concrete Beetles be transferred to Marchwood. (A.N.C.X.F., 191258B to D. of P. and I.W.T. War Office.)

Biscay A/S operations. D/F bearings at 0151Z indicate U/B in your vicinity.
 (D.D.I.C., 190426B to LEEDS CASTLE.)
 One or two U-Boats outward bound are estimated to be in your vicinity during the next 24 hours.
 (D.D.I.C., 190945B to O.S.77/K.M.S.51.)

- (1) P.C.S. 048° 01' N. 031° 19' W., 270°, advance 7 knots while fuelling escort. 4 fuelled so far.
- (2) Intend course 180° on reaching 033° W., advance 11 knots.
- (3) H/F D/F bearing 252° distant at 0824B.
- (4) Weather.

(NAIRANA, 191001B to C. in C. W.A.)
 NAIRANA operating with 15th Escort Group LOUIS, MOUNSEY, MOORSOM, INGLIS, LAWSON, LORING vicinity 047° 01' N. 031° 58' W.

(C. in C. W.A., 191312B to Ships.)
 P.C.S. of T.C.U.24 at 1500Z, 43.08 N. 27.19 W., 028, 14.5
 At 1340Z attacked sound contact 42.56 N. 27.09 W. Results negative. Continuing search until 1610Z. Weather.

(C.T.G.21.8, 191615Z to C. in C. W.A.)
 To counter the threat to U.K.-Gibraltar convoys from enemy aircraft at Bordeaux request fighter protection be provided as follows.

- (2) (a) One Escort Carrier and one Assault Carrier to sail with O.S.78 as detailed by C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. H.F. respectively;
- (b) For S.L.158 and M.K.F.31 so far as practicable by NAIRANA and if necessary be detaching one Carrier from O.S.78.
- (3) M.K.F.31 should be routed through approx. 37° N. 23° W., 43° N. 26° W., 50° N. 26° W., and be joined by NAIRANA about 25th May.
- (4) C. in C. H.F. is requested to hold remaining Assault Carriers available for operation by C. in C. W.A. on this route.
- (5) C. in C. W.A.'s 161034 and A.M. 190051 refer.
 (V.C.N.S., 191932B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. H.F.)

TUDOR attacked by E-Boats. Unsuccessfully attacked and hunted by 3 E-Boats all night. In 049° 41' N. 008° 07' W. at 0500B/19th.
 Request total bombing restriction until 1800B/19th to charge.
 (TUDOR, 190507B to F.O.S.)

On next occasion of breaking W/T silence signal brief details of attack and hunt. Your 190507 refers. There is no further knowledge of E-Boats in this vicinity.
 (F.O.(S), 191528B to TUDOR.)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.S/M
Patrols.

Request you will sail VIRTUE at 0800B/20th through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles and 062° 01' N. 001° 55' E. to patrol line LL on surface at C.O.'s discretion.

(Capt. S.9, 190949B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/20th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) SCEPTRE on patrol off Bilbao.

(F.O.(S), 191822B to Admty.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191437B.)

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191958B.)

E-Boats
off St.
Catherines.

At 0142 and 0146 night 18th/19th May shore-based Radar detected two unidentified plots in approx. 161° St. Catherines Point 31 miles and 165° St. Catherines Point 30 miles.

At this time exercise "Cantab" was taking place and plots were being passed on Port Wave to

N.C.E.T.F. for re-broadcast to forces taking part.

Both groups of enemy proceeded on a course 045° at 40 knots and STEVENSTONE and THORNBOROUGH patrolling on a line 50.22 N. between 00.45 W. and 01.00 W. were fleeted West for 10 miles in order to be in a position to intercept. At 0148 enemy's course and speed were altered to East, speed 25 knots and unit D.1, GREY OWL and GREY GOOSE patrolling in 50.01 N. 00.34 W. were vectored to intercept. At 0212 the Western Group of the enemy was in approx. 141° St. Catherines Point 31 miles and the Eastern in position 150° St. Catherines Point 31 miles. Tracks of Unit D.1 and this latter group merged at 0228 when GREY OWL and GREY WOLF steering North to intercept sighted 5 E-Boats on the port quarter crossing astern at about 2000 yards in approx. 135° Needles 40 miles.

Unit D.1 immediately turned to starboard and as the range closed illuminated and opened fire. S.G.Bs. then turned slightly to port to open "A" arcs at a range of 900 yards, engaged and hit the E-Boats, which had apparently not previously detected the S.G.Bs., immediately made smoke and turned to port. They then turned away sharply to starboard and retired under cover of smoke at high speed, to the southward and south-westward. E-Boats were plotted out to a range of 4000 yards by S.G.Bs. until 0245.

From plots obtained from shore Radar the group appeared to split into two and faded at 0254 and 0305. A third unidentified track was detected in approx. 157° St. Catherines Point 28 miles at 0253 proceeding on a course of 020° 25 knots. This track faded at 0258 but was subsequently detected again at 0303. STEVENSTONE patrolling to the northward was vectored to investigate. No contact was made and at 0343 track faded. No further contacts were made and no E-Boats penetrated to within 15 miles of "Cantab" exercise area, and the exercise continued until suspended at 0357 by N.C.E.T.F. as plot No.3 appeared to be closing.

K.N.19 and K.N.12 were carried out without incident.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191831B to Admty.)

19.5.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

Cherbourg
Daily Air
R/C.

Standing instruction has been issued by 11 Group for a Fighter squadron to carry out a R/C of Cherbourg at first and last light daily. On the night mentioned in your 182255 the weather was too bad to permit this.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191723B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Air Activity

Scapa.

At 2337/18 Yellow Scapa was issued on sighting from Murkle Bay of 2 Ju.88 (or Ju.188) from N.W. flying low. Visual reports indicate A/C set course Dunnet Head, over Pentland Firth,

Cantick Head, Hoxa Head, Grimness, whence A/C were plotted on a steady easterly course. Two sections of Spitfires were airborne but no contact was made. Guns opened fire and a hit was claimed but not confirmed. Successful photographic reconnaissance of Fleet Anchorage could have been made.

(2) My 190122B refers.

(3) At 0018/19 prep X was made on a third hostile A/C plotted 330° A Buoy 30 miles course N.E. A/C first appeared in the Minch at 2345/18 but faded after a few plots. Plots showed A/C finally left the area through S. Fair Isle Channel.
(A.C.O.S., 191030 to Admty.)

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 181938. Ju.88 low flying defence area 0245. Opened fire all weapons. Disappearing towards northerly direction.
(A.C.I.C., 191000B to Admty.)

Mining

East Coast.

LUDLOW reported to NADINE at 1825 today mine detonated 5 miles on port bow destroyer in van. Position of ship 132° 55A Buoy 2 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 190105B to Admty.)

19 ground mines detonated by M.M.S. between 0633 and 0805 in area between bearings 110 and 140° distances 2½ to 5 miles from Roughs Fort.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 190917B and 191158B to Admty.)

1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. in approx. ¾ mile N.N.E. of 51 Buoy at 1220. My 190917 explosions reported as half the size of the normal ground mine. All apparently accurate.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 191252B to Admty.)

Motor minesweepers detonated 3 acoustic mines at 1257B today in position:

- (1) 183° Hearty Knoll Buoy 7 cables.
- (2) 220° Hearty Knoll Buoy 11 cables.
- (3) 200° Hearty Knoll Buoy 7 cables.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 191339B and 211934B to Admty.)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining - Contd.

Lyme Bay. My 181058 and 181421. C.O's were convinced that mines were type G.M.
(M/S.16, 190810B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
1 mine cut in $50^{\circ} 27'36''$ N. $03^{\circ} 21'36''$ W. 2 others sighted watching close to the eastward.
(M/S.16, 191203B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Following from S.O. M/S.16 begins. 3 mines watching in approx. $050^{\circ} 28'$ N. $003^{\circ} 01'30''$ W. Thought to be G.M. or G.R. types. Have swept and danned centre of line in accordance with your 180311 and 180405. Ends. T.O.O. 181058.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 191415 to Admty.)
Following from M/S.16 begins. Have cut 3 mines in $050^{\circ} 25'36''$ N. $003^{\circ} 02'06''$ W. 181421B. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 191417 to Admty.)
Following from M/S.16 begins. 1 mine cut in $050^{\circ} 27'36''$ N. $003^{\circ} 21'36''$ W. 2 others sighted, watching close to eastward. 191203B. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 191430 to Admty.)
Progress. Have swept to an eastern limit of $03^{\circ} 19'30''$ W. 3 mines were cut in positions: (A) $50^{\circ} 27'30''$ N. $03^{\circ} 21'42''$ W.
(B) $50^{\circ} 26'57''$ N. $03^{\circ} 21'21''$ W.
(C) $50^{\circ} 28'36''$ N. $03^{\circ} 19'54''$ W. SHIPPIGAN dragged (undamaged ?) mine, see (my ?) 191749 and 192005. Mine was sunk. Mines were all type G.M.
(M/S.16, 192252B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Large Admiralty's 181423B. A, B and C. Consider that whilst advocating a position in rear half of convoy for Vice-Commodore, the final decision be left to Commodore. Otherwise concur.
(D) Consider that if required for a quick turn-round a small fast section could be detached probably with only one escort when U-Boat situation permits. It is considered that to split the convoy into two sections when approaching narrow or congested waters would entail too many difficulties since the Commodore would have to also consider this when reforming the convoy to comply with altered destinations, thus resulting in many additional manoeuvres. Local escorts are also not available for two sections. Intend to instruct Ocean Escorts that whenever the size of the convoy proceeding through the North Channel exceed 60 ships at least two of the escorts are to remain until Clyde Section have crossed outbound route.
(C. in C. W.A., 191541B to Admty.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Red Cross
ship.

Your 182353/ has been passed to Madrid.
(N.A. Lisbon, 191744B to Admty.).
/ Re terms of communication to Spain.

Swiss
ships.

My 091318 and 151601 sailings delayed as follows
SS. ST. GOTHARD "several days" SS. BRIQUETAS
ZORROZA about 21st May.
(2) My 161740 para.2 SS. ZURICH dates are now 24th
and 27th May.
(D.E.W.D. 191919B to F.O.G.M.A. Info. C. in C.Med.).

South Atlantic

O.S.76

In view of present U/boat dispositions intend to
retain South America and Cape ships in convoy to
Freetown.
(N.O.i/c W.Af., 191224 Z).

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

SS. SAUMUR German SAUMUR sailed Barcelona 1215/18th proceeding North.
(F.O.G.M.A. 191026B to 10th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10, S.O.(I) Med.)

Mining of Paros. A.M. 182234 has been repeated to C. in C. Med. (Admty., 191533B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Air Attack on U.G.S.40 on 11th May. Preliminary reports on air attack on U.G.S.40 indicate that attack took place at dusk by 40 to 60 torpedo A/C. Divisionary high level bombing is also reported. Escorts claim 11 A/C shot down and Air Force 5. No ships were damaged.
2. Adequate warning was received and convoy was effectively covered by smoke by the time attack developed. Atmospheric conditions were ideal for smoke. U.S. escorts used Todd smoke producing apparatus which was apparently extremely satisfactory.
3. Screen consisted of 16 escorts and CALEDON giving all round protection at 4000 yards from the convoy. Comprehensive air defence plan had been prepared using sector guards and sector controller system. Fire discipline was good in escorts and merchant ships.
4. Some Radar interference was experienced which may have been "Window". Amplifying signal will be sent.
5. Escorts complain that Mark XIV gyro gunsights are unsatisfactory at night. Possible design to incorporate eye-shooting sight is being investigated by C. in C. Med.
6. Lack of success of comparatively large attack attributed mainly to effective smoke gunfire and interception by fighters. (C. in C. Med., 191700B.)

VAMPIRE Leave patrol to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 29' about dawn 22nd thence through Antikithera Channel to position 035° 41' 023° 15'.
(Capt. S.1, 191847 to P.72 (VAMPIRE)).

? FORT MISSANABIE, H.A.43. FORTUNALE attempted to take ship in tow but has now rejoined convoy escort because wreck is sinking. DANAIDE has had asdic contact possible S/M near position previous to incident and dropped depth charge.
(INDOMITO, 192125B to S.N.O.E.Sicily, F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Situation Report No.361. 5526 tons discharged at Anzio 18th May. About 20 A/C in vicinity of anchorage during the night 17th/18th May suspected minelaying but no mines swept on 18th May.
2. U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA gave fire support in Gulf of Gaeta and DIDO on 18th May. Results report satisfactory hits obtained on roads and guns. Enemy returned fire slightly and ineffectively.
3. U/Boat located by A/C which homed U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK and

/U.S. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation
Report
No. 361.

*U.960
Sunk*

U.S. Destroyer LUDLOW. After series of deep creeping attack U/B was forced to surface and sunk by gunfire and A/S bombing at 0720/19th in 037° 35' N. 00° 38' E. A few survivors picked up. This U/Boat was same as that which attacked U.S.S. ELLYSON on 17th May, my 172246* para. 5 refers and had since been continuously hunted by U.S.S. WOOLLEY, BENSON (corrupt group) NIBLACK and LUDLOW with air co-operation.

4. P.224 (SICKLE) reports sinking 3 small caiques in Doro Channel on 8th May, bombarding Radar station near Candia on 12th May and sinking 200 tons Caique by gunfire in 036° N. 025° E. on 13th May.

(C. in C. Med., 192130B.)

* 172146 intended. Situation report 359.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoy orders. D.K. - 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., 190821Z.)

Convoy Kilindini - Durban. Consider it now necessary to reinstitute convoy system between Kilindini and Durban available ships of Kilindini Escort Force being used for this purpose after other commitments have been met. My 040947 April and my 181247 May refer. Escort of SALWEEN may be reduced to one ship.

2. It is realized that S. African escorts may not be available to screen these convoys at present but C. in C.S.A. is requested to state what assistance can be given on southern position of Durban/Kilindini route. CESSNOCK is available on completion C. in C. S.A. 161021 refers.

3. F.O.E.A. is requested to state earliest date when first southbound convoy can sail from Kilindini and whether the loan of one or two corvettes from Aden is considered necessary.

4. Shipping from Aden, Persian Gulf and Karachi is being diverted to Kilindini for onward escort F.O.N.I.C. 407 refers. Shipping north (?of) Kilindini will continue to sail independently for the present. Signals quoted not to all addressees.
(C. in C.E.F. 190822Z.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. Sub. No report since my 170815Z. Para.D. Liberator B/10
attack and disappearing Radar contact 42 degs. 40' N. 56 degs.
sighting 05' West at 1333Z/17th.
summary. (N.S.H.Q. 191140Z).

SS. Diversion order.
MAURETANIA. (D.O.D.(H), 191145B).

U/boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 191530Z, Cominch 191555Z).

U.G.S. Refer my 141958 of April limit of 90 ships
convoys. effective for east bound U.G.S. convoys until
further notice.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 191650Z).

U/boat Para.B. PBM. Radar contact 28.49 N. 64.44 W.
incidents. 190045Z.
(Cominch, 192108Z).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest No. May 18th. Paras. 14 to 22 cover South Pacific
850. Forces.
(8) Landing effected remaining island in Wakde
group at first light supported by rocket firing
landing craft and Bostons. Slight opposition
encountered but soon overcome and landing strip occupied by
early afternoon although stubborn resistance still being offered.
Our losses very slight.
(10) 35 Mitchells supported original Arar landing morning 17th
and three Liberators bombed area earlier.
(11) Allied amphibious patrol landed Dogreto Bay (midway between
Wewak and Aitape) night 16th but encountered Jap activity immediate
Hinterland.
(13) Japanese Naval surface force reported Tawi Tawi 14th May
refer Digest 847 para.12 reported still there afternoon 17th.
(19) M.T.Bs. sank one loaded barge damaged another barge off
southwest Coast New Ireland opposite Namatanai night 17th/18th.
Single enemy Float Plane ineffectively attacked P.T. boats.
(20) U.S. Destroyer attacked and probably sank enemy submarine
night 16th/17th 130 miles northeast of Buka Passage.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 190810Z).

NESTOR NESTOR speed 11 knots is expected leave Australia
late June for U.K. via South Africa.
(2) Under existing limitations vessel should

/ be ...

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

NESTOR
(Contd.).

be restricted to 100 passengers but in view limited sailing and long waiting list agents desire to use vessels full capacity for 124 men and 120 women and children.

(3) Lifeboat capacity 480 crew 207.

(4) Propose approval be given in this instance.

(A.C.N.B. 190903Z to Admiralty, C. in C.E.F., C. in C.S.A.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. A/C S/210 attacked U/boat at 0742Z/18 in 063 degs. 36' N. 01 degs. 42' E.

Para.B.1. A/C K/304 obtained contact, hunted but saw nothing at 2111Z/18 in 46 degs. 25' N. 08 degs. 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 191127B).

U/boat
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 191428B, 191457).

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E-Boats
minelaying
off E.Coast.
3 E-Boats
damaged.

1. Six E-Boats probably from Ostend and six more believed from Ijmuiden were operating off the Suffolk Coast between 2359B and 0115B today. The former group was engaged off 54A Buoy (Harwich) at 0047B by KITTIWAKE who apparently damaged one E-Boat with gunfire, and was also later attacked off Ostend by A/C from Manston who claim to have set two E-Boats on fire. The second group was sighted off Yarmouth at about 2330 by a Wellington A/C which dropped a flare and caused the E-Boats to abandon their operations and retire. Mines appear to have been laid by the first group of E-Boats east and south of 54A Buoy.

E-Boats
minelaying
off Start
Point. 1 E-
Boat claimed
sunk and 3
damaged by
A/C.

2. E-Boats were operating off Start Point between 0100 and 0133 today. Our Coastal Forces failed to intercept them; but at 0205 they were attacked by two Albacore A/C who claim to have sunk one E-Boat and to have damaged three more. Minelaying is suspected.

U-Boat in
Western
Channel.

3. A U-Boat, sighted and attacked by A/C 17 miles N.N.W. of Ile de Bas (Brittany) at 0157 today, is expected by C. in C.Plymouth to be proceeding either easterly along the French coast or north-easterly towards our Channel Convoy Routes; and an A/S Striking Force of four destroyers to operate with two Leigh Light Wellington A/C, left Plymouth at 2030 today to attack it.

Enemy traw-
ler sunk by
M.T.B. 90.

4. While carrying out an offensive sweep in the Channel Islands area with three other French M.T.Bs M.T.B.90 (S.O.) torpedoed and sank one of a group of four enemy trawlers at 0400B today about 11 miles W. by S. of La Corbiere (Jersey).

Enemy mines
swept.
WYOMING and
M.M.S. 227
(MARKEN) sunk.

5. It is reported today that four ground mines were swept off Dover on the 18th May, and six more yesterday, all in Q.Z.X. 1313. Fourteen ground mines were swept today off Harwich; and during this operation the M/S trawler WYOMING was mined and sunk east of No. 54A Buoy and M.M.S. 227 (Dutch ship MARKEN) was also mined and sunk N. of No. 51 Buoy. There were 17 survivors from WYOMING and one from M.M.S. 227.

Operation
K.N.6.

6. At 0234 today, while close inshore covering the minelaying operation K.N.6 in the Baie de la Seine, M.T.Bs. 246 and 247 fired four torpedoes at two enemy T.L.Cs. south of St. Marcouf Light; three explosions were seen but the results were not observed.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Illegal
Spanish A.A.
fire against
U.S.A/Cs.

7. Cominch reports that A.A. fire from shore batteries in Spanish Morocco and The International Zone is of almost daily occurrence when aircraft are definitely outside the territorial limits. He asks that it shall be made clear to the Spanish Government that the U.S. will take appropriate action in the event of further unprovoked and illegal action by Spanish batteries; and he recommends that the offending batteries be removed from the International Zone.

8. The destroyers TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS on patrol off the Albanian coast last night engaged 5 E or R-Boats and destroyed one of them.

China.

9. 15 U.S. Liberators operating today in the South China Sea damaged a freighter in the South Pescadores Islands area, and probably sank a destroyer and 2 small freighters and damaged 2 large freighters 36 miles north of Portas Island.

Australia & New Zealand.

New Guinea.

10. Allied artillery from Wakde maintained harassing fire on heavy defensive positions in the Maffin Bay area. Three U.S. destroyers bombarded the Sarmi area this morning, exploding large fuel dumps.

Solomon Is.

11. A U.S. cruiser and destroyer force bombarded Shortlands this forenoon whilst a large force of aircraft attacked targets inland from Buin.

Marcus Is.

12. Strikes by carrier borne aircraft were made yesterday and today on Marcus Island. Considerable damage to ground installations is reported. Four aircraft were lost in combat.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

VICTORIOUS. Departure of VICTORIOUS for Eastern Fleet is postponed A.M. 092350 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 200543B to C. in C.W.A.)

Transfer of Warships to Soviet Navy. Russian destroyers. The following programme of trials prior to turn over has been agreed. Details (F.O.I.C. Tyne 201631B to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Iceland. Your 152020B April. Para. 5A. Concur that Dalatangi Beacon should be repaired.
Para. 5B. Concur in closing down Seidisfjord W/T Station and transferring it to Raufarhofn; the four surplus W/T ratings being returned to this country.
(Head of M.II 200438B to A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

E-Boats minelaying off E.Coast. 3 E-Boats damaged. Aircraft reports 6 unidentified vessels stationary in 52° 44' N. 03° 27' E. at 2359.
(C. in C.Nore 200012B to Local Call signs.)
My 0012. Contact lost.
(C. in C.Nore 200039B to Local Call signs.)
One unknown vessel in 290° 54A Buoy 3 miles at 0049, course 270°.
(C. in C.Nore 200055B to Local Call signs.)

One unknown surface craft detected by Radar in 330° Smiths Knoll Buoy 6 miles.
(C. in C.Nore 200125B to CAMPBELL.)

E-Boat activities last night 19/20th May.

1. At 0047 KITTIWAKE (Patrol 9A) and K.162 picked up E-Boats 085° 4 miles from 54A Buoy making for that buoy. KITTIWAKE then engaged 3 E-Boats which turned just short of 54A Buoy and retired approx. 120° being joined from the southward by another unit of probably 3 boats. KITTIWAKE detected second unit on Radar but did not sight.
2. Mines appear to have been laid east and south of 54A Buoy. Extent of area affected not yet known.
3. M.T.B. unit at Z.49 was unsuccessfully vectored to intercept. Due to shortness of time available in which to effect interception a guess had to be made at course on which enemy would retire. In this case guess was incorrect.
4. During long-range action KITTIWAKE observed flash of an explosion in one boat which temporarily reduced speed indicating damage.
5. Shore Radar. 0047 K.162 picked up the E/Boats at 32000 yards (normal detection range). From 0051 K.164 also plotted E/Boats continuously. At 0115 tracks faded at both stations at 41000 yards. No anomalous propagation, and shore stations were slightly handicapped by frequent atmospheric effects.
6. At 0345 Swordfish aircraft from Manston attacked 6 E/R boats off Ostend steering for that port and claim 2 boats on fire. These were probably E/Boats returning from Harwich area.
7. 6 E/Boats believed from Ijmuiden were sighted by Wellington 16 Group approximately 52° 44' N. 3° 25' E. about 2330. A/C

/dropped...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

E/Boats
minelaying
off East
Coast.
3 E/Boats
damaged.
(Contd.)

dropped flare and E/Boats appear to have stopped and then abandoned operations. Aircraft lost contact about 2359. This again shows deterrent effect of these patrols.
(C. in C. More, 201820B to Admty.)

Operation
"Overlord"

Your 1066/X/0886/13 dated 11th May.
It is not desired for NELSON to enter "Overlord" operational area until the need of her arises. Arrangements are, therefore, to be made for her to be berthed at Milford Haven until required.

2. In order to ensure maximum work-up she should be sailed direct from Scapa to arrive as late as practicable.
(A.C.N.S.H., 200158B to A.N.C.X.F.)

C. in C. Plymouth's 182251. (See special File).

2. C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail BLYSKAWICA, PIORUN, and JAVELIN for Plymouth as soon as they are ready.

3. Para. 3 is referred to A.N.C.X.F. as no destroyers are available other than those which have already been allocated to "Overlord".

(A.C.N.S. H., 200204B to C. in C.H.F., A.N.C.X.F.)

It appears that, in the Rules for Opening Fire in the A.D.G.B. "Overlord" plan subsequently circulated as A.D.G.B. Operational Instructions No. 5/1944, the proposals in Air Ministry letter S. 7890/III/S.6 dated 4/9/43 as agreed by Admty. letter M/S D.O. 8817/43 dated 3/11/43 were overlooked.

2. A.C.O.S. has represented to the Admiralty that the special rule for opening fire contained in S.D. 158(1) para. 37(iii) be retained in the O.S.D.E.F. Area. Admty. strongly support this.

3. Paras. 3(i) and (v) of the above quoted Air Ministry letter refer.

4. Request the necessary amendments be made to rectify this matter.

(A.C.N.S. H, 201135B to Air Ministry.)

Regarding appointment Rear Admiral Jaujard F.N. to Command Division French cruisers MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES refer Admiralty's 162142. Request confirmation this appointment extends to those ships only and that succession of command of forces in which these ships operate will be through U.S. or R.N. Officers only without regard to seniority of Jaujard. Further that the 2 cruisers may be separated and sent to different forces by the Force Commander concerned if situation requires. Conversely in special situations N.C.W.T.F. or Assault Force Commander concerned may designate specific forces additional to MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES to be under Jaujard's operational command. Admiral Jaujard of course to retain throughout administrative command of 2 cruisers and those only.

(N.C. W.T.F. 201159B to A.N.C.X.F.)

To replace casualties it is required that surplus P.P.7 Beetles from London be transferred to Marchwood Southampton.

2. It is understood that a total of 30 remain available.

3. Request you will signal proposals stating how many can be moved by normal movement of tugs scheduled to proceed to assembly area.

4. A.N.C.X.F. is requested to confirm that this number will meet requirements.

(D.O.D.H., 201258B to C. in C. Nore.)

/Confirmed...

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20.5.1944
SaturdayWar Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "Overlord" (Contd.) Confirmed that your 201159 represents my views. (A.N.C.X.F. 201605B to N.C.W.T.F.) Preparatory arrangements are now being made to enable the T.B.R. Squadrons at present embarked in Escort Carriers operating under C. in C.W.A. to disembark at very short notice, and operate from shore bases should the requirements of forthcoming operations make it necessary.

2. Squadrons already disembarked are overborne by 25% Maintenance Ratings. It would be of assistance if the embarked squadrons could also be overborne by up to 25% Maintenance Ratings.

3. You are requested to report the number of ratings which could now be accepted by each ship. (D.N.A.O. 201934B to F.O.C.T.)

E/Boats off Start Point. One enemy trawler sunk. One E/Boat claimed sunk and three damaged by A/C.

4 Trawlers. Enemy position is 260 La Corbiere 11. (M.T.B.90, 200330B to Plymouth, P.W.G.) 1 trawler hit by torpedo. Returning to harbour. No casualties, no damage. (M.T.B.90, 200400B to C. in C. Plymouth.) Last night following activities took place in Plymouth Command (1) At 0100 enemy E/Boats were plotted 208° Start Point 14 approaching coast. They arrived at 250° Start Point 10 at about 0118, then turned East to 220° Start Point 6 at 0133, and then retired to south at 35 to 40 knots splitting into 2 divisions. Unit G.N.2 (3 D class M.T.Bs.) were vectored by Kingswear control on the enemy, but enemy were then retired and quickly out-distanced our forces. Force 27 was ordered to proceed to the westward to intercept but were too far to the eastward to be able to do so. 2 Albatrosses attacked at 0205 and claimed 1 sunk and 3 damaged. Minelaying is suspected.

(2) Units G.S.1 (French M.T.Bs. 227, 239, 90, 96) carried out offensive sweeps in Channel Is. Area. Unit operated in 2 divisions. At 0330 2nd division (M.T.B. 96 and 90) investigated 4 Radar contacted off Jersey and sighted 4 small trawlers, sinking one by torpedo. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201202B to Admty.)

Operation "Knitting 10". Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs. 257 (S.O.) and 252 in support at 2115 today for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00° 07' E. and 00° 37' W. Vessels to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 201054B to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 201054B. Operation "Knitting 10" postponed. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 201642Z to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Dover...

20.5.1944
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Dover shelled. At 1816/19th two enemy shells fell half mile to seaward of eastern entrance Dover Harbour. Between 0001 and 0017 this morning a further seven rounds fell in the sea off the Harbour. No damage or casualties. There was no apparent reason for the shelling no shipping being in the vicinity at the time. Visibility moderate.
(V.A. Dover, 201240B to Admty.)

Search for U/Boat. U/Boat was sighted and attacked by A/C in 49.01 N. 04.09 W. at 0157 May 20th. This submarine is expected to proceed mainly submerged either easterly along the French Coast or North Easterly towards our southern coast.

2. Intention to form A/S Striking Force working in conjunction with Leigh light Wellingtons to attack this S/M.

3. VIMY take WANDERER, WATCHMAN, and SCIMITAR under your orders and form Force 29. Proceed in so as to pass the gate at 2030/20, thence by swept channel and through 50.04 N. 04.00 W. to 50.04 N. 03.40 W. thence sweep down to arrive at Western End of patrol line in 49.28 N. 03.50 W. by 2359.

4. Patrol line extends in an 085 direction for 18 miles from above position and ships should be spread at right angles to patrol line turning at the Eastern End at the odd hours.

5. If not in contact leave patrol at 0400/21st, concentrate, and return to Plymouth keeping west of 04.00 W. when N. of 50° N.

6. Two Leigh light Wellingtons will be carrying out A/S search to N. and S. of your patrol line. Bombing restrictions are not being imposed but A/C will be aware of your presence and have orders not to attack surface craft. Ships should fire the appropriate two star cartridge if they consider they are being menaced. If A/C obtain contact of a S/M they will drop green flares and switch I.F.F. to stud four. If necessary they can be communicated with and ordered to home you on 2410 kcs.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201322 to VIMY.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201325B, 201507B, 201704B, 201737B, 201930B.)

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201548B, 201728B.)

Biscay A/S operations. E.G. 15th, LOUIS, INGLIS, LORING, MOUNSEY, LAWSON, MOORSOM operating with NAIRANA S.O. vicinity 046° 30' N. 032° 01' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 201333B to Ships.)

Operation "Wallop". Carry out operation "Wallop" tonight.
1. Unit G.M.T.Bs. 254 (S.O., 252, 256, 257.
2. 0001B/21.
3. (A) 50.32 N. 01.14 E. (B) 50.24 N. 01.25 E.
4. 50.16 N. 01.23 E. 6. 50.35 N. 00.50 E.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201442B to AGGRESSIVE.)

My 201442B. Operation "Wallop" postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 202157B to AGGRESSIVE.)

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.S/M
patrols.

S/M positions at 0800/21st and movements for following 24 hours.

H. SCEPTRE patrolling off Bilbao.

J. VIKING on patrol vicinity $50^{\circ} 59' N. 08^{\circ} 30'$.K. VIRTUE patrolling vicinity $62^{\circ} 10' N. 02^{\circ} 35'$

E.

(F.O.S. 201751B to Admty.)

Operation
K.N.6.
Enemy
T.L.Cs.
attacked.

Last night 19th/20th M.T.Bs. 249 (S.O.) 251, 246, and 247 sailed in accordance with my 160042 and 191427 to carry out operation K.N.6. At 2314 the force was informed that T.L.C. patrols had been sighted near laying position and were told to use an optional alternative position for the lay if necessary. The covering force, M.T.B. 246 and 247 were ordered by the S.O. of the unit to proceed to original position of lay to search for the patrol and M.T.Bs. 249 and 251 then proceeded to carry out K.N.6 at 0206. Separate report is being signalled. At 0234 M.T.Bs. 246 and 247 sighted two T.L.Cs. in $49^{\circ} 25.2' N. 01^{\circ} 08.3' W.$ and attacked, 4 torpedoes being fired. One explosion was observed on one target and two on the other, but the results of the hits were not observed and the identification of target is considered doubtful. A third T.L.C. was sighted while unit was disengaging and was avoided. Own forces suffered no casualties or damage.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201947 to Admty.)

MiningStart
Point
area
clearance.

Detach your vessels and carry out a search at first light of an area bounded by -
(A) $50.11 N.$ (B) $50.06 N.$ (C) $3.40 W.$
(D) $3.56 W.$

(C. in C. Plymouth, 200433B to M/S 16.)

My 201245. Unable to clear mine jammed close to otter. Have moored it together with float

and otter in $50^{\circ} 16.3' N. 03^{\circ} 53.5' W.$ Sweep cut and end of wire buoyed with dan.

(TADOUSSAC, 201402B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Proceed and commence clearance of area given in C. in C. Plymouth's 200433 and 201237.

(M/S 16 201412B to M/S 31.)

Presumed G.M. for M. in $50^{\circ} 16.3' N. 03^{\circ} 53.5' W.$ moored by TADOUSSAC who has cut sweep with float and otter attached and end of wire buoyed.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 201803 to VERNON.)

Your 200433 and my 201245 detailed positions of mines encountered are:-

174° Bolt Tail 4.5 miles cut and sunk.

174° Bolt Tail 4.7 miles detonated.

179° Bolt Tail 4.7 miles cut and sunk.

190° Bolt Tail 5.25 miles sunk.

One towed in sweep and moored in positions $50^{\circ} 16.3' N., 3^{\circ} 53.5' W.$ This mine is close up to the other which is on the bottom, float watching, 9 fathoms float wire. Dan with 20 fathoms mooring wire secured to cut end of sweep wire.

/Cruiser...

War Diary20.5.1944.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSMining

Start Cruiser Flag on Dan. Believe sinker is still
Point Area secured to mine.
Clearance (TADOUSSAC, 202345B to C. in C. Plymouth).
(Contd.).

Dover Four red ground mines were swept on May 18th in
area on QZX 1313 in as follows:-
18th May. 1. 50 degs. 44' 30" N. 00 degs. 40' 28" E.
2. 50 degs. 44' 20" N. 00 degs. 39' 34" E.
3. 50 degs. 44' 11" N. 00 degs. 39' 33" E.
4. 50 degs. 44' 19" N. 00 degs. 39' 28" E.
(V.A. Dover, 201101B to Admty.).

Harwich Six ground mines detonated by M.M.S.4 at 1220 in
Area. 51 degs. 57.2" N. 1 degs. 42.1 minutes E. 1 at
14 mines 1308 and 1 at 1328 in 51 degs. 59.6" N. 1 degs.
detonated. 45.3' E.
WYOMING and (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201356B and 202319B to Admty.).
M.M.S.227 H.M.T. WYOMING mined and sunk in vicinity east
(MARKEN) of 54A Buoy. Also M.M.S. 227 mined and sunk in
sunk. vicinity north of 51 Buoy. 17 survivors from
WYOMING, and 1 from M.M.S.227.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201416B to Admty.).

8 Ground mines detonated by M.M.S. in vicinity East and S.
E. off 54A between 1327 and 1338. Sweep abandoned owing to
defective ships.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201526B and 202319B to Admty.).

Now reported "O" trawlers swept mines $\frac{3}{4}$ mile S.E. of 54A
Buoy. 2 dragged, one exploded in sweep, 1 sank WYOMING.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201646B to Admty.).

Lyme Bay Your 192252B.
clearance. Check sweep will be carried out by Trawlers.
(2) Rapid clearance of area is essential.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201403B to M/S. 16).
My 202349. It is thought that (D) and (F)
were dragged before cutting. QUALICUM dragged mine out of area
as reported in my 202348. L.C. mines were Type G.M. M/S Flot.
31 have check swept in King Formation Area West longitude 03
degs. 20' W. Depth of sweep 7 fathoms. Result Negative.
(M/S. 16, 202351B to Admty.).

Dover The following ground mines were detonated yesterday
area on in Q.Z.X.1313.
19th May. No.5. Lat. 50 degs. 44' 57" N. 0 degs. 43' 59" E.
No.6. Lat. 50 degs. 44' 48" N. 0 degs. 42' 28" E.
Acoustic.
No.7. Lat. 50 degs. 44' 41" N. 0 degs. 41' 55" E.
Acoustic.
No. 8 lat. 50 degs. 44' 50" N. 0 degs. 43' 25" E.
No. 9 Lat. 50 degs. 44' 54" N. 0 degs. 44' 34" E.
No.10 Lat. 50 degs. 44' 52" N. 0 degs. 44' 59" E.
(V.A. Dover, 201711B and 211242B to Admty.).

20.5.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining - Contd.

ST. HELENEODES At 2200B in 53.47 N. 05.04 W. recovered following
MERE sunk. four survivors from fishing craft SAINT HELENEODES
MERE operating from Fleetwood. Names.
Following two missing. Names. Craft exploded
a mine or bomb and sank (?fifty) minutes earlier. Am taking
survivors to my destination.
(HOBSON, 202351B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Casualties and Defects.

TAMAHINE Following received from G.G.3 . Begins.
Report just received in writing that H.M.Y.
TAMAHINE has been damaged by fire. 201811. Ends.
(2) Understand repairs will take at least three
weeks.
(3) Request another yacht may be allocated in lieu.
(Com. Force "G", 201935B to A.N.C.X.F.).

War Diary.

20.5.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. C.A. WICKLIFFE (tanker), ROBERT HOWE. U.G.S.41, arrivals CHARLES A.WYCLIFFE (sic) also ROBERT HOWE. Collision damage. (F.O.G.M.A. 201800B.)

Red Cross ships.

It is clear that any further incidents involving attacks on Red Cross ships may result in complete stoppage of this traffic thus cutting off supplies of prisoners of war parcels.

2. In order to ensure max. degree of safety R.A.F. state they require in good time following information:-

- A. ports of departure and destination.
- B. Route. C. Estimated speed.
- D. Estimated and actual times of sailing.

Of these all except estimated speed and actual time of sailing are known at time of notification of sailing. I.R.C.C. are being requested to arrange that in future these vessels will on putting to sea broadcast actual time of sailing and speed and will broadcast position every six hours together with any change of itinerary.

3. Admiralty will continue to pass to F.O.G.M.A. for promulgation to Naval and Air authorities all notifications of sailings between America and Marseilles.

4. With regard to Lisbon/Marseilles shuttle service I.R.C.C. are being requested to arrange that their representative in Lisbon will pass full particulars of these sailings to shipping attache Lisbon, who should inform F.O.G.M.A. for promulgation to Naval and Air authorities as approved in A.M. 141940.

5. C. in C.Med. is requested to report whether these arrangements are in all respects adequate to ensure that Naval and Air authorities are kept fully informed.

(A.C.N.S.F. 202218B to F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.Med. Info. N.A.Lisbon, N.A.Madrid.)

SUSSEX.

Ocean route to Scapa.
(F.O.G.M.A. 202315B.)

South Atlantic.

T.G.22.2,
U/B hunt.

Consider Jap now belongs to 4th Fleet. If still hunting him discontinue search unless in hot pursuit. Operate against S/MS west of Cape Verde. When relieved by T.G.22.3 proceed Casablanca for 5 day

visit scouting en route for southbound U-Boats. Keep all interested informed your movements.

(C. in C.Lant 201914 to C.T.G.22.2.)

SS. BARONESA. Cancel my 152130. BARONESA arrived Santa Cruz a.m. today 20th.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 201920Z.)

20.5.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- ?A/S sweep. Your 192301. DANAIDE, URANIA (? completely) sweeping the area. MONZAMBANO joining them at R/V 038° 20' 016° 40', E.T.A. 0430. (INDOMITO, 200155B to V.A. Malta.)
- VAMPIRE. Cancel my 191847.
(2) Proceed to patrol forthwith within 10 miles of 037° 01' 024° 01'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 201015B to VAMPIRE, (R) 1st S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M.)
- Neutral ships. Swiss SAINT GOTTHARD'S sailing has been delayed several days. My 101041* refers.
(2) My 161451*. Spanish BRIQUETAS ZORROZA now sailing from Caronte (near Marseilles) about 21st May.
(3) Para.3 of my 191204*. 24th May is now the date of departure from Marseilles for Sete of ZURICH. Ship then leaves Sete 27th May for Gibraltar.
(4) These ships are not to be molested.
(? F.O.G.M.A., 201051B to 10th S/M.F., (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
* Not circulated in Admty.
- ESPIEGLE, Preliminary survey of damage to ESPIEGLE as damage. follows. Side plating split and forced inward 36 - 44 station ST 0 from forecastle deck to below bilge keel. Forecastle deck cut inward 10 feet, upper deck 6 feet. Side plating indented at several places at forward deck level. Signal deck starboard side destroyed. Upper bridge plate slightly indented. Starboard whaler and side destroyed.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 201415.)
- UNRULY. "Portcullis".
(1) P.R.U. a.m./20th shows one F-Boat left Candia since 1725/19th. No other change.
(2) No change Piraeus.
(F.O.L.E.M., 201424C to UNRULY, (R) Capt. (S) 1st S.F.)
- SUSSEX. Arrangements for sailing to Scapa calling at Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med., 201713.)
- COWDRAY. A.M. 030010. COWDRAY due to be transferred in Greek June will also be withheld from Greek Navy. seamen There are in consequence over 400 Greek officers and men at Chatham for whom no employment can be found in U.K.
(2) It is intended that when security regulations permit, these men should be sent to Eastern

/Mediterranean ...

20.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

COWDRAY.
Greek
seamen
in U.K.
(Contd.)

Mediterranean at first convenient opportunity. They have not refused duty and with the exception of about 40 do not appear in any way extremists. It is proposed that they should be vetted by F.O.L.E.M. and those with whom he is satisfied should be employed to fill places of mutineers or to form pool of reliefs. Remainder should then be dealt with in accordance with the policy you are adopting generally towards unsatisfactory Greeks. (3) It is appreciated that additional Greek seamen may be unwelcome. Nevertheless on general grounds, apart from the question of their employment, it is very desirable that the problem of these Greek seamen should be handled in Middle East rather than in U.K.
(1st Lord, 201827B to C. in C. Med.)

M.E. Balkan
Sitrep No.
186.

O/03662 cipher 20 May. 439842.
(3) Land Ops. agent reports. 80 ton M/V AGIOS GEORGIS loaded with war material sabotaged and sunk in Piraeus 14th May. Sea Ops. N.T.R.
(C. in C. M.E., 201915C.)

SS. GERTRUD,
SALVATORE,
TANAIS.

GERTRUD, SALVATORE and TANAIS at Salamis departure imminent. First 2 almost certainly destined Crete destination of third not yet known.
(Capt. (S) 1, 202012 to VAMPIRE, UNSPARING, UNRULY)

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20.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 33. No fresh information. No changes in
scales of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 200333Z.)

U/B ashore
off Ras Hafun.

U-Boat's original list 028°. During the night
listed to 038°. In view of possibility of her
capsizing all getatable top weight is being cut
away and 2½ inch wire led from conning tower to
shore. Long swell running tonight. Control room
pumped out to floor boards*

Major leak stopped by Sub. Lieut. (E) Butler* of PRUDENT and
diver French but water level rises quickly when pumps stop.
(S.O.Kilindini Escort Force in FISHGUARD 201620Z to F.O.I.C.E.Af.
(R) Cmdre. Aden, PRUDENT.)

* Note: the portion of this signal indicated thus * - * concerns
D.N.I. who will arrange further circulation and comment as neces-
sary.

20.5.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Portuguese
cod fishing
fleet.

A.M. 241130 N.A. Lisbon reports that SANTA MARIA MADALENA which is acting as escort to third group of Portuguese cod fishing fleet will proceed to Greenland fishing banks when she has escorted the sailing vessels as far as Newfoundland banks. Date on which this vessel will be detached will be communicated later.
(Admty. 200620B to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U.C.24

Presenters estimated total 50 comprising U.S.S. ARIEL, H.M.S. QUEEN, 6 U.S. troopers including GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON 2 British troopers, 27 U.S. tankers and 13 U.S. dry cargo.

Request you will indicate top limit.

Alternative for ships shut out is O.N.F.238 which already totals 90 ships for which 5 escorts are available.
(D.T.D. 201119Z to Com. 10th Fleet C and R).

North
Russia
Convoys.

Your 181808. No plans have yet been prepared but it is under consideration to restart Russian convoys as soon as escorting forces are available after "Overlord".
(V.C.N.S. 201314Z to Cominch).

H.X. and
O.N. con-
voys.

H.X. and O.N. routes? Commencing O.N.F.238 and H.X.F.293 it is considered local conditions will permit use of route 'B'. Your 261735 April refers.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 201405Z to Admty.).

U/boat
dispositions

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 201444Z, Cominch 201606Z).

H.X.M.289

Average speed 7.5 knots. Off Oversay at 1800Z/13. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 201548B).

Illegal
Spanish A/A
fire against
U.S. A/Cs.

A/A fire on planes from shore batteries located in Spanish Morocco and International Morocco soil is almost Daily Occurrence when planes definitely outside the territorial limits.

Pilots' reports indicate accuracy of fire improving at the longer ranges. Consider that effective anti-submarine patrol by aircraft Strait area requires close approach Tangi(er?) 3 mile limit since submarine repeatedly reported inside territorial waters.

Our planes' navigation definite therefore assertion that places within 3 miles limit not validated should not be accepted. In view of the fact that United States has never recognised Spanish right to fortify International Zone and in view of International accepted 3 mile territorial water limitation request Spanish Government be asked for official statement (about?) aircraft

/ policy...

War Diary.

20.5.1944.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Illegal
Spanish
A/A fire
against
U.S.A./Cs.
(Contd.)

policy international zone and Spanish Morocco area and that recent actions be strongly protested making clear American intentions to take appropriate action in event of any further unprovoked and illegal action by Spanish batteries. Recommend that offending batteries be removed from International zone by Physical or Diplomatic measures. T.O.O. 171717. Ends.
(B.A.D., 201627Z to Admty.)

U.S.
Secretary
of Navy.

First Lord's congratulations to Mr. J.V. Forrestal on his appointment as Secretary of the Navy.
(Admty., 201657B.)

QUEEN.

Owing to delay to ARBITER and consequent proximity of her loading date to those of RULER and SMITER, there will be no R.N. aircraft to be ferried in QUEEN.

(2) The U.S.A.A.F. will likewise have no aircraft for U.K. at that time, but they have, however, an urgent need for ferry trips to Casablanca.

(3) Should it be acceptable to you suggest Cominch be asked to sail QUEEN independently, or with escort if available from New York to Casablanca in order that she may catch M.K.F.32 for return to U.K. Presumably the delay involved in waiting for the next U.G.S. convoy would be unacceptable. Otherwise there is no need for QUEEN to return to U.S. in U.C.24.

(4) If the proposal above to proceed to Casablanca independently can be implemented QUEEN will arrive in U.K. a week after she would have done if returning direct.

(5) The request for ARBITER or SMITER in U.C.27 in my 181655 is made so that PUNCHER may be diverted to New Orleans from Cristobal to transport 4 M.Ls. to New York, thus being delayed about 8 days. Admiralty pass to F.O.C.T.

(B.A.D. Washington, 201701 to Admty.)

Torres
Strait.

Re survey existing Channel Torres Strait and attempt to locate alternate Channel.
(B.A.D. Washington, 201807Z.)
See amendment 211251Z.

O.N.S.236,
U/B
contact.

Am attacking suspicious contact reported by A/C as suspected submarine in 047 degs. 01' N. 047 degs. 12' W.
(S.O. E.G. C.4, 202008Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Convoy
U.C. 22.

Arrived New York.
(P.D., New York, 202020Z.)

U/B
incidents.

Para.D. Army C.54 sighted two surfaced S/Ms. one mile apart 46.15 N. 49.05 W. 201758Z. Mariner A/C Radar contact 28.34 N. 58.23 W. 201426Z.
(Cominch, 202045Z.)

/U/B ...

20.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B
sighted.

C. in C. C.N.A. 202131 - see 210653Z.

J.H.F.18.

Cancelled no ships offering.
(N.S.H.Q., 202136Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
851.

May 19th. Paras. 16 to 19 cover South Pacific Forces.

Eventide saw all enemy resistance overcome Wadke Is. following new unopposed landings early day⁷⁰ light Niroemear Island 25 miles north-west Wadke and Liki lying five miles further north-west. Negligible enemy resistance encountered on mainland although natives report 250 armed Japanese near beachhead day prior to landing. (18) Motor torpedo boats probably sank one enemy troop laden barge between Borpop and Namatanai night 18th/19th. Same time other boats destroyed 4 barges or small craft around Selapiu Island at Southern Approach to Kavieng. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 200800Z.)

Allocation
of S/MS. at
Fremantle.

Following is repetition of C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 030403 May (q.v.)
(2) Above proposals have been approved. A.M. 211340 February (not to B.A.D.) also refers. (Admty., 202015B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C L/423 sighted possible periscope course 182 degs. at 1024Z/19th in 63 degs. 47' N. 04 degs. 17' E.
(2) Polish A/C A/304 sighted and attacked surfaced U-Boat which dived, course 080 degs. at 2356Z/19th in 49 degs. 05' N. 04 degs. 11' W.
(3) A/C T/120 obtained A.S.V. Contact at 0017Z/19th in 59 degs. 20' N. 19 degs. 20' W.
(4) A/C Z/120 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0455Z/19th in 59 degs. 12' N. 18 degs. 27' W.

/Para. ...

20.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

Para. C. (1) Escorts of T.C.U.24 attacked doubtful sound contact at 1340Z/19th in 42 degs. 56' N. 27 degs. 09' W.
(D.D.I.C., 201040B.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 201430, 201434.)

War Diary21.5.1944
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsSearch for
U/Boats in
Western
Channel.

1. C. in C. Plymouth considers that the appearance of the U/Boat attacked by A/C yesterday 17 miles N.N.W. of Ile de Bas may indicate that the expected move of U/Boats against our Channel Convoy Routes has begun; and at 0013B today he ordered all appropriate precautions to be taken in the Plymouth Command accordingly.

A patrol of four Corvettes (S.O. in AZALEA) forming Force 28 will patrol to the southward of the Convoy Route in the Start area to-night; a hunting-group of four Destroyers (S.O. in WANDERER) forming Force 29 left Plymouth to-day to patrol 40 miles South of the Lizard; and extensive Air Patrols covering both these areas as well as the revised Convoy Route itself will be flown.

Operation
"Implement".
HOCHHEIMER
sunk.

2. At 0037B today the S/M SCEPTRE on patrol off Bilbao unsuccessfully attacked two Enemy M/Vs about three miles North of Cape Machichaco; and at the same time torpedoed and sank the German HOCHHEIMER, 1766 tons, proceeding from Bilbao to Bordeaux laden with iron ore. H.M. Consul at Bilbao reports today that four M/Vs now loading there and probably sailing on the 23rd May are expected to carry about eighteen thousand tons of Iron Ore.

U/Boat
attacked
by A/C.

3. At 1248 today a Sunderland A/C attacked a U/Boat about 100 miles N.W. by W. of Christiansund.

MediterraneanU/Boat (U453)
sunk off
S.E.
Italy.

4. Following the attack on convoy A.H.43 on 19 May a U/Boat was hunted by TENACIOUS and LIDDESDALE. At 1648 yesterday the U/Boat was forced to the surface in 38.13 N. 16.36 E., and it was sunk by gunfire at 0040 today. LIDDESDALE, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS have survivors, 49 of which, including the C.O., were taken prisoners.

War Diary

21.5.1944
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

5. C. in C.E.F. reports that SURF's 3rd Far East patrol was blank. 8 mines were laid successfully.

War Diary.21.5.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSPolicyTransfer of
Warships to
Soviet Navy.

Your 181936 and 181947B May. At meeting between Vice-Admiral Levchenko and Deputy First Sea Lord, programme for ROYAL SOVEREIGN referred to in C. in C. Rosyth's 181947B was accepted in principle, subject to following qualifications. Details. (D.F.S.L., 210010B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

During transfer of ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Soviet, Admiralty have directed that British crew are to carry out demonstrations, as requested and as far as practicable of working of a battleship. The carrying out of "tests", "trials", or "checks" does not enter into the agreement and these words are not to be used in this connection nor are demonstrations to be treated as such.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 211332B to ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

Your 182004B. Docking of ships named should be undertaken as requested.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 211534B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Plymouth
Command.
Dangerous
Area.

Owing to risk of U-Boat attack exercise at sea by cruiser or above and by L.S.Ts. and larger landing craft are not to be carried out in the Plymouth Command south of the Nymphe Bank mine-field and east of 010° W. unless adequate A/S escort is available.

(2) Request for important exercises and bombardment practices may be forwarded when each case will be considered individually.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211508B to Ships, N.C.W.T.F.)

OperationsWestern
Channel A/S
operations.

A submarine was sighted and attacked in 049° 01' N. 004° 09' W. at 0157B/20th May. This is the first indication of submarines operating in Channel, and all appropriate precautions are to be taken.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 210013B to Ships.)

(1) Information: A U-Boat was sighted and attacked at 0157B/20 in 049° 01' N. 004° 09' W. This U-Boat may now be operating in the area of the Start.

(2) Intention: To institute air and surface A/S patrol in Channel.

(3) Execution: (A) AZALEA take CELANDINE, HONEYSUCKLE, DIANELLA under your orders and form Force 28. Proceed as soon as possible to patrol an area bounded on the north by the convoy route, on the south by latitude 049° 40' N., on the east by 003° W., on west by 004° 20' W. Attention is called to para. 7 below. (B) During dark hours the easterly limit of the patrol area is to be 003° 50' W.

(4) Foxers should be run whilst on patrol by day and hauled or tripped by night, and asdic transmitting watch maintained; except that in fine weather at night a sweep for hydrophone effect should be made every ten minutes to detect S/MS. charging submerged using extended breathing pipes.

C.Os. should have no hesitation in shipping foxers if they interfere with a hunt after due anti-gnat safety measures have been taken.

21.5.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations.Western
Channel A/S
operations.
(Contd.)

(5) A/S air patrols will be flown to cover whole channel. Close A/S air patrols along convoy route will be flown by Avengers by day and Swordfish by night.

(6) Friendly forces at sea. A second A/S hunting force (Force 29) consisting of 4 destroyers will be operating in mid-Channel south of Lands End. For other friendly forces see situation report.

(7) Convoy routes. The new convoy route to avoid a dangerous area south of Start Point is as follows:- All positions North and West - $050^{\circ} 13'24''$ $004^{\circ} 12'00''$, $050^{\circ} 04'00''$ $004^{\circ} 00'00''$, $050^{\circ} 04'00''$ $003^{\circ} 40'00''$, $050^{\circ} 12'24''$ $003^{\circ} 26'00''$, thence to 180° Portland 3.2 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211217B and 211651B to AZALEA.)

(1) Information. The attack on a U-Boat N.E. of Ushant on the morning of the 20th indicates that the expected move of U-Boats against our Channel convoy routes may have begun.

(2) Intention. To institute pre-arranged A/S air cover of the Channel and to provide A/S hunting groups across the expected line of advance ready to take advantage of any air sightings.

(3) Executions. (A) WANDERER take WATCHMAN, SCIMITAR and SKATE under your orders and form Force 29. Proceed as necessary to pass the Gate at 1600, thence by standard route to the Lizard thence to arrive 49.20 N. 05.35 W. by 2359.

(B) Night patrol line runs 090 from above position for 18 miles and ships should be spread at right angles to this line turning at the Eastern end at the odd hours.

(C) Day patrol area. At 0500 shift patrol to an area bounded on the North by 49.50 N., on the south by 49.35 N., and between 5° W. and 6° W.

(D) Subsequent movements. Assume night patrol line as given in (B) above but moved 20 miles further North by 2359/22nd unless otherwise ordered.

(4) Air Information. Extensive air patrols will be flown in your area further details of which will be signalled later. Bombing restrictions will not be imposed but aircraft will be aware of your patrol line and have orders not to bomb surface craft. Any ship considering she is menaced should fire the appropriate two star identification signal.

(5) Friendly forces. APOLLO will pass through 180 Lizard 3 at 2345, thence 155° at 32 knots to the French coast returning to position off Lizard at 0500/22 approx. Force 26 consisting of TARTAR and HURON will be covering APOLLO in 49.12 N. 04.10 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211349 to WANDERER.)

Swordfish aircraft will patrol from 2300/21 to 0500/22 between 180° Start Point 5 - Eddystone - 180° Lizard Head 5.

(2) Coastal Command Liberators and Wellingtons will patrol Western (? channel) from 2300/21 to 0500/22.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211639B to W.P.525, P.W.525, Forces 26, 27, 28, 29, APOLLO.)

Force 28, AZALEA and 3 corvettes, carry out A/S sweep tonight in vicinity of $049^{\circ} 50'$ N. $004^{\circ} 00'$ W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211706B to APOLLO.)

/TUDOR ...

War Diary.21.5.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

TUDOR
attacked
on night
18th/19th
May. Your 191528B. Single E-Boat attacked at 2330/
18th in 049° 55' N. 007° 21' W. At 0230/19th
acoustic torpedo exploded in wake after 3
E-Boats had concentrated for attack from astern.
After diving enemy remained in vicinity of
TUDOR until 0430 without offensive action.
(TUDOR, 210045B to F.O.S.)

Operation "Implement". At 0037B/21st May carried out unsuccessful
attack target in 043° 31' N. 002° 52' W.
Target believed to be NORDFELS and MIDSLAND.
Weather.
(SCEPTRE, 210410B to F.O.S.)

Departure HOCHHEIMER at 202100 G.M.T. Arrivals NORDFELS at
201800 G.M.T., MIDSLAND at 202200 G.M.T., and BALDUR at 202215
G.M.T. BALDUR, NORDFELS, RASTENBURG and MIDSLAND expect to
complete loading 23rd and probable departure same evening.
Bilbao will stand by and give exact time as these vessels leave.
It is calculated they will carry an approximate total of 18
thousand tons iron ore.
(Consul, Bilbao, 211200 to Admty.)

Operation "Overlord". A.M. 201258 para. 4 and C. in C. Nore's 201929.
Confirmed that 27 will suffice for the present.
Defective (A.N.C.X.F., 211027B to Admty.)
P.B.R. The continued unreliability of P.B.Rs. is causing
craft. many delays in sailings. Apart from engine
troubles, the steering arrangements prove most
unsatisfactory. Out of twenty-four P.B.R.
sailed from Southend May 19th seventeen entered
Dover and Ramsgate, and today it has only been possible to sail
five, the remainder being unable to sail owing to defects.
(V.A. Dover, 211221B to Admty.)
A.M.200204 para. 3. Regret no extra destroyers available
during assault phase, but hope to allocate more to Plymouth
later.
(A.N.C.X.F., 211610B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Biscay A/S operations. NAIRANA operating with 15th E.G. LOUIS, MOORSOM,
MOUNSEY, INGLIS, LAWSON, LORING vicinity 046°
35' N. 032° 35' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 211321B to Ships.)

Operation "Knitting 10". My 201642. Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs.
451 (D) and 452 in support at 2115 today for
patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00°
07' E. and 00° 37' W. Vessels to be within
20 miles of English Coast by daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 211412B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
My 211412. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 211646B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 211424B.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211432B.)
(V.A. Dover, 211721.)

/Operation ...

21.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Wallop". My 201442B and 202157B. Postponed further 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211542B to AGGRESSIVE.)

S/M Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/22nd May and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) VIRTUE patrolling vicinity 62° 10' N. 002° 28' E.
(D) SCEPTRE (P.215) on patrol off Bilbao.
(F.O.(S), 211716B to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity

A/C in North Russia. Following for H.Q.18 Group from W/(?210) begins. A/C serviceability becoming extremely difficult owing to extremes of climate. Request permission to return as soon as possible otherwise acute danger of A/C becoming unserviceable.
Ends.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 212031B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Mining

Harwich clearance on 20th May. WYOMING. My 201646. On second lap southward east of Channel Buoys 2nd ship cut mine at 0923 in 116° 54A 6 cables. During next lap, northward 4th ship cut mine at 1133 in 131° 54A Buoy 8 cables. Both similar to GZ type and sunk by danlayer. Leaders sweep cut at 1147 in 057° 54A 2 miles. Failing to cut up the Leaders Float the 4th ship sank float and deep mine explosion occurred. At 1206 while ships heaving in sweeps at end of lap 2nd ship WYOMING mined in 055° 54A Buoy 2½ miles.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 210914B to Admty.)
Add to my 210914. Conical float sighted during attempt to cut up Oropesa Float and submerged when latter was sunk.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 211157B to Admty.)

SAINT HELENEODES MERE. HOBSON's 202350B. Depth of water in reported position of explosion indicates probability of floating mine but immediate arrangements have been made for LL sweep of channels in area. No Oropesa sweeps available. Uncertainty of exact position of explosion considered to preclude possibility of promulgating danger area.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211130B to Admty.)
Request you obtain following information from survivors of SAINT HELENEODES MERE.
(A) Was ship drifting or underway and at what speed.
(B) Was ship fishing. (C) If so what method. (D) Depth of foot of net or trawl. (E) Was any ship or floating object or aircraft seen or heard before explosion. (F) Can internal explosion be definitely precluded.
(C. in C. W.A., 211159B to HOBSON.)

/Your ...

War Diary.

21.5.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

SAINT
HELENEODES
MERE.
(Contd.)

Your 211159B. Vessel was drifting without speed while fishing with net on bottom. Latest description indicates explosive was depth charge of type carried by British escorts. Missile caught on net and was dragged on bottom for about one hour. When net was hauled in missile dropped three feet into boat and was then thrown overboard exploding one minute later.
(HOBSON, 211427B to C. in C. W.A.)
In view of HOBSON's 211427B it is intended to cancel instructions for LL sweep referred to in my 211130B.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 212013B to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats

Contact
attacked by
ELLYSON.
(Comdesron
10).

Made one attack on sound contact at 50° 21' N. 12° 14' W. at 1800B followed by another attack at 50° 22' N. 12° 10' W. at 1810B. Lost contact at 500 yards in each case. Two good sized oil slicks observed vicinity attacks, with strong odour of diesel. After one hour search am proceeding to destination.
(ELLYSON, 211910B to C. in C. W.A.)

Still have two sound contacts. Am attacking both.
(ELLYSON, 211958B to C. in C. W.A.)
My 211910B and 211958B. Sender made total of 10 attacks on 2 targets. No evidence of damage. Oil slick having been on surface before first attack. On some attacks target apparently motionless. (? On others) evidence of Pillenwerfer. Am proceeding.
(ELLYSON, 212128B to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

Large
convoys
procedure.

Concur in your remarks. Your 191541B refers.
(D.T.D., 210440B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary21.5.1944.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

SUSSEX

Cancel my 202315.
(2) Route for SUSSEX destination Scapa.
(F.O.G.M.A. 211038B).

TRENCHANT,
JUNON.

After crossing lat. 043° N. proceed on surface at discretion to R/V with CYCLAMEN at position T. 042° 30' N. 012° 22' W. at 1740/23rd. No submarine to be attacked on 23rd unless definitely identified as hostile. Total bombing restrictions 50 miles either side of line joining - all the following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated 041° 40' 012° 50' and 043° 20' 012° 50' from 2030/22nd until R/V is made.
2. CYCLAMEN escorts you S.O.A. 7 knots through M. all positions are N. and W. unless indicated 038° 012' 09' Q. 035° 50' 010° P. 035° 49.3' 006° 06.5' thence Gibraltar p.m. 27th May. Meridian 007° W. not to be crossed before 0630/27th but thereafter speed may be increased. All times B.
(F.O.G.M.A. 211602B, 211618B.)

SS. RIO
FRANCOLI.

SS. RIO FRANCOLI left Las Palmas 20th May for Cadiz. M.E.W. requests interception as one of May programme.
(D.E.W.D. 211713B to F.O.G.M.A.)

S/M patrol
off Portugal.

Intend S/Ms your 201716B refers, to take up patrol position within radius 10 miles of X P.324 (THOROUGH) 040° 30' N. 011° 30' W. Y P.326 (TUDOR) 041° 30' 011° 30' W. Z P.322 (ZWAARDVISCH D.S.) 040° 30' N. 012° 50' W. A P.74 (VIGOROUS) all following position are N. and W. 042° 30' 012° 50' H P.246 (STATESMAN) 041° 30' 012° 50' J P.215 (SCEPTRE) 042° 30' 011° 30'.
2. S/M X Y Z R/V 27th May and A H J R/V 30th May with escorts for Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A. 212132B to F.O.S.)

War Diary.21.5.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- M.V.GRIPSHOLM. GRIPSHOLM sails from Mokambo 1645 May 19th.
(A.B.N.A.Madrid 210206B to C. in C.Med.)
GRIPSHOLM sailed at 1500B adjusting speed to
arrive position O 2100B May 26th otherwise in
accordance with my 201503*.
(Com. Algeria 211545B to C. in C.Med.)
* re Sailing M.V.GRIPSHOLM 21st for Belfast.
- SS. SAUMUR. German SAUMUR left Barcelona 2200/20th northbound.
(F.O.G.M.A. 210434B to 10th S/M F. Capt. S.10,
S.O.I. Med.)
- UNIVERSAL. Leave patrol to pass $042^{\circ} 21' 006^{\circ} 01'$ at 2000/
23rd through $042^{\circ} 12' 007^{\circ} 22'$ at 1200/24th to
arrive Maddalena 0935/25th.
(Capt. S.10 21M5 to UNIVERSAL.)
- M.A.A.F. Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force.
Opsum 455. 18/19th May add. At 0709 hours 1 Ventura saw 3
destroyers attacking surfacing submarine 70 miles
north Villeborg. Ventura dropped 3 x 325 depth
bombs on fully surfaced submarine from 50 feet. 1
hit. 2 near misses. Observed direct hit conning tower by Naval
gunfire. Submarine sank in 10 seconds, destroyer picked up sur-
vivors. Ventura claims half share with destroyers in destruction
of submarine.
19/20th May. 3 Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes escort 2 Spitfires, armed
6 x 250 G.P. 16 x 60 R.P. to attack damaged E-Boat near Sarande*
(see offensive R/C below.) Saw only sunken vessel and spreading
oil patch. Bomb hit Sarande, near misses quay. 4 Hurricanes
escort 2 Spitfires armed 16 x 60 R.P. to attack F-Boat Loviste
Bay, 1 Hurricane, 1 Spitfire returned early, remainder sank and
destroyed vessel. 4 Spitfires offensive shipping R/C strafed E-
Boat south Sarande, vessel seen smoking and heading for mainland.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 211346B.)
* ?Sarandi (Gulf of Corinth) intended.
- M.E.Balkan 3. Land Ops. Greece. Sabotage group in Athens
Sitrep No. reports 12th May, tug boat H.P.13 Limpeted result
187. slight damage.
(C. in C.E.F. 212030C.)
- Situation During night of 18/19th May coastal forces en-
report No. countered enemy convoy off Peljesac Peninsula. 1
362. suspected E-Boat sunk, 1 suspected I-Boat probably
sunk and other 2 craft damaged. 2 craft probably
the same left in flames following air attack p.m.
- 19th May. M.G.B. 661 badly damaged casualties 1 rating killed and
4 wounded.
2. SS. FORT MISSANABIE torpedoed by U-Boat 1820/19 in position
 $038^{\circ} 20' N. 016^{\circ} 41' E.$ TENACIOUS and LIDDESDALE proceeded to
search with air co-operation and obtained contact. At 1648/20th in
 $038^{\circ} 13' N. 016^{\circ} 36' E.$ U-Boat was forced to the surface and sunk

/by...

War Diary.

21.5.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation by gunfire at 0040/21st. LIDDESDALE recovered 13
report No. *U.45³* survivors including C.O. other survivors in
362. *sunk* TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS.
(Contd.) 3. 5006 tons discharged at Anzio on 19th May and
4511 tons on 20th May. No enemy activity apart
air R/C.
4. P.T.Boats attacked 2 southbound F-Lighters
with torpedoes off San Vincenzo night 18/19th May. No visible
result one P.T.Boat slightly damaged.
(C. in C.Med. 211914B.)

War Diary21.5.1944
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

SURF.

(P.239) SURF 3rd Far East Patrol was blank.
 (2) 8 mines laid successfully.
 (C. in C. E.F. 210335)

L.C.T's for
Brahmaputra
River.

(1) Urgent requirement has arisen for L.C.T's to
 operate on Brahmaputra River carrying stores up
 Assam Lines of communication.
 (2) Only L.C.T's available for this are the nine
 L.C.Ts. of the U.S. Manned L.C.T. group 31 about
 to be turned over to British Flag under Lease

Lend. B.A.D's 102253/4 May refers.

(3) S.A.C.S.E.A. therefore requests that concurrence of U.S.
 Authorities be obtained to tmpy. retention of U.S. crews for
 these craft for which we have no alternative operational crews
 available. My 140717 April refers.

(4) Instructions have been issued that transfer to British Flag
 is not to take place for the present and craft have been made
 available to S.A.C.S.E.A.

(5) S.A.C.S.E.A. is being requested to give estimate of period
 for which this requirement will persist.

(C. in C. E.F. 210856 to Admty.) / 140717 intended.

GENERAL

BUTNER,
 (U.S. Troop-
 ship),
 AMEER
 (escort
 carrier).

GENERAL BUTNER and AMEER will leave Bombay for
 Australia and Cochin respectively about 2nd June
 A/S escort will be provided by PETARD and PENN.

(2) Route.

(3) L.N. 753 AMEER will part company in position
 G.010 degs. 01' N. 075 degs. 53' E. proceeding
 independently into Cochin.

(4) CUMBERLAND as ocean escort will R/V in position
 H. 001 degs. 50' N. 076 degs. 40' E. at 0400Z/5th
 June.

(5) Destroyers will part company in position J.001
 degs. 01' S. 076 degs. 55' E. proceeding to Perth to refuel.

(8) Com. S.W. Pac. S.F. is requested to detach CUMBERLAND as
 necessary to proceed into Fremantle also to acknowledge receipt
 of this signal.

(C. in C. E.F. 211029)

21.5.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/boat sighted 20th May. In my 202134 amend position to read 46.56 N. 47.05 W. (C. in C.C.N.A. 210653Z to C.E.S.F.). (N.T. in W.D.) re R.G.A.F. A/C report probable S/M. sighted. (N.T. in W.D.).

N.S.H.Q.Sub. Attack and sighting summary. No report since my 191140Z Para.(C) A/C J/10 sights wake and swirl 46 degs. 56' N. 47 degs. 05' W. At 1920Z/20th C.4 Group attacks doubtful contact 47 degs. 01' N. 47 degs. 12' W. About 2008Z/20th. Para.E. U.S. ATC A/C sights 2 U/boats vicinity 46 degs. 15' N. 49 degs. 05' W. about 1750Z/20th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 210847Z).

SS. PASTEUR Diversion order. (D.O.D.(H), 210858B).

Torres Strait. T.O.O. Com. 7th Fleet's signal repeated in my 201807 is 190002. (B.A.D. 211251Z).

U/boat dispositions Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 211449Z, Cominch 211452Z).

Stragglers report. Stragglers arrived week ending 21st May 14th EMPIRE GOLD O.N.F.235. Engine defects. 15th TYNE BANK O.N.F. 235 straggled in heavy weather. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 211457Z).

U.C.24. Top limit 50 acceptable for U.C.24. (Com. 10th Fleet C and R, 211838Z to Admty.).

U/boat contact. AGASSIZ detached investigating A/S contact position 043 degs. 58' N. 062 degs. 27' W. since 1818Z. Now considered may be submarine. (S.O.E.G.W.2, 212351).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 852 May 20th. Paras. 14 to 20 cover South Pacific Forces. (19) U.S. escort destroyer attacked submarine 120 miles northeast Buka Passage afternoon 19th resulting in terrific underwater explosion and wreckage. This is second submarine believed destroyed same vicinity since 16th May. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 210720Z).

War Diary

21.5.1944.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack
and sighting
Summary.

Para.A. A/X M/210 sighted U/boat on surface and
attacked with depth charges at 0127Z/21 in
latitude 64 degs. 32' N. longitude 02 degs. 27' E.

Para.B. A/C S/120 obtained Radar contact at
2336Z/19 in latitude 58 degs. 10' N. longitude
20 degs. 02' W.

Para.C. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2209Z/20 in latitude 47
degs. 30' N. longitude 06 degs. 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 210902Z).

Use of
Kites by
U/boats.

Pass to N.C.S.Os.

Large U/boats operating in remote areas have used
a man lifting kite to extend range of vision.
Flying height reported as up to 400 feet.
(Description).

(2) It should be explained to Masters of independent ships that
sighting of such a Kite indicates the proximity of a U/boat
and calls for (a) A turn away at full speed. (b) Immediate
W/T report using SSSS signal on 500 kc/s and also H/F if fitted.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 211207B to A.I.G. 376).

U/boat
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 211430B, 211431B).

War Diary.

22.5.1944.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for
U-Boats in
Western
Channel.

1. Two patrols of destroyers and two of M.T.Bs. with three A/C patrols are guarding the Convoy Route south of Lyme Bay tonight.

At 0055 today a Liberator A/C sighted a surfaced U-Boat 20 miles N.W. of Ile de Vierge (Brest Peninsula). The U-Boat submerged.

U-Boat
attacked
by A/C.

2. At 1118 today a Catalina A/C straddled a U-Boat with depth charges about 160 miles N.W. of Christiansund.

Mediterranean

Air
operations.

3(a) Last night 18/21 Wellingtons attacked Porto Ferraio with good results. Piombino, Ancona and San Benedetto harbours were also bombed.

(b) Porto Ferraio was attacked again today. 57 aircraft attacked Piombino though results were not seen, and 107/157 escorted B.24s. attacked Spezia where hits are reported on docks, harbour installations and the oil storage area. Viareggio radar site was well covered. On the Dalmatian coast a 1500 ton coaster was left listing and on fire off Krk Island.

America and West Indies

BULKOIL,
U/B attack.

4. The American tanker BULKOIL reported being attacked at 1540Z today by a U-Boat in 43.28 N. 63.12 W. (Cape Sable area) and forcing the U-Boat to dive by gunfire.

War Diary.

22.5.1944.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

5. 30 escorted bombers today attacked the radar station on Dyaul Island and completed its destruction.

War Diary

22.5.1944
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Flag of R.A.D. H.F. Propose to shift my flag locally for period TYNE is on passage, re-hoisting it in TYNE on ship's arrival at Spithead.
(R.A.D. H.F. 221834B to Admt.)

Defence of U.K.

Westray evacuation. (1) During destroyer bombardment practices at bombardment range Papa Westray some wild shots have fallen outside the requisitioned target area. So far fatalities luckily have been confined to animals though residents have had near escapes.
(2) These bombardment practices must continue and of necessity must be of a very intensive nature. Further wild shots are to be expected and I consider it necessary that they must be allowed for by increasing the danger area.
(3) I have invoked Defence Regulation No.52 and ordered personnel to be evacuated to the southern half of the island during actual practices.
(5) Minor claims for compensation will be involved subsequently.
(6) Request early covering approval.
(A.C.O.S.221246Z to Admt.)

Operations

Operation "Implement". NORDFELS, MIDSLAND and BALDUR arrived Bilbao on 20th May at 1800Z, 2200Z and 2215Z respectively.
HOCHHEIMER Anticipate BALDUR, NORDFELS, RASTENBURG and sunk by MIDSLAND will complete loading on 23rd May and will SCEPTRE on probably sail the same evening.
21st May. (F.O.S.220428B to SCEPTRE)
Your 210410. Bilbao reports HOCHHEIMER sunk by Torpedo 004 degs. 21st between Arminza and Baquio. Nice work. Only 6 survivors.
(F.O.S.221509B to SCEPTRE)
SCEPTRE is to leave patrol p.m. 25th May and proceed diving by day via route Gold through position R 044 degs 01' N. 009 degs. 59' W. thence direct to arrive position. J 042 degs. 30' N. 011 degs 30' W. at 0600B/30th thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.
(F.O.S.222144B to S/M's)

Search for U-Boats in Western Channel. Close position 50 degs. 10' N. 05 degs. 50' W. with all despatch.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221034B to Force 29)
Cancel para. (D) of my 211349 and substitute "Subsequent movements!" Patrol an area bounded on the north by the standard convoy route on the south by 49 degs. 40' N. and between 04 40 W. and 05.30 W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221738B to Force 29)

Operation /...

War Diary22.5.1944
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "Overlord". My 191945B and D.21's 211244B. Action experience with E-Boats has consistently shown that effective illumination is essential. Rocket flares provide the most efficient illumination for which two pdr. star shell are not an adequate substitute.

I deprecate most strongly that the rocket flareprojectors should be removed and propose that 12 of the additional D.C's be stowed below. All ships are taking steps to ensure that in event of serious damage D.C's anchors, boats and any other removable top hamper can be jettisoned quickly.

(C. in C. Nore, 221118B to Admty.)

All units Assault Force "O" will be in Portland - Weymouth area by Y - 4 except MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES, ARKANSAS, TEXAS, GLASGOW at Belfast and L.C.G.(L), L.C.F., L.C.T.(R) L.C.I.(L) 520 at Poole.

(Com. Force "O" 221155B and 221449B to Admty.)

Request you sail ROBERTS and EREBUS to Milford Haven for onward routeing to Portsmouth and Portland respectively. Ships to arrive destinations by Y-4.

(C. in C. W.A. 221745B to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

My 112344B, 131719B, 141700B, 161857B, 182146B. Out of 50 Beetle Towing-Bridles supplied to craft proceeding Southampton since 12th May only 19 have been returned to Tilbury, these having arrived by lorry on the 16th.

(2) Failure of Military Authorities at Marchwood Southampton to recover and return these tows is resulting in delay in carrying out the towing of PP 7 as intended in my 201830A not to F.O.I.C. Southampton.

(3) Unless this towing gear is returned to Tilbury immediately towing of PP 7 will not be completed.

(C. in C. Nore, 221852B to War Office T.N.5)

(1) Request you sail destroyers to arrive at ports as follows by 27th May.

Sheerness - SAVAGE, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, ORWELL.

Portsmouth - FAULKNER, FURY, IMPULSIVE, ALGONQUIN, ISIS, KELVIN, KEMPENFELT, SCORPION, SCOURGE, SERAPIS, SIOUX, ULYSSES, URANIA, URSA, UNDAUNTED, VENUS, VERULAM, VIGILANT, VIRAGO, ONSLOW, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI.

(2) Request you retain GRENVILLE, ULSTER, URCHIN, and UNDINE at Scapa until required by C.S.10 to be sailed to Clyde.

(C. in C. H.F. 222046B to V.A.D. H.F.)

My 241836 April. As from 1300 25th May the Headquarters of Flag Officer British Assault Area (Short title F.O.B.A.A.) will be transferred to SOUTHERN PRINCE.

(A.N.C.X.F. 22228B to Admty.)

S/M VIRTUE proceed as convenient to arrive 0600B/23rd. Patrols. May in new patrol line, mid point 061 degs. 20'N. 002 degs. 00' E. direction 090 degs. 270 degs. length 40 miles.

(F.O.S. 221233B to S/M's)

Positions of S/Ms 0800/23rd May and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) VIRTUE on patrol vicinity 61 degs. 20' N. 02 degs. 01' E.

(C) SCEPTRE patrol off Bilbao.

(F.O.S. 221749B to Admty.)

War Diary.22.5.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221431B, 221527B.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221453B, 221541.)
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 221753B.)

Operation "Wallop". Cancel my 201442B. Carry out operation "Wallop" tonight.
(1) Unit G M.T.Bs. 254 (S.O.), 252, 256, 257, and 253. (2) 2330B/22nd. (3) 1 Sugar. (4) 50° 07' N. 01° 18' E. (5) Avoid Area B. (6) and (7) as in (3).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221501B to AGGRESSIVE.)

Operation "Knitting 10". Cancel my 211646 and 211412. Intend sailing M.T.B. 255 with M.T.Bs. 451 (S.O.) and 448 in support at 2130 to-day for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00° 10' E. and 01° 05' E. Vessels to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 221652B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Allied Air Activity

A/C in North Russia. Captain of Catalina reports increasing difficulty for maintenance, which has been reported to 18 Group.
(2) Do you intend to send relief Catalina. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 220944B to Air Ministry.)
Your 212031B and 220944B. Catalina should be returned to U.K. as soon as weather permits but is required to carry Russian meteorologist, Major Prostyakov, for whom onward passage to Iceland will be arranged. No relief Catalina being sent. Admiralty agree.
(Air Min., 221635Z to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 220545Z. Aircraft observed north of island 0515 flying east.
(A.C.I.C., 221046B to Admty.)

Portsmouth. Following damage was caused by a sea mine dropped by enemy action night of 15/16 May and which exploded at 2130 on 20th May, at Fort Cumberland. Details.
(S.C.E. Portsmouth, 221645B to C.E. in C.)

Mining

Start Point Area clearance. Your 22(10?)32B. Following is a repetition my 212110B and 212130. Clearance of area south Start Point. Area swept G formation to 2.4 miles south of north limit. Depth of sweep 12 and 15 fathoms. Cut 8 mines, sank 7, detached 1 dragged 1. Position of mines swept.
(M/S.31, 221150B, 221200 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
(M/S.31, 221155B to Admty.) Operation /...

22.5.1944
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining - Contd.

Operation Carry out operation K.N.21 tonight.
K.N.21. (A) M.T.Bs 738 (S.O) 724, 732, 739, 749 unit A.1.
(2) M.T.B. 617(S.O) 624, 630, 652, 668, 682,
Unit A.2.
(3) M.T.B. 212, 209 Unit A.3. All force A.
(4) M.T.B's 246, 249 Unit A.4.
(C) Pass F buoy at 2245, proceed via position 049 degs. 50' N.
001 degs. 05' W. thence position of lay.
(D) (1) 49 46.9 N. 01 21.8 W. (2) 49 46.5 N. 01 21.2 W.
0300B, 328 degs. 250 feet.
(E) From (D) via position PE 050 degs. 05' N. 001 degs. 07' W.
thence returning to harbour (H) Unit A 2, A 3, and A 4 proceeding
in company passing F Buoy at 2245, thence 049 degs. 48' N. 001
degs. 38' W. part company at this position.
(1) Unit A 2 from 049 degs. 48' N. 001 degs. 38' W. to 049
degs. 49' N. 002 degs. 08' W. thence return position PW. 50.05
N. 0140 W. arriving by 0500.
(2) Unit A 3 and A 4 proceed from position 49.48 N. 01.38 W. to
49.43 N. 01.33 W. arriving 0215, thence patrol to the westward.
Return to position PW by 05.15.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 221253B and 221546B to V.64,13 and 55)

SAINT C. in C. W.A 211159B May and F.O.I.C.Liverpool's
HELENEODES 211030B May. Explosion undoubtedly caused by
MERS. Old Jettisoned depth charge brought up in trawl,
placed on deck, and ten minutes later thrown over-
board as it was impeding work. Within a minute
of its being thrown overboard, violent explosion
took place under the ship, water rushed in over stern and vessel
sank in 1½ minutes. Vessel was trawling in 40 fathoms about 20
miles S.W. of Isle of Man 2 miles E.N.E. of a buoy "Believed to
indicate demarcation of a minefield."
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221830B to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

FORT VERCHERES, Kola Inlet departure FORT VERCHERES and EMPIRE
EMPIRE PROWESS and Russian local escort for Archangel.
PROWESS. Admiralty's 092357 refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 221516B to S.B.N.O.
Archangel.)

DROTTHINGHOLM. Cleared and sailed Swedish ship DROTTHINGHOLM.
E.T.A. Ponta Delgada May 29th. Admiralty's
171211B refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 221712B to Admty.)

War Diary.

22.5.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/M patrol off Portugal. Daily advance 110 miles after passing 043° N. diving by day to patrol within radius of 10 miles of X. P.324 (THOROUGH) 040° 30' N. 011° 30' W. arriving 1000/25th.
Y P.326 (TUDOR) 041° 30' 011° 30' arriving 0130/26.
Z P.322 (ZWAARDVISCH) 040° 30' 012° 50' arriving 1700/26th submerged bombing restrictions 80 miles either side of line joining 039° 40' 012° 10' and 043° 20' 012° 10' from 2030/23rd until further notice all times B.
(F.O.G.M.A. 221737B to P.324 (THOROUGH) P.326 (TUDOR) P.322 (ZWAARDVISCH) (R) JUNON, STATESMAN, VIGOROUS, SCEPTRE, F.O.S.)

SS. GENEROSO, My 161740 para. 3 SS. GENEROSO delayed to 24th May.
ST. GOTTHARD. 2. My 191919 para. 1 SS. ST. GOTTHARD sails about 25th May.
(D.E.W.D. 221915B to F.O.G.M.A.)

U.G.S.42, 3318 3451 detached MIDDLESEX TRADER, CHINA PLANTER
CHINA PLANTER. escorted by THORNHILL at noon Z for Horta speed may be less than 9 caused by probability of taking PLANTER in tow due to engine trouble which necessitates her detachment. Request local escort.
(C.T.F.63 221256 to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R, S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. Cinclant, F.O.G.M.A. Com. 8th Fleet.)

South Atlantic.

SS. ANADYR My 151959 para. S cancel sentence commencing large
(torpedoed German S/M etc., and substitute German S/M about
6th May.) 230 ft. long no deck gun, one twin 40 m.m. and one single 40 m.m. A.A. gun on single platform after end conning tower.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 221430Z.)

PELEUS (sunk Ref. V.C. Lobitos 271448A April. Following information
13 March.) obtained from survivors Greek Ship PELEUS sunk at 1930/13 March ships time in 02° S. 10° W. approx. by 2 torpedoes from German U-Boat. Ship sank in two minutes.

2. U-Boat large type appeared new painted dark grey.
3. U-Boat remained on surface until 0530/14 March rammed rafts and wreckage with intent to drown crew also bombed rafts and machine gunned men in water. 3 survivors shammed dead and heard Germans on U-Boat say "all dead". One survivor has bullet wound in shoulder.
(S.O.I. Capetown 221722B.)

Reph: D.N.I., 272319 B, p. 395.

/Rescue...

War Diary.

22.5.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Rescue tugs
at Freetown.

C.A.F.O. 1428/42, allocates two rescue tugs to Freetown but only one arrived. Request information whether this allocation still stands and if so whether the second boat can be provided in the near future.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 221803Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

22.5.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- UNRULY. Destroyers mentioned in address will be carrying out an anti-shipping sweep in south Aegean between 2101 and 0503 tonight and have not to attack S/M. 2. Destroyers proved to be hostile. 3. From 2301 until dawn 23rd patrol in an area bounded by long. 024° 59' and 025° 24' lat. 035° 33' and the north coast of Crete. (Capt. S.1 221010B to UNRULY, (R) UNSPARING, F.O.L.E.M. LE MALIN, LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE, KIMBERLEY.)
Cancel my 221010. Own destroyers not operating tonight 22/23. (Capt. S.1 222215 to UNRULY.)
- Minesweeping in Danube. Technical. (C. in C.Med. 221049.)
- Manning of Greek ships. In order to obtain the necessary personnel to complete manning of Greek ships have requested a (?A intended) Force to recommence evacuation of suitable persons from Greece. H.M.Ambassador is approaching Foreign Office for sanction for (?further) grant to cover this. Request Admty. support. (F.O.L.E.M. 221212C to Admty.)
- ARCHIMEDE. Leave patrol to pass 043° 02' 007° 38' at 0600/25 through 041° 53' 007° 56' at 0130/26th to arrive Maddalena at 0915/26th. (Capt. S.10 221217 to ARCHIMEDE.)
- Greek seamen in U.K. Your 201827 May. Concur. Request that as far as possible the unreliable men should be segregated and kept permanently apart from the others. (C. in C.Med. Naples 221252B to Admty.)
- Swedish Relief ship M.V. BORELAND. BORELAND now shown by P.R.U. as being in Piraeus. No daily positions have been received during passage through Mediterranean since leaving Gib. Request this matter be again represented to Swedes to prevent an unfortunate incident. My 191048* April and 171156+ May also refer. (F.O.L.E.M. 221336C to Admty. Info. C. in C.Med.) * re Broadcast positions of Swedish Red Cross ships + Report of SAGGAT's position.
- CASABIANCA. French Admty. request that S/M CASABIANCA should be sent to U.S. for modernization and overhaul. Ship has performed useful work in the Med. up to date, and should be capable of further good service after period in Navy yard. It is therefore recommended that French request should be granted. (Algiers (3.A.C.) 221918B to Etousa for B.C.O.S.)

/Similar...

War Diary.

22.5.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CASABIANCA. Similar recommendation.
(Contd.) (C. in C.Med. 221935.)

SS. JOHANNA. Ex JOHANNES MAERSK.
(C. in C.M.E. 221920C.)

Situation My 211914 para. 2 SS. FORT MISSANABIE sank at
report 363. 1209/20th. Prisoners taken from U-Boat No. 49
included C.O.
2. TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS on patrol off Albanian
coast night 19/20th encountered 5 E or R-Boats.
One reported destroyed and possibly 2 damaged.
3. During night of 20/21st coastal force encountered F-Lighter
and drove it ashore in flames in 042° 50' N. 017° 35' E.
4. Anzio discharge figure 21st 6068 tons only enemy activity a
R/C.
(C. in C.Med. 222205B.)

M.L.444. C.A.F.O. 2577/43*. Regret explosions occurred today
in engine room of M.L.444 exact cause unknown.
Extensive damage to engine room and hull above
water. Intend towing craft to Maddalena for strip-
ping and survey to decide possibility of repair. 5 casualties
none fatal. Detailed report follows.
(S.O. Force N 222250B.)

* Damage sustained in action, collision or from other causes -
reports - (Coastal Forces Craft) (G.07298/43-2.12.43.)

TOP SECRET

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.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent on a ^{221330z}One Time Pad : "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From: Armindia.

Date 22.5.44.
Recd. 1233Z.

Cypher. X COS

Development of Assam L of C.

Addressed: A.M.S.S.O
Repeated S.A.C.S.E.A. Ceylon.

IZ.4045 81452 22nd May 1944.

For Chiefs of Staff repeated S.A.C.S.E.A. from
General Auchinleck, 5/COS

1. Following summary gives outline of development of Assam L of C during recent months.
2. Tonnage accumulated Calcutta docks waiting clearance November 1943 88,400 tons, May 1944 711700 or 11700 (?) tons. Tons discharged per ship working day, January 446 tons, April 655 tons.
3. Average daily tonnage despatched Assam L of C rail and river combined, which in October '43 was 2,560 tons, was in April 4697 tons. or within one per cent of the target of 4,745 tons per day. In May up to 18 May it was 5,101 tons which is in excess of daily target. In addition an average monthly of 55,000 personnel and 4,000 vehicles have been despatched.
4. Deliveries by sea to Chittagong monthly tonnage January 45,000 tons, April 67,500 tons May to 15th 72,000 tons. From January to May inclusive 87 store ships have been loaded in Indian ports for Chittagong. In addition up to 20,000 personnel and 3,000 vehicles per month have been handled through Chittagong in personnel ships.
5. To relieve Calcutta. Vizagapatam has been developed as a military port. 27,000 tons were loaded in April and 23,000 in May up to 15th. Average loading per day 670 tons.
6. Improved working of L of C due to creation of panel of all interests including American under D.D.Movement Calcutta. Operation of MG railway by American troops. Reorganisation of Calcutta Port working and assistance of U.S. forces in King George's Dock. Appointment of Director General of Railways Calcutta area. Formation of G.H.Q. (India) Joint Transportation Committee.
7. We are now ahead of schedule.

221330z

As received.

Circulation

Circulation

Defence Office. For. Sec. 1st S.L. Air Ministry
War Office 4th S.L.

Received in War Reg. a.m./23.

1st S.L. (2)
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D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (3)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (G) (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
Hd. of M.
Admiral Blake. (4)
A.D.O.D. (C.O.)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

78/JR

War Diary22.5.1944
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

SS. ANDES (Tactical). Diversion order.
(D.O.D.(H) 221122B to SS. ANDES.)

S/Ms. Request following information may be promulgated
exercising to all U.S. warships operating in or near areas
of W. coast concerned.
of U.K. "Friendly submarines may be encountered exercising
off the West Coast of U.K. in the following areas;
The Minches, the North Channel East of longitude
07° 30' W., Irish Sea North of latitude 53° N.
Submarines will generally be accompanied by surface vessels. In
these areas, no submarine is to be attacked or approached within
2 miles by any ship or aircraft. If doubt exists as to identity,
such submarines should be reported to C. in C., W.A.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 221316B to Cominch, Comnaveu.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 221447Z, Cominch, 221538.)

BULKOIL, Following received from Marconi Station V.C.O.
U/B North Sydney SSS DE KC2DF* S/M 43° 28' N. 63° 12'
attack. W. S/M forced down with gun fire at 221540Z.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 221608Z.)*KKOK (BULKOIL)

U/B Submarine 43.28 N. 63.12 W.
report. (Cinclant, 221700 to Any or all U.S. Warships.)

Supplies There is no intention to resume Military supplies
to Turkey. to Turkey at the moment. We will keep you fully
posted of any changes in our policy.
(A.M.S.S.O. 221804Z to J.S.M. Washington.)

Spanish We do not wish Spanish Trawlers to enter St. Johns
trawlers. N.F. As proposed in A.B.N.A. Madrid's 171145 they
must first call at Bay Bulls for security and
radio inspection and thence may proceed only to
Louisburg to discharge or load salt. If oil
bunkers are approved these should be taken at Louisburg. My
241348 Feb. applies. Admty. pass B.N.A. Madrid.
(N.S.H.Q., 222000 as amended 231358Z to Admty.)

U/B No report 21st.
incidents. A. BULKOIL sighted and attacked U/Boat 43.28 N.
63.12 W. 221540Z.
B. U.S.S. BOGUE Radar contact 14.53 N. 33.03 W.
(Cominch, 222102Z.)

War Diary22.5.1944
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest Serial No. 853. May 21st. Paras. 13 to 17 cover South Pacific Forces.

10. Allied Artillery from Wakde maintained harassing fire on heavy defensive positions Maffin Bay area. Three United States destroyers bombarded Sarmi area morning 20th exploding large fuel dumps. 74 dead Japs counted excluding Wakde Island. Our casualties entire Wakde Island area operation to date involve under 50 killed.

16. United States Cruiser Destroyer Task Force bombarded Shortlands mid-morning 20th while 30 Mitchells, 14 Dauntless, 17 Avengers, 44 Fighter Bombers struck Bivouac and Stores areas inland from Buin.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 220735Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. 1. A/C S/4 O.T.U. attacked U/Boat on course 050° at 1048Z 21st May in 64° 04' N. 04° 02' E.

Para. B. 1. A/C 7/224 sighted U/Boat on course 150°, at 2255Z/21 May in 48° 48' N. 05° 00' W.
2. H.M.S. CROCUS obtained Radar contact at 1933Z 21st May in 04° ?' N. 09° 25' W.

Para. C. 1. Fleet Air Arm A/C sighted U/Boat, course 150° at 0649Z/22nd May in 50° 10' N. 05° 50' W.
2. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2207Z/21st May in 35° 48' N. 06° 23' W.
3. A/C obtained A.D.V. contact at 2130Z/21st May in 36° 15' N. 04° 14' W.
(Admty., 221122B.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 221437, 221444B.)

23.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Implement"
BALDUR sunk
by SCEPTRE.

1. The S/M. SCEPTRE on patrol torpedoed and sank the German BALDUR, 3594 tons, close off Castro (N. Spain) at 1409B to-day. SCEPTRE, who has five torpedoes remaining, was ordered yesterday to leave this patrol on 25th May.

Engagement
off Berck-
sur-Mer.

2. In a sharp engagement with E/boats off Berck-sur-Mer at 0226 today, M.T.B.358 was slightly damaged and one of her Officers was seriously wounded. No damage to the enemy is claimed and no torpedo-target was sighted.

Action off
Channel
Islands.
M.T.B.726
and M.T.B.745
damaged.

3. At about 0345 to-day M.T.Bs. 726 (S.O.), 727 735 and 745 on patrol attacked a west-bound enemy convoy to the south of Barnouic Bank with torpedoes and guns and claim to have damaged the enemy with gunfire. M.T.B.726 was damaged and one of her ratings was killed, one officer and two ratings being wounded; and M.T.B.745 was also damaged and had one of her ratings killed and three wounded.

Western
Channel
A/S
operations.

4. A U/boat was sighted and attacked by A/C at 0315 to-day 55 miles due south of Start Point. To search for this U/boat four destroyers (S.O. in FAME), forming Force 30, left Plymouth at 2050 to-day to patrol the Falmouth/ Start area. Force 30 will be joined by two more destroyers tonight and by a further two at 0900 tomorrow; and during tonight "the whole Western part of the Channel will be saturated with A/S Air R/C", while by day, Liberator A/C will patrol off the English Coast and Fighter A/C will cover the area from Cherbourg to the Channel Islands.

Enemy
Vessels
bombed.

5. A Force of unidentified enemy ships steering north at 36 knots was bombed by Albacore A/C at 0003B today about 20 miles South of St. Catherines Point. Burning wreckage was then seen on the surface; and at 0113 a second attack by Albacore A/C caused the enemy to break formation and retire towards Cap Barfleur.

Portsmouth
area bombed.

6. Shortly after midnight last night some 30 or 40 enemy A/C were operating over Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. Some civilian damage and casualties were caused at Portsmouth and Gosport; the airfield at Lee-on-Solent was slightly damaged; and mine-laying in Sandown Bay and at Spithead is suspected.

ALBATROSS
ashore.

7. The Landing-Craft Base Ship ALBATROSS grounded on the South Goodwins at 0450 to-day, and at

23.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

ALBATROSS
ashore.
(Contd.)

0552 reported that she was being attacked by enemy A/C. She was refloated, and arrived at Southend at 1614 to-day.

Mediterranean

U-Boat
attacked.

8. Destroyers and A/S trawlers from Gibraltar hunted in the Straits of Gibraltar this forenoon where THALASSA (O.B.V.) and Liberator L/112 each reported sighting periscopes and COLUMBINE had attacked a contact in about 36 N 5 W. BLACKFLY reported a hedgehog explosion 14 seconds after firing the projectile.

Raid on
Mljet Is.

9. An Allied force landed last night on Mljet Island off the Dalmatian coast, unopposed. Allied aircraft co-operated this morning at 6 o'clock. The enemy withdrew to difficult country and could not be brought to action. Our troops withdrew tonight with a few casualties.

Bridgehead.

10(a) The 6th Corps today launched an attack in a north-easterly direction from the beachhead in conjunction with the continuing attack on the main front.
(b) The U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN engaged targets at Ardea and Vallelata today; in support of the Army. The results are reported to have been satisfactory.
(c) 7 acoustic mines were swept at Anzio today.

East Indies

Escort
in Indian
Ocean.

11(a) The Admiralty have requested C. in C. Eastern Fleet to consider postponing the formation of the Escort Carrier Group which he is contemplating (see 2nd May) and to employ these escorts for convoy protection in lieu of fleet destroyers. The partial immobilisation of the Fleet cannot be accepted.
(b) As vessels become available the Eastern Fleet escort strength is to be built up to 120.

23.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

Anglo - U.S. cooperation in Atlantic and Mediterranean. 12. Cominch today makes a suggestion for an Anglo- U.S. agreement, valid in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean, when forces of one Nation are operating within the area under the strategic control of the other but not under the operational control of the latter and when deviation from the assigned task is made as the result of the request of the authority having strategic control.

Australia and New Zealand.

Enemy
convoy
destroyed

13. During yesterday and today an enemy convoy reported as comprising up to 14 vessels, including 5 escorts, was subjected to a series of attacks by Allied submarines whilst apparently enroute to Halmahera (Moluccas) from the southern Philippines, and it is claimed that the majority of the merchantmen were sunk.

Wake Is.
attacked.

14. Carrier force aircraft attacked Wake Island today. Considerable damage is reported to have been caused to ground installations. Two aircraft with one pilot were lost operationally.

U/boat
sunk.

15. Destroyers and destroyer escorts attacked 3 enemy submarines 160 - 180 miles north of Mussau Island, New Hanover (Bismarck Archipelago) early this morning. The first is believed to have been sunk, the second possibly destroyed, whilst search for the third is continuing.

23.5.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
F.O.C.R.F.

Flag of F.O.C.R.F. is to be struck p.m. today consequent on admission of Admiral Harris into hospital a.m. tomorrow and not hoisted until further orders.
(F.O.C.R.F. 231115 to MALAYA.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S
operations.

One destroyer, 2 flak ships, 047° 24' N. 03° 26' W. (A/C MHF 83 230216 to 19 Group.)
Eastbound U-Boat estimated near you today 23rd May. (D.D.I.C. 230901B to THOROUGH, JUNON, TRENCHANT, CYCLAMEN.)

Operations
N.L.123,
N.L.125.

My 221739B. Operation N.L.123 abandoned owing to weather. Operation N.L.125 abandoned owing to enemy activity.
(V.A.Dover 230727B to Admt.)

Operation
"Implement"
BALDUR sunk
by SCEPTRE.

Arrivals 22nd ^DCOURANNE from Santander.
Departures 23rd BALDUR to Castro.
(Consul Bilbao 231145 to Admt.)
BALDUR expected to return Bilbao from Castro p.m. 24th. NORDFELS, MIDSLAND, BALDUR and RASTENBURG expected ready leave Bilbao by 1800Z/24th.
Escort reported to be 6 surface vessels and A/C.
(F.O.S. 231416B to SCEPTRE.)

Without arrivals Pasajes May 20th French JEUNE DENISE in ballast from Bayonne, German HENK in ballast from Bayonne to shelter from weather.

Departures May 21st French JEUNE DENISE for Bayonne with iron ore. HENK for Bilbao in ballast.

(Vice Consul San Sebastien 231630 to D.N.I.)

Arrivals May 21st enemy controlled MARIBEL Bayonne in ballast (Gijon 231640B to Admt.)

BALDUR sunk by torpedo at 1409B/23rd in 043° 21.8' N. 003° 11' W. Target left on bottom with back well broken. 4 bow and one stern torpedo remain. Weather.

(SCEPTRE 232352B to F.O.S.)

Operation
"Overlord".

Personal from A.O.C. in C. It is proposed 1. that the Channel area between line Scillies to Ushant and line North Foreland to Dunkirk be instituted as a surface vessel attack restriction area until further notice to the following addresses. H.Q.B.C.

Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 100, 91, 92, 93 Groups. H.Q.U.S.9th A.F. H.Q.8th U.S.A.A.F. H.Q.U.S.8th F.C. H.Q.U.S.8th B.C. H.Q.2 T.A.F. H.Q.A.E.A.F. and H.Q.A.D.G.B.

2. Coastal Command groups will be exempt as their aircraft are specially briefed by the A.C.H.Q. as to where they may attack.

3. Those groups belonging to A.E.A.F. and A.D.G.B. who provide aircraft for escort or cover to Coastal Command aircraft or who provide strikes on enemy forces which have been arranged with the local Naval Authority are also exempt.

4. The restrictions in this channel area will only be lifted for

/those...

23.5.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Overlord". (Contd.)

those authorities listed in para. 1 in areas agreed to by the local Naval Authority. This proposal has the concurrence of C. in C.Plymouth in so far as his area is concerned. It would greatly simplify the problem if the same principle was applied to the whole channel area, moreover a very large amount of signal traffic will be saved. Do you concur.
(H.Q.C.C. 231200B to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C.Portsmouth, Nore, V.A.Dover.)

Operation "Knitting 10".

My 221652. Operation "Knitting 10" completed satisfactorily.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 231208B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Enemy convoy attacked. M.T.Bs. 726 and 745 damaged.

About 0345/23rd M.T.B. 735, 726, 745, 727 who were carrying out an offensive patrol south Barnouic Bank encountered a strongly-escorted enemy convoy bound to westward. A close gun-action followed in course of which M.T.B. 745 and 735 fired zone of torpedo by Radar as, owing to enemy starshell and tracer, target could not be seen clearly. No hits are claimed by these torpedoes but some damage was seen to have been done to enemy by gunfire. Some damage was suffered by M.T.B. 726 (estimated 3 days to repair) and by M.T.B. 745 (estimated 2 weeks to repair) and casualties in M.T.B. 726 are rating killed one officer wounded one rating severely wounded one rating slightly wounded, in M.T.B. 745 one rating killed 3 ratings wounded.
(C. in C.Plymouth 231317B to Admty.)

S/M Patrols.

Own submarines at 0801B/24th May and in following 24 hours.
A. VIRTUE 61° 21' N. 02° 03' E. on patrol.
C. SCEPTRE (P.215) off Bilbao.
(F.O.S. 231606B to Admty.)

Western Channel A/S Operations.

1. Information. A submarine was sighted and attacked by aircraft in 49° 18' N. 03° 38' W. at 0315/23rd.
2. Intention. To destroy this submarine with surface forces working in conjunction with aircraft.
3. Execution. A. FAME take HAVELOCK, HOTSPUR and

INCONSTANT under your orders and pass the gate at 2030, proceeding by the Eddystone Swept Channel to arrive in 49° 14' N. 3° 47' W. at 2330.
B. WATCHMAN and SCIMITAR ex Force 29 have been ordered to join FAME in 50° 00' N. 04° 08' W. at 2130, and are then to form part of Force 30. WANDERER and SKATE will leave patrol at the same time and return direct to Plymouth and report expected time of arrival.
C. Patrol area is ten miles either side of a line joining the following positions 49° 14' N. 03° 47' W. 49° 06' N. 04° 09' W. 49° 04' N. 04° 40' W. 49° 00' N. 05° 00' W. but keeping clear of danger area given in para. 4.

/D...

326

23.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western
Channel A/S
Operations.
(Contd.)

D. Duration of search. If contact is made hunt is to be continued until U-Boat is destroyed. If contact is not made before dawn, hunt is to be continued until noon 24th when Force 30 is to withdraw towards Plymouth at high speed.

WENSLEYDALE and MELBREAK will join Force 30 at 0900/24th in 49° 14' N. 3° 47' W. and will provide additional A/A support. If you will not be in this R/V you are to issue joining instructions to WENSLEYDALE direct.

F. Fighter cover. Fighter cover consisting of one section of four high cover and one section of four low cover will provide constant fighter protection from dawn.

G. Air R/C by night. The whole western part of the Channel will be saturated with A/S air R/C. In addition anti E-Boat patrols will be flown by Wellingtons or Halifaxes but these aircraft are fitted V H/F and cannot communicate on 2410 k/cs. By day. Liberators will patrol off the English Coast and fighter sweeps will be made to cover the area from Cherbourg to the Channel Islands.

4. Dangerous area. Force 30 is on no account to pass south of the line joining the following positions owing to danger from mines: 48.55 N. 5.39 W. 49.00 N. 5.05 W. 49.00 N. 04.20 W. 48.53 N. 04.20 W. 49.00 N. 04.00 W. 49.08 N. 03.00 W.

5. Friendly forces. Force "Hostile 37" consisting of eight motor launches and two M.T.Bs. will pass through 090° Eddystone 2 at 1930, thence at 13 knots to arrive 081 Sept Isles 5.8 at 0200, leaving at 0235, and returning by reverse route.

(C. in C. Plymouth 231617 and 231858B to FAME, HAVELOCK, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT.)

Action off Berck-sur-Mer. Last night 22/23, in anticipation of the movement northwards from Dieppe of an enemy escorted convoy, groups A, M.T.Bs. 354 (S.O.) 361, 358 and 362 and B, M.T.Bs. 459 (S.O.) 464, 465, 466 were sailed in company to arrive at 0030 in 50° 24' N. 01° 24½' E.

whence patrol was ordered in a direction 180° for six miles.

2. Wind N.N.W. Force 4, sea moderate, visibility poor sometimes reduced to two cables.

3. During approach to patrol position from Bullock Bank considerable starshell was observed emanating from direction Berck-sur-Mer and continued through out the night.

4. On reaching Southern Limit of patrol at 0115 M.T.Bs. 361, 358, 362 failed to turn with leader, continued southward, and lost contact with him and group B who regained northern end of patrol at 0149. Proceeding southward again at 0106 M.T.B. 354 developed engine trouble at 0224 and parted company to wait and remedy defects at northern limit.

5. At 0226 M.T.Bs. 361, 362 and 358 in approx. 232° Berck-sur-Mer 9 miles obtained H.E. to southward which was soon followed by flashing. M.T.B. 361, expecting group B, challenged and was met with heavy and accurate fire from the southward and from seaward, and disengaged with M.T.Bs. 362 and 358 at high speed to north westward.

6. Starshell burst at 0227 over group B who closed scene of action, illuminated on Radar contacts, and engaged what appears to have been E/R Boats and T.L.C. Screen. Some shells of about 4 inch calibre were observed to fall between Groups A and B. Group B disengaged on course 220° at 0235 under cover of smoke. M.T.B. 466 lost contact during action, remainder of group carried out extensive...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Action off Berck-sur-Mer. (Contd.)
- tensive Radar sweep until 0447 without locating the enemy and then withdrew when steering gear of M.T.B. 459 broke down temporarily.
7. M.T.B. 354 while repairing defective engine crossed 200 yards ahead of six E/R Boats at 12 knots unobserved.
8. M.T.B. 358 sustained slight hull damage and damage to both tubes necessitating 24 hours under repair. M.T.B. 362 and 464 superficial damage only. One officer seriously wounded in M.T.B. 358.
9. No specific claims are made on the enemy and no torpedo target was sighted.
10. Shore based Radar detected one medium and six small vessels at 0445 7 miles south of Boulogne which entered harbour at 0535. My 230958 not to all addressees refers. (V.A.Dover 231650B to Admty.)

- Enemy force bombed.
- Last night a group of 5 unidentified craft were detected at 2325B in approx. 198° St. Catherines Point 39.5 miles. At 2338 course of group was seen to be north, speed 36 knots. Units A.2 (6 D class M.T.B.) and A.3 (2 70 foot M.T.B.) supporting unit A.1 on operation K.N.21 were vectored to intercept.
2. Contact was made at 2358 by Albacore patrol and attacked at 0003B. 7 vessels were sighted and bombed. After the attack burning wreckage was observed on the surface.
3. SEYMOUR and an S.G.B. Patrol, and LA COMBATTANTE, KRAKOWIAK and STEVENSTONE, also acting in support of unit A.1 were disposed to intercept.
4. Unit A.2 was seen by plot to be close to enemy plot and on receipt of enemy position, illuminated area. Enemy had altered course to the west at 0013B and retired to the southward at 0025, speed 36 knots, without being sighted by Unit A.2, who experienced Radar interference by "Window". Unit A.2 was ordered to the southward but stopped at 0103 to allow further bombing attack. Contact was made by second Albacore at 0113 and an attack carried out on 12 vessels. Enemy formation was seen to break up, but no hits are claimed. The plot faded at 0120 in position 292° Pte. de Barfleur 30 m.
5. First division of Unit G (M.T.Bs. 252, 257) patrolling in the vicinity of Treport made contact with enemy vessel at 0030 and were illuminated and pursued to seaward, disengaging from further action owing to engine breakdowns. 2nd Division M.T.Bs. 254, 256 patrolling inshore were first driven off 10 miles to seaward by shelling from shore batteries, and at 0146 in 50.14.5 N. 01.17.5 E. sighted seven vessels illuminated by starshell bearing 045° distant 5 miles. These were plotted by Radar and reported by W/T in order to assist forces in Dover Command. In view of the close proximity of the latter, M.T.Bs. 254, 256 did not close the enemy but continued to shadow and report.
6. Units A.1 and F. carried out Operations K.N.21 and 13. (C. in C.Portsmouth 232011B and 232026B to Admty.)

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth
area bombed.

At 0006/23 30 - 40 E.A. height 14,000 - 20,000 operated in Portsmouth, Isle of Wight area. Scattered bombing mostly over sea. Suspected minelaying Sandown Bay and Spithead. No damage or casualties to ships or Naval Establishments. Some civilian damage and casualties Portsmouth and Gosport.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 231106B to Admty.)

Lee on Solent
bombed.

Air raid incident 0050 hours 23/5/44. 1 bomb dropped on N.W. corner of airfield. A. War effort not affected. 1 Nissen hut demolished superficial damage to Hangars and Squadron Offices. D. No serious damage.

(R.N.B.Lee 231802 to F.O.N.A.S.)

Mining.

Dumping of
mines off
Hoy.

The return to Depots of mines and sinkers recovered from the controlled minefields at Scapa cannot now always be arranged without delay owing to lack of shipping. So as not to interfere with necessary maintenance work on the minefields if no controlled mining base ship or armament supply vessel is available. It is intended in future to dump recovered mines and sinkers in deep water from one to two miles to the westward of Berry Head on the west coast of Hoy.

(A.C.O.S. 231233 to Admty.)

Operation
K.N.8.

Carry out operation K.N.8 tonight. A. 1. 2 M.T.Bs. Unit M.1. 2. 6 M.T.Bs. Units M.2 and M.3.

C. Pass E.A. 3 buoy at 2300B, thence via 50.00 N. 00.18 W. to 49.40 N. 00.10 W. parting company M.1 to position of lay, M.2 and M.3 to patrol as in H.

D. 49.36.5 N. 00.06.5 E. 0400B 070° 300 feet.

E. From D thence to waiting position 50.10 N. 00.20 W. thence returning to harbour.

H. Units M.2 and M.2 part company with Unit M.1 in 49.40 north 00.10 W. and patrol in vicinity of 49.25 N. 00.18 W. returning so as to be outside visibility distance from the enemy coast by daylight.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 231537B to V.14, V.13.)

Enemy Intellitence.

PERNAMBUCO.
JOHANN
FAULBAUM.
RINGOY.

Following shipping casualties have been reported in Norwegian waters.

A. PERNAMBUCO 4121 tons. B. JOHANN FAULBAUM 2944 tons. C. One patrol vessel.

Above three vessels all sunk in Kirkenes during first week in May.

D. One patrol vessel sunk in Berlevag in early May. E. RINGOY (127?) tons damaged in air attack off Finnmarken date not reported. Graded B.2.

(N.A.Stockholm 231816 to Admty.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

PERNAMBUCO.
JOHANN
FAULBAUM.
RINGOY.
(Contd.)

O. I. C. Comment:-

A previous report stated PERNAMBUCO had been damaged by bombs in Kirkenes on 14th May. There is no confirmation of the other casualties mentioned.

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported.

Periscope sighted 058° 35' N. 002° 50' W. Carrying out search.
(ALBERNI 231930B to C. in C.W.A.)
No contact gained. Request duration of hunt.
(ALBERNI 232247B to A.C.O.S.)

Search for U/B.

2 Liberators to carry out A/S search. One on each side of line joining positions 64° 48' N. 04° 01' E. 65° 43' N. 05° 34' E. A/C to search to a depth of 30 miles each side of the line using 5 miles vis. Catalinas and Sunderlands may be in area. A/C to land at Tain on completion.
(18 Group 231315B to Ballykelly.)

Technical.

"Schnorkel" gear.

It is not^w established that a number of German U-Boats are fitted with extensible diesel air inlet and exhaust trunks in a single shaft, which enables them to charge batteries and ventilate the boat when at periscope depth. The gear is called "Schnorkel."

2. The trunk is hinged to the deck at the forward end of the conning tower usually on the port side and when not in use lies flush with the deck.
3. The diameter of the trunk is reported about 14 inches. It can therefore probably be detected at short ranges by A.S.V. and Radar.
4. Using "Schnorkel" U-Boats can probably proceed submerged for several days at slow speed in seas up to 3, 4, and they may be expected to use it in areas like the Bay of Biscay and the coast of the United Kingdom where frequent A/S patrols and air cover are likely to be encountered.
5. While the U-Boat runs on diesels submerged H.E. may be caused and the ability of the U-Boat to hear approaching surface ships is likely to be somewhat impaired.
6. The Germans are reported to be developing an improved "Schnorkel" with air intake only, the exhaust being discharged into the water in order to eliminate smoke.
(D.N.I. 231853B: A Message 98A.)

Casualties & Defects.

ALBATROSS.

I am being attacked by enemy aircraft South Goodwin.
(ALBATROSS 230552 to Dover P.W.)

/BRIGHTON...

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BRIGHTON. BRIGHTON on demonstration run, developed defects in starboard main generator. Repairs in hand. (N.O.I.C. Tyne 231025B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Stragglers. Stragglers return week ending 23rd May. U.C.T. 23 PINE RIDGE, defective turbine joint reduced speed to 12 knots. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 230915B to Admty.)

Week ending 23.5.44. STANHOPE returned from O.S.77/K.M.S.51, 2030B/16th. Ship unable to maintain convoy speed owing to inefficient firemen, and was sent back by Commodore. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 231024B to Admty.)

M/Vs in N.Russia. Russian coal is now being supplied to merchant ships for use in harbour, thus reserving sufficient British coal for passage to U.K.
2. Merchant ships can therefore be brought home during June to suit your operational requirements.
3. S.B.N.O.N.Russia 301401 April and Admty. Message 041034 May refers. (A.C.N.S.H. 232039B to C. in C.H.F.)

Large convoys procedure. Following recommendations embody experience gained to date with H.X. and O.N. convoys of more than 100 ships:-
A. width should not exceed 16 columns.
B. The Vice Commodore should whenever practicable be a Naval Commodore with full staff. A position in rear half of convoy is advocated but this must be at discretion of Commodore having regard to all other considerations.
C. Two experienced masters in suitable ships with adequate signal staffs and equipment should be detailed as Rear Commodores. Positions advocated are in centre of third or fourth columns to port and starboard of Commodore respectively. These ships should carry out V/S repeating duties.
D. Ships of Commodores and Vice and Rear Commodores should have six inch Aldis and/or ten inch signalling lamps.
E. Route selected should as far as possible having regard to U-Boat dispositions and other traffic avoid alterations of course especially in areas liable to fog. (D.T.D. 232333B to C. in C.W.A.)

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23.5.1944.
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- U/boat report. One submarine in 020 Almina Point 6 miles. (THALASSA, 230713 to Gibraltar W/T.).
- 18 sailing ships. 038 degs. 00' N. 017 degs. 20' W. sighted about 18 unknown ships under sail course 310 degs. believed Portuguese. (CAPE PALLISER, 230725Z).
W.D. Note: Probably Portuguese cod fishing fleet bound for Greenland Banks.
- SS. QUEEN OF BERMUDA. QUEEN OF BERMUDA was accidentally hit by six pounder shell prior to sailing making fifteen inch hole in shell plating 6 feet above water line and 15 feet from stern starboard side. No casualties sustained. Temporary welded patch was fitted and cement box in interior. Seaworthy certificate given. Lloyds report follows. (S.S.T.O. Gibraltar, 230909B).
- Portuguese fishing fleet. My 091747.
(1) Fifth Group in 039 degs. 15' N. 021 degs. 30' (W); Fourth Group "Becalmed" in 038 degs. 16' N. 013 degs. 50' W., at 2300 G.M.T./21.
Vessels will probably (?) regain route when northerly winds modify.
(2) Admiralty please pass to Com. Tenth Fleet. (N.A. Lisbon, 231054B).
- 4 Trawlers. My 211 of 17th May. Embassy has received confirmation that the 2 trawlers at Lisbon and the 2 trawlers at Ponta Delgada on loan to the Portuguese can be returned forthwith. Proposed arrangements for transfer. (N.S. Lisbon, 231143B).
- SS. GENEROSO, ST. GOTTHARD. Para.2. of my 191240. The 24th is the sailing date of GENEROSO. (2) SAINT GOTTHARD (as typed) now sailing about 25th May. My 201051 refers. (F.O.G.M.A., 231144B to 10th S/M.F.). N/C. Re Swiss SAINT GOTTHARD sailing delayed Spanish BRIQUETAS ZORROZA sailing from Caronte.
- Gib. G.R. Ops Section ZE Commorseafron report transit aircraft Sup 22nd May. Casablanca to Azores at 1542/22 from 400 ft sighted completely submerged U/B. heading towards Casablanca and bearing 300 T 25 miles - evaluated improbable. (A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 231410B).
- U/boat report.
- SS. MONTE SERANTES. (Spanish). Your 151331 to F.O.G.M.A. MONTE SERANTES intercepted before Huelva sent in for examination. (2) Search revealed only hidden tobacco. (3) Vessel released. (N.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 231634B, 231728B to Admty.).
- U/boat At 0713B THALASSA reported sighting periscope 020 ALMINA 6 miles 0907 COLUMBINE attacked contact 35.55 N. 05.01 W. 0925 U.S. Liberator L/112 / attacked...

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Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U/boat attacked (Contd.).
 attacked periscope in 35.53 05.08 W. F possible though doubtful indication of presence of 2 U/boats.
 (2) Hunt carried out by ANTHONY BRILLIANT, COLUMBINE and BLACKFLY.
 (3) 5 Depth charge and one Hedgehog carried out between 0907B and 1000B. BLACKFLY reports Hedgehog explosion 14 seconds after projectile had been fired. Contact? considered definitely submarine by ships. Hunt continues.
 (4) Commorseafron please pass to C.F.A.W. 15. (F.O.G.M.A. 231700B to C. in C. Med.).

TRENCHANT, JUNON. P.331 (TRENCHANT) met 1735B. JUNON met 2040B my P.C. and S 042 degs. 34' N. 02 degs. 18' W. 180 degs. 8. Weather report 6471, 2305. 712°. (CYCLAMEN, 232041B to F.O.G.M.A.).

SS. ICIAR (Sp.) M.E.W. requests following further interceptions EL NEPTUNO (Sp.) in May programme. From South America. SS. ICIAR and EL NEPTUNO probably for North Spanish and Mediterranean ports respectively. Las Palmas will report destination in due course.
 (2) One ship outward bound to South America from Cadiz. H.M. Consul is being asked to give you advance information of a departure but if no results by 4th June C.C.S.O. should select one from Mediterranean.
 (D.E.W.D. 232240B to F.O.G.M.A.).

O.S.77, MEDIE II. My 211532B. MEDIE II has 700 passengers. (C.M.S.F. 232347B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

A/S sweep operation S. Sailed 0600Z/23rd FANDANGO, RUMBA, M.L.289 to carry out A/S sweep of 100 fathom line to east Med. then operation S. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 230601).

T.G.22.3 231200Z position 21.00 N. 38.00 W. course 130 speed 17. Operating this area 23rd and 24th then against homebound group near Cape Verde. W.X. 56 81 20 26. (C.T.G. 22.3, 231535).

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

U/B report. GARLAND and TYRIAN have obtained H/F D/F bearing U/Boat transmission bearing 252° or 072° 2nd class if not near B type International 4475 kc/s at 0118B/23. My position then was 038° 40' 010° 47'. My P.C.S. now 038° 31' 010° 26' 070° 22 knots. (GARLAND, 230300B.)

CURIE, patrol report. CURIE reports. A at 1933/12 May fired 12 rounds at small armed trawler in 150° Cassidaigne* 5.5 miles two hits. B. at 2104/17 fired one torpedo at small armed trawler in 098° Cape Labelhe* 1.2 miles missed. (S.10, 230611.) * As received.

U/B attacked 4th May. Ref. A.749 details for SENEGALAIS as obtained
A. 36° 53' N. 5° 45' E.
B. 0317B/4th May, 8000 yards Red on 100°.
C. Radar contact confirmed by sighting.
D. S/M had been searched and attacked, when submerged, during previous 24 hours.
E. On surface.
F. Alternating between stopped and 500 revolutions (17 knots) steering in order to keep submarine 30° on starboard bow and under the moon.
G. 400 revolutions. H. No.
I. 0358. Under the hull bear propellers. J. -
K. Fitted F.X.R. gear. Not streamed.
L. No other ships actually in company.
M. Fine weather, moonlight.
N. SENEGALAIS* was patrolling in the zone where she had ?found contact the previous evening. 3 D.Es. and 2 Destroyers disposed in area.
O. Other ships in company were informed of all the motions of the S/M and certainly got Radar contact. P. No.
Q. Wake of torpedo was just seen before explosion but too late. (C. in C. Med., 231156.) *As received.

SS.
CRISTINA,
Sailings of
Red Cross
vessels.

A.M. 182353. On reconsideration, Foreign Office prefer not to despatch a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and request that instead you will transmit Air Ministry statement which is as follows:-
The Air Authorities concerned received notice that CRISTINA sailed from Gibraltar for Marseilles by standard route at 1400 hours on 3rd May at a speed of 8 knots. The attack took place at 2028 hours on 6th May in Sete Harbour. If vessel had maintained speed of 8 knots she would not have been in proximity of Sete until about 1200 on 7th May, i.e. she was approx. 170 miles from her estimated position when attacked. This fact together with fact that vessel was in Sete Harbour made pilots conclude that vessel could not be CRISTINA. In expressing regret regarding incident you should state that had Air Authorities been in possession of more precise information regarding vessel's movements, pilots could have been more accurately briefed, the position of the vessel plotted

/exactly...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

- SS. exactly and the Air Ministry are confident that the accident would not have occurred. You should also add that in order to overcome these difficulties we have taken up with the I.R.C.C. as a matter of urgency, the question of having all Red Cross vessels broadcast the actual time of departure from ports and of having them broadcast position, course and speed and any change of itinerary every six hours.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 231221A to A.B.N.A. Madrid.)
- CRISTINA.
Sailings of Red Cross vessels.
(Contd.)
- Sinkings of U/Bs. Request you will convey T.Ls' congratulations to the forces engaged in the destruction of U/Boats on 17th, 19th and 21st May, 1944.
2. The marked success of the anti-U-Boat operations in the Mediterranean in recent months reflects great credit on all concerned.
(1st S.L., 231258B to C. in C. Med.)
- German devices used in Black Sea. Summary of information obtained by Lieutenant Shirley at Novorossisk.
Following German devices known to have been used in Black Sea Ports and Approaches.
In water: (A) C. and D. ground. (B) Small moored mines (German description F.D.M.) diameter 18 inch, charge 20 kilogrammes (3 other sizes with charges 30, 40 and 150 kilogrammes) laid about half metre below surface in shallow water, 5 horns on upper hemisphere and lateral movement of Spindle also fire mines. (C) Control mines in Approaches. (D) Ground mines in wooden cases: My 190050 refers (E) Moored mines off Crimea (?and) (corrupt group) Conimaid floats. (F) Barbed wire in shallow water to foul screws of small craft. (G) Considerable number Teller mines and anti-personnel S. mines with trip wires or pressure ignites also wood anti-personnel S.C.H.U. mines. (H) Charges in incident of quay fired electrically in groups of 4 or 5. My 190050 refers. (I) Demolition charges in large buildings with delayed action up to 5 days.
2. Only (A) (G) (H) and (I) used at Novorossisk. Majority of harbour installations had been previously destroyed by air and artillery bombardment; therefore no need for extensive demolition and sabotage devices.
3. Block ships, sabotage mines and flame weapons have not been employed.
(B.N.L.O. Black Sea, 231325.)
- German One Man Torpedo. A new type human torpedo has been used recently by Germans in Naples area. 1 - 3. Description.
4. It is unlikely that this weapon will be detected either by Radar, except by type 277 or similar sets in perfect weather conditions, by asdic or by hydrophone.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German One
Man Torpedo.
(Contd.)

5. Experience has shown 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, forcing coxswain to abandon ship. Attack is to be expected only during full moon or at first light. Canal B.730.
(C. in C.Med. 231551.)

PIPINOS.

(P.71) PIPINOS (Greek) sailed from Malta at 1802/23rd and passes East of Pondiko Nisi about 2301/25 thence through $036^{\circ} 50'$. $023^{\circ} 22'$ to patrol within 10 miles of position $037^{\circ} 01'$ $024^{\circ} 01'$.
(Capt. S.1 231839.)

U.852 (sunk
3rd May
off Ras Hafun.)

U-Boat sunk off Aden 3rd May believed U.852.
(Group omitted) pass to A.F.H.Q.
(C.S.D.I.C.M.E.* 232017C.)

* The identity of this individual is not known to W.D.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U.S.S. H.W. Arrival escorted by RELENTLESS and ROCKET.
BUTNER. (Cdre. R.I.N., 230139.)

Opsum.800. 20th May. 15 U.S. Liberators (B.24) South
China Sea destroyed 3 damaged 1 building.
Prates Island radio station. Damaged 1
freighter 310 (? or 110) miles S. Pescadores
Island.

Sank 2 M/CBs. probably sank 1 destroyer and 2 small freighters,
damaged 2 large freighters 36 miles N. Portas Island. 5 B.24s.
missing. (End of Opsum.)
(A.C.S.E.A., 230919Z.)

Spanish
ships
transiting
Suez Canal.

Spaniards may wish to send occasional Spanish
ship via Suez to India to load jute, etc.
Vessels would, of course, be subject to examin-
ation before entering Canal, inward and outward.
Have you any operational objections to such
voyages? If not, what Indian ports on West
Coast may be visited? Is there any objection
to Madras and Calcutta?
(Admty., 231220B to C. in C. E.F., Info: C. in C.
Med., F.O.L.E.M.)

Escorts,
Indian
Ocean.

Your 160416. ^(page 225A) The partial immobilisation of the
Fleet cannot be accepted.
(2) Para.3 of your 021327 to Admty. only. As
no Fleet destroyer or escort reinforcements are
available at present, request you will consider
postponing the formation of the Escort Carrier

Group and employing these escorts for convoy protection in lieu
of Fleet destroyers.

(3) The following programme for the strengthening of your
destroyer and escort forces is intended:

(a) As soon as practicable, 1 Destroyer Flotilla and 10 fast
escorts.

(b) At a later date, 1 additional Destroyer Flotilla and 10
more fast escorts.

(c) As vessels become available your escort strength will be
built up to 120.

(1st S.L., 231534B to C. in C. E.F.)

L.C.Ts. for
Brahmaputra
River.

Your 210856. The use of L.C.T. in the manner
proposed conflicts with the policy laid down in
A.L.M/P.D.(Q) 02499/44 of 2nd February. It
would appear that the responsibility for providing
suitable craft for the purpose proposed lies with
the Army.

(2) Request you will confirm that C. in C. India cannot meet
this commitment. If this is confirmed requested you will
report the period for which this requirement will persist.
(D. of P.(Q), 231917B to C. in C. E.F.)

/Buoyant ...

23.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Buoyant
Rocket
Flare
Decoy.

Production of a Buoyant Rocket Flare Decoy for release by surface escorts or aircraft is under consideration.

(2) Technical.

(3) Object of flare is to distract U-Boat from shadowed convoy, render night diversions of convoys more effective and encourage U-Boat

W/T activity when no convoy is present.

(4) There is now no requirement for this device in the North Atlantic. Request your views as to whether this decoy will be of tactical value in connection with anti U-Boat operations in your command.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 232356B to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.Af., Info. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med.)

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TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. No report 22nd.
 S/M attack (B) AGASSIZ obtains Asdic contact 43.58 N.
 and sighting 62.27 W. at 1818Z/21st in contact attacked three
 summary. times and lost at 0500Z/22nd.
 (C) NORSYD Asdic contact 43.44 E. 62.58 W. before
 1626Z/22nd.
 (D) SS. BULKOIL attacks periscope with gunfire
 43.28 N. 63.12 W. at 1527Z/22nd.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 230836Z)

U.C. 24. Comtenthfleet 211838.
 Assume you have noted that with limit 50 ships
 U.C.24 developments may point to advisability
 support of this convoy with C.V.E. group when
 convoy passes from under British air cover.
 (Cominch & C.N.O. 231314Z to Cdr. 2nd Fleet)

QUEEN. B.A.D. Washington's 201701. Concur that QUEEN
 should ferry U.S.A.A.F. aircraft from U.S.A. to
 Casablanca.
 (2) QUEEN will then be required to proceed to
 Freetown and thence to Gibraltar to load aircraft for shipment
 to U.K.
 (3) B.A.D.'s para.3. This will depend on the submarine situation
 at the time. B.A.D. is requested to report when QUEEN will be
 ready to sail in order that a decision may be given by Admiralty.
 (4) Authorities addressed are requested to take action in
 accordance with paras. 1 and 2.
 (D.A.U.D. 231350B)

U-Boat (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 231452Z, Cominch, 231520Z)
 dispositions.

Anglo-U.S. Recent instance in which HARVESON and KIRKPATRICK
 co-operation of U.S. Task Group 21.5 were assigned special task
 in Atlantic at request of C. in C. W.A. but without definite
 and Med. indication that all concerned knew whether action
 was co-operative or whether ships were under
 operational control of C. in C. W.A. prompts me
 to suggest agreement along following lines for

Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean:

"When forces of one Nation are operating within area under strate-
 gic control of the other but not under operational control of
 the latter and when deviation from assigned task is made as
 result of request of authority having strategic control the
 Commander who orders such deviation shall notify the authority
 having strategic control whether such forces are turned over to
 that authority's operational control or whether they remain
 under his own command in all such cases where the forces are
 placed under the operational control of the authority having
 strategic control they shall be made available for a specific
 task. Decision by the Commander in this matter should be govern-
 ed primarily by the consideration that operations distant from
 his task force can generally be better controlled by the

authority /...

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesAnglo-U.S.
co-operation
in Atlantic
and Meditn.
(Contd.)

authority having strategic control of the area who had best knowledge of other forces whereas for tasks in proximity to the Task Force where only local knowledge is necessary the Task Force Commander should generally retain command".
(Cominch & C.N.O., 231700Z to Admty.)

H.X. and
H.H.X.
Convoys.

(1) Whilst Sydney is main assembly port for subsidiary HX convoys, N.C.S.O. Sydney should send advance sailing telegrams and additions and deletions signal for all ships which may be included in Canadian portions of H.X. convoys.

(2) When circumstances make it desirable or possible for a special section of this subsidiary portion to be sailed as an H.H.X. convoy from Halifax, N.C.S.O. Halifax should originate the sailing telegram for that section.

(3) Signals in one and two above should be repeated to Halifax and Sydney respectively in addition to normal addressees.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 232030Z.)

Crews for
and transfer
of 9 L.C.Ts.
Group 31.

(1) C. in C. Eastern Fleet 210856 refers. I concur in temporary retention United States crews 9 L.C.Ts. Group 31 and deferment of Lend-Lease transfer of craft, but only because it is represented by S.A.C.S.E.A. to be an emergency measure to which C. in C. E.F. states there is no alternative.

(2) From U.S. point of view the indefinite retention this small Group U.S. Naval personnel in India is highly undesirable. Further more, crews are required to augment reserve L.C.T. crews in Mediterranean for which it has been impracticable to make full provision otherwise.

(3) Non-Combat employment in stores carrying* on Brahmaputra and extent local navigational knowledge entailed would indicate that native crews with R.I.N. Officers might prove satisfactory and bridge Hiatus between now and time R.N. crews can be made ready to take over for assault use.

(4) I desire that a definite date be set upon which Lend-Lease transfer of L.C.Ts. may be consummated and crews despatched to Mediterranean.

(5) B.A.D. concurs.
(Cominch & C.N.O., 232202Z to Admty.)

* As received.

Re request for transfer of L.C.Ts. from U.S. to British Flag to be deferred owing to no available British crews.

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23.5.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Operations to 19th May. (Extract covering amphibious operations). New Guinea. Aitape area. Marubian (1 mile east Dandriwad River) occupied by Allied troops 11th May. During night 13th/14th May enemy unsuccessfully attacked our positions Marubian Babiang area but later during 14th May enemy infiltrated behind our positions forcing withdrawal our outposts by barge to Nyaparake. Withdrawal covered by P.Ts. encountering considerable enemy fire from shore. This attack considered part enemy plan delay Allied movement to east thus enabling enemy forces Wewak But area escape by inland tracks by passing Aitape. Enemy route reported passing through Siri Yerisi area (26 miles south Tadji airfields) thence to Lumi and Tauweto (34 miles south-west Tadji airfields). Enemy casualties Aitape area to 16th May 664 killed, 28 captured.

Dutch New Guinea. Hollandia. Allied amphibious patrols landed unopposed Drakosi Point and Boekisi (Iris Bay 8 miles west Tanahmerah Bay). Enemy reported in occupation several villages area 35 miles south-west Tanahmerah Bay. Enemy casualties to 17th May 1,456 killed, 413 captured.

Wakde area. Supported by cruisers and destroyers Allied forces landed unopposed vicinity Arara (on mainland 3 miles south-west Wakde Island) at 0715 hours 17th May. By midday bridgehead established from Tor to Tementee Rivers (4 miles west and 3½ miles east of Arara respectively). Considerable enemy stores captured Tementee area. During morning our troops landed unopposed Insoemanai Island (smaller of Wakde group). Naval units supporting landing sunk all enemy barges west side of Insoemoar Island. Early morning 18th May landing supported by arty. mortar fire and air bombardment effected Insoemoar Island against opposition from pillboxes and snipers. Southern edge of Wakde airfield reached by 1117K where mortar fire encountered. Advance continues.

General comment. Results Wakde landing.

(a) Allied able establish airstrips for fighter aircraft covering entire Dutch New Guinea.

(b) Cut off retreat large number enemy troops moving inland trails from Wewak Hollandia towards Sarmi. These troops must come to coast in Sarmi area or die of starvation.

(c) Probably result enemy discontinue strengthen Dutch New Guinea and relying on Halmaheras as main block our advance.

New Britain. Northern Coast. 11th May Ulamona Sule and Ubili all reported clear enemy but located in force Aile Point. Large number dead Japs. found Open Bay area.

South Coast. Patrols to Montagu Harbour made no contact. Unstated number Japs. reported Tavallo (8 miles east Montagu Harbour).

Admiralty Islands. Enemy casualties to 18th May 3,303 killed, 79 captured.

(L.H.Q. Melbourne, No T.O.O./23rd.)

Digest 854. May 22nd. Paras. 14 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces.
(12) Japanese Naval surface forces reported Tawi Tawi (Southern Sulu Sea) 14th May in Digest 847 para.12, still there 21st May except possibly aircraft carrier. 2 tankers, 3 destroyers entered anchorage from south 19th May. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 230725Z.)

23.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. (A). (1) A/C M/210 attacked with depth
charges surfaced U-Boat, course 318° at 0918Z/
22nd in 64° 50' N. 02° 11' E.

(2) A/C E/407 attacked with depth charges
surfaced U-Boat, course 310° at 0132Z/23rd in
49° 18' N. 03° 39' W.

Para. (B). (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2215Z/22nd in
48° 15' N. 05° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 231046B.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 231453B, 231459B.)

24.5.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Implement".

1a. B.N.A. Madrid was informed unofficially to-day by the Spanish Ministry of Marine that the German SS. BALDUR, when sunk yesterday by SCEPTRE, was alongside the loading-tip at Saltade Caballo near Castro Urdiales and that 3 Spaniards on the loading-tip and 2 Spanish Military Guards on board BALDUR were killed.
b. At 1819B to-day SCEPTRE was ordered to leave her patrol forthwith for a position 80 miles W.S.W. of Cape Finisterre.

Engagement
off Dunkirk.
Coastal
Batteries
engaged.

2. From 0100 until 0142 to-day our Coastal Batteries engaged with 29 rounds of 9.2 a strongly escorted Enemy Tanker northbound off Cap Gris Nez, and the Enemy Coastal Batteries at once replied with 8 to 10 rounds of which two fell in Dover and one in Folkestone where civilian damage was caused, two civilians killed, and six injured. At 0236, when half way between Calais and Dunkirk, the Enemy was illuminated by 16 flares from inshore by a Swordfish A/C and at 0244 was attacked with three torpedoes by M.T.Bs. 354 and 361 and at 0245 by two Swordfish A/C with eight bombs without certain result; and M.T.Bs. 698, 697 and 706 at the same time engaged the enemy screen for nine minutes scoring many hits on E/R boats, trawlers, and one M-class Minesweeper. Two ratings in M.T.B.706 were slightly injured by gun-fire.

Engagements
in Baie
de la Seine.
M-class
Minesweeper
claimed sunk
by M.T.B.208.
One Enemy
ship
possibly
sunk by A/C.
Two E-Boats
damaged by
M.T.Bs. 611,
602 and 614.

3a. A group of E-Boats from Cherbourg was engaged early this morning 30 miles N.N.E. of Cap Barfleur by Albacore A/C and M.T.Bs. 611, 602 and 614 who damaged two E-Boats by gun-fire.
b. Between 0055 and 0300 to-day a group of east-bound Enemy vessels were bombed three times by Albacore A/C to the S.E. of Cap Barfleur and one Enemy ship appears to have been sunk.
c. At 0335 to-day M.T.Bs. 209 and 208, covering Operation K.N.8, sighted three Enemy vessels about 40 miles E.S.E. of Cap Barfleur and, in an unobserved attack, fired four torpedoes of which one from M.T.B.208 hit an M-class Minesweeper and is claimed to have sunk it.

U/Boat sunk
by A/C.

4. At 1405B to-day a Sunderland A/C reported having sunk a U/Boat 60 miles W.N.W. of Stadlandet (Norway), bodies and wreckage having been seen after a depth-charge attack.

/5a...

24.5.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands - Contd.

Two U/Boats
attacked
by A/C.

5a. At 0719 to-day a Catalina A/C on patrol attacked a surfaced U/Boat 135 miles N.W. of Hitteren (Norway) and appeared to have damaged it.

b. At 1420 to-day a Sunderland A/C attacked a surfaced U/Boat 108 miles N.W. of Aalesund (Norway) without observed result.

South Atlantic

Brazilian
Expeditionary
Force.

6. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro is informed by the Americans that a U.S. transport is expected at Rio early in July, to embark the first instalment of a Brazilian Expeditionary Force for North Africa.

Bases in
South
Shetlands
and
Grahamland.

Admiralty sends to
7. B.A.D. Washington ~~sends~~ today a note on the bases which have been established in Falkland Islands Dependencies (Operation "Tabarin" see 11th Feb. and 22nd March, 1944). The parties are under Admiralty control; they are largely staffed by naval personnel and are doing useful work on weather reporting.

Mediterranean

Bridgehead.

8a. P.C.626 on Anzio patrol captured a small Italian coastal craft from the 10th M.A.S. Flotilla and took 2 prisoners. The boat sank in harbour and was raised, slightly damaged. It is fitted with torpedo tube, machine guns and carries depth charges.

b. U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN and destroyer ERICSSON gave fire support in the bridgehead area today. Good results are reported.

Enemy
corvette
sunk.

9. Last night, P.T. boats operating from Bastia attacked with torpedoes two corvettes off Vada Rocks, sinking one and damaging the other. 19 prisoners were taken.

24.5.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Aircraft
for
shipping
protection.

10. A reinforcement of two Leigh Light Liberator squadrons fitted with Mark V. A.S.V. is being asked for, one to be based in Ceylon and one in Aden, for the protection of shipping in the Indian Ocean.

China

U.S. Air
operations.

11a. The weekly summary of events in China for the period 11th May to 18th May contains reports of much successful action by U.S. A/C against small shipping on the Yangtze and in China and Indo-China waters.

b. Today 11 U.S. Kittyhawks attacked Szeshui (East of Loyang) and caused considerable damage to the dock area.

Australia and New Zealand

12. M.T.Bs. last night sank or destroyed 5 barges beached at Vandurumar Island (10 miles west of Maffin Bay, Northern Dutch New Guinea) and shelled gun positions in the area.

Japanese
Fleet at
Tawi Tawi.

13. 50 to 60 warships and sizeable cargo vessels were seen today at Tawi Tawi anchorage (Southern Sulu Sea). These included 6 aircraft carriers, 10 heavy units estimated to comprise 3 battleships, 6 heavy cruisers and one light cruiser and one large tanker.

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24.5.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Fitting
of Radio
Equipment.

During the past two months the Fleet and Home Commands and Yards assisted by A.S.E. Staff have been called upon at short notice to fit over 330 ships and vessels with a large number of radio sets and equipment.

(2) Reports of fitting available in the Admiralty show extremely satisfactory progress to date. All concerned are to be congratulated accordingly.

(D.R.E., 241212B to A.I.G.12.)

OperationsOperation
"Overlord".

My number 1100X/0580/8/39 of 14th May. Party will consist of three senior members of Russian military mission, a British brigadier interpreter, and one other interpreter.

(2) Request you inform Admiralty whether you wish whole party to be in one ship or would prefer to split between two ships.

(3) Admiralty is requested to arrange accordingly.

(A.N.C.X.F., 240027B to C.S.2.)

A.N.C.X.F. 231825B. It was intended to present that

L.B.Es. were required for maintenance British Craft with U.S. Forces. This apparently misunderstood. In view large number British Craft of other types as well as L.B.Es. desire retention entire allocation L.B.Es. for their maintenance and repair.

(Comlan crab 11th Phib., 240835 to N.C.W.T.F.)

Experience during assembly of "Phoenix" and "Whale" convinces me that the co-ordination and control of small handling craft is as essential to the success of "Overlord" as that of their bigger brothers the large tugs.

(2) Lack of central authority over Tids, M.T.L. and similar craft whose crews are largely young and inexperienced has resulted in muddle and delay.

(3) I propose that those craft which on both shore are concerned with "Mulberry" operations be placed under a single naval authority forthwith.

(4) Commander G.B. Fardell R.N. assisted by a U.S.N. Officer are suggested as the "small handling craft" team which should have a floating H.Q. on the Peel Bank and work in close co-operation with tug controller Lee and Aorangi.

(5) Your very early concurrence by telephone is requested.

(A.N.C.X.F., 241017B to Admty., Etousa, War Office, Comnavu.)

A.N.C.X.F. 240027. Request Admiral Kharlamov and British Brigadier be sent MAURITIUS and remainder WARSPITE. They should all join a.m. D minus 3 at Clyde.

(C.S.2, 241042 to Admty.)

Your 231200. Concur as far as Nore Command is concerned.

(C. in C. Nore, 241116B to H.Q.C.C.)

Intend to sail BELLONA to arrive Belfast by 0700/26th May in order that C.O. may attend briefing conferences for his task in "Overlord" plan.

(2) BELLONA will be required to act as additional bombarding ship with Force O and U and has been requested to report to Com. Cruiser Div. 7 in TUSCALOOSA and Com. Battleship Div. 5 in TEXAS.

(3) Request operation orders of Force O may be forwarded to BELLONA at Belfast. Force U orders have already been supplied.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241338 to N.C.W.T.F.)

/V.A.D. ...

24.5.1944.
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Overlord" (Contd.) V.A.D. 221834, A.N.C.X.F. 231920, and my 241346. Arrangements will be made to transfer V.A.Ds. Flag to DUNLUCE CASTLE on 27th May. Flag will be transferred to TYNE on her arrival at Portsmouth. V.A.D. is requested to arrange this. (C. in C.H.F. 241516B to Admty.).

C. in C. Portsmouth's 221747 para.2. Concur. (A.N.C.X.F. 241953B to Admty.). Your 231200B. Concur.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 242002B to H.Q.C.C.).

Admiralty 232224. These M.G.Bs. have proved invaluable to Force G and as the three safety boats allocated to Force G are unseaworthy for a cross channel operation it is requested that Admiralty may be asked to reconsider their decision.

(2) These four M.G.Bs. cannot be surrendered without grave loss to communication repair organisation off the beaches. They have been specially fitted and stored by force resources and their loss at this stage would be serious.

(3) Yacht DIANA II has joined my force today and could be made available for transfer to Force S if approval is given to retain the M.G.Bs.

(Com. Force "G", 242011B to A.N.C.X.F.).

Your 231200. Concur, but consider that Southern Limit of area should by day be a line drawn ten miles from Continental Coast to permit returning aircraft to attack targets of opportunity.

(A.N.C.X.F. 242320B to H.Q.C.C.).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 240034B, 240156B, 242214B). (C. in C. Plymouth, 241317B, 241353B, 241359B, 241534B). (V.A. Dover, 241910).

Biscay A/S operations. You were probably reported by enemy aircraft 0200B/24 (D.D.I.C. 240434B to Escorts S.L.158). P.C.S. of enemy 43 degs. 20' N. 09 degs. 00' W., 060 degs. 9 knots.

(A/C, PFK 77, 240810B to 19 Group).

Poor D/F bearings at 1149Z indicate possibility that U/boat has reported convoy.

(D.D.I.C. 241430B to Escorts S.L.158/M.K.S.49).

Consider Admiralty's 241430 unlikely on possible evidence of 4 ships who heard control (corrupt group) but not U/boat.

(B.4, 241655B to Admty.).

Operations "Brawn" and "Proteus". Request you take under your orders ships in repeated address and 8 destroyers detailed by V.A.D. sailing from Scapa 28th May or first subsequent day on which meteorological forecast shows promise and carry out a repetition of following operations (A) "Brawn" (B) "Proteus". Second BS 026/3 dated

7th May refers.

(3) C. in C. Rosyth pass to 18 Group.

(C. in C.H.F. 241156B).

who to?

/ My...

24.5.1944.
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operations "Brawn" and "Proteus" (Contd.) My 241156 codeword para. 1 (A) "Tigerclaw". (B) "Cambridge". (2) C. in C. Rosyth pass to 18 Group. (C. in C.H.F. 241212B to V.A.2.).

Operation "Knitting 11" Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs. 256 and 257 (S.O.) in support at 2115 today for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00 degs. 10' E. and 00 degs. 37' W. Vessels to be within 20 miles of English Coast by daylight. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 241242B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation "Implement" Nice work again your 232352/. (2) Attack may be continued in accordance with your order. (3) Comply with my 222144. (F.O.S. 241308B to SCEPTRE).

Anticipate greatly increased German A/S and air activity in your area as result of your successes.

(F.O.S. 241522B to SCEPTRE).

Cancel para.2 of my 241308. Leave patrol forthwith by route given in my 222144 arriving position J at 0600B/29th, shifting W/T watch at 0200B/29th.

(F.O.S. 241819B to SCEPTRE).

B.N.A. Madrid was informed unofficially at Ministry of Marine this morning that German ship BALDUR was torpedoed and sank yesterday 23rd 1200 G.M.T. whilst alongside loading tip Saltade Caballo near Castro Urdiales. 3 Spaniards working on loading tip were injured and 2 Spanish Military Guards who were on board were killed.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 242001B to Admty.).

S/M. Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick patrols. for patrol. (A) ULA, 2nd June duration 10 days Stadlandet. (B) STYGIAN 3rd June duration 14 days, mid point patrol line 061 degs. 20' N. 001 degs. 20' E. direction 080 degs. 260 degs. length 40 miles. (C) VISIGOTH 3rd June, duration 14 days, mid point patrol line 059 degs. 30' N. 000 degs. 10' E. direction 020 degs. 200 degs. length 40 miles. (F.O.S. 241314B to Capts. S.3, S.9.).

Positions of submarines at 0800/25th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) VIRTUE as in my 231606.

(C) SCEPTRE 44 degs. 01' N. 04 degs. 20' W. diving by day towards 44 degs. N. 10 degs. W.

(F.O.S. 241801B to Admty.).

Operation "Potato" Carry out operation "Potato" tonight. (1) Unit K. S.G.Bs. GREY FOX (S.O.), SEAL, OWL, WOLF, GOOSE. (2) 0100B/25th. (3) 50.10 N. 02.10 W. (4) 49.47 N. 01.45 W. to 49.48 N. 02.10 W. (5) As in (3). (7) As in (3). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241335B to ATTACK, F.O.I.C. Portland).

/ Engagement ...

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24.5.1944.
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd

Engagement off Dunkirk. Coastal Batteries engaged. Last night in anticipation of the eastward movement from Boulogne of strongly escorted enemy tanker T.24, Group Z M.T.Bs.354 (S.O.), 362 and 361 were held at short notice in Dover to R/V at "v" Buoy. (Approximate position 115 degs. North Foreland 22 miles) with Group Y M.T.Bs.698, 697 and 706, who had assumed anti E/R Boat patrol at South Falls Buoy (approximate position 112 degs. North Foreland 10 miles) at 2300.

(2) Night was dark but clear, visibility 4 to 5 miles, sea smooth. Wind S.S.W. force 2 - 3.

(3) At 0005 shore-based Radar detected one medium-sized vessel and twelve smaller leaving Boulogne northwards at about 12 knots. Group Z sailed at 0035 to R/V with Group Y who was ordered to "v" Buoy. From 0045, when it became increasingly evident that the enemy group included a torpedo target, plots were broadcast at suitable intervals to groups at sea. In an attempt to deceive the enemy plots of two other tracks were included in transmissions and in the later stages, an E.T.A. of the target at Dunkirk B.W. Buoy (position 053 degs. Walde Light 5½ miles) and plotted speed were also passed.

(4) Our coast artillery engaged the enemy from 0100 until 0142 with 29 rounds of nine point two inch but make no claims. Enemy long range batteries replied between 0103 and 0140 with 8 to 10 shells of which two fell in Dover and one in Folkestone, the remainder to seaward in Deal to Folkestone area. Some damage to civilian property in Folkestone where two civilians were killed and six injured.

(5) On the approach of the enemy to Dunkirk B.W. Buoy at 0236, one Swordfish of 819 Squadron dropped line of 16 flares inshore of target. Groups Y and Z, acting on information from the shore control, were now waiting in approximate position 2½ miles north of B.W. Buoy, and set course immediately to attack. Group Y engaged the enemy screen of E/R Boats and trawlers on reciprocal course for nine minutes, scoring many hits on these and one "M" class M/S, before withdrawing to northward. Group Z were able by the aircraft illuminants clearly to observe the main target surrounded by T.L.C. in close formation and, at 0244½ in 51 degs. 03½ N. 02 degs. 04' E., on course S.8 fired three torpedoes, speed settings 10 and 9 knots, depth two feet, range 2,000 yards. M.T.B.362 did not fire owing to failure to receive the order and one torpedo in M.T.B.354 failed to fire. Group immediately disengaged to northward apparently undetected although spasmodic and inaccurate fire was observed in their vicinity. At 0246 an underwater explosion was felt by all three M.T.Bs. and a prolonged flash and rise of column of water observed. Two Swordfish of 819 Squadron attacked at 0245, each with four 250 pound bombs, seven of which were seen to explode but no further results could be observed. It is thought that one torpedo hit may have been obtained on a T.L.C. or other small craft but the observed explosion at 0246 may have been caused by Swordfish bombs.

(6) Two slight casualties to ratings were sustained by M.T.B.706 from hit on twin Oerlikon. Neither damage nor casualties to remainder of groups Y and Z.

(7) Type 291 detected the enemy at 6,300 yards and no jamming was experienced.

The illumination by 819 Squadron was perfectly placed for our attacking force.

My 241051 refers.

(V.A. Dover, 241502B to Admty.)

/Engagements ...

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24.5.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Engagements in Baie de la Seine. M-class minesweeper claimed sunk by M.T.B.208. One Enemy ship possibly sunk by A/C. Two E-Boats damaged by M.T.Bs. 611, 602 and 614.

In exception^{al} Radar conditions of anomalous propagation E-Boats were plotted at 2308/23 6 miles north of Cherbourg steering eastward. At 2337 in 033 degs. Pointe de Barfleur 7 miles they turned north at 40 knots and were bombed by Albacores. They subsequently stopped in 007 degs. Pointe de Barfleur 23 miles and again in 027 degs. Pointe de Barfleur 30 miles where they were intercepted by Unit "F" M.T.Bs. 611, 602, 614 which had been vectored on to them from north-eastward. The E-Boats were engaged at 600 yards range and some hits were observed before enemy turned and fled behind smoke. Unit "F" suffered neither damage nor casualties. E-Boats disengaging to south at 40 knots were bombed again in 040 Pointe de Barfleur 12 and finally faded from plot at 067 Pointe de Barfleur 11. Unit "F" was ordered to investigate report of burning E-Boat in position 020 Pointe de Barfleur 11 after second bombing, but found nothing and was ordered to abandon the search at 0315.

(2) A further enemy track had been plotted moving round Pointe de Barfleur into the Baie de la Seine from Cherbourg showing 9 vessels proceeding at 15 knots and they were attacked by Albacores in the following positions at 0055 - 122 Pointe de Barfleur 7 miles, at 0510 - 145 Pointe de Barfleur 18 miles, 0300 - 142 Pointe de Barfleur 27 miles. At least one of these attacks appears to have been successful.

(3) Units M.2, M.T.Bs.246 and 247 and M.3, M.T.Bs.209 and 208 acting as covering forces to operation K.N.8 were patrolling in vicinity of 49.25 N. 00.18 W. At 0335 Unit M.3 sighted three ships. An unobserved attack was carried out from seaward and 4 torpedoes were fired at a range of 1400 yards. Of these M.T.B.208 fired two torpedoes one of which hit the target probable an "M" class minesweeper. The enemy immediately opened fire blindly into the air, then fired at M.T.B. 208's smoke and finally engaged his own forces. 2 satisfactory hits by one of his own side's 4-inch shells were clearly observed on an enemy ship.

(4) An unexplained explosion close ahead of M.T.B.209 shortly after firing torpedoes threw up so much water that the result of the attack could not be seen. Depth of water was 12 fathoms.

(5) M.T.B.246 sighted 4 or 5 vessels in light of starshell fired to seaward and approached to attack but was illuminated and heavily engaged being finally driven off and pursued at 30 knots by 2 probable torpedo boats.

(6) Meanwhile Unit M.1, M.T.Bs. 250 and 249 completed operation K.N.8 without incident. All forces were withdrawn before dawn so as to leave the area clear for attack by Beaufighters, but this was prevented by low visibility.

(7) Estimated damage to enemy. 1 ship claimed sunk by M.T.B. 208, 1 ship heavily damaged and possibly sunk by Albacore. Some damage to 2 E-Boats. No casualties to own forces. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 242006B and 250116B to Admty.)

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24.5.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Twin engined aircraft observed north-east of Island 0630 flying east, turned south-east and disappeared.
(A.C.I.C., 241400B to Admty.)

Mining

Operation K.N.18. Carry out operation K.N.18 tonight.
(A) (1) M.T.Bs. 205, 206 - Unit J.
(C) Pass EA 3 Buoy at 2300B, proceed via following positions 50 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 18' W., 49 degs. 32' N. 00 degs. 07' W., thence to position of Lay.
(D) 49 degs. 32.8' N. 00 degs. 02.8' E., 148 degs., 0400, 300 feet.
(E) From (D) or (F) via 49 degs. 32' N. 00 degs. 07' W. to waiting position 50 degs. 10' N. 00 degs. 20' E.
(F) 49 degs. 33' N. 00 degs. 02.4' W., 225 degs., 0400, 300 feet.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241238B to V.13.)

Operation Q.U. 36. Carry out operation Q.U.36, initial position 51 degs. 51' N. 03 degs. 34' E. night 25th/26th May. Force employed - 51st M.L.F. Scattered lay along convoy route in direction 060. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1308. Lay at 0200B/26th May.
(C. in C. Nore, 241812B and 251147B to BEEHIVE.)

Operation Q.U. 37. Carry out operation Q.U.37, initial position 51 degs. 31'42" N. 03 degs. 19'00" E. Forces employed - 22nd, 21st M.T.B. Flotillas. Scattered lay in direction 160 degs. If unable to reach initial position alternative laying position Zuid Banjaard buoy 51 degs. 39'06" N. 03 degs. 24'36" E. in direction 180 degs. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1323.
(C. in C. Nore, 241823B to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence

Kiel Canal blocked. (B) Kiel Canal was blocked on May 13th due vessel being mined and sunk inside Canal. Traffic was resumed May 19th by which time 63 vessels had collected at Brunsbuttel. Graded C.2.
(C) In Baltic reports from various North German ports indicate that conditions are back to normal.
(N.A. Stockholm, 241737 to Admty.)

U-Boats

U-Boats reported. Periscope reported sighted in 058 degs. 35' N. 002 degs. 50' W. at 2130B/23rd. Destroyers and trawlers searching.
(A.C.O.S., 240106B to Scapa Forces V.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

U-Boats

U-Boats reported. (Contd.) 1 S/M on the surface bearing 045 degs. distant 5 miles, course 210 degs., my position 61 degs. 32' N. 02 degs. 06' E. (VIRTUE, 242300B to Admt.) My 242300B. Enemy course is 300 degs. (VIRTUE, 242350B to Admt.)

U-Boat attacked by A/C. My 0800. Lost touch with U/B last seen position 065 degs. 05' N. 004 degs. 49' E. (A/C WGOV, 240820B to Z5V.) My 0820. Request instructions. Believe U-Boat sunk. (A/C WGOV, 240940B to 9A5.)

U-Boat previously reported was on surface. Estimate one hit. Seen sinking. (A/C WGOV, 241040 to Z5V.)

U-Boat sunk by A/C. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Sunk same. 62 degs. 27' N. 03 degs. E. (A/C NZCR, 241405B to 18 Group.) Enemy blown up. Bodies and wreckage seen. Returning to base engine trouble. Position 060 degs. 28' N. 001 degs. 00' E. (A/C NZCR, 241455B to 18 Group.) 2 enemy submarines reported sunk by aircraft today in 062 degs. 27' N. 003 degs. E. and 060 degs. 28' N. 001 degs. E. (F.O.(S), 241714B to VIRTUE.) Request you will convey Their Lordships' congratulations to the crew of Catalina S/210 on the destruction of a U-Boat on 18th May, 1944. (1st S.L., 241943B to Air Ministry.)

Casualties and Defects

L.1/624. C. in C. Portsmouth's 232218 and my 241012. It is now reported that damage to L.1/624 renders her unfit for further service. (S.N.O. Dungeness, 241151B to A.N.C.X.F.)

ALBATROSS. As far as can be ascertained, ALBATROSS sustained no damage as result of grounding on S. Goodwin. (C. in C. Nore, 241240B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Your 231138B. ALBATROSS, wholly undamaged and ready for service, now anchored The Nore. (ALBATROSS, 242047B to A.N.C.X.F.)

EDAY. MUROTO has taken me in tow because of bad boiler trouble. Have drawn all fire and attending repairs. Request all orders for X.K.16 P.C.S. 1200B/24 053 degs. 25' N. 011 degs. 25' W., 029 degs., 7.5, be sent KERRERA in my absence. Request also orders for MUROTO and EDAY. MUROTO hopes to tow at 6.5. (EDAY, 241330B to C. in C. W.A.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

MERKUR II.

Detach one trawler patrol proceed to assist
MERKUR II reported hove to 245 degs. Trevoze Head
10 at 2137/24th with engine defect, destination
Penzance.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 242359C to S.E. Convoy
W.P.527.)

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24.5.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Gibraltar ZE B.92/112 0922 - DAY - SE not used visual
G.R. Opsum possible periscope and swirl 35.53 N. 05.08 W.
23rd May. 160-6 attacked - submerged - from 135 red - 9 X
250 torpex - 8 exploded in even straddle 20 - 30 ft.
ahead of swirl one not seen to explode no results
observed but D.C.S. co-operating attacked with
D.R.S. and hedgehop explosion heard 14 seconds after projectile
fired and small oil patch seen. D.R.S. consider it was U/B
contact. Other sorties met 1 Halifax 10½ hours all times B.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 240215B as amended. No T.O.O. received
240725.)

INDRAPOERA This repeats my 241635 (N.T. in W.D.) begins:
(for Addressed British Consul Funchal repeated Admty.,
evacuees) C. in C. Med., B.N.A. Lisbon, C.M.S.F. from
F.O.G.M.A. INDRAPOERA escorted by ANTELOPE S.O.
and VANOC sail from Gibraltar at 1000/26 for
Funchal to embark Gibraltarian evacuees.

- 2, 3 (Route).
4. ANTELOPE and VANOC will enter Funchal for stores and water.
5. Request INDRAPOERA be sailed for Gib. at 0800/29 she will
return by reverse of route in para. 2.
6. All times zone minus 2.
(F.O.G.M.A. 241643B.)

STATESMAN, Dive by day after crossing latitude 043° N. to
VIGOROUS, patrol within radius of 10 miles of position A.
SCEPTRE. VIGOROUS 042° 30' N. 012° 50' W. arriving 270900 H.
STATESMAN 041° 30' N. 012° 50' W. arriving 271700 J.
SCEPTRE 042° 30' N. 011° 30' W. arriving 290600.
2. Submerged bombing restrictions as in my
221737B. Time Zone minus 2.
(F.O.G.M.A. 241811B to P.246 (STATESMAN), P.74 (VIGOROUS)
P.215(SCEPTRE). (R) P.324 (THOROUGH), P.326 (TUDOR) P.322
(ZWAARDVISCH)(Dutch), F.O.S.)

South Atlantic

Brazilian Am informed by Americans that a U.S. Transport is
Expeditionary expected here early July to embark 1st instalment
Force. of Brazilians Expeditionary Force for North Africa.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 241450Z.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

M.V. MONTE
ALTUBE.

Your 121330, Nothing is known of this alleged interception by any of the appropriate authorities.
(Admty., 240355B to A.B.N.A. Madrid.)

Raid on
Mljet I.

Cosintrep No.320. Part 4.
Force consisting of Two Commando and 43 Commando together with elements of Highland Light Infantry and elements raiding support Regt. and U.S. Operational groups landed successfully and unopposed on Mljet Island off Dalmatian Coast night 22nd/23rd May. Our planes bombed in support following morning at 0600 hours. Enemy surrounded by 0900 hours but no further details yet received. *(See para 439)*
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No T.O.O.)

Enemy
Convoy.

A convoy is expected at Heraklion very shortly. Reported that escort will be:- 4 destroyers, 4 U.T. Boats and 4 M.T.Bs.
(Capt. (S) 1, 2414104 (? 241410B intended) to 1st S/M.F.)

Som daily
Sitrep No.39.

Two. Albania.
B. (1) Small partisan raid on German port near Barmash (M81) roads mined and destroyed one M.T.
(H.Q. Somto, 241740B.)

ARCHIMEDE.

Intend sailing (ARCHIMEDE) at 1630/26th routed Q.B.B.312 040° 49' 007° 10' at 0400/27th to R/V with escort at 0730/28th in 036° 57' 003° 03' surface passage unescorted 11 knots.
(Capt. (S) 10, 241817 to N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Swedish
relief
ships.

Your 171156 and your 221336. Matter is being taken up with Swedes who are being requested to arrange broadcasts of P.C.S. every six hours while in Mediterranean.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 241827B to F.O.L.E.M., Info. C. in C. Med.)

Situation
Report 364.

5446 tons discharged Anzio on 22nd May and 3045 tons on 23rd May. Slight shelling of Port area 22nd May. 7 acoustic mines swept on (?23rd) May.
(2) U.S. BROOKLYN engaged targets at Ardea and Vallelata on 23rd May in support of the bridgehead. Results reported satisfactory.
(C. in C. Med., 242138.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B dipositions. No.37. Area A, B, C, D and F believed clear of U-Boats. Scale of air escort W. Area E, D/F bearings at 1409Z/23rd indicates U-Boat (German) in Laccadive Is. Scale of air escort. Area G, no fresh information. Scale of air escort remaining Y. (C. in C. E.F., 240423Z.)

Aircraft for shipping protection. Air protection of shipping in the Indian Ocean. (My 121205 April refers). (1) Allied Cdr. South East Asia is forwarding a recommendation to Air Ministry that immediate need in Indian Ocean is for reinforcement by two Leigh Light Liberator squadrons fitted with mark V A.S.V. one to be based in Ceylon and one in Aden. Squadrons to be mobile to permit movement to other areas as situation demands. (2) This recommendation is concurred in and it is requested Admiralty will give it support. (C. in C. E.F., 240847Z to Admty.)

TRUCULENT. (P.315) TRUCULENT third Far East patrol 2. Submarine was engaged in special operation only which was successful. (C. in C. E.F., 241102Z.)

Operation "Toddy". Intend to sail convoy J.C.50A p.m./1st June to arrive Chittagong a.m./8th June route by normal coastal lane and "Rumble" route. (2) Convoy will comprise ETHIOPIA, EGRA, NEVASA, JALAGOPAL and EMPIRE RANI. (3) Escort NARBADA, JUMNA, ROSEBAY and MEADOWSWEET. (4) After unloading at Chittagong ships are to be sailed as a convoy to Calcutta. (5) As soon as fuelling and provisioning have been completed N.O.I.C. Calcutta is requested to sail the above convoy to Colombo. (C. in C. E.F., 241147Z.)

Kilindini Escort Force. In view of para. 4 your 162156 May it is for reconsideration that the storing of ships of the Kilindini Escort Force should be arranged from Kilindini observing that this would enable better service to be given to these ships under the present operating conditions. A.M. 100103 Nov. refers. (A/S. Kilindini, 241230 to Admty.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.C.U. 24. Off Oversay at 0030Z/23rd May. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 241143Z.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 241445Z, Cominch 241445Z.)

QUEEN. U.S.A.A.F. advise that they can load QUEEN at New York in 48 hours. Thus she could be ready to sail a.m. 12th June.
2. U.G.S.45 leaves Norfolk that day, and since you do not require QUEEN to return direct from Casablanca to U.K. it is presumed that her inclusion in this convoy will now be satisfactory.
3. If it is intended to sail her to Freetown in O.S.81 she will have about 4 days to unload at Casablanca.
4. Cominch will provide escort for QUEEN from New York to overtake U.G.S.45 at sea.
5. Your 231350 refers. Request confirmation that above arrangements acceptable.
(B.A.D. 241525Z to Admty.)

U.S.S. COMFORT. U.S. Navy Dept. has designated U.S.S. COMFORT as a hospital ship. Description.
(Cominch 241632.)

Naval Air Stations. My 191425 April* and your 251427 April+.
The following verbal agreements have been made with Navy Dept.
A. That we vacate N.A.S. Squantum on completion of working up period of No. 1820 Squadron about 10

July 1944.
B. That we be granted additional facilities at N.A.S. Brunswick,
C. that we may raise our limit on personnel in U.S.A. from 825 to 1000 to regularise our present overborne complement.
2 - 4. Arrangements.
5. Written confirmation of agreements in my para. 1 are expected shortly.
(B.A.D. 241749Z.)

* Vacation N.A.S. Squantum as station is required by U.S. Carrier Squadrons.
+ No further Avenger Squadron will be formed until allocations of aircraft are agreed no complete answer is possible. No objection to concentration at Brunswick.

KILMINGTON. E.T.D. Bermuda Seabuoy 2300/24th for Gibraltar.
(N.O.B. Bermuda 241915.)

U/B incidents. No report on 23rd para. D. Transit A/C sighted surfaced U-Boat 35.55 N. 71.20 W. 241622Z.
(Cominch 242025Z.)

/Bases...

24.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Bases in
Grahamland
and South
Shetlands.

A.M. 2046/28 Jan. 1943. As has been announced in the Press, bases have been established in the Falkland Island Dependencies. The parties are under Admiralty control, are largely staffed by naval personnel and are doing useful work on weather reporting.

2. Arrangements are now being made for routine relief in January, 1945. The only ship with suitable endurance and built for ice is Norwegian POLARBJORN, now on charter to W.S.A. and believed in service off the east coast of U.S. with the U.S. Army. You are requested to ascertain whether POLARBJORN if in fit condition could be made available for a single voyage to the Antarctic, leaving Port Stanley early January and returning there early March.

3. If Norwegian crew are still on board we would be willing to take them with the ship.

(A.C.N.S.F. 242211B to B.A.D.Washington.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 855.

23rd paras. 14 to end cover S. Pacific Forces.

2. During May 22nd and 23rd enemy convoy reported as comprising up to 14 vessels including 5 escorts subject to series of successful attacks by our

submarines while apparently en route Halmahera from southern Philippines and majority of merchantmen claimed sunk.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240700.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C S/423 sighted U-Boat on surface at 1000Z/23 in 65° 02' N. 04° 20' E.

2. A/C V/210 sighted U-Boat, course 200°, at 0525Z/24 in 65° 05' N. 04° 49' E.

Para. D. 1. ALBERNI sighted periscope at 1730Z/23 in 58° 35' N. 02° 50' W.

(D.D.I.C. 240851Z.)

/Summary...

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24.5.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Summary of
attacks on
U/Bs.

1. Norwegian manned Sunderland V/330 attacked U-Boat on northerly course in 63° 05' N. 03° 10' E. at 1725/16. After attack U-Boat's bows seen at very steep angle. No other results seen as aircraft severely damaged during attack and returned base immediately.
2. At 0942/18 Catalina S/210 straddled U-Boat with depth charges in 63° 36' N. 1° 42' E. U-Boat seen to sink leaving survivors in water.
3. Sunderland S/4 O.T.U. in 64° 04' N. 4° 02' E. straddled U-Boat with depth charges at 1248/21. U-Boat submerged with no forward movement.
4. Depth charge straddle obtained on U-Boat by Catalina M/210 at 1118/22 in 64° 44' N. 2° 37' E. U-Boat circled slowly then submerged with no forward movement.
5. Presume you have details of U-Boat sunk by U.S. destroyers with air co-operation at 0820/17 90 miles N.N.W. of Tenez. Also of U-Boat sunk 60' N. of Tenez a.m. 19th, again by U.S. destroyers with air co-operation.
6. Searching with air co-operation after sinking of a merchant vessel H.M. destroyers obtained contact at 1648/20 in 38° 13' N. 16° 36' E. U-Boat forced to surface and sunk by gunfire at 0040/21.

(D.A.U.D. 241146Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 241435B, 241445B.)

25.5.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Enemy coastal batteries bombed. 1. The Coastal Batteries at Le Clipon, Boulogne, Colline-Beaumont, and Trouville were bombed by our A/C during last night. The defences in each case were negligible.
- Enemy mines. 2. Ten G.M.-mines were destroyed by sweepers yesterday in Lyme Bay; and one off Harwich today.
- U-Boat in The Channel. 3. At 0100 today a U-Boat was reported 45 miles N.E. of Ushant.

Mediterranean.

- Italy. 4. (a). Last night a force of landing craft covered by coastal forces proceeded from Corsica and simulated an assault on the Civitavecchia area. U.S.S. BROOKLYN and screen acted as bombardment group in supporting the operation, which was carried out without incident.
(b). 5 mines were detonated off Anzio today. U.S. destroyer KENDRICK engaged targets in the Ardea area today.
- Air operations, Italy. 5. (a). Monfalcone Harbour (N.W. of Trieste) was amongst the targets attacked by the Strategic Air Force today: 3 merchant ships were hit. The Coastal Air Force successfully attacked craft in Talamone Harbour and the docks at Marine di Pisa.
- Adriatic. (b). Further successful air attacks were made today on small enemy supply vessels in the Aegean Islands.

China.

- h/ 6. U.S. Liberators on a sea sweep near Hainan Island sank a 300 ft. and a 200 ft. vessel near Samak Bay today.

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25.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay A/S operations. 8 German A.A. ships 46°, 48' N., 02° 40' W., course N.W. speed 8. (A/C RUT.61 250250B to 19 Group.) P.C.S. of 6 enemy war motor boats 46° 10' N. 05° 35' W. 180° 15 knots. (A/C MNU.53 250444 to 19 Group.) My position 045° 35' N. 018° 50' W. U/Boat transmitting naval enigma signal at 1412Z, bearing 299°. Sense correct third (faint?) strength 1 - 2. (MOORSOM, 251612B to Admty.) See also D.D.I.C. 251846B below

Operation "Knitting 11". My 241242B. Operation "Knitting 11" completed satisfactorily. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 250847B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operation "Overlord". Reference No. X/0800/18 of 13th May, 1944 following modifications of programme necessary. A. DUKE OF ROTHESAY should be sailed to arrive Southampton water 1200 D day for topping up with fuel and thence to St. Helens Roads as before. B. NEW BEDFORD on arrival at St. Helens in E.T.P. one should proceed to Southampton Water to top up before continuing in E.W.P. one. (A.N.C.X.F. 251130B to C. in C. Nore.)

Construction of 15 Pool spare bridge links and telescopic spans at Marchwood cannot be undertaken unless arrangements are made to clear the building site as the units complete. 2. Temporary berths for these units cannot be found at Marchwood. 3. Request information as to berthing and towage arrangements. (D.O.D.H., 251740B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Concurrence in my 241017 having been obtained request Commander Fardell be appointed S.N.O. Peel Bank and in charge of PHOENIX WHALE small handling craft. Date will be reported. In carrying out his duties with handling craft he will work under the direction of Captain Moran U.S.N. Tug Controller. (A.N.C.X.F. 251903 to Admty.)

Your 231200. Concur generally but suggest as follows. Para . 1, Channel Area Eastern limit to be North Foreland to Walcheren in Holland. Para. 2, A.C.H.Q. Chatham to consult V.A. Dover before briefing for attacks in the Dover Command.

(V.A. Dover, 251922B to H.Q.C.C.) Comlan crab 11th Phib's 221637B. Request you will reply. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 252243B to Admty.)

Operation "Potato". GREY OWL and GREY SEAL damaged in collision. Last night 24th/25th S.G.B.'s GREY FOX (S.O. Lt. Comdr. P. Baker R.N.) GREY SEAL, GREY OWL, and GREY WOLF carried out operation "Potato" in accordance with my 241335B. 2. At 0130 in position 050 Casquets 13 miles heavy and accurate fire was opened on unit by shore batteries and unit withdrew to Northwards. 3. During withdrawal S.G.B. GREY SEAL was near missed when a turn together was being executed and was rammed by S.G.B. GREY OWL. 4. GREY OWL damaged forward. Estimated time for repair, three weeks.

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Operation "Potato". GREY OWL and GREY SEAL damaged in collision (Contd.)

5. GREY SEAL slightly damaged. Estimated time for repair 4 days. One slight casualty.
6. No damage or casualties from enemy action.
7. K.N.22 completed.
8. K.N.18 abandoned owing to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth 251323B to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 251401B, 251430B.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 251426B, 252045B.)
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 251926.)

Operation C.W. U/B attacked by Escorts of Convoy O.N.M.237.

Your 251612B. U/Boat fixed in about 52° N. 34° W. (D.D.I.C. 251846B to MOORSOM.)
My 251527. Strike flown off ANCYLUS and EMPIRE. MACKENDRICK after close H/F D/F bearing 1405Z. 750 ton U/Boat sighted 20 miles astern of convoy, steering 070° 18 knots. Attacked 1506Z with R.P. by 3 A/C jointly. 2 hits, but U/B dived 1523Z before arrival of surface escort or other A/C. All 3 A/C damaged by flak returned safe. No casualties. Have diminished to 3, H.M.C.S. BITTERSWEET, H.M.C.S. EYEBRIGHT, FOREST HILL searching the area until 1000Z/26th. (C.3, 252158Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M Patrol.

VIRTUE proceed as convenient to arrive in new patrol line mid point 061° 00' N. 002° 01' E., direction 090° to 270° length 40 miles, by 1400B/26th. (F.O.S. 251951B to S/Ms.)

Allied Air Activity.

U/Boats at Brest and St. Nazaire. P.R.U. shows stems of three U/Boats protruding from shelter in St. Nazaire and similarly in Brest. These boats are vulnerable to serious damage if heavy bomb or mine can be dropped near shelter. Damage to these boats might also block exit of shelter immobilising many U/Boats.

2. Request air action at high Naval priority. (A.C.N.S. H. 250049B to A.C.N.X.F.)

Coastal Batteries bombed. During the night 24/25th the Coastal Batteries at Le Clipon, Boulogne, Trouville, and Colline-Beaumont were bombed with negligible opposition. (H.Q.B.C. 251833B.)

Enemy Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Ju.88 high over defence area 0500. Fire opened. Aircraft disappeared south eastward. (A.C.I.C. 251342B to Admty.)

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25.5.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMiningLyme Bay
clearance.Q.Z.Y.451 Progress. Have completed search in
G.F. 7 mines were cut in positions:

M. 050° 27' 27" N. 003° 02' 24" W.
 N. 050° 27' 39" N. 003° 00' 12" W.
 O. 050° 27' 39" N. 003° 00' 00" W.
 P. 050° 27' 39" N. 002° 59' 54" W.
 Q. 050° 27' 39" N. 002° 58' 36" W.
 R. 050° 27' 48" N. 002° 59' 12" W.
 S. 050° 27' 48" N. 002° 59' 00" W.

2 Mines were detonated in the sweep in position:

T. 050° 27' 51" N. 002° 54' 48" W.

U. 050° 27' 51" N. 003° 02' 57" W. 1 Mine was dragged and cut
in position:V. 050° 26' 57" N. 003° 18' 54" W. All mines cut were type
G.M. and have been sunk.

(M/S 16, 250024B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations
Q.U.36
and
Q.U.37.

My 241821B and 1823B. Postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 251558B to BEEHIVE.)

Harwich.

Clearance Q.Z.X.1321 extended today to 2-3 miles
from Western edge. One mine cut in 164° 54A Buoy
2.2 miles. 3 certain obstructors encountered in
some vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 252203B to Admty.)

U/BoatsU/Boats
reported.

My 242300B. Am proceeding to east end of patrol
line. No attack possible.
(VIRTUE 250010B to F.O.S.)
Do not hunt U/Boat reported in 49° 01' N. 004° 20'
W. at 0100/25th owing to proximity to minefield.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 250212B to Force 28)

Casualties and Defects

SCORTON.
(Convoy
H.X.S.291.)

Request tug be sent to assist SCORTON which has
broken rudder in 055° 35' N. 010° 42' W.
CHAMBLY is standing by.

2. Weather.

(C.1, 250317B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 251159B. HALIFAX not yet in contact.

CHAMBLY screening.

(HALIFAX, 251315B to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 251150B. Tow line parted. SCORTON able to steer 060°
Intend steering 060° 7 knots to soundings then take in tow again.
Heavy south-westerly swell. My position 056° 11' N. 009° 19' W.
SCORTON's rudder jammed hard to starboard.

(HALIFAX, 251742 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Towing...

War Diary

25.5.1944
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

SCORTON
(Convoy
H.X.S.291.)
(Contd.)

Towing unsuccessful due to heavy weather and SCORTON's rudder being jammed hard over. If weather permits CHAMBLY will attempt towing first light tomorrow. Consider tug necessary for this operation. My position 056° 15' N. 008° 53' W. (HALIFAX, 252217Z to C. in C.W.A.)

EDAY.

Request tug be sent for assistance. Position 054° 28' N. 009° 28' W. Have parted 3 tows. (EDAY, 251035B to C. in C.W.A.)

R.D.B.83.

CHASSIRON report R.D.B.83 capsized and sank in 035° S. Cutler Buoy 2 cables. Dan buoy showing green flag placed close S.E. of position by PICTON CASTLE. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 252201B to C. in C. Nore.)

25.5.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Gib. G.R. (A) B 228-114. (H) Panama Clipper - 1425 day-SE
Opsum not used-38.25 N. 19.17 W. 18/53?-by? wake appar-
24th May. ently from periscope seen for 30 seconds-course and
speed not given.
(A.C.H.Q.Gibraltar, 250215B)

T.G.21.11. C. in C. Lant, 1821/19. 242138 not to all.
Operating against southwest bound S/Ms. East of
Azores area 34 N. 20 W. Weather 7 4 7 1 2 9 1 5.
(C.T.G.21.11, 250916)

When operations present area no longer appear productive
proceed to operate against S/Ms West of Azores between 35 and 45
N. of latitudes:

(C. in C. Lant, 252058Z to C.T.G.21.11) (R) to all concerned.)

THOROUGH, P.324 (THOROUGH) and P.322 (ZWAARDVISCH) leave pat-
ZWAARDVISCH, rol not before 1100/27th P.326 (TUDOR) leave pat-
TUDOR. trol not before 0700/27th and R/V BRILLIANT at (V)
040 degs. 30' N. 012 degs. 10' W. at 1430/27th.
(2) Until R/V is made no S/Ms to be attacked on
27th unless definitely identified hostile and total
attack restrictions 80 miles either side line joining 039 degs.
40' 012 degs. 10' and 042 degs. 20' 012 degs. 10' from 0200/27th.
(3) BRILLIANT escort you through (M) (Q) and (P) at 1230/29th
thence Gib. S.O.A.11 knots. All times B my 211602B not to all
refers.
(F.O.G.M.A.251556B to THOROUGH, TUDOR, ZWAARDVISCH, (R) STATESMAN,
VIGOROROUS, SCEPTRE. (R) 251608B to BRILLIANT and others concerned)

S.L.158/ Shadowed by 4 A/C my 2042 not to all addressees
M.K.S.49 - refers one identified as Ju.290 from 1838Z to 1909Z.
incidents. (1900Z position was 37.18 N. 16.48 W.) One Ju.290
approached again at 2039Z, attacked by fighter with-
out observing result. Radar screen remained
clear since.

(2) 2 U-Boats sighted by Hurricane section at periscope depth hull
clearly visible bearing 255 degs 39.30 N. 17.38 W. 16 miles course
058 degs. at 1922Z. Swordfish closed, sighted swirl at 1946. My
1927Z not to all addressees refers. HIGHLANDER, FOLEY and INGLIS
closed and swept area without result. (3) My P.C. and S. at
2230Z 039 degs. 51' N. 018 degs. 25' W. 000 degs. 7½. Weather
report.

(NAIRANA, 251900Z, 251909Z, 251927Z, 252225Z)

Am being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 180 degs height
17,000 feet. My position 39.37 N. 17.36 W.

(NAIRANA, 252042Z)

South Atlantic

U/B report. A.S.V. contact at 0610Z/24 position 013 degs. 50' N.
020 degs. 05' W. held for 3 mins. A second con-
tact by aircraft at 1750Z/24 in 015 degs. N. 019 degs. 45' W.
Third contact at 2127Z/23 (sic) in 014 degs. 48' N. 019 degs.
23' W.
(R.A.W.Af. 251119)

/Seaward...

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Seaward defences. Sec. of State for Dominion Affairs Tel. No. 43 dated 11th January about transfer of seaward defences. Union Govt. have agreed to accept full financial liability henceforth for the future maintenance of Union seaward defences, whether equipment is imported or indigenous, on the understanding that the vessels at present on loan will continue to be so loaned and that seaward defence equipment installed, which is at present Admty. property, will be transferred forthwith to the Union Govt. without charge.

2. Intend to proceed with transfer forthwith.

(C. in C.S.A. 251127B to Admty.) *Reply: Admty 051224B June page 63.*

SS. NESTOR. Concur with proposal in your 190903*.
(C. in C.S.A. 251219B to A.C.N.B.)
* Req. approval to sail NESTOR to full capacity of passengers.

Doubtful U/B report by transit A/C. Ascension reports transit A/C hit by A/A fire at 0654/25 in approx. 06° 30' S. 11° 30' W. Plane at 8200 feet. Pale Green flash was followed by burst 200 yards away. Fuselage shows four hits not very severe. Course of U-Boat unknown. Planes are investigating.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 251343Z to Admty.)

Cancel my 251343. Com. (?Tenth) Fleet now report aircraft examined by competent authority who pronounced A/A hits negative. Also says (?evaluation) U-Boat very doubtful.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 251930.)

SS. EMPIRE HEATH. Overdue shipping. EMPIRE HEATH due 22nd May from Victoria Brazil not arrived Freetown. Cargo iron ore.
2. No reply received to B.A.M.S. Message 241259 ordering her to report her position.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 251344.)

Flag of C. in C.S.A. The flag of V.A. Sir Robert L. Burnett K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. as C. in C.S.A. is to be hoisted in NEWCASTLE at 0800/27 and is to be transferred to Admty. House Simonstown at 0800/28.
2. The flag of V.A. Sir W.E.C. Tait K.C.B., M.V.O., is to be struck at sunset on Saturday 27th May.
(C. in C.S.A. 251709B.)

Standard route for A.K.D. - D.K.A. convoys. C. in C.E.F. 061340 Dec. refers Beira to Durban. Amend position N to position 20° 09' S. 35° 11' E. Durban to Beira. Amend position J to position 20° 09' S. 35° 11' E.
(C. in C.S.A. 251821.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- UNTIRING. Leave patrol through 042° 50' 007° 01' at 0200/
27th to arrive Maddalena 1930/28th.
(Capt. S.10 251101 to UNTIRING.)
- VAMPIRE. From position 035° 41' 023° 15' about 1501/27th
proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at
1401/29th.
2. You are to dive by day east of long. 022° E. your
surface speed is estimated as 9 knots.
(Capt. S.1 251140B to P.72 (VAMPIRE))
- SS. SEBASTIAN MARTIN. Spanish SEBASTIAN MARTIN 1063 tons gross estimated
speed 7 knots carrying approved cargo for Sweden
is due to sail from Valencia 31st May for Sete.
Is not to be molested.
(F.O.G.M.A. 251144B to 10th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10th)
- UNSPARING. Leave patrol about 1601/27th pass through Anti-
Kithera Channel to arrive in 035° 41' 023° 06' about
dawn 28th.
(Capt. S.1 251201B to P.55 (UNSPARING) (R) F.O.L.E.M
1st S.F. PIPINOS.)
- Italian
M.A.S.boat
captured. At 240103B P.C. 626 on Anzio patrol captured small
Italian speed boat with two prisoners from 10th
M.A.S.Flottilla, type M.T.S.M. number S.M.A.318
hull wooden length 27 feet beam 8 feet engines two
Alfa Romeo depth charges two stem tube torpedo had
been fired machine gun one small calibre. Boat
sank in harbour and has been raised damage slight. Boat is
being sent to Naples further details will follow.
(F.O.W.It. 251216B.)
- SALVAGE DUKE. My 111337 March and 251727 April neither to all
regret it has not yet proved possible to release
SALVAGE DUKE to Eastern Fleet.
2. Owing to imminence of vital operations it is
essential to retain her for the present. A further signal will
be made as soon as the situation becomes clearer.
(C. in C.Med. 251501 to Admty.)
- Yugoslav
ships. V.A.Malta 191811* being passed gives information
required by your 170052 concerning ships at Malta.
Information concerning ships in Italian waters will
be forwarded as soon as possible.
(C. in C.Med. 251932 to Admty.)
*(Recd. by W.D. on 27th May) Text:-
- Your 181052. A.M. 170052.
2. All ships in class A are capable of employment in the Adriatic
or elsewhere and all are manned by the Royal Yugoslav Navy, but
only BELIAORAO and T one are of value for operational duties re-
mainder are fit for service in protected waters only owing to lack
of armament.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Yugoslav
ships.
(Contd.)

2. M.Cs. 33, 37 and 40 of class C are only fit for harbour service and could be manned by Royal Yugoslav Navy.
(V.A.M. 191811 to C. in C.Med.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
Disposal of
2400 dis-
sident Greeks
in 307 P.O.W.
Camp.

Greek situation. 307 P.O.W.Camp. Following successful conclusion at Lebanon Greek Prime Minister was of the opinion that the whole of 2400 dissident Greeks remaining in this camp could in due course be brought back to duty, less only ringleaders who would have to be punished.

2. It was represented to him that Greek officers from Cs. in C. downwards would not have 1500 of these men back at any price. Of the remainder 230 are known leaders of mutiny and the rest, some. These last can probably be brought back to reason once segregated.

3. At meeting held on 25th May Monsieur Papandreou asked for further time in which to segregate youths and leaders before party was entrained for camp at Bardia. Army authorities stated move could not be further delayed owing to necessity of clearing this camp ready for German P.O.W. and to other movements. This was reluctantly accepted by Papandreou and Voulgaris: the former then asked in name of Greek Govt. that British armed force should be used to any extent necessary to remove the 230 from mutineers whose names are known. The Army representatives promised to do their best.

4. At a further meeting with C.G.S. it was pointed out (a) that it would be impossible to extract the 230 bad men since* party had been transferred to Bardia (b) that to transfer these men with remainder would establish a clear cut victory for the mutineers (c) that no Naval mutineers could then be brought to C.M. (d) that arrival of (?this) party in Bardia unless denuded of its leaders might have seriously disruptive affect on Greek Army personnel already there.

5. Orders have now been issued to 18 Area Commander by G.H.Q., that the necessary force is to be used to extract the 230 worst cases before party is entrained for Bardia tomorrow Friday.

6. This operation timed for first light tomorrow Friday.
(F.O.L.E.M. 251945C to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Naples.)

* As recd.

SALVESTOR.

C. in C.Med. Naples 191834 to C. in C.Med. Algiers only regarding proposed manning of SALVESTOR by S.A.N.F. crew. . . Owing to developments in present operations desired from time being to leave

SALVESTOR with Italian crew. To avoid prejudicing present salvage organisation in Italy, should approval in principle be given to proposal in my 161820 May. It is advisable transfer should not take place or be made public until requested by C. in C.Med.
(C. in C.Med. 252007 to Admty.)

/M.E...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.E.Balkan Sitrep No. 191. / 4. Sea Ops. Night 21/22 May, 85 personnel of R.S.R. and Op. Gps. and 50 tons of stores infiltrated into Greece. 68 personnel evacuated.
(C. in C.M.E. 252010C.)

Situation Report No. 365. P.C.626 captured small coastal craft and 2 prisoners near Anzio 0010/24th. 2976 tons discharged at Anzio on 24th May.
U.S.S. BROOKLYN and U.S.S. ERICSSON gave fire support in Bridgehead area on 24th May results report good.

2. During night 23/24th May P.T.Boats operating from Bastia attacked 2 corvettes with torpedoes off Vada Rocks sinking one and damaging the other. 19 prisoners taken.
(C. in C.Med. 252215.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No.38. No fresh information. No changes in dispositions. scale of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 250358Z)

VICTORIOUS, In view of further postponement of VICTORIOUS arrival (Admiralty's 200543 refers) intend further ILLUSTRIOUS. to defer refit of ILLUSTRIOUS until VICTORIOUS arrives.
(2) My 301602 April and 250404 May refer.
(C. in C. E.F. 250913Z to Admty.)

A/U carrier Your 080832. Group numbers 60 and 61 allocated. escort (D.O.D.(F), 251233B to C. in C. E.F.) group.

U.852 Preliminary examination of charts recovered from itinerary. U.852 appear to indicate following route. After leaving Norwegian coast she proceeded to 65 degs. N. 3 degs. W. 65 degs. N. 7 degs. W. thence approx. 230 degs. to 52 degs. N. 32 degs. W. thence round Arc of Circle 700 miles from Azores. Rate of advance about 130 miles per day. My 131513 refers.
(2) Made coast at 17 degs. S. 12 degs. E. closed Pelican Point Walvis Bay remaining within 2 miles from shore from 0900 to 1030 on 25th March. In position 15 miles West of Saldanha Bay from 1600 to 1900 on 31st March. First April spent approx. 15 miles 250 degs. from Cape of Good Hope. A mark on the chart might indicate a ship attacked 240 degs. Cape of Good Hope 8 at approx. 1100/1st April.
(3) At 0001/7 April in 180 degs. Cape St. Francis 12 miles from then until 13th April patrolling between East London and 50 miles West of Cape St. Francis most of the time being in area West of Cape St. Francis approx. on 100 fathom line. Possible attack at 1032/10th April 100 degs. Cape St. Francis 14. Possible attack in 28 degs. 30' S. 37 degs. 30' E. at 1800/17th April unsuccessful due to target altering away.
(4) At 0001/23rd April closed to within 8 miles of Mozambique but does not appear to have remained in this vicinity.
(5) COMORO ISLAND 40 miles abeam to starboard at 0600 24th April thence apparently on steady course and speed to position of attack on 2nd May.
(6) All charts being forwarded by air to Admiralty at first opportunity.
(Com. Aden, 251301Z to Admty.)

Independent shipping through Red Sea for Suez. (1) All ships normally call at Aden for onward routeing.
(2) In special cases Aden may be omitted and convoy or particular ship ordered to be routed to Suez direct when date and time of arrival Suez is included in ship's route signal.
(3) The convoy is to be ordered where to disperse and ship will normally proceed independently to Red Sea.

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Independent
shipping
through
Red Sea
for Suez.
(Contd.)

(4) N.O.I.C.Aden is to report to N.O.I.C.Suez the E.T.A. Suez of all ships entering Red Sea, even if they have not called at Aden.

(5) Masters of merchant ships on independent passage through Red Sea to Suez are to be ordered to report by W/T 24 hours before arrival when their E.T.A. will be more that 3 hours different from that given to them by their sailing authority.

(6) Message is to be passed on 500 K/cs or M/F working wave to Ismailia (SUQ), Alexandria or Port Sudan W/T St., with P/L instructions to pass to N.O.I.C.Suez.

(7) Message to be in P/L and containing only the amended T.O.A. War W/T Callsign is to be used.

(C. in C. E.F. 251319Z)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B
dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 251440Z, Cominch, 251545Z.)

QUEEN. Your 241525 concur.
(D.O.D.(H) 251911B.)

U/B
incidents. Para. A. A/C attacked U/Boat area 52.20 N.
33.30 W. about 251527Z.
Para. D. Russian Flying Boats sighted U/Boat
40.43 N. 69.20 W. 251239Z.
(Cominch, 252107Z,)

Stragglers
report
No. 53. 2 returned New York from H.X.M. 292 EVAGORAS May
19th engine breakdown BENEDICK May 22nd engine
breakdown 1 arrived Halifax from H.X.M.292
HJELMAREN (SW) May 22 engine defects.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 252120Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest No. 856. May 24th, paras. 10 to 14 cover S.Pacific Forces.
8. Aircobras struck Hansa Bay during day starting
large fuel fire. M.T.Bs. strafed villages this
area night 22/23 encountering intense shore fire.
12. Following night (23/24 May) M.T.Bs. sank single
northbound metal barge carrying 20 troops offshore near Namtanai.
14. Three enemy submarines attacked by destroyers and destroyer
escorts 160 - 180 miles North Mussau Island early morning 23rd.
First believed sunk second possible destroyed while search for
third continues.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 250950Z.)

Carrier raids
on Marcus
and Wake. Results of carrier strikes on Marcus on 19th and
20th and Wake Island on 23rd (corrupt group). H/
Com. From Capt. Tufnell. Considerable damage to
ground installations. No enemy planes seen at
Wake while one Betty destroyed over Marcus was only
airborne plane seen. One destroyed on ground. Our
combat losses 4 A/C over Marcus, 2 A/C with one pilot lost
operationally at Wake.
(C. in C.Pacific Fleet 252200Z.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C R/4 O.T.U. attacked U-Boat at
1144Z/24 in 62° 27' N. 03° 04' E.

2. A/C S/423 attacked U-Boat at 1220Z/24 in 63°
38' N. 03° 07' E.

3. H.M.Ship sighted U-Boat on course 300° at
2100Z/24 in 61° 35' N. 02° 10' E.

4. A/C C/59 attacked U-Boat on course 270° at 2345Z/24 in 63°
53' N. 04° 05' E.

5. A/C V/162 sighted U-Boat at 0355Z/25 in 62° 49' N. 03° 32' E.

6. A/C S/59 sighted U-Boat on course 115° at 0438Z/25 in 64° 46'
N. 05° 48' E.

7. A/C V/210 attacked U-Boat at 0519Z/24 in 65° 08' N. 04° 53' E.
(Reported as sighting in A.M. 240851Z.)

8. A/C attacked U-Boat course 225° at 2310Z/24 in 49° 01' N. 04°
20' W.

9. A/C sighted U-Boat at 2300Z/24 in 48° 57' N. 04° 23' W.

Para. B. 1. A/C sighted U-Boat at 0230Z/25 in 46° 20' N. 06°
00' W.

Para. C. 1. A/C sighted periscope at 1225Z/24 in 38° 25' N. 19°
17' W.

2. Transit A/C sighted E-bound U-Boat at 1542Z/22 in 33° 40' N.
08° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 251146B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 251414B, 251421B.)

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Enemy Mine.

1. An Acoustic Mine was detonated to-day by Sweepers in the Hearty Knoll area.

U-Boat
attacked
by A/C.

2. At 0935 to-day two Mosquito A/C on patrol made cannon attacks on a surfaced U-Boat 50 miles W.S.E. of Vaagso (Norway) and claim to have obtained hits.

North Atlantic

S.L.158/
M.K.S.49.
shadowed.

3. Convoy S.L.158/M.K.S.49 was shadowed by enemy A/C this morning and again this afternoon. A/C from the Escort Carrier NAIRANA who was supporting the convoy shot down 2 of the enemy A/C. One Hurricane was lost. 5 German air crew survivors were recovered.

Mediterranean

Italy.

4a. Coastal forces operated last night in the Leghorn/Spezia area and attacked beached F lighters, 2 corvettes, but no results were seen.

b. U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN gave fire support to the Army to-day.

German
MANNHEIM
and other
potential
warships.

5a. S.O.(I) Istanbul reports that the German Naval Auxiliary MANNHEIM and other vessels are about to transit the Dardanelles from the Black Sea.

b. On 27th May, F.O.L.E.M. reported there is overwhelming photographic evidence that German craft have passed through the Dardanelles from the Black Sea with guns concealed, their armament being subsequently mounted and the

/vessels...

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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

German
MANNHEIM
and other
potential
warships.
(Contd.)

vessels converted for use as offensively armed minor warships after they reached the Aegean. He asked B.N.A. Ankara to bring the matter again to the notice of the Turkish Authorities and the Admiralty to support his protest.
c. As result of the British protest the Turkish authorities on 29 May reported that they had thoroughly examined MANNHEIM and 5 E.M.S. class vessels and found no reason to detain them. They passed through the Dardanelles into the Aegean on 29th May.

Italian
escort
Groups.

6a. C. in C. Med. to-day issued general instructions for the employment of Italian escort groups with Allied convoys, which are to come into force forthwith.
b. The main provisions are that if a British or U.S. warship is present the senior British or U.S. ship is to take charge of the entire escort regardless of the relative seniority of the British (or U.S.) and Italian commanding officer; and Italian groups are free to employ their own methods in defence of convoys.

Australia and New Zealand

New Guinea.

7a. At first light to-day two destroyers bombarded enemy positions at Maffin aerodrome (northern Dutch New Guinea).
b. M.T.B's last night attacked Sarimi Beach (8 miles further west).

Solomon Is.

8. Landing craft gunboats last night shelled enemy positions at Tonolei Harbour (Bougainville Strait) and Shortland Island, causing fires; other L.C.G's silenced an enemy battery firing on them at Empress Augusta Bay.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BALDUR. German SS. BALDUR was torpedoed by H.M. Submarine on 23rd May whilst alongside loading jetty in Bilbao area. Possibility of enemy retaliation against Allied shipping in Spanish harbours should be borne in mind.
Enemy re- (Head of M.I. 261335B to F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.Med.)
tiation possible. Casualties German BALDUR reported to be one French, one German, one Spaniard killed, Spanish pilot lost both legs. 3 patrol vessels and one larger warship were observed throughout yesterday 25th patrolling between Plencia and Castro. Convoy will probably be formed. 3 large and several small iron ore vessels now moored Galdames Bilbao River.
(R.O. Bilbao 261835 to Admty.)

Sanctuaries. In order that C.B. 03092 (43) App. I para. 5 can be complied with without undue increase in daily signal traffic it is intended that certain sanctuaries which are in constant or frequent use shall be permanently in force. Commanders in Chief are requested to inform Admty. and F.O.S. which sanctuaries it is desired to include in this category. Sanctuaries permanently in force can of course be cancelled at any time for special purposes and re-established later. Para. II, Section 2, of the C.B. will be amended accordingly.
(A.C.N.S.H. 261540B to Cs. in C.)

Transfer of Agreement has been reached that transfer of ROYAL Warships to SOVEREIGN and S/Ms will take place May 30th, Soviet Navy. ceremony being held on board ROYAL SOVEREIGN between 1030 and 1130. It is understood Soviet Ambassador will be present at ceremony.
(C. in C. Rosyth 261601B to Admty.)

Request instructions with regard to administration of British Residual party remaining in ship on transfer of ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Soviets. Party numbers some 12 officers and 70 ratings.
2. Unless S.O. remaining (G) Lt. Cdr. F.C. Reseigh R.N. is given honorary rank or some other status it is doubtful if Russians will recognise his authority in matters outside his direct technical province.
3. A high authority who will sponsor the British party and ensure their well-being, is also much to be desired, judging by the present Russian attitude. This attitude also militates strongly against retention of any British personnel on ship's final departure for Russian waters.
4. Pay documents and associated questions also arise.
5. A ruling is also required in respect of attached Liaison Officers and Interpreters as regards numbers remaining on board after transfer and on final departure.
(ROYAL SOVEREIGN 262345B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Irish South It is not clear from where fishing vessels re-
Coast danger-ferred to in para. 3 of your 172035 can come,
area. since - (a) British and Allied vessels have been withdrawn. (b) Spanish vessels are believed to have been effectively excluded by recent extension of declared area,

/(c)...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Irish South
Coast danger-
area.

(Contd.)

- (c) seagoing Eire vessels do not fish south of Eire.
2. It is agreed that in the present circumstances max. freedom of action is necessary in area defined in your para. 3 but public declaration of new extension is considered inadvisable before D-day.
3. Warning is being given at once by Dominions Office to Eire Government that -
- (a) owing to enemy operations in waters south of Eire no responsibility can be accepted for safety of any Eire vessel which proceeds outside territorial waters south of Valencia on the west and Dungarvan Bay on the east.
- (b). Admiralty are considering extension of declared area as proposed in your para. 3.
4. Admiralty notice will be broadcast in usual form immediately after D-day. Sink-at-sight should not be applied to fishing vessels until after broadcast.
- (A.C.N.S.H. 261905B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S
operations.

- My position 048° 10' N. 016° (738') W. U-Boat transmitting Naval Enigma signal at 0012Z, bearing 285°. Sense correct 3rd class, signal strength one - two.
- Also my position 048° 24' N. 016° 26' W. U-Boat transmitting B barred signal at 0109Z, bearing 282°. Sense correct 3rd class, strength one - two.
- (MOORSOM 260309B to Admty.)

Operation
"Overlord".

- Am making Capt. A.C.Richmond U.S.C.G. of my staff available to you as a co-ordinating officer for the Coast Guard Rescue Flotilla. He will confer with authorities concerned as to present detailed plans and arrangements and make recommendations as to instructions issued and to be issued so that in forthcoming operations we can be sure that the flotilla is fully and efficiently employed on the duty for which it was ordered here.
- (Comnaveu 261119 to N.C.W.T.F. A.N.C.X.F.)

Your 242320B. Request you reconsider your proposal for following reasons:-

1. In the event of our own surface forces having to operate within 10 mile limit it would be impossible to prevent returning Allied aircraft from attacking, other than those aircraft which have been specially briefed.
2. To prevent this, surface vessel attack restrictions would have to be imposed, often at short notice, with the resultant volume of signal and telephone traffic to achieve it, which is just what we hope to dispense with. Furthermore experience has shown that there are grave time lags in communicating these restrictions to the aircraft concerned frequently aircraft cannot be so briefed.
3. Aircraft in many cases will not know whether they have reached the 10 mile limit.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
"Overlord".
(Contd.)

4. In any case some modification of the free area would have to be made when landing operations are about to commence. This would be dangerous on security grounds alone.

(H.Q.C.C. 261515B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Your 251740. Consider construction of 15 Pool spares should be pressed on with. As units complete they should be berthed in Dibden Bay or nearby. The slight risk of damage when units ground in shoal water can be accepted provided every link is carefully examined before it finally leaves Southampton Water in tow.

(A.N.C.X.F. 261800B to Admty.)

It has been agreed that the control of T.I.Ds. M.T.Ls. and similar craft engaged on whale units at Peel Bank shall be centralised in Commander G.B.Fardell, R.N., under the direction of Tug Controller Lee, Captain E.Moran U.S.N.

2. Commander Fardell is being appointed S.N.O. Peel Bank and will have his H.W. there afloat in QUEEN OF THANET now and later QUEEN OF KENT. He will be assisted by a U.S.N. officer and an Army officer.

3. His duties will include the co-ordination of small handling craft on Peel Bank before "Overlord" and the despatch of tows during the operation. He will keep in close touch with the Army P.F.F., and P.R.C. companies, with the U.S. C.Bs. in the Isle of Wight, and with LAGUNA BELLE at Peel Bank.

4. C.T.G.127 and War Office respectively are requested to appoint officers referred to in para. 2 so that control can be established without delay.

(A.N.C.X.F. 261807 to C. in C.Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

Your 261515. In making my proposal I had in mind attacks by A.E.A.F. which being in daylight should not endanger our own surface forces as all will have left the coast by then.

2. It was realised that the instructions would need amendment from D-day but this should not endanger security.

3. Could the instruction be worded to comply with para. 1.

(A.N.C.X.F. 262253 and 270857B to H.Q.C.C.)

S/M Patrols. Leave patrol forthwith and return Lerwick through 080° Muckle Flugga 30 miles on the surface at C.O. discretion.

(Capt. S.9 261305B to VIRTUE.)

Positions of submarines at 0759/27th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SCEPTRE 44° 01' N. 08° 41' W. diving by day through 44° 01' N. 10° W. towards 42° 30' N. 11° 30' W. E.T.A. 0600/29th.

(F.O.S. 261741B to Admty.)

Coastal Force (C. in C.Plymouth 261317B.)
Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 261435.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 260550Z. Aircraft heard south of Island. Disappeared in S.W. direction.
(A.C.I.C. 261334B to Admty.)

Mining.

Operations My 251558B. Postponed until first suitable night.
Q.U.36 & (C. in C.Nore 261115B to BEEHIVE.)
Q.U.37.

Operation K.N.15. Prepare to carry out operation K.N.15 on next suitable night.
A. 1. 3 M.T.Bs. C. Pass E.A.3 K.E.A. 3 Buoy at 2230B proceed via 50.00 N. 00.18 W. thence to position of Lay. D. 49.34 N. 00.30 E. 03.00 B, 096° 300 feet. E. from D to waiting position 50.10 N. 00.20 E. thence returning to harbour.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 261522B to V.13, DOLPHIN.)

Hearty Knoll. L.L/S.A. sweepers report acoustic mine detonated at 1834 today 5 cables 297° from ship in 358° Hearty Knoll Buoy 3 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 262005B and 271721B to Admty)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. (2 corrupt groups) (German) (corrupt group) U-Boat reported in the vicinity of J.Group 332 and G.Group (220?)
(H. 261435B to Convoys J.14, G.12, S.O.Forces J and G.)

Casualties & Defects.

SCORTON. My 252217Z. Towing again unsuccessful. Rudder still jammed and weather conditions adverse. Request tugs when available. My position 56° 50' N. 09° 02' W.
(HALIFAX 261147Z to C. in C.W.A.)

SCORTON now able to steer 180° 1½ knots. Fuel situation necessitates HALIFAX detaching not later than 1200B tomorrow. My position 2200B 056° 32' N. 009° 02' W.
(HALIFAX 262234B to C. in C.W.A.)

UNRIVALLED. S.7's 221131. In view of the important requirements for A/S training S/Ms, it is recommended that the work of replacing the defective starboard after main motor of UNRIVALLED be deferred to a date more convenient both to S/M training commitments and for the vessels allocation to a repair yard.

/Propose...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects

UNRIVALLED.
(Contd.)

Propose therefore UNRIVALLED should continue to be employed on A/S training with her starboard B machine cut out and to review the question of repairs on 25th June.
(F.O.S. 261752B to Admt.)

Shipping & Convoys.

FORT
VERCHERES
and EMPIRE
PROWESS.

FORT VERCHERES and EMPIRE PROWESS arrived Ekonomia at 0800B May 25th. S.B.N.O.N.Russia 221516B refers. Also arrived 0600B May 25 T. MOLOTOVSK, W.R.GRACE and BARBARA FRIETCHE from Iokanka.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 260925B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

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26.5.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticS.L. 158
shadowed.Am being shadowed by 1 enemy A/C bearing 100°
height 5000 feet. My position 40° 55' N. 18°
25' W., course 360°, speed 7.5 knots.

(NAIRANA, 260730Z.)

My 0730Z. 1 Junkers 290 down.

(NAIRANA, 260732Z.)

One Junker 290 approaching to shadow (my 0730Z refers) shot
down at 0720Z by 2 Hurricanes one of which was lost, pilot
killed, my 0840Z not to addressees refers.(2) One other enemy A/C unidentified approached but withdrew
at 0725Z screen now clear.

(3) Only 4 serviceable Hurricanes remain on board.

(4) My P.C.S. at 0830Z 41° 03' N. 18° 27' W., 000°, 7½.

(5) Weather.

(NAIRANA, 260842Z.)

Am being shadowed by 2 enemy A/C bearing 072°. My P.C.S.
41.33 N. 18.28 W., 000°, 7.5 knots.

(NAIRANA, 261502Z.)

My 1502, 1 Ju.290 shot down.

(NAIRANA, 261509Z.)

Enemy aircraft are active in the Bordeaux area, which may
indicate a possible attack on S.L.158 convoy.(D.D.I.C., 261849B to NAIRANA, Escorts of Convoy S.L.158,
C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

My 1502Z and 1509Z to Admty. only.

2 Ju.290 approached in formation from north-eastward to within
20 miles intercepted and attacked 2 Hurricanes at 1708B, 1 Ju.290
shot down, other escaped. Hurricane undamaged. 5 German air
crew survivors recovered by INGLIS.

(2) My P.C.S. at 2030B 041° 58' N. 018° 28' W. (S) 000°, 7 knots.

(3) Weather.

(NAIRANA, 262015B.)

SS. RIO.
FRANCOLI.Your 211713 May, Spanish RIO FRANCO (sic) inter-
cepted and sent in 40 bags Spanish mail, and small
quantity of third party mail removed. Search
completed. Vessel released.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 261018B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

UNRULY. Reference last para. section 2 My Memorandum W.D.35 continue patrolling in the vicinity of Candia. (Capt.(S) 1, 260934 to UNRULY)

MANNHEIM German MANNHEIM (Naval auxiliary) arrived from Black and other Sea off Bosphorus 0630 G.M.T. 26th. Details not German yet available at moment owing to fog but ship is ships-pas- probably former HELGA and in transit for Aegean. sage of (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261035C to F.O.L.E.M. Dardanelles. My 261035C report B 3 that 3 German (corrupt group) now entered Bosphorus from Black Sea. Details following. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261217C to F.O.L.E.M.)

My 261035. MANNHEIM passed Istanbul 1200 G.M.T. 26th in transit for Aegean. Vessel is clearly K.T. ship. Black and grey camouflage, grey funnel and machinery aft, one-mast, gun platforms fore and aft also several A/A guns (exact number could not be observed).
(2) E.M.S. craft now passing down both with deck cargo timber. 3rd craft mentioned in my 261217 also probably E.M.S. type.
(3) In addition report 2 SEEROSE type barge arrived Bosphorus from Black Sea.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261520C to B.N.A. Ankara.)
In confirmation probably not former HELGA. Details and photograph awaited. Your 261035 refers.
(S.O.(I) Eastern Med, 261602C to S.O.(I) Istanbul)

My 261520 MANNHEIM estimated speed 18 knots which should enable her reach Dardanelles entrance by 2030 G.M.T.
(2) E.M.S. craft SAAR and NECKAR sailed for Aegean 1300 G.M.T. 26th. E.T.A. off Dardanelles entrance dawn 27th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261630C to B.N.A. Ankara.)
My 261630. MANNHEIM destination declared Piraeus. Turkish officials state ship roofed (sic) 2 15 centimetre guns and crew including 37 naval personnel. B.4. Comment: even if report exaggerated ship is naval auxiliary and appears in C.B.1815 (October, 1943) Foreign War Vessel.
(2) E.M.S. type craft ELSENZ and 3 SEEROSE type barges GRETE, ADELE, SEE ADLER and STOERTEBECKER sailed for Salonika 1340 G.M.T. 26th. E.T.A. off entrance Dardanelles between 0530 and 0830 G.M.T. 27th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 261655C to B.N.A. Ankara.)

UNSPARING. From position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 06' about dawn 28th proceed to R/V with escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 1401/30th thence to Malta.
(2) Surface speed 8½ knots diving by day on 28.
(Capt.(S) 1, 261202 to UNSPARING)

Greek I fully agree para. 2 of your 251945C.
Fleet. (2) The only hope of rehabilitating Greek Fleet appears to me to be to get rid completely of all ringleaders such as members of Committees and of all the older and weaker minded men who have been exposed to contamination and to man the ships entirely from the Petty Officers, men of proved integrity and youths who can be properly disciplined and educated.

(3) /...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Fleet. (Contd.) (3) Meanwhile the youths should not be exposed for any longer than is unavoidable to further risk of contamination.

(4) Report how far the manning problem can be met on the basis of para. 2.

(C. in C. Med, Naples, 261326 to F.O.L.E.M.)

My 251945. Army had insufficient troops available and asked for naval assistance. I approved employment of Commando from SAUNDERS. Latter did all work in side cages beginning with AVEROFF crew who were in ugly mood. After a few had been hit over the head there was no further trouble. Category C. Number 1666. Category B. and Boys 601. Really bad types not included above 377, which is a hundred more than expected. Greek casualties 6 broken heads and 22 threw fits. Commandos nil.

(F.O.L.E.M.261846C)

Instructions The following are general instructions for employment of Italian escort groups with Allied convoys, which are to come into force forthwith:

Italian escort group. (1) Italian escort groups will operate under orders of the Senior Italian Officer present who is to be responsible for the defence of the convoy. The Cmdr. of Convoy is to remain responsible for its safe navigation along the route ordered.

(2) If, however a British or U.S. warship is present, the Senior British or U.S. ship is to take charge of the entire escort regardless of relative seniority of British (or U.S.) and Italian commanding Officer. Similar rules are to apply if vessels of different nationalities are detached.

(3) It is not intended that Italian escort group should of necessity adopt allied methods in defence of convoys. Ships will retain an Italian operational code for use by V/S and VH/F R/T.

(4) S.Os of escort groups will carry Liaison Officers and class A Liaison parties. Up to 2 other ships of each group will carry L.O's and class B Liaison parties (with the addition of one signalman). This will allow the use of allied general communications with part of a group detached for any purpose.

(5) The handling of convoys is to be that established for allied convoys and laid down in Mersigs volume one normal convoy W/T organization D in accordance with Camsi is to be used in all convoys. R/T on 60 Mc/s is used in all M.E.(?) Med. convoys.

(6) (7) Signalling.

(8) Med. 00382/20 of 8th Nov. 1943 is cancelled.

(C. in C. Med. 261442)

Disposal of Italian S/M's. JALEA and ONICE should be ready to sail 10th June My 211150 April.

(2) In view F.O.T.A.L.I.0311011 propose question of BANDERA replacing one of above be not pursued.

(3) Request destinations.

(C. in C. Med. 261528B to Admty.)

SECRET

Received by WP

4 June
after typing

382^A

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

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

261410/May

Date: 2.6.44.

Recd: 1830

From: Cominch.

P/L BY D/R

Addressed: Com. 12th Fleet.

U.S.S. MENGES - Details of
torpedoing 3rd May.

CR No. 1398.

Your 241714 of May for MENGES.

- A. 37 01 N 05 29 E.
- B. 022237Z distant six miles bearing 090 true.
- C. Radar contact. U-boat not sighted.
- D. 2241 target increased speed. ²²⁵⁹ 0259 target reversed course speed 15 knots range 4500 yards. 2312 Radar contact lost at 3100 yards. 2315 to 2318 Radar pips similar to periscope indications at considerable distance from target track and its last known position. Target movements determined by plot.
- E. No information.
- F. Zigzagging on course 120 true at 20 knots. Two minutes before torpedo hit speed reduced to 15 knots zigzagging on course 100 true.
- G. No information.
- H. 2134 white light sighted of port quarter of convoy reported as "Some kind of submerged carbide light which emits a bright light intermittently". Suspicious Radar pips after submarine submerged. 2330-2335 two dim white lights about 1 mile apart sighted to northward "And appearance of small searchlight sweeping back and forth".
- I. 2318 torpedo sighted heading for stern from port quarter. Torpedo hit directly at stern.
- J. No information as to height of plume.
- K. Yes.
- L. No information.
- M. Good visibility bright moonlight. Sea smooth light westernly airs.

261410

Advance copies: Ops. O.I.G.

/Circulation overleaf...

3-15

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (P)
A.C.N.S. (U.T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room.
Capt. Pim.
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (4)
D. of P. (3)
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (G)
D.T.D. (4)
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
D.S.D. (2)
M. (2)
D.P.D.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
Admiral Usborne.
Admiral Blake.
A.L.O.
C.A.O.R.
D.R.E. (2)
D.S.D. (2)
D.T.M. (2)
A.M.W.
D.S.R.
D.M.W.D.

A.40
SD

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea- Enemy losses as claimed from Operations and
 enemy intelligence report up to May 13th.
 losses. (1) A/C attacks on (corrupt group) shipping.
 May 6th. 4 Merchant Vessels Total 10,000 tons sunk.
 May 8th. 2 Merchant Vessels Total 4,000 tons sunk.
 May 9th. 1 Merchant Vessel 4,000 tons 1 M/S and 4
 self-propelled barges sunk: 2 Merchant Vessels Total 5,000 tons
 damaged.
 May 10th. 5 Merchant Vessels Total 15,000 tons and 2 Landing
 craft sunk: Machines have also totalled 9,000 tons damaged.
 May 11th. 7 Merchant Vessels Total 20,000 tons and (?4) Q ships
 sunk: 6 merchant vessels Total 17,000 tons and one destroyer
 damaged.
 May 12th. (Aircraft and S/Ms combined) (?6) Merchant Vessels
 Total (?16,000) tons sunk.
 May 13th. Off (?corrupt group) one Merchant Vessel 2,000 tons
 sunk. Other losses in above attacks: F lighters 23 sunk,
 37 damaged, R Boats 3 sunk 5 damaged, Siebel Ferry 5 sunk, 2
 damaged, Barges 3 sunk one damaged: A/C destroyed, 3 Hamburg 140,
 2 Hamburg 138, 13 Messerschmitts, 110 and 109 and 11 unspecified.
 (2) E-Boats at night sank:
 May 7th One M/V 5,000 tons and 2 F Lighters:
 May 8th One M/V 1500 tons: May 10th 4 large barges:
 May 12th One M/V 4,00 tons and 2 barges.
 (3) S/Ms sunk: May 6th One 6,000 tons Tanker.
 May 7th One F lighter.
 May 8th One self-propelled barge.
 May 11th One M/V 5,000 tons One gunboat and 3 F lighters.
 May 12th See para. 1.
 (4) My 072005 para.1 delete losses for May 2nd.
 (N.L.O.Black Sea, 261640)

ULTOR Intend P.53 ULTOR to sail 1730/28th through 042
 degs. 46' 006 degs. 50' at 0100/30th to patrol in
 areas S.T. to S.X.
 (Capt. (S) 10, 261725 to C. in C. Med.)

Salvage of C. in C. Med. has no objection to proposal in B.A.D.
 Sunken Washington's 032321. /
 vessels by (C. in C. Med. 261802B)
 Italians. / Propose Italian Naval Salvage Sunken Vessels
 obstructing ports of Trapani, Marsala and Adgara.

German Your 231325. Para. 1 (A) information is urgently
 devices required of system of actuation of ground mines
 used in when used defensively, i.e. whether magnetic, or
 Black Sea. acoustic direct. off clock.
 (2) Only mines in evacuated ports or off beaches
 are in question.
 (3) Para. 1 (D) and your 190050. Are any further
 details or photographs available? Why the wooden
 case?
 (D.N.I.261806B to B.N.L.O.Black Sea.)

VICTORIOUS /...

26.5.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- VICTORIOUS. A.M.200543. In view of the difficulty of making escorts available at short notice any early information as to possible date of VICTORIOUS sailing from U.K. would be appreciated.
(C. in C. Med, 261826B to Admty.)
- Misuse of hospital ship TUEBINGEN. Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Int. Appreciation. C.X. report Hospital Ship TUEBINGEN now loading munitions Piraeus for Crete. Comment. Similar reports of misuse already received concerning this ship. Further information being sought.
(C. in C. M.E. 261830C)
- ESPIEGLE. Add to my 211244/ and 201415/. Low Power Room has been saturated with oil fuel and salt water.
(2) ESPIEGLE will be ready for sea p.m. 29th. Request port be allocated.
(N.O.I.C. Naples, 261831B)
/ Intend carrying out temporary repairs.
/ Preliminary survey of damage to H.M.S. ESPEIGLE.
- Italian crew in Canary Is. B.N.A. Madrid 171233. Italian authorities at Naples have no objection to return of these seamen to Italy.
(F.O.W.It. 261838B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER. Consideration has been given to the manner in which three special Fighter Direction ships for Assault Operations can be provided in accordance with N.A.F. 491 (T.O.O.280915 Oct.)
(2) For technical reasons and to carry out the conversion work necessary in a reasonable period the most suitable ships are BOXER, BRUISER and THRUSTER.
(3) It appears from your letter No.2739/Med./596/2/37 of 17th April that these ships can seldom be used as L.S.T. Request your views on the effect of their withdrawal at an early date on your operations and whether this can be accepted.
(4) BOXER is in need of major repair and it is requested that she may be sailed to U.K. as soon as practicable. F.O.W.I.T.011804 refers.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 261948B to C. in C. Med. Naples, C. in C. Med.)
- M.E.Balkan Sitrep No. 192. 441518. O/05584 cipher 26th May.
(4) Sea ops. Greece, Night 22/23 May 3 tons stores infiltrated and 48 personnel evacuated from Peloponnese.
(C. in C. M.E. 262000C)
- ARCHIMEDE. Patrol report black.
(S.10, 262355)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/boat dispositions No.39. Areas A B C D and F believed clear of U/boats. Scale of air escort W. Area E no fresh information since U/boat (German) indicated by D/F (Key pressing) in Laccadive Is. area on 23rd Scale of air escort X. Area G. No fresh information. U/boats may be in area. Scale of air escort Y. (C. in C.E.F., 260325Z).

Kantalai R.N.A.S. C. in C.E.F. 040505 May para.(4). Re-allocation and delays in the supply of labour units make it practically certain already that flying facilities cannot be provided at the R.N.A.S. Kantalai until early 1945. (F.O.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, 261139).

X & X.E. craft for R/C. Midget Submarine known as X craft, operated by C.O.P.Ps. has proved successful in "Overlord" R/C and is considered far superior to surface craft for this work, giving silent unseen approach and periscope preview of beaches. C.O.P.Ps. 1 and 9 are trained in use of X craft.
2. Five X.E. craft, which are improved X craft and suitable for use in tropical waters are now being produced. You are requested to state if any use can be foreseen for these craft in S.E.A.C. for C.O.P.P. work.
(C.C.O. 261159B to S.A.C.S.E.A.) As amended 271828B.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

SS. Diversion order.
MAURETANIA. (D.O.D.(H), 261112B to MAURETANIA.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 261500, Cominch, 261615Z.)

Attacks C.R. No.1134. Proposals for forwarding
by Gnat information.
torpedoes. (Cominch, 261540.)

T.C.U.24B. Off Oversay 1800Z/24th. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 261656B.)

Troopships Your 242133. Policy at present in force
in C.U. regarding troopships in C.U. convoys is that
convoys. there is no limitation on the total number of
troops carried.
(2) If situation deteriorates, the limitation
of numbers to 75% of boat capacity or passenger
certificate will be reimposed by Cominch who is the deciding
authority as C.U. convoys are escorted by U.S. escorts.
(3) If limitation in para. 2 is reimposed, it is considered
that the "250 of each service" rule should apply. War Office
agree.
(4) T.C.U. convoys are certain C.U. convoys with a reinforced
escort, and include fully embarked troopships. They replace
the U.T. troop convoys which have been discontinued.
(D.O.D.(H), 261854B to N.S.H.Q.)

CHARLES A. War Dept. has designated the CHARLES A. STAFFORD
STAFFORD. ex U.S.A.T. SIBONEY as Hospital Ship.
Description.
(Cominch, 261855.)

M.V.FORMOSA, Swedes intimate safe conduct vessels FORMOSA and
YARRAWONGA. YARRAWONGA will sail from St. John at 0800 June
1st by Black route for Piraeus.
Request you will inform all Air and other
Authorities concerned.
(Admty., 262139B to all concerned.)

26.5.1944.
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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 857.
May 25th.

Paras. 16 to 18 cover South Pacific Forces.
(6) During night 23rd/24th May M.T.Bs. sank or destroyed 5 barges beached Vandurmuar Island (off shore 10 miles west of Maffin Bay) also shelled gun positions vicinity Maffin Bay.

(11) During night 23rd/24th M.T.Bs. attacked and severely damaged three northbound enemy barges vicinity Sepik River mouth. One barge was carrying troops.

(14) 50 to 60 warships and sizeable cargo vessels observed Tawi Tawi anchorage (southern Sulu Sea) 24th May including six aircraft carriers, 10 heavy units estimated to comprise 3 battleships, 6 heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, one large tanker.

(15) Japanese convoy comprising three large transports, 4 destroyers reported Natuna Island vicinity night 23rd May heading towards Singapore.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 260755Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. (a). (1) A/C S/59 attacked surfaced U/B with depth charges, course 188° at 0530Z/25th in 65° 05' N. 07° 28' E.

(2) A/C C/224 attacked U/B at 2300Z/24th in 48° 57' N. 04° 23' W. (Reported as sighting in A.M. 251146B.)

(3) A/C P/53 sighted conning tower at 0053Z/25th in 49° 02' N. 04° 22' W.

Para. (b). (1) A/C C/53 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0304Z/25th in 48° 50' N. 05° 29' W.

(2) A.S.V. contact obtained at 2127Z/23rd in 14° 48' N. 19° 23' W.

(3) A.S.V. contact obtained at 0610Z/24th 13° 50' N. 20° 05' W.

(4) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1750Z/24th in 15° 00' N. 19° 45' W.

Para. (d). (1) NAIRANA reports 2 submarines, course 58° at 1927Z/25th in 39° 30' N. 17° 38' W.

(D.D.I.C., 261111B.)

U/B
dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 261354B, 261405B.)

27.5.1944
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western
Channel A/S
operations.

1(a) At 1117B to-day the Corvette PORT ARTHUR, escorting Convoy P.W.528, attacked an A/S contact 12 miles S.W. by W. of Portland Bill, but lost touch soon after.

(b) At 1934B the destroyer KEPPEL, escorting Convoy W.P.528, reported another S/M contact 5 miles S.E. by S. of Start Point, and the four destroyers of Force 27 (S.O. in VESPER) were ordered to sweep through that position on their passage to patrol off Lyme Bay tonight.

WOODCOCK
damaged.

2. The Sloop WOODCOCK, escorting Convoy P.W.528, collided with VENUS at 1159B to-day in thick fog off St. Albans Head and, with two compartments flooded, returned to Portsmouth at 1415.

U/boat
attacked
by A/C.

3. At 0816 today a Liberator A/C attacked a surfaced U/boat about 120 miles W.N.W. of Stadlandet (Norway) and left the U/boat submerging slowly in a large oil-patch.

South Atlantic

Flag of
C. in C.

4. The flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Robert L. Burnett K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. was hoisted today, as C. in C. S.A. in succession to V.A. Sir W.E.C. Tait K.C.B., M.V.O.

SS. PELEUS
(sunk
13th March)

5. S.O.(I) Capetown reported on 22nd May that the German U/boat which sank SS. PELEUS on 13th March rammed the rafts and wreckage with intent to drown the survivors, and bombed the rafts and machine gunned the men in the water. 3 men survived by shamming dead. The crew of this U/boat has since been captured. (p.315)

Mediterranean

Italy

6. The French cruiser EMILE BERTIN and U.S.S. KENDRICK and MACKENZIE gave fire support to the

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Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Italy
(Contd.)

army left flank in the Anzio area today.

7. Coastal forces last night engaged a northbound convoy north of Elba, scoring gunfire hits. Two M.T.Bs. received some damage and had slight casualties.

8. UNIVERSAL reports firing torpedoes at a beached escort vessel off Ciotat breakwater (between Marseilles and Toulon) on 22 May. One or probably 2 hits were made and the vessel is considered to have been destroyed.

9(a) Aircraft today continued their attacks on shipping on the Dalmatian coast and left a 2000 ton merchant ship sinking.

(b) German craft at Viareggio and in the Arno river were attacked and severely damaged.

East Indies

Operation
"Transom"

10. The Fleet returned to harbour today from the attack on Surabaya.

Australia and New Zealand

New Guinea
landing
in Schouten
Island.

11(a) Substantial U.S. Military forces landed at Bosnek on Biak Island (Schouten Islands, N.W. New Guinea) shortly after daybreak today following cruiser and destroyer bombardment and aerial bombing. Some opposition was encountered, but by midday a beachhead 2 miles wide had been established. The cruisers cooperated further by shelling southern Biak Airfield and aircraft supported the army's advance westward. One destroyer received minor damage from a 5 inch shell hit.

/ (b)...

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Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

(b) The ships were attacked off the beachhead in the afternoon by 12 enemy bombers with fighter escort, at least 9 of which were brought down.

U/boat
destroyed

12(a) A search aircraft attacked an enemy submarine at midday yesterday 150 miles north of Mussau Island (New Hanover, Bismarck Archipelago), with negative results. A destroyer escort followed up the attack last night and claimed the ultimate destruction of the U/boat.

(b) Early this morning air and surface units attacked another submarine, 200 miles north-east of Mussau Island, but results were not reported.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Plymouth Command. Coastal Patrol arrangements. It is intended that the British ships which form part of the U.S. Assault and following-up forces and their close escorts shall be turned over to U.S. operational control as from Y -4 days or date of arrival at assembly station whichever is the later in order to allow adequate opportunity for studying order, briefing, and general contact with U.S. forces with whom they will work.

2. When this is done it is anticipated all normal commitments for coastal escort work can be met with Force remaining under my operational control.

3. Covering patrol against E/boats, destroyers and T.B. will be carried out primarily by the 10 D.F. and coastal force which remains under my control. It is considered that the coastal forces will be adequate but in certain circumstances the 10th D.F. alone may not be; for example a threat by the Narviks to the West simultaneously with E/Boat activity in Lyme Bay.

4. Arrangements have, therefore, been made with N.C.W.T.F. that up to D minus 2 he will detail a stand-by Destroyer Division of 3 or 4 boats on such days as conditions permit notifying C. in C. Plymouth at noon or earlier if practicable. This Division may be British or American and may be based at either Portland or Plymouth. It will be at short notice during dark hours but will not be used if it can be avoided. If required it will be under operational control of C. in C. Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 271145B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Transfer of War-ships to Soviet Navy. Your 261601. Ceremony will be attended by D.F.S.L. representing the 1st Lord and the Board of Admiralty and he will carry out the transfer of the ships to the Russians in their name. He will arrive Waverley Station Edinburgh at 0750/30th. (D.F.S.L. 271405B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

It has been becoming apparent for some time that Russians intend to exploit the British personnel left in ROYAL SOVEREIGN after transfer and that their position will become even more difficult than it is at present. In a discussion today regarding the details of personnel to remain Russian Captain stated that a writer rating would be unnecessary as all correspondence between British authorities and their higher authorities would be required to be submitted through the Russian authorities. I consider that this shows which way the wind is blowing. In order to avoid a situation which might lead to not only unpleasant but serious incidents, I am informing Admiral Lebchenko that British personnel left as instructors and demonstrators will be sent on board daily by boat - the reason given being his desire expressed to me at a Conference held yesterday to obtain the maximum accommodation for Russian personnel. I am informing him that the party will be available to take passage in ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Scapa and that C. in C.H.F. will be requested to make similar arrangements during the ship's working-up period. British captain has previously expressed an opinion that no British personnel should be allowed to accompany the ship to Russia but I was not then sufficiently convinced to represent this point to the Admiralty. I would now urge that request to Soviet Naval Mission to state their requirements in this respect may be withdrawn. (C. in C. Rosyth, 271903B to Admty.)

/Flag...

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Saturday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy - Contd.

Flag of V.A.2. Flag of V.A.2 will be transferred temporarily from ANSON to VICTORIOUS about 1300B/28th May (C. in C. H.F. 272017B to H.F.)

Sanctuaries. A.M.261540B. Nil.
(C. in C. H.F. 272228B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Scapa defence s. Your 141135.
2. This matter has now been adjusted in para. 2 of Amendment No. 1 to A.D.G.B. Operational Instruction No. 5/1944.
(D.L.D. 271422B to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Western Channel A/S operations. PORT ARTHUR in anti-submarine contact in 050° 23' N. 002° 44' W. Has carried out one attack and still in contact. Suspect submarine. (LONDONDERRY, 271117B to Plymouth.)
My 271117. PORT ARTHUR lost touch. Rejoining P.W.528.
(LONDONDERRY 271137B to Plymouth.)
KEPPEL reports S/M contact in 146° Start Point 5.
2. Sweep through this position on passage to patrol.
3. KEPPEL is still in vicinity.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271934B to Force 27.)

Biscay A/S operations. A number of H.E.177 and F.W.200 have been sighted in the Bordeaux area. These aircraft may carry H.S.293 or F.X. bombs. In view of continued shadowing of S.L.158 air attack is likely.
(D.D.I.C. 271229B to NAIRANA, ACTIVITY, Escorts S.L.158.)

Operation "Knitting 12". Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs.254 (S.O.) and 252 in support (unit B) at 2100 today for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 01° 12' W. and 00° 55' W. Vessels to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight. Request bombing restrictions.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 271306B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 271335B, 271638).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271420B, 271439B.)
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 271522, 271732B.)

Operation "Potato". C.P.G.O.7400 para. 4. Carry out operation "Potato" tonight.
1. M.T.Bs. 693 (S.O.), 692, 691.
2. 0100B/28th.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Potato" (Contd.)

4. 49.47 N. 01.45 W. to 49.47 N. 02.00 W.
5. Not to proceed W. of Cap de la Hague before 0200B.
6. 50.10 N. 01.45 W.
7. As in 6.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 271522B to HORNET.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in VICTORIOUS. Careful trial has established that maximum number of Barracudas plus Corsairs that VICTORIOUS should carry for operations in northern waters is 45. Above this number there is unacceptable increase of:

- A. Unserviceability.
 - B. Inflexibility opposing changes in plan.
 - C. Slowness in operating.
2. For more favourable weather and climate 48 is considered maxim.
 3. Request decision regarding A/C carrying for movement in A.M. 092350 May.
(VICTORIOUS 271602B to Admty.)

Channel area Surface Vessel attack restriction. Institute forthwith, until further notice, surface vessel attack restriction over the whole channel area between line Scillies to Ushant and North Foreland to Walcheron Forthwith.

Para. 2. Coastal Command will be exempt from the above restriction as their aircraft are specially briefed by the A.C.H.Q's as to where they may attack.

Para. 3. Those Groups belonging to A.E.A.F. and A.D.G.B. who provide aircraft for escort or cover to Coastal Command aircraft or who provide strikes on enemy forces that have been specifically arranged with the local naval authority are also exempt.

Para. 4. These restrictions in this channel area will only be lifted for aircraft other than those mentioned in paras. two and three if agreed to by the local naval authority.
(H.Q.C.C. 271620B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Our 271620B. Freedom of action is granted to A.E.A.F. until further notice to attack targets of opportunity inside a 10 mile strip off the enemy continental coast from Walcheron to Ushant during daylight hours between 0700B and 2100B.

(H.Q.C.C. 271920B to A.E.A.F. A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. Ju.88 sighted from Raufarhofn 066° 27' N. 015° 56' W. at 262325, flying low, course south.
(A.C.I.C. 271302B to Admty.)

/Jan Mayen...

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27.5.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity - Contd.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. A/C heard over station area 0645. Foggy. (A.C.I.C. 271330B to Admty.)

Mining

Operations
K.N.18
and
K.N.15. 1. Carry out my 261622B tonight.
A.1, M.T.Bs. 205, (S.O.) 210, 211 - Unit C.1.
2. Carry out my 241238B tonight.
A.1. M.T.Bs. 206, 208 - Unit 02.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271335 to V.13, DOLPHIN.)

Harwich. Q.Z.X.1321. One further lap only completed today
Sweep abandoned owing to poor visibility. One mine exploded in leading ship's sweep in 150° 54A Buoy 1.8 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 272209B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Bilbao area. My 1835/26th, last para. Considerable German air and sea patrol activity along coast now in progress. Ore vessels have raised steam and expect to sail shortly.
(Bilbao, 271720 to Admty.)

Navigational

Lowestoft. Port closed due to fog. Visibility nil.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 271954B to Admty.)

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 272042B to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

MARIA MITCHELL and WHITE SHELL PARK collided in Belfast Loch at 0330B/27.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 271155B to Admty.)

WOODCOCK damaged. In collision with VENUS. My position 050° 30' N. 001° 53.5 W. 2 compartments flooded. Am returning to Portsmouth. Thick fog.
(WOODCOCK, 271159B to C. in C Portsmouth.)

UNRIVALLED. F.O.S. 261752. Approved.
(D.O.D.(H) 271250B to F.O.S.)

SCORTON. The CHERBOURGOISE sailed from Campbeltown noon 27th to assist SCORTON. We are not yet in W/T communication with RANGER.
(C. in C. W.A. 271604B to CHAMBLY.)

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27.5.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticCIERZO,
ABREGO.

Your 041236. War Shipping Administration have been consulted again but cannot agree to supply of oil. This decision is based on practical not political considerations.

(2) Your 171145. If Spanish source can provide sufficient oil no objections to proposed programme as amended by N.S.H.Q.Ottawa's 222000. Routing instructions remain as in A.M. 170552 Feb. (Admty., 270227B to N.A. Madrid).

Neutral
ships, sail-
ing dates.

My 191919 and 221915 refer. Following are revised dates of sailing of SS. ST. GOTTHARD 30th, ZURICH 28th and BRIQUETAS ZORROZA 29th from Marseilles, Sete and Caronte respectively for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D., 271635B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South AtlanticU/boat
attacked

At 1400B/26th May. U/boat was sighted by S.A.N.F. minesweeper ARUM 23 miles 295 degs. from Pelican Point Walvis Bay. 10 rounds fired and depth charge attack made without result. Report graded A one.
(C. in C.S.A., 271035).

Convoy
changes

Request you will repeat to Admiralty signals ordering institution or suspension of convoys.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 271041B to C. in C.S.A.).

Pendant of
Com. i/c
Simonstown.

The broad pendant of Commodore J.H. Young R.N. as Com. i/c Simonstown will be hoisted at the Admiralty office signal station Simonstown at 0800/29 and is to be transferred to AFRIKANDER Mast West dockyard at 0800/30.

(2) The broad pendant of Commodore B.W. Barrow D.S.O., R.N., will be struck at sunset on Monday May 29th. (Cashier, Simonstown, 271201B).

O.S.77
S/M.
situation.

S/M. situation is as follows (details).
(N.O.I.C.W.Af., 271946Z to Escorts O.S.77)

SS. PELEUS
(torpedoed
13th March)

Your 221722B. Crew of this U/boat since captured and it is proposed to interrogate them on this incident on arrival U.K. Request you will interrogate survivors of PELEUS with a view to verifying facts as reported. Results should be forwarded Admiralty quickest route. Present whereabouts and destination survivors should also be reported as it is desired to obtain sworn statements.
(D.N.I. 272319B to S.O.(I) Capetown). / Re report from survivors of Greek ship PELEUS.

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War Diary27.5.1944
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

German Auxiliaries transiting Dardanelles. My 261630C and my 261655C. Turkish S.N.O. Cannakale has informed our R.O. that vessels will be detained there pending instructions from Ankara. Weather fine wind North visibility good. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 270050C to B.N.A. Ankara.) My 270945. German DRESDEN and GESINE, (SEEROSE type) ALTMUHL and REGEN (E.M.S. Type) passed Istanbul in transit for Aegean 0800 G.M.T. 27th.

(2) E.T.A. Dardanelles between 0100 and 0400 G.M.T. 28th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 271240C)

My 270050C. R.O. Cannakale reports that (a) 3 E.M.S. surface craft and 3 SEEROSE type craft have arrived Cannakale. S.N.O. has instructions detain 3 E.M.S. craft only E.C.MANNHEIM (K.T. ship) not yet arrived Cannakale and S.N.O. has not yet received instructions to detain her. Presume therefore ship will be allowed to proceed and thus create precedent.

(2) Request you intervene urgently as K.T. ship would be invaluable to enemy and constitutes very real menace to our forces in Aegean.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 272120C). Report that vessels will be detained by Turkish S.N.O. Cannakale. N.T. in W.D. asked for 28.5.44.

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intel.Appreciation. 26th May. Ph.R. showed at sea south Mitylene 1 ESTE type lighter. Comment. Possibly 1 of 3 similar lighters recently entered Aegean from Black Sea. Black Sea-Aegean. Reliable source reports unidentified German SS. MANNHEIBUL entered Bosphorus a.m. 26 May probably en route for Aegean. (C. in C. M.E. 271850C)

My 272220C R.O. Cannakale reports that MANNHEIM has arrived and has been detained. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 272235C to B.N.A. Ankara)

/?272120 intended re detention of 3 E.M.S. etc.

Radar Decoy Spar. Object resembling Radar decoy spar (RDS) reported 23rd May between Algiers and Bougie. Radar range of 4000 yards on S.L. Radar (corrupt group) A refers. Position and Radar ranges of any further R.D.S. encountered are to be reported by signal provided Wireless Silence may be broken. If in the vicinity of a port, endeavour should be made to tow into harbour and beached (corrupt group) object should then be rendered safe by qualified R.M.S. or bomb safety officer, who will be sent from nearest source. Disposal instruction for recovered R.D.S. will be issued by C. in C. Med. (3) 795 B is A (?basegram). (C. in C. Med. 270858B to Med. Station, 796B)

Incidents /...

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27.6.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd

Incidents of Red Cross ships and BALDUR. Paid official calls on C.N.S. and Min. of Marine to-day. My reception could not have been more cordial. Question of Red Cross ships was dealt with as in your 202218 and 231221. Explanation was accepted and satisfaction expressed at measures to be taken. I stressed importance we attached to chartering another Spanish ship for this humane work and both Chief of Naval Staff and Minister promised to support our application which is being made to Rotaeché by British Attache. Minister with very distinct twinkle in both eyes raised subject of BALDUR of which I feigned ignorance. (?Still smiling broadly he said "I cannot believe that you people would ever (?do) such a thing". I agreed with him. (N.A. Madrid, 271048B)

M.V. SAGGAT. Swedish Relief Ship SAGGAT sighted by R.A.F. 1849/26 in 037 degs. 03' N. 023 degs. 58' E. course South. No information here regarding destination. Request Swedes be asked for immediate clarification (F.O.L.E.M. 271119C to Admty.)
Your 271119. Attention is called to A.M. 202000B which stated that SAGGAT would sail for St. John's N.B. by Black Route on 26th May.
(2) You are requested to report whether A.M. 202100B/May was received and whether it was promulgated to air and other authorities.
(Admiralty, 271757B to F.O.L.E.M.)

ESPIEGLE. Repair port for ESPIEGLE N.O.I.C. Naples 261831/ refers. Taranto ESPIEGLE is to be taken in hand as first damage repair priority.
(C. in C. Med. 271148B).
/ ESPIEGLE request port be allocated.

Passage of potential German warships through Dardanelles. S.O.(I) Istanbul reports of passage of barges through Dardanelles raises possibility that E.M.S. craft or other types capable of conversion to war vessels might be included in any further transfer. In this event request you will again strongly represent to Turks that such craft are being used as offensively armed minor warships in Aegean.
(2) S.O.(I) E. Mediterranean O.S. 19/44 of 24th March to all addressees summarizes activities of these craft. Subsequently, frequent and excellent quality air photographs show conclusively: (A) Vessels are armed with one gun forward (3 pounder of above) one Breda type gun forward, and 6 depth charges. In at least some cases smoke making apparatus is fitted and Bofors type gun mounted aft. (B) They have not been used as cargo carriers but as patrol vessels and escorts. For example, they invariably use naval berths rather than loading berths in Aegean ports including the seaplane jetty at Rhodes the naval quays at Porto Lago, the Troumba Mole at Piraeus and the (?Mino) quay at (?Scaramanga). In smaller Island ports they usually moor off shore.

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean (continued)

Passage of
potential
German
warships
through
Dardanelles.
(Contd.)

(3) Considered from photographic record that armament was probably mounted when craft were in northernmost Sporades or Dodecanese shortly after reaching Aegean. It is therefore suspected that guns were concealed on board during passage through Dardanelles.

(4) Selection of photographs mentioned in para. 2 follow by bag.

(F.O.L.E.M. 271215C to B.N.A. Ankara.)

Should appreciate backing for paragraph one of my

271215/. Photographic evidence is overwhelming.

(F.O.L.E.M. 271925C to Admt.)

Re: Possible passage of E.M.S. craft through Dardanelles.

UPSTART.

Pass 042 degs. 24' 005 degs. 09' at 0600/29th and return to Maddalena through 042 degs. 04' 007 degs. 42' at 1800/30th E.T.A. 0935/31st.
(Capt. (S) 10, 271249B to UPSTART)

Situation
report
No. 366.

Only 1794 tons discharged Anzio 25th May due to lack of shipping 6135 tons discharged 26th May. 5 mines detonated 25th May. slight shelling 26th May.

(2) U.S. Destroyer KENDRICK engaged targets in Ardea Area on 25th May scoring hits on buildings

and silencing A/A gun positions. U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN gave fire support on 26th May.

(3) Night 25/26 May L.C.G. supported by Coastal forces operating in Hurricane Lighters (probably "Leghorn" intended) Spezia Area only targets were suspected beached F lighters and 2 corvettes which were contacted at intervals. Both targets were attacked, results unobserved.

(4) (P.57) UNIVERSAL reports firing torpedoes at beached escort vessel off Ciotat breakwater on 22nd May. 1 hit probably 2. Vessel considered destroyed.

(C. in C. Med. 271814B)

Information
for PIPINOS.

P.73 (VOX sailed from Malta at 1801/27th for Antikithera channel and patrol within 10 miles of Ananes.

(2) She may encounter P.72 (VAMPIRE) about 1800/28th and P.55 (UNSPARING about 0530/29th.

(Capt. (S) 1, 271825 to 1st S/M.F. PIPINOS.)

Greek
Fleet.

Your 261326 Para. 3 completed yesterday. My 261846 para. 4. Reply will be made as soon as possible.

(F.O.L.E.M. 271929C to Admt. C. in C. Med. Naples, (R) V.A.M.)

VAMPIRE,
patrol
report.

Sank caique off Monemvasia 12th May. Greek crew of 3 embarked. Negligible shipping activity throughout area. Intense air transport activity night. Weather Report.
(VAMPIRE, 272337B)

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27.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat
dispositions

No.40. Area G U-Boat (German) indicated by D/F at 1634Z/26 within (?30) miles of 006° North 085° east scale of air escort Y. Other areas no fresh information. No change in (?scale of) air escort. (C. in C.E.F., 270317Z).

Buoyant
rocket flare
decoy.

There are no requirements for this device. Your 232356* refers. (C. in C. E.F., 260821Z to Admty.)
* Top Secret Circulation.

Operation
"Transom".

Fleet has returned to harbour. (C. in C. E.F., 270931Z.)
Arrivals QUEEN ELIZABETH, RICHELIEU, CEYLON, QUEENBOROUGH, QUADRANT, NAPIER, RENOWN, ILLUSTRIOUS, TROMP, QUALITY, ROTHERHAM, NEPAL, VALIANT, GAMBIA, QUILLIAM, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE, VAN GALEN.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 271311Z.)

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27.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. S/M. attack and sighting summary. No report since my 230836. Para.D. R.C.A.F. (RCAF) Canso sights U/boat 40.43 06920 West at 1239Z/25th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 270714Z). WXHF. 293 advance sailing telegram. 10 PACHESHAM (Br.) newsprint and pulp Glasgow. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns Nfld., 271123Z to Admty.).

H.X.290 Average 9.2 knots. Off Oversay at 2200Z/18. All arrived. (D.T.D. 271341Z).

U/boat dispositions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 271402Z, Cominch 1507Z).

ARBITER, SMITER. It is intended that ARBITER and SMITER shall return to U.S.A. to ferry aircraft to U.K. (2) Request your concurrence for these ships to be included in U.C.27 notwithstanding that this may bring the number of ships in the convoy above 35. (3) No operational aircraft will be carried. (D.O.D.(H), 272050B to Com. 10th Fleet C and R).

Carriage of merchant seamen in hospital ships. Ref. A.M. 022356. United States C's. of S. agree that C.C.S. 228/7 should be interpreted to include Merchant seamen and Civil aircrews among the non-combatants who may be carried in hospital ships if sick, wounded or shipwrecked. (J.S.M. Washington, 272245Z).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 858. 7. At first light two destroyers bombarded enemy positions Maffin aerodrome. Previous night M.T.Bs. strafed Sarmi Beach (eight miles further West) also killed three Japs who refused rescue from raft off shore. Enemy ground resistance stiffening East of Maffin airfield put our advance Westwards continues slowly. 1135 known Japs dead this area. Six prisoners captured. (12) Night 25th/26th Landing Craft Gunboats shelled enemy positions Tonolei Harbour and Shortland Island causing fires while other similar units silenced enemy battery firing on them from Jaba river-mouth (central Empress Augusta Bay). (13) Following night motor torpedo boats co-operating with Catalinas sunk or destroyed three heavily laden barges rounding Cape Laverdy in same vicinity.

27.5.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (19) Search plane attacked enemy submarine 150
858 (Contd.) miles North Mussau Island midday 26th with negative
results.
(20) Flash reports relate that United States
forces landed Bosnek on Southern Biak Island shortly after daybreak
27th Following cruiser destroyer shelling and support by air
strikes plus further naval bombardment. Some opposition en-
countered from beach.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 270660Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack and sighting summary. Para.A. (1) A/C. N. and E of 333 Squadron attacked U/boat on surface with gunfire, course 045 degs. at 0734Z/26 in 61 degs. 35' N. 03 degs. 28' E.
(2) A/C N/330 sighted periscope, course 270 degs. at 1212Z/26 in 62 degs. 37' N. 02 degs. 00' E.
(3) A/C S/59 attacked U/boat, course 030 degs., at 0617Z/27 in 62 degs. 38' N. 01 degs. 18' E.
(D.D.I.C. 270846Z).

U/boat dispositions. Estimates and extract (see next signal).
(D.D.I.C. 271417B, 241425B).
In 24 hours ending 1200Z/27 no report received from English Channel and it begins to seem doubtful whether any boats are still at sea in this area.
(Admty. 271425B to A.I.G.331 Cominch).

SECRET

401A

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.)

No T.O.O.

From L.H.Q.Melbourne.

Date 27.5.44.

Recd.

Cypher.

To The War Office C. in C. India.

WX.48421.

*Pacific Operations,
Army Report.*

2250/Int Cipher May 23.

Operations to 19 May.

New Guinea.

Alexishafen. Australian patrols reached Gilagil river (27 miles north north west Alexishafen). Other patrols inland. All report no contact.

Aitapo area. Patrols have engaged escapees in general area but some opposition encountered vicinity Dandriwad River mouth. Marubian (1 mile east Dandriwad River) occupied by Allied tps 11 May. During night 13/14 May enemy unsuccessfully attacked our posns Marubian Babiang area but later during 14 May enemy infiltrated behind our posns forcing withdrawal our outpost by barge to Nyaparake. Withdrawal covered by PTS encountering considerable enemy fire from shore. This attack considered part enemy plan delay Allied movement to east thus enabling enemy forces Wewak But area escape by inland tracks by passing Aitape. Enemy route reported passing through Siri Yerisi area (26 miles South Tadji airfields) thence to Lumi and Tauwetoi (34 miles Southwest Tadji airfields) Enemy casualties Aitapo area to 16 May 664 killed 28 captured.

Dutch New Guinea.

Hollandia. Allied amphibious patrols landed unopposed Drakosi Point and Boekisi (Iris Bay 8 miles west Tanahmerah Bay). Enemy reported in occupation several villages area 35 miles southwest Tanahmerah Bay. Enemy casualties to 17 May 1,456 killed 413 captured.

Wakde area. Supported by cruisers and destroyers Allied forces landed unopposed vicinity Arara (on mainland 3 miles southwest Wakde Island) at 0715 hours 17 May. By midday bridgehead established from Tor to Tementee Rivers (4 miles west and 3½ miles east of Arara respectively). Considerable enemy stores captured Tementee area. During morning our tps landed unopposed Inseemear Island (smaller of Wakde group). Naval units supporting landing sunk all enemy barges west side of Inseemear Island. Early morning 18 May landing supported by arty mortar fire and air bombardment effected Inseemear Island against opposition from pillboxes and snipers. Southern edge of Wakde airfield reached by 1117 K where mortar fire encountered.

/ Advance

Advance continues.

General comment. Results Wakde landing.

(a) Allies able establish airstrips for fighter aircraft covering entire Dutch New Guinea.

(b) Cut off retreat large number enemy troops moving inland trails from Wewak Hollandia towards Sarmi. These troops must come to coast in Sarmi area or die of starvation.

(c) Probably result enemy discontinue strengthen Dutch New Guinea and relying on Halmaheras as main block our advance.

New Britain.

Northern Coast. 11 May Uluamena Sule and Ubili all reported clear enemy but located in force Aile Point. Large number dead Japs found Open Bay area.

South Coast. Patrols to Montagu Harbour made no contact. Unstated number Japs reported Tavale (8 miles east Montague Harbour).

Admiralty Islands. Enemy casualties to 18 May 3,303 killed 79 captured.

Solomons. Allied patrols northeast Torokina perimeter located Jap hospital area containing 200 to 250 bodies. Second hospital containing 39 shelters much equipment unstated number bodies located same area.

No T.O.O.

Received in War Registry 281817.

Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts. A.O.C. R.A.A.F. H.Q. and Admiral

1st Lord.	M. (2)
D.F.S.L.	D.P.D.
4th S.L.	C.C.L.S.
5th S.L.	A.L.O.
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	I.P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	Admiral Blake (5)
U.W.R.	C.W.R.
D. Map Room.	
Capt. Pim.	
Ops. (2)	
Plot.	
O.D. (5)	
O.I.C. (3)	
104 D.N.I. (5)	
W.M. D. of P. (Q) (2)	

402

28.5.1944
SundayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperations
"Brawn" and
"Proteus".

1. At 1404B today V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS with the Fleet Carrier FURIOUS, the Cruisers BERWICK and DEVONSHIRE, and five Destroyers left Scapa for an operation in Northern waters.

E/Boats
off Selsey
Bill.
M.T.B.732
sunk by
LA
COMBATTANTE.

2. 3 groups of E/Boats from the Baie de la Seine approached the Convoy Route S.E. off Selsey Bill at about 0100 today, and mine-laying near C.3 Buoy is suspected. The French Destroyer LA COMBATTANTE and the Frigate SEYMOUR obtained a Radar contact at 0100 and at 0105 LA COMBATTANTE illuminated and engaged a Patrol consisting of M.T.Bs. 732 and 739 which had been ordered to the westward from off Beachy Head to intercept the enemy. In the ensuing action M.T.B.732 was set on fire and sunk at 0140 by LA COMBATTANTE who rescued 15 survivors at about 0205; but the C.O. of M.T.B.732 and 12 ratings are missing, 3 of her ratings were killed, one officer and 4 ratings are seriously wounded and one officer and 9 ratings slightly wounded. A second M.T.B. patrol failed to intercept the E/Boats as they retired towards Cherbourg; but at 0309 four under-water explosions were heard as they passed through the area of previous K.N. minelaying operations - three more of which were successfully completed during the night.

Enemy
Coastal
Batteries
bombed.

3. The Coastal Batteries at Boulogne, Mersalines, St. Valery-en-Caux, Merville-Franceville, and Le Clipon were bombed by our A/C last night.

Portland
and
Weymouth
bombed.

4. Between 0100 and 0200 to-day about ten Enemy A/C attacked Portland and Weymouth. Bombs and Mines were dropped in the harbour of which three exploded damaging one L.C.T. and, it is believed, some U.S. Ships. Minelaying South of No. 6 Buoy is suspected, and sweeping was started at 0700, one G.G. Acoustic Mine being detonated inside the harbour and two outside the entrance soon after. But the harbour and approaches were re-opened at 2200 to-day.

5. Bomber Command aircraft last night laid 266 mines off Heligoland, Ijmuiden and French Ports.

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Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Italy.

6a. The 7th M.T.B. Flotilla operating from Maddalena sank 3 F lighters near Mesco Point (44.08 N. 09.38 E off the west coast of Italy) last night. Further north they blew the bows off a merchant ship and probably sank her.

b. EMILE BERTIN and U.S. destroyer MACKENZIE bombarded targets in support of the army left flank today.

Genoa
bombed.

7. 67 aircraft of the Strategic Air Force dropped 166 tons of bombs on Genoa harbour and Dock installations today (another report says the attack took place last night.) with good concentration in the Dock area and hits on a large merchant ship..

28.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

Transfer of
Warships to
Soviet Navy.

Questions raised in my 262345 May are largely resolved by your 271903, and status of S.O. remaining is no longer considered to have any particular significance.
(ROYAL SOVEREIGN 282325 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Operation
"Knitting 12".

My 271306. Operation "Knitting 12". Completed satisfactorily.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 281046B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Plymouth 281312B, 281355B, 281629B.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281442B.)
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 281542.)

Operation
"Potato."

Carry out operation "Potato," tonight.
1. Unit D. M.T.Bs. 448 (S.O.), 447, 450, 453.
2. 0100B/29. 3. Reach 50.10 N. 01.50 W. at 2300B/28 remaining for one hour.
4. 49.48 N. 01.50 W. patrolling eastward.
5. A. not to proceed E. of 02.00 W. B. to be N. of 50.10 N. by 0500. 6. 50.10 N. 01.30 W. 7. As in Y.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281328B and 281513B to HORNET.)

E-Boats off
Selsey Bill.
M.T.B. 732
sunk by LA
COMBATTANTE.

During last night's operations in the Channel M.T.B. 732 was sunk by LA COMBATTANTE. 14 survivors have been landed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281347B to Admty.)
E-Boat activity night of 27th/28th May.
At midnight two enemy tracks were detected simultaneously steering north (plot 1 position 320° Pt. de Barfleur 19 miles). (plot 2 position 337° Cap D'Antifer 31 miles). At 0010 plot 2 divided and two tracks continued northwards about 8 miles apart, speed 35 knots. Plot 2A to westward, plot 2B to eastward.
2. LA COMBATTANTE and SEYMOUR, on patrol in lat. 50.22 N. south of Selsey Bill, were flected 10 miles to the eastward. Plot 2A passed ahead of LA COMBATTANTE, who had been ordered to investigate. LA COMBATTANTE turned northward in pursuit.
3. Unit F, M.T.Bs. 732 (S.O.), 739, on patrol 15 miles south of Beachy Head, were ordered to steer 270° to intercept plot 2B. A brief contact was made about 0035 by these forces.
4. At 0100 LA COMBATTANTE obtained Radar contact 070° 4 miles, and altered course from 020° to 090°. Meanwhile unit F, had turned to the southward on obtaining a Radar contact which was probably spurious. LA COMBATTANTE's report of contact was received at 0104, but owing to congestion of W/T traffic C. in Cs. signal indicating that this contact was friendly was not despatched until 0110, and at 0105 LA COMBATTANTE illuminated and engaged unit F. In this action M.T.B. 732 received two 4" hits was set on fire and blew up about 0140. LA COMBATTANTE subsequently rescued 15 survivors at about 0205 and was later joined at 0235 by M.T.B. 739. The E-Boats in the easterly group had

/passed...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats off
Selsey Bill.
M.T.B. 732
sunk by LA
COMBATTANTE.
(Contd.)

passed southward near the position between the time of the action and the rescue of the survivors.
5. Plot 2A arrived on the convoy route 5 miles west of C.3. Buoy in the vicinity of three tugs and tows. Plot 2B arrived on the convoy route 1 mile east of C.3 Buoy in the near vicinity of 25 P.B.Rs. escorted by KINGCUP. No casualties or damage have been reported and minelaying is suspected.

6. Plot No. 1 had turned north-east and Unit D M.T.Bs. 692, 691 and 693 had obtained a brief radar contact. This E-Boat group stopped at 0108 position 160° St. Catherine's Point 21 miles. HOTHAM on patrol had been ordered to intercept and made radar contact, but the E-Boats moved off at high speed on a course of 170°.

7. Unit K M.T.Bs. 451, 454 and 450 were manoeuvred to intercept all three groups of E-Boats as they returned towards Cherbourg. No contact was made.

8. Plot No. 2 passed close to Unit A.1, engaged on operation K.N. 23 at 0300, but no contact was made. At 0309 four under water explosions were heard at the time E-Boats were passing through the area of previous K.N. operations.

9. Operations K.N.23, K.N.15, K.N.18 and "Knitting 12" were successfully completed.

10. Radar conditions were anomalous and giving exceptional ranges.

11. Casualties in M.T.B. 732 were 3 ratings killed, C.O. and 12 ratings missing, 1 officer and 4 ratings seriously wounded, and one officer and 9 ratings slightly wounded.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 282333B to Admty.)

Operations
"Brawn" and
"Proteus."

Scapa departures V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS with FURIOUS, BERWICK, DEVONSHIRE, WHELP, WAKEFUL, WAGER, NUBIAN, WIZARD.

(A.C.O.S. 281404B to H.F.)

D.U.X. para. 23. Regret no aircraft available tomorrow owing to other commitments.

A Liberator from Iceland will be patrolling in area 064° 30' to 063° 30' by 001° E. to 000° from 1130 to 1630 tomorrow, returning to Iceland on completion. Other types of aircraft may be encountered in your vicinity.

(C. in C.Rosyth 282356B to V.A.2.)

V.P.
Operation.

My 271127B May. M.T.B. 718 sailed at 1505B today.
2. Yes.

(A.C.O.S. 281525B to Admty.)

Operation C.W. Have attacked doubtful contact in 057° 52' N. 022° 49' W. Am remaining in vicinity.
(INMAN 281939Z to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

28.5.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Coastal
Batteries
bombed.

The enemy coastal batteries at Boulogne, Mersalines, St. Valery-en-Caux, Merville-Franceville, and Le Clipon were bombed by our A/C last night.
(H.Q.B.C. 281645B and 281900B.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland
and Weymouth
bombed.

"Starfish T.T.one" in action night 27/28th May.
A. Attack by about 10 enemy aircraft. B. After.
C. Operation primarily minelaying. Several aircraft attacked but no bombs dropped.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 281417 to Admty.)

1. Following slight damage caused by enemy action last night. Details. One property has had to be evacuated owing to U.X.B. in vicinity.

(O.C.Works, Portland 281600 to C.E. in C.)

Approx. 10 enemy aircraft attacked Portland and Weymouth on night 27/28th May between 0100 and 0200. On account of R.A.F. exercise Radar did not detect approach which was first revealed by marker flares. "Window" was also used. 7 in No. 50-kilo. bombs and 8 in No. 2000-kilo. bombs dropped in and around Weymouth damaging Weymouth General Hospital. Some U.X.B.3 A.R.P. personnel killed and a few slight casualties. Fairly widespread minor damage.

Additional bombs and mines exploded western side Portland Harbour, near N. entrance, one hit Southwell remote control lines to Portland Bill W/T Station. Communications restored by noon. Since daylight 3 mines or time bombs have exploded in Portland Harbour one damaging an L.C.T. and it is understood that there is certain damage to U.S. ships. M.M.S. started sweeping at 0700 putting up one suspected acoustic mine near No. 4 Buoy and one inside and one outside N. Ship channel.

Harbour now swept thoroughly and outside only 1 in No. mine detonated 280° Breakwater Fort 5½ cables. Scattered mines suspected in area 2 miles south of No. 6 Buoy. 31st M.S.F. is sweeping, 167th B.Y.M.S. combing Weymouth Bay anchorage, so far without result.

Attack made in fine clear calm weather, moonlit.

Inconclusive Radar suggests use of parachute mines. C.A.F.O. 587/40 para. 3A effect on war effort nil.

B. Casualties 6 British Naval and 4 U.S.N. slight British army and Air Force 1 fatal, 1 serious, 2 moderate or slight.

Casualties other than Naval probably not complete.

C. No special assistance required.

D. No serious damage to naval vital points or interests.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 282150 to Admty.)

Mining.

Portland.

One G.G. acoustic mine detonated by sweepers inside harbour and two outside northern entrance Portland Harbour and approaches closed whilst sweeping is in progress.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 280749 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
See also F.O.I.C. Portland 282150 above.

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28.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Harwich.

Port open.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 280522B to Admty.)

Lowestoft.

Port open.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 280614B to Admty.)

Portland.

Portland Harbour and approaches reopened as from
2200/28th.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 281936 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Casualties & Defects.

SCORTON.

Tug CHERBOURGISE took over from RANGER at 0515Z
bound for Clyde, course 160° speed 5 knots with
SCORTON in tow.
Position at 0600Z 056° 38' N. 008° 07' W.
(CHAMBLY 280645Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Have SCORTON in tow.
(CHERBOURGISE II 280700 to N.C.S.O.Londonderry.)

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28.5.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Neutral
sailings

My 232304. The following 2 vessels are not to be molested.

(2) The date of departure Caronte (near Marseilles) for Spanish BRIQUETAS ZORROZA is now the

29th May. Destination Barcelona.

(3) Swiss ST. GOTTHARD sails from Marseilles for Gib. on 30th May. Para.2. of my 231144 refers.

(F.O.G.M.A., 281129B to 10th S/M. Flot., (R) Capt.(S) 10th).

Swordfish II
at Gib.

A.M. 231350 para.2.

(2) It is intended to return all Swordfish II aircraft at Gibraltar to U.K. (A.M. 855A refers). Request you will consider flight delivery to Casablanca for loading in erected state to obviate necessity for a call at Gibraltar on passage from Freetown to U.K.

(3) Target date for loading at Casablanca is 28th June.

(D.N.A.O., 281232B to F.O.G.M.A.).

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28.5.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

UNTIRING (P.59) UNTIRING reports blank patrol.
(Capt. S.10, 281015)

Disposal of Italian battleships. Proposal to move. (A) DUILIO and CESARE to Taranto.
(B) DORIA to Syracuse. This ship could be earmarked for transfer to Russians if considered desirable by C.C.S.

3. On arrival destinations (A) and (B) ships will reduce to reserve complement. DORIA and DUILIO will be used for general training and gunnery training CESARE will be demilitarised and used as an accommodation and possibly an H.Q. ship.

4. All ships will retain H.A. ammunition on board but will embark small quantities of low angle ammunition for training purposes as required. Locks and box slides now ashore at Malta will be returned to their ships after de-ammunitioning.
(C. in C. Med., Naples, 281126B.)

German mines in Black Sea. Technical details.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 281250.)

German auxiliaries transiting Dardanelles. My 272120 and 272235. R.O. Cannakale reports S.N.O. has communicated his opinion to Ankara that MANNHEIM is either military or civil transport and stocks (as received) are commercial craft. R.O. considers that all vessels will most probably be allowed to proceed into Aegean. Weather conditions unsettled. Wind, N.E.

Cloud and intermittent rain, sea moderate, visibility good.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 281300C to B.N.A. Ankara.)

My 271247*. R.O. Cannakale reports craft arrived 1515 G.M.T. today and have been detained.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 281948C to B.N.A. Ankara.)

* N.T. in W.R. (?271240C intended.)

SS. MADDA. Following is a repetition of my 082101 begins: Conditions attached by Spanish Authorities to agreement in para. one of my 061332* as follows;
A. Return of ship not unduly delayed.

B. If lost, to be replaced by another similar vessel.

C. To be re-delivered with at least 600 tons of coal which Spaniards will pay for, ends. Your 262310⁺ refers
(B.N.A. Madrid, 281301B.)

+ W.R. signal requesting repetition of N.A. Madrid's 082101 quoted in 152001 which requested instructions.

* MADDA to proceed Rinta Del Este with cargo of scrap iron.

/Dredger...

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28.5.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Dredger
QUARTO.

Dredger QUARTO at Tripoli was seized in prize
21st May, 1944 by Lieut. G.A.J. Giffard Young
R.N.V.R. of the Admiralty Marshall.
(C. in C. Med., 281409.)

SS. NYASSA.

Intend to sail Portuguese ship NYASSA in due
course from Alexandria as follows to position
32° 15' N. 29° 00' E. thence to position 34° 10' N.
20° 00' E. and by reverse of route in Admiralty's
202238A December. Admiralty's 131251B* May.
(F.O.L.E.M. 281937C.) *Repetition of N.A.Lisbon's
121750B.

Situation
report
No.367.

During night 24th/25th May, Force of landing
craft covered by coastal forces proceeded from
Corsica and simulated assault on Civita Vecchia
area. U.S.S. BROOKLYN and screen acted as
bombardment group in supporting the operation
which was carried out without incident.

2. 7015 tons discharged Anzio on 27th May, F.S. EMILE BERTIN
and U.S.S. KENDRICK and U.S.S. MACKENZIE gave fire support to
Army left flank in Anzio area on 27th May.

3. Coastal force night 26th/27th May engaged Northbound convoy
trawler, 2 F lighters and E-Boat North Ceva (?Elba intended)
gunfire hits were observed. 2 M.T.Bs. some damage. Slight
casualties.

(C. in C. Med., 282205B.)

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28.5.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B
dispositions. No. 41. No fresh information. No change in
scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 280413Z.)

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28.5.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U.S.S. From position J steer for new K 41.00 N. 48.30 W.
WAKEFIELD. new L 39.20 N. 56.32 W. and rejoin your route
at H.
(D.O.D.(H), 280841Z to WAKEFIELD.)

U/B (Cominch, 281617Z.)
dispositions.

U/B First report since my 252107.
incidents. HARA BAKER (? Para. B intended). BLOCK ISLAND
A/C Radar contacts, first 33.28 N. 21.05 W.,
272212Z. Second same area 280120Z.
(Cominch, 281932Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest May 27th. Paras. 18 to 22 cover South Pacific
No. 859. Forces.
(2) Further details Bosnek landing relate that
substantial United States Army Forces were
involved. Allied Cruiser Destroyer Task Force
bombarded beaches just prior dawn preparatory to landing and
22 Manus Eagle Liberators follow naval shelling. Some
opposition encountered by landing craft and supporting destroyers
but by midday perimeter established a base one mile either side
Bosnek. Shortly before noon cruisers again participated
shelling southern Biak Airfield while 81 Liberators unloaded
238 tons bombs on enemy installations and gun positions behind
beachhead and Bostons attacked defence positions vicinity of
Mokmer Aerodrome as ground forces moved westwards along shore.
R.A.A.F. Kittyhawks offered close cover to landing craft: two
squadrons Lightnings escorted Liberators. One Boston lost to
A/A and crew rescued. 5 inch shell hit one destroyer causing
minor damage and casualties.
(3) Mid afternoon 12 enemy bombers with escorting fighters
attacked surface ships off Bosnek Amy beachhead. A/A shot
down 4 bombers: intercepting Thunderbolts destroyed 4 fighters,
one bomber plus another probably, nil losses nor damage to
aircraft nor ground forces but one fighter? hit by engaging
aircraft and subsequently abandoned? with few light casualties.
(4) Air offensive against personnel and stores area but Dax
Boram area maintained during forenoon involving 16 Mitchells,
56 Bostons some Thunderbolts. 48 Lightnings bombed Muschu and
Kairiru Islands simultaneously also 48 strafed coastal targets
Boram to Sepik River Mouth.
(7) Single enemy aircraft over Maffin Bay before dawn when four
bombs dropped without effect near Mloor torpedo boats off
Safmtrsk Sarmi Point.

28.5.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (17) Possible submarine located night 25th off
No. 859 Humboldt Bay.
(Contd.) (19) Same day 9 Lightnings 24 Aircobras attacked
waterfront targets Matchin Bay destroying one
pier damaging another.
(22) Reference submarine attacked North of Mussau
Island 26th as reported Digest 858, para.19 destroyer escort
followed up attack that night claiming ultimate destruction.
Early following morning air and surface units attacked another
submarine, 200 miles north-east of Mussau Island with unreported
results.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 280942Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack Para. B. (1) Unknown ship reported U-Boat at
and sighting 2310Z/26th in 39° 28' N. 14° 30' E.
summary. Para. C. (1) PORT ARTHUR attacked contact at
0917Z/27th in 50° 23' N. 02° 44' W.
(2) KEPPEL obtained contact at p.m./27th in 50°
10' N. 03° 36' W.
(D.D.I.C., 281050B.)

U/B Estimates and extract. The report from KEPPEL
dispositions. in area of Start Point is doubted and continuing
absence of sightings in Channel area is considered
to indicate that for the time being there are no
U-Boats in English Channel.
(D.D.I.C., 281457B, 281458B.)

414

29.5.1944.

Monday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations
"Brawn" and
"Proteus."

1. In connection with the operations in Northern waters now being conducted by V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS, C. in C.H.F. left Scapa at 1746 today in DUKE OF YORK with ANSON, the Fleet Carrier INDOMITABLE, the cruisers BERMUDA and JAMAICA, and 2 destroyers. He intends this latter force to be sighted tomorrow forenoon to the eastward of the Faroes by the German Zenit Air Patrol and proposes then to return to Scapa.

Torbay mined
by A/C.
M.T.B. 672
damaged.

2. About 12 enemy A/C dropped mines in Torbay and off Berry Head during last night. Three of these have exploded; and a fourth, exploding off Berry Head, severely damaged M.T.B. 672 which was towed by M.T.B. 713 into Dartmouth and there beached. Sweeping of the area is in progress.

STORMCLOUD
damaged.

3. At 2116 today HOUND reported that the mine-sweeper STORMCLOUD had been damaged by the near miss of a ground mine while sweeping about six miles S.E. by S. of Beachy Head and was being towed into Portsmouth by LOYALTY escorted by HYDRA. There were no casualties.

North Atlantic.

U.S.S. BLOCK
ISLAND and
BARR tor-
pedoed.

4. (a). An aircraft from BLOCK ISLAND had Radar contact at 0140Z today in 31.53 N. 22.29 W. Hold down tactics were carried out.
(b). At 0056 on 30th May a message timed 292226Z was received by the Admiralty from C. in C. Lant asking that the rescue tug SALVONIA should be despatched immediately from the Azores to assist the U.S. aircraft escort vessel BLOCK ISLAND which had been torpedoed in 31.13 N. 22.03 W. Half an hour later a message with similar timing was received from the U.S. destroyer EUGENE E. ELMORE reporting that the destroyer BARR had also been torpedoed and requesting assistance. The position was subsequently corrected to read 31.13 N. 23.03 W. (about 420 miles south by east of San Miguel, Azores.) In this position EUGENE E. ELMORE sighted a periscope and attacked with depth charges and hedgehog at 2000Z: there were 3 underwater explosions, followed by a heavy explosion.
(c). SALVONIA sailed from Horta at 0435Z on 30th May to take over the tow of BARR from ELMORE. BARR arrived at Casablanca on 5th June in tow, but BLOCK ISLAND sank on 30th May.

U.549mk

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

SS. SAUMUR
sunk.

5. UPSTART reports that on 21st May she hit with two torpedoes and considers she sank off Port Vendres the French SS. SAUMUR (2955 tons) which was under German control and flew the German flag.

6. The French cruiser EMILE BERTIN bombarded targets west of Albano today.

7. 51 Wellingtons of the Strategic Air Force last night attacked Porto San Stefano jetties and port installations. The Coastal Air Force attacked port installations at Porto Ferrario today with rocket projectiles, and shipping at Marina di Pisa.

China.

8. In a sea sweep off Hainan Island today 2 U.S. Liberators sank a freighter and damaged another.

Australia & New Zealand.

9. Liberators based on Darwin attacked Bula, on the northeast coast of Ceram, today. Hits were made on the main jetty and on the airfield installations.

New Guinea.

10. 3 destroyers co-operated with the troops at Bosnek (Biak Island) today.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

North
Russian
Convoys.

After visiting North Russian ports and hearing views of local authorities, request every consideration may be given to earliest possible resumption of utmost use of summer conditions. It was possible with the help of icebreakers to keep the White Sea open last winter but this

may not always be the case.

(2) Freedom from ice in White Sea reduces the time on passage and numbers in convoy are not limited by icebreakers capabilities nor is selection of ships limited to those strengthened for ice.

(3) Free movement in harbours, absence of snow, and perpetual daylight greatly improve working conditions and speed up turn round. The large number of ships ready for R.A.59 was largely due to this factor.

(4) As a result of paragraph 2 above a higher proportion of ships could be dealt with at Archangel and corresponding reduction made in demands for the very long rail haulage from Murmansk.

(5) I am unaware of conditions of the protocol governing supplies to Russia by Northern route or of the availability of cargoes, ships and escorts but possibly the governing factor is the risk of enemy action. If in the light of recent experience this risk is not considered unacceptably greater in summer than in winter it appears tolerably desirable from this end to (corrupt group) the days of Arctic summer rather than the dark of the Arctic winter for delivery supplies in this area.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 290950B to Admty.)

Sanctuaries. A.M. 261540B. No requirement for permanent sanctuaries.

(C. in C. Nore, 291045 to Admty.)

Your 261540B*. It is not desired to have any permanent submarine sanctuaries in the Plymouth Command at present.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 291126B to Admty.)

* Re intend that certain sanctuaries which are in constant or frequent use shall be permanently in force.

Transfer of
Warships to
Soviet Navy.

Demonstration of CHELSEA delayed until first June owing to breakdown of fuel and water joints. Please inform Russian Admiral. Also please inform me what time Russian Admiral arrives Newcastle on Wednesday.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 291800B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 271903. Subject to paras. 2 and 3 below concur that British personnel should be withdrawn each night.

(2) If Admiral Levchenko agrees, sufficient communications personnel should be retained on board to maintain constant communication between ship and shore.

(3) Interpreters should remain in their posts as required to meet needs of British personnel on board. They will act only as interpreters, not for liaison which should be responsibility of Senior Executive Officer.

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Transfer of Warships to Soviet Navy. (Contd.)

(4) All British personnel on board are to be placed under command of the Senior British Executive Officer. Ratings should be instructed to obey all reasonable orders of Soviet officers. If orders appear unreasonable or contrary to British interests they should refer to the Senior British Executive Officer. You should explain position to Russians on lines of C.A.F.O.488/44 which is generally applicable reading "Senior British Executive Officer" for "B.N.L.O." You should if possible obtain Levchenko's assurance that he accepts this position before Flag is transferred.

(5) Concur that no British personnel should accompany ships to Russia except such communications personnel and accompanying interpreters as may be agreed.
(D.F.S.L., 291839B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations

Operations: One Liberator aircraft departs Reykjavik 0650B/29th to patrol area bounded by 063° 30' N. and 064° 30' N. and 000° E. and 001° E. from 1130B until 1740B, returning Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C., 290214B to H.F.)
Estimated positions of U-Boats at 1200Z/29th May, all en route Atlantic.

(A) 65° 00' N. 00° 01' W. This U-Boat may have been sunk a.m./27th May.

(B) 64° 15' N. 00° 45' E. (C) 63° 25' N. 00° 10' E.
(D) 63° 20' N. 02° 05' E. (E) 60° 30' N. 04° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C., 290955B to V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS, C. in C. H.F., A.O.C. in C. C.C., C. in C. Rosyth.)
Intend to proceed with DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, JAMAICA, and BERMUDA as follows.

(A) Passing Hoxa at 1740B today.
(B) R/V with INDOMITABLE, WESSEX, and NUBIAN off Dunnet Head at 1830.
(C) Proceed north passing about 40 miles east of Faroes a.m./30th May so as to be sighted by German Zenit.
(D) Return to Scapa arriving p.m./30th May or a.m./31st May.
(E) C. in C. Rosyth pass to Group 18.
(C. in C. H.F., 291427B to Admty., V.A.2.)
Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with ANSON, BERMUDA, JAMAICA, WESSEX, NUBIAN, INDOMITABLE.
(A.C.O.S., 291746 to H.F.)

Operation C.W. My 281939Z. No further contact after counter-attack. Consider doubtful. My P.C.S. 058° 15' N. 022° 28' W., 192°, 12 knots. Steering for 052° N. 025° W.
(INMAN, 290830Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Have resumed reporting ship duty. My P.C.S. 056° 37' N. 023° 12' W., 193°, 9 knots for position (B).
(HDSTE, 291830B to C. in C. W.A., INMAN.)

/Channel ...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Channel A/S operations. Periscope sighted in 50° 29' N. 03° 08' W. (DAX, 290949B to Plymouth.)
Have firm contact, probably S/M in 171 St. Catherines Point 5.3 miles.
(BURDOCK, 291252 to Portsmouth PWG.)

In view of present enemy activity intend to sail 131st Trawler Group to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 291919B to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)

Operation "Maple". No more operations will be carried out by Nore Coastal Forces. Request area "Oysters" plus may be taken over by Bomber Command.
(C. in C. Nore, 291038B to Admty.)

Operation "Overlord". Your 231633.
Part reason for requesting early tows of United States timber rafts was to clear Port of Barry to allow further construction to proceed.
(2) Rafts are required to sail from United Kingdom as follows:- One round on D plus 9. Two square and three round between D plus 14 and D plus 18. Three round and two square between D plus 21 and D plus 24. Remainder on call as may be required later. A.N.C.X.F. letter number 1104/X/0670/7/5 of 19th May refers. These tows are subject to availability of tugs and have no special priority.

(A.N.C.X.F., 291135B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

It is intended that the eleven Fleet Minesweepers including two specially fitted as danlayers now attached to 40th M.S.F. shall all accompany C.S.2 on passage from Clyde.

(2) Ships not required for operations should be detached to Plymouth as convenient.

(3) Additional copies of O.N. are being supplied to CHAMOIS, CHANCE, MAGIC and TATTOO.

(D.M.S., 291239B to A.N.C.X.F., C.S.2, M/S.40.)

Your 281012B. It is important for security reasons that party joins you p.m./30th May. If convenient to you suggest you arrange accommodation in WARSPITE accordingly.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 291317B to C.S.2.)

A.N.C.X.F.'s 1143/X/0886/13 dated 23rd May. Concur in importance of reducing fire risk in Bombarding Cruisers.

(2) Flag and Senior Officers concerned should take any action desired in time available. The fire risk from amatol depth charges is very slight, and they have been found useful as an anti-Gnat measure. A few amatol D/Cs. should, therefore, be retained.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 291423B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Your number 369/ETF73/5 of 25th May. There is no objection to temporary removal of bow pom-poms in "Hunt" destroyers of bombarding force where this is essential to their bombardment function, provided work is within capacity of local resources and guns and mounting can be kept on board ready to re-ship on completion of bombardment duties.

(A.N.C.X.F., 291430B to N.C.E.T.F.)

Admiralty Letter M.057029. As from this date A.N.C.X.F. will assume direction of all "Overlord" Tugs (para. 6 refers) as they become available in the area defined in para. 2. For this purpose Cotug has now been established.

/(2) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

- Operation "Overlord". (Contd.) (2) Cs. in C. are requested to operate tugs within their commands as directed by A.N.C.X.F. (D.O.D.(H), 291942B to A.N.C.X.F.)
- S/M Patrols. Amend mid point and direction of patrol B, my 241314 refers, to read 058° 30' N. 000° 50' E., 045° to 225°. (2) STYGIAN, VISIGOTH need not proceed to Lerwick but in that case should be escorted to 059° N. 001° W., thence independently to patrol. (F.O.(S), 291156B to Capts. (S) 3, (S) 9.)
- Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291334B, 292106B, 292222B, 292321B.) (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 291522, 291752.) (V.A. Dover, 291523B.) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291536B, 291609B, 291638B.)
- Operation "Potato". C.P.G.O.7400 para. 4. Carry out Operation "Potato" tonight. (1) Unit M. M.T.B.730 (S.O.), 721, 701, 702. (2) 0030. (3) 50.00 N. 01.20 W. (4) 49.45 N. 01.15 W. (5) Not to proceed south-east of line 045 through Iles de St. Marcouf or west 01.20 W. unless in contact with enemy. (6) 50.10 N. 01.20 W. (7) As in (3). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291514B to ATTACK, F.O.I.C.Portland.) Carry out Operation "Potato" tonight. (1) Unit L. 6 D-class M.T.Bs. (2) 0030. (3) 50.10 N. 00.50 W. (4) 49.26 N. 00.45 W. (5) Not to proceed east of 00.30 W. or north-west of a line 045 through Iles de St. Marcouf unless in contact with enemy. (6) As in (3). (7) As in (3). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291515B to HORNET.) Carry out Operation "Potato" tonight. (2) Unit K.2. M.T.B.254 (S.O.), 252, 253, 257. (2) 0030. (3) 49.40 N. 00.24 W. (4) 49.25 N. 00.08 W. (5) Not to proceed west of 00.30 W. unless in contact with enemy. (6) 50.10 N. 00.30 W. (7) As in (6). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291516B to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, AGGRESSIVE.) Your 291514. GULES sailed 2052, less M.T.B.721 remaining in Bombardon due to engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 292128 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- V.P. operation. My 281525B. Returned at 1400B today. (2) Operation successful. (3) Cancel my 271227B and following signals. (A.C.O.S., 291524B to Admty.)
- Operation "Neptune". (1) From T.O.R. of this signal British ships attached to U.S. Force for Operation "Neptune" for (A) Bombardment. (B) Close escort.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Neptune". (Contd.) (C) Minesweeping and not already under U.S. Operational Control are under the Operational Control of their appropriate U.S. Naval Force Commanders until released by them. (2) British ships and landing craft under U.S. Operational Control are reminded that Operational signals and reports should be addressed primarily to the U.S. Naval Authorities concerned and repeated to British Authorities as necessary. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291559B to TALYBONT, GLASGOW, BLACK PRINCE, ENTERPRISE, BELLONA, TANATSIDE, L'ESCARMOUCHE, MELBREAK, RENONCULE, WENSLEYDALE, BRISSENDEN, LORD MIDDLETON, PEARL, CORNELIAN, BLUEBELL, ACONITE, TITANIA, KITCHENER, AZALEA, VIMY, VESPER, VOLUNTEER, VIDETTE, LINDISFARNE, ELLESMERE, GATESHEAD, TEXADA, FLINT, LAVENTURE, Minesweeping Flotillas 31st, 16th, 14th, 167th, TAY, M.S.F.104, 132, BOADICEA, SOLVINA.)

Biscay A/S operations. Am being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing 340° 2,000 feet position 47° 48' N. 21° 46' W., course 000°, speed 5.25 knots. (NAIRANA, 292202Z to Whitehall W/T.) My 2202Z. Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft bearing 058°, height 9000 feet. My P.C.S. 47° 53' N. 21° 47' W., 000°, 5.25. (NAIRANA, 292257Z to Whitehall W/T.)

Allied Air Activity

Coastal batteries bombed. The enemy coastal batteries at En, St. Martin de Varreville, and Mardick were bombed on night 28th/29th. (H.Q.B.C., 291400B.)

Channel Area. Surface Vessel attack restriction. Freedom of action granted to aircraft of A.E.A.F. as outlined in my 271920B has had to be withdrawn and it is requested this signal may now be cancelled. (H.Q.C.C., 291430B to A.E.A.F., A.N.C.X.F.)

R/Cs. requested. Request P.R. of Gironde, St. Nazaire, La Pallice, Concarneau, Brest and Cherbourg tomorrow to locate NARVIK class destroyers. (D.D.I.C., 292337B to R.A.F. Benson.)

Enemy Air Activity

Iceland. Reconnaissances of Seidisfjord and Akureyri carried out by Ju.88 at 1710 and 1722 respectively. Aircraft fired on in each case and hits claimed. (A.C.I.C., 292140B to Admty.)

/Jan ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. Heinkel 111 within range over defence area O530. Fire opened all weapons. Hits should have been obtained. Aircraft fired on in the vicinity north-west. (A.C.I.C., 292146B to Admty.)

Mining

Harwich. 2 ground mines detonated by M.M.S. at 1224 in 138° 54A buoy 16 cables. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 291329B.)

Torbay mined by A/C. M.T.B.672 damaged. Last night about 12 enemy aircraft operating in Torbay area dropped mines off Berry Head and in Torbay. 2 detonated on impact and there has since been an underwater explosion in Torbay. M.T.B.672 was severely damaged by explosion of a mine off Berry Head while returning from patrol. M.T.B.713 who was in company towed from Berry Head to Dartmouth where the latter has been beached. Preliminary examination indicates that repairs will take a considerable time. 4 minor casualties sustained. Sweeping of the area is in progress. Anticipate Channel will be clear to a swept area in Torbay a.m./30th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291723 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

FORT YALE. Your 270252B. FORT YALE now at Grangemouth undergoing repairs to windlass. Will not be completed until 3rd June. (D.S.T. Leith, 291010B to D.S.T.)

RAMILLIES. RAMILLIES letter to C. in C. H.F. 259/117 dated 21st April and former. Fifth failure occurred 27th May and sixth on test after repairs. Admiralty Letter D.5876/44 dated 14th May only some 40 aluminium bronze tubes on board and time does not permit retubing.. Can sufficient tubes and ferrules as in Admiralty Letter quoted for retubing 2 bottom nests be supplied and carried on board. Time necessary to fit 9 days per condenser. (RAMILLIES, 291400B to C. in C. H.F.)

LOOSESTRIFE. LOOSESTRIFE grounded north-east of beach end buoy when entering Harwich last night and has sustained following damage. Details. (2) Ship will very probably have to be docked to fit new A/S dome. (Capt. (D) 16, 291454B to C. in C. Nore.)

LAWSON. Your 291237B. P.C.S. of LOUIS, LAWSON and INGLIS 2000B, 047° 50' N. 020° 06' W., 062°, 15. Proceeding Belfast in accordance with your 291223B. LAWSON has one engine out of action max. 16 knots. (E.G.15, 291720B to C. in C. W.A.)

/GREY OWL ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

GREY OWL.

(1) Intend sailing tug EMPIRE IVY towing S.G.B. GREY OWL for Portsmouth at 0500 tomorrow.
(3) E.T.A. Spithead 1400.
(5) Request tug to take over tow at Spithead. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 291755 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

THAW.

Your 291051. B.H.M.S.D. THAW approached Buckie in fog and ran ashore on East Mucks at 1930B today. Sea calm.
(2) X/V standing by for night, as ship on rocky coast of reef making no water yet. Crew on board.
(3) Salvage vessel SWALLOW tried towing off at 2030. No result, but will try again on rising tide a.m./30th. (R.N.O. Buckie, 292205B to A.C.O.S.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Swordfish II A/C at Gib. A.M. 281232B* May. This will be arranged. (F.O.G.M.A., 290926B to Admty.)
* It is intended to return all Swordfish II A/C at Gibraltar to U.K.

U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND and BARR torpedoed. At 290140Z held A/C Radar contact two hours 31.53 N. 22.29 W. Plane attempted attack saw illuminated hull and flake just as flare burnt out lost contact unable regain due extreme darkness evident submerging. Continuing hold down tactics. Weather 61.80 23 82. (C.T.G.21.11, 290918.)

Request SALVONIA be despatched immediately to assistance BLOCK ISLAND torpedoed at 31.13 N. 22.03 W.

(C. in C. Lant, 292226Z to Admty.)

BARR and BLOCK ISLAND torpedoed. Position 31.13 N. 22.03 W. Assistance requested. This is 292026.

(EUGENE ELMORE, 292226 to Any or all ships Commorseafon, Comaveu, (R) F.O.G.M.A., Admty.)

BLOCK ISLAND sunk. Tug now desired tow U.S.S. BARR. My 292226Z corrected position 31.13 N. 23.03 W.

(C. in C. Lant, 292359Z to Admty.)

E/Boat attack on TUDOR. TUDOR reports at 2332/18th position 49.43 N. 07.23 W. single E/Boat attacked. No torpedo seen or heard.

2. At 0233/19th heavy explosion in wake was considered to be (corrupt) exploding Radar contact 1200 yards shortly after on starboard quarter.

Position 49.45 N. 08.02 W.

3. Both attacks conducted from astern. E/Boats not seen but were heard while dived. Radar contacts very definite.

4. At 0405/9th E-boats still within 1700 yards plotted by Radar from periscope depth. No asdics or depth charges used in hunt.

5. E-boats apparently shadowed at slow speed from 5000 yards between 0005/19th and 0232/19th when submarine was on surface at 12 knots. Several firm Radar contacts gained in this period but were lost and no H.E. was heard.

6. 0610/19th at first light nothing in sight from periscope depth.

7. All times B. Possible that E/Boats were W/Boats.

8. ZWAARDVISCH and THOROUGH reports blank.

(S.O.S./Ms. Gibraltar, 291948, amended 301007B)

South Atlantic

SS. ANDES. Your 260245 para. 3. Request information. Whether intention is that ANDES should embark prisoners of war and normal service passengers

/for

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SS.ANDES
(Contd.)

for U.K. in addition to women and children evacuees.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 291249B to D. of S.T.)

A/S search.

Acting on sighting referred to in my 271035 and information contained in Com. 1/c Aden 251301. Intend carrying out a Gamma search (A.M. 241918 December refers) using 7 A/S vessels and a 40 mile lane the Eastern limit of which is five miles West of Cape Columbine and datum line for centre ship the latitude of Cape Columbine. Search to commence 0800B/31st May and cease 2000B/2nd June.

Catalina flying boats will co-operate by carrying out a cross over patrol to depth of 70 miles from the coast over datum ship's patrol. Patrol based on estimated U/Boat's course 180°. Six S.A.N.F. minesweepers will carry out an endless chain patrol 30 miles to southwards of Gamma patrol.
(C. in C.S.A., 291519B to Admty.)

Northbound
Japanese
S/M.

Your 291432*. Request confirmation that north-bound Japanese is in 04° S. 24° W.
(R.A.W.Af., 291805Z to Admty.) * U/Boat situation report.
W.D. Note. Confirmed D.D.I.C. 30014B.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Figures of losses caused by U/boats. Your 171223 para.5. During the four months January to April 1944 losses of merchant ships of United Nations by enemy action have been as follows:
North Atlantic, including the Gulf and Caribbean 15
Mediterranean 12 (excluding 3 directly due to operations off the Italian Coast).
South Atlantic. including Cape Area 3.
Indian Ocean 30.
(2) Of the losses in the Mediterranean, six were by aircraft two by mine, four by U/boat. In the other areas all losses were by U/boat except one by Raider in Indian Ocean.
(V.C.N.S. 290002B to C. in C. Med.) O.D.1275/44.

German minor war vessels transitting Dardanelles. On a previous occasion air photographs and detail of armaments had been given Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a strongly worded note. I saw Secretary General at 1900/26, when I stressed particularly that E.M.S. Class were minor war vessels, my 261930 refers and a further note has been handed in to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This is being followed up now by a memo. enlarged specially on your remarks in para.(2) B and (3) of your 271215. F.O.L.E.M. please pass to Admiralty and C. in C. Med.
(B.N.A. Ankara, 291030C to F.O.L.E.M.).

Secretary General could not see me this afternoon, but I saw Me. Lostar, Head of Dept. in Ministry of Foreign Affairs dealing with this question. I handed him memo. referred to in my 291030 and emphasised fact that this class of vessel was used as minor war-ship directly they enter Aegean.

(2) He assured me that a most careful examination of all German vessels was being carried out and that every use would be made of information I had given him to assist this examination; he emphasised fact, however, that Turkish Government was bound by Montreux Convention and must be able to prove a vessel was a man of war or disregarding Covenant before ordering her detention.

(3) I asked that cargo of E.M.S. class might be unloaded to make certain that armament was not hidden in cargo and he repeated his statement that most searching examination would be carried out.

(4) He pointed out that vessels were entitled to be defensively armed. I replied that the large armament of E.M.S. Class vessel could not possibly be placed in category of a defensive armament for such a small vessel.

(5) Although vessels are apparently still detained I am not very sanguine that detention will be permanent.
(B.N.A. Ankara, 291500C).

Secretary General telephoned H.M. Ambassador at 1630 and reported that MANNHEIM and 5 E.M.S. class had been thoroughly examined and that no reason could be found to detain them. They had therefore been released but it was not certain if they had sailed yet. My 291600 refers.

F.O.L.E.M. please pass to Admiralty C. in C. Med. Fleet.

(B.N.A. Ankara, 291730C to F.O.L.E.M.(R) Admty., C. in C. Med., S.O.(I) Istanbul).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

TAURUS Intend to sail TAURUS at 0631/31st through (route) to arrive Malta 0831/4th.
(2) Diving by day between longitude (?024 degs) East and 020 degs. East surface speed 12 knots.
(3) All times C.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 291119C).

ARCHIMEDE Intend sailing F.S. ARCHIMEDE diving by day at 2000/30 through -
A. 039 degs. 00' 002 degs. 48' at 1530/May 31st.
B. (?040 degs.) 27' 002 degs. 07' at 0001 June 1st
to C. 041 degs. 12' 002 degs. 07' at 2200 June 1st for a special mission.
(2) Return route through (C) at 0300 June 2nd, (B) at 0100 June 3rd omit (A) to R/V Algiers escort in 036 degs. 58' 002 degs. 59' at 1500 June 3rd diving by day except on June 3rd.
(3) All times zone minus 2 all positions north.
(Cmdre. Algiers, 291120B). See amendment 302316B.

UNRULY Leave patrol p.m. 30th to arrive in 035 degs. 40' 023 degs. 30' at dawn 31st. Thence through Antikithera Channel.
(Capt.(S)1, 291126 to UNRULY).
From position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 05' about 1601/31st proceeding on the surface at 8½ knots to R/V escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 1302/2nd June 287 Malta.
(Capt (S)1, 291135 to UNRULY).

Red Cross Northbound Red Cross ship on leaving Spanish Coast ships - should broadcast intended route to Marseilles and broadcasts. similarly route to be followed on sailing southbound from Marseilles.
(2) Provided information is received in time it is confirmed that with additional information desired in para.(1) above arrangements in A.M. 302218 will be in all respects adequate. (C. in C. Med. 291146 to Admiralty (R) F.O. Gibraltar, B.N.A. Lisbon, B.N.A. Madrid, C. in C. Med. at Naples).

Situation Anzio discharge figures 28th May 5733 tons.
Report Slight shelling of port area during night 27th/
No.368. 28th May.
(2) F. Crs. EMILE BERTIN and U.S. Dest. MACKENZIE bombarded targets in support of army left flank on 28th May. Results reported effective starting fires and silencing batteries. M/T was also hit. Slight enemy counter fire against MACKENZIE caused no damage.
(3) Night 27th/28th May coastal craft sank 3 F Lighters. Near Mesco Point (044 degs. 08' N. 009 degs. 38' E.) further North one Merch/Ship thousand tons and corvette were encountered bows were blown off Merch/Ship and ship was set on fire aft she probably sank. Fire from corvette caused superficial damage to 1 (one) M.T.B. (420)
(4) VAMPIRE reports sinking 1 (one) small caique off Monemvasia on 12th May.
(C. in C. Med., 292119B to N.O.I.C. Algiers, Admty. etc.).

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29.5.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

SS. SAUMUR
sunk.

Port Vendres. SAUMUR sunk 21st. My presence
disclosed 28th slight air and R/boat activity.
(UPSTART, 292347B).

428

29.5.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 42 lettered areas. No fresh information.
No changes in scales of air escorts.
Indian Ocean. Japanese U-Boat(s) indicated by
D/F at 0750Z/28 in vicinity of 009° N. 089° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 290500Z.)

Visit of
Spanish
ships to
Indian ports.

Admty. 231220 refers. No operational objection to
voyage but consider it undesirable ships should
visit ports where direct evidence of build up for
military or amphibious operations is apparent.
2. No objection to visits to Cochin or Madras at
present. Visits to Karachi, Vizagapatam and
Calcutta undesirable.
3. Under normal circumstances no objections to Bombay but it may
be considered preferable not to permit visits to this port
until results of explosion damage are not so evident.
(C. in C.E.F. 290501Z to Admty.)

U.S.GENERAL
BUTNER.

No request for delay in sailing has been made or
received by C. in C.E.F. Your 280708* refers.
Ship should therefore be sailed in accordance
with my 211029.
(C. in C.E.F. 291003Z to P.S.T.O.I.)
* 280706 intended.

Not to be sailed until officers for Admiral Daniels Mission have
been embarked. My 291003 is to be amended accordingly.
(C. in C.E.F. 291306Z.)

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29.5.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q.S/M. attack and sighting summary. No report since my 270714. Para. C. H.M.C.S. INGONISH, UNGAVA attack contact 46.34 N. 59.01 W. at 1514Z/28th. (N.S.H.Q. 290730Z)

Operation "Transom". Congratulations to C. in C. E.F. and his Command on so satisfactorily completing a mission which inflicted important damage on the enemy (Cominch and Opnav, 291235Z)

U-Boat dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 291405Z, Cominch, 291525Z)

U.S.T. WAKE-FIELD. Diversion order. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 291410Z)

ARBITER, SMITER. Your 272050B. X concur. (Com. 10th Fleet, 291505Z to Admty.)

U-Boat incidents. Para. A. BLOCK ISLAND A/C Radar contact 31.53 N. 22.29 W. 290140Z. (Cominch, 292052Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest No. 860. May 29th. Para. 12 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces. (5) Strong Japanese resistance being encountered western flank Bosnek delaying advance in Mokmer airfield. Bostons and fighter aircraft supported our ground forces throughout day and three destroyers shelled enemy shore batteries. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 290800Z)

Amphibious forces U.S. Pacific Fleet. Cominch C.N.O., 292206. See Lion Copy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C sighted possible conning tower at 1245Z/28 in 62 degs. 27' N. 01 degs. 18' E. and at 1408Z/28th May A/C E/206 obtained radar contact in same area.

Para. B./...

RESTRICTED

*Amphibious Forces,
U.S. Pacific Fleet.*

IN

429A

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 with persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

292206/May

Date: 30.5.44.

From: Cominch C.N.O.

Recd: 1910

P/L BY D/R.

Addressed: C.in C.Pac.
Info: Cinclant, Com.7th Flt. Com.8th Flt. Com.12th Flt.
Comsoeastpac, Comdtmarcorps C.O.S. Army Vice
C.N.O. BUPERS.

CR.No.1002

Modify Mydis 111902 / August. Amphibious forces Pacific Fleet hereby redesignated as follows:

- A. Amphibious forces Pacific Vice Admiral Turner.
- B. Third Amphibious Force Rear Admiral Wilkinson.
- C. Fifth Amphibious Force Vice Admiral Turner.
- D. Group 1 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Blandy, Group 2 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Hill, Group 3 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Connolly, Group 4 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Riefsonider, Group 5 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Fort, Group 6 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Royal.
- E. Training Command Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Davis.
- F. Administrative Command Amphibious Forces Pacific Commodore Phillips.
- G. Commander Amphibious Forces Pacific is type Commander for all Amphibious Forces Pacific Fleet.

The assignment of Units to Amphibious Groups and assignment of Amphibious Groups to particular Amphibious Forces for particular operations will be as directed by Cincpac. This is Cominch and C.N.O.Number 22.

Ref. 111902 / Aug. - re reorganization of Amphibious Forces.

292206.

Advance Copies, Ops., O.D., Plot.

- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- Nav.Sec.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- U.W.R.
- D.Map Room.
- Capt.Pim.
- Ops.(2)
- Plot.
- D.of P.(2)
- D.of P.(Q) (2)

- O.D.(5)
- M.(2)
- D.S.D.(2)
- C.N.I.
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- Ad.Blako.
- D.N.I.(5)

17.

M.

430

29.5.1944
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sight-
ing summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at
1155Z/28 in 63 degs. 09 N. 01 degs. 55' E.
(2) H.M.S. INMAN attacked doubtful contact 1939Z/28
in 57 degs. 52' N. 22 degs. 49' W.
Para. D. (1) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on
course 170 degs. at 0553Z/29 in 53 degs.
30' N. 19 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 291034B)

U-Boat
dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 291431B, 291432B)

431

30.5.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operations
"Brawn" and
"Proteus".

1(a) At 0938B to-day the Admiralty informed C. in C. H.F. that his Force, as intended, had almost certainly been sighted before 0800B to-day, by Enemy A/C East of the Faeroes; and at 0941B C. in C. H.F. ordered V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS to abandon his operation if he had not yet diverted to the westward and to return in any case if his Force should be sighted again.

(b) At 2122 C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK, with ANSON, BERMUDA, JAMAICA and three Destroyers returned to Scapa.

Transfer of
Warships on
loan to
Soviet Navy.

2. The Battleship ROYAL SOVEREIGN, and the S/Ms SUNFISH, UNISON, UNBROKEN, and URSULA were transferred on loan to-day to the Soviet Navy.

Falmouth
bombed.

3. Between 0025 and 0100 about 25 Enemy A/C bombed Falmouth. The Gunnery School was destroyed; considerable damage was done to Naval and U.S. Naval building; and two Petrol Tanks were set on fire. British naval casualties were one Officer killed, three badly and three slightly injured; and eight U.S. Army Officers were killed and nineteen injured as well as three U.S. naval ratings injured, one severely.

Minesweeper
damaged.

4. At 0045 to-day M.T.B's 602 (S.O) and 615 while on patrol about 19 miles S.W. of Beachy Head obtained a Radar contact of surface-vessels bearing S.S.E. and at 0052, having closed the range to 800 yards, they illuminated and engaged four or five British Minesweepers on patrol of whose presence the M.T.B's had not previously been informed. A short action ensued in which the M.T.B's suffered neither casualty nor damage; but one of the Minesweepers was seen to be hit.

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

5. The destroyers TERPSICHORE, TUMULT and TUSCAN carried out a sweep in the Adriatic last night and sank a caique. They were engaged by shore batteries from Lussino Island and returned the fire but without seeing the results. There were no casualties or damage.

Danube.

6. 12 Liberators successfully laid mines in the Komarom area of the Danube last night.

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30.5.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

S/M
patrols.

7. On her third Far East patrol SEA ROVER hit with one torpedo one of two escorted merchant ships off Penang. She laid 8 mines successfully. STORM's third Far East patrol was blank and her attempt to carry out a clandestine operation was unsuccessful.

Australia and New Zealand

Japanese
main units.

8. U.S. submarines this afternoon reported a Japanese force which probably included 5 or 6 heavy units and possibly carriers, proceeding at high speed in the northern part of the Celebes Sea (evidently having come from Tawi Tawi).

9. Allied gunboats last night sank 4 barges and completed the destruction of 11 others near Empress Augusta Bay.

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30.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Flag of F.O.C.T. Flag of Vice-Admiral Sir A.L. Lyster F.O.C.T. is to be transferred to FARAWAY at 0900/1st June. (F.O.C.T., 301051 to ARGUS.)

Transfer of Warships to Soviet Navy. Defects to ST. ALBANS which appeared after demonstration run entail 14 days work and to do this may entail taking workmen off CAICOS and HASTINGS. The fitting of "Foxer" to all these ships has been suggested by telephone, also Oerlikons. Request immediate decision so that date for turnover of ships can be decided at meeting with Russian Admiral on Friday. "Foxers" will take at least eight days to fit. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 301745B to Admty.)

Operations

Operation "Overlord". V.A. Dover's 541A/00381 of 15th May. It is understood this is already under consideration. Destruction of enemy Radar stations would:
(a) Improve security of important convoys.
(b) Assist our surface forces with inferior speed to intercept enemy.
(2) Request you will consider inclusion as Naval requirement for air action.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 300056B to A.N.C.X.F.)
Your 222251. The position is fully realised and every effort is being made to complete ships before assembly at Southend.
(2) It is expected, however, that final adjustments and minor supplies that can be man-handled may be required at Southend particularly for merchant ships, since all services at fitting out and loading ports are fully extended.
(3) It is hoped that a reasonable amount of such work will be possible.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 301146B to C. in C. Nore.)
Admty. 171938. Request that any diversions from normal routes may be promulgated to all N.C.S.Os. to enable appropriate approach routes to be amended as early as possible.
(C. in C. Nore, 301301B to Admty.)
Sailed "Wrecker" by standard route to Spithead. (2) Masters have been briefed. (3) Masters have routes to assault area in sealed envelopes, (my 291426B) and they have been instructed that envelopes are not to be opened until arrival in Spithead Assembly Area. (4) Chartlets not issued. Supplies not yet received.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 301316B to A.N.C.X.F.)
A.N.C.XF's 291430B. Bow pom-poms are to be removed as requisite, names of ships in which this is done being reported to N.C.E.T.F., information A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)
(N.C.E.T.F., 301659B to Com. Forces J, S and G.)

Operations
~~"Brown"~~
~~"Probers"~~
"Tiger Claw". Request special weather forecast for "Tiger Claw" area for period 0001/31st to 0001/1st June. My P.C.S. 063° 26' N. 005° 03' W., 095°, 16 knots. (C. in C. H.F., 300801B to Admty., (R) V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS)

/Strong ...

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30.5.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operations
~~"Bermuda"~~
~~"Bermuda"~~ "Tiger"
 (Contd.) ~~Claw~~

Strong indications that C. in C. H.F. was reported prior to 0800B in area 62° to 63° N. 05° to 06° W.

2. At 0045B enemy A/C made a signal from approximately 67° N. 02° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 300938B to C. in C H.F., V.A.2, in VICTORIOUS.)

If you have not diverted to westward abandon "Tiger Claw" and return at your discretion. In any case return if you are again sighted.

(C. in C.H.F. 300941B to V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS.)

Scapa arrival C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with ANSON, BERMUDA, JAMAICA, WHELP, NUBIAN, WESSEX.
 (A.C.O.S. 302122 to H.F.)

Operation E.N.T. Portsmouth No. O/0302/104 of 11th May. Carry out E.N.T. night of 31st May/1st June.
 (C. in C.Portsmouth, 301307B to Force J, HORNET.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301327B.)
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 301420B.)
 (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 301452B.)
 (V.A. Dover 301711B.)

Operations "Potato" and K.N.10. Last night Unit C, M.T.Bs. 742, 728 patrolling south of Portland Bill sighted at 2250B in 124 Portland Bill 13 point 1 miles a slight wake of such formation that it was considered a possible W-Boat. One depth charge dropped at 2254 in 120 Portland Bill 13, but no definite results were observed after the area was searched.

Unidentified plots were obtained off Le Havre and at 0156B Radar plot of 2 craft in 215 Cap D/Antifer 18 miles was passed to Unit K.2, M.T.Bs. 253, 257 patrolling in the vicinity in accordance with my 291516B. While stopped in 232 Cap Le Heve 10 miles Unit K.2. Obtained Radar and hydrophone contact of these craft. At 0157 range was closed to within 2000 yards when enemy proceeded into Q.Z. 1215 towards Le Havre. Radar contact was held to 15,000 yards. Unit patrolled to the northwest at 0244B and regained Radar contact of 2 craft moving in Q.Z.X. 1215. Range closed to 1900 yards and enemy in 220 Cap D'Antifer 13 miles was seen at 0313B to be 2 E/Boats or R/Boats. M.T.Bs 253 and 257 left patrol at 0329B and returned to waiting position. Operation K.N.10 was carried out successfully.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 301800B to Admty.)

Biscay A/S operations. Am being shadowed by enemy A/C bearing 340° 2000 feet, position 47° 48' N. 21° 46' W. course 000° speed 5.25 knots.
 (NAIRANA 302202Z to Whitehall W/T.)

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30.5.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

R/Cs. Cancel A.M. 292337B.
requested. (D.D.I.C. 300450B to R.A.F. Benson.)

Enemy Air Activity

Falmouth Estimated about 25 hostile over Falmouth between
bombed. 0025 and 0100. Extensive window reported. First
action was line of flares approx. east and west
across Bay which burned for over an hour. No dam-
age to ships reported. Very slight damage in
Dockyard from incendiaries. SWANPOOL 1 Petrol tank hit and still
burning. Two or three bombs on front. Pentargen Hotel destroyed
British and U.S. Naval H.Q. damaged by blast.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 300330B to C. in C. Plymouth.
My 30033B. British Naval casualties: 1 officer killed, 3
officers severely injured, 3 slightly injured. No casualties
among W.R.N.S. U.S. Army: 8 dead, 19 injured. U.S. Navy: 1
rating severely injured, 2 injured.
2. Damage to Naval premises. W.R.N.S. quarters Southcliffe and
Carthion very severely damaged, Cliff House (W.R.N.S.) and Lands-
down (men) damaged. Gunnery school destroyed. Kite balloon
servicing shed burned out. U.S. Naval buildings Chelsea Poltair,
and Wrekin uninhabitable.
3. Fire in Petroleum Board petrol tanks. One extinguished, the
other being got under control.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 301233B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Scapa. Two enemy A/C were detected by Radar at 1705B/30th
120 miles East of Orkney on a closing course height
14,000 feet. At 1728B when approximately 075 degs.
A Buoy 65 miles one A/C turned north to Shetland
the other continuing to approach Orkney. Prop X was made at 1733B
when A/C which was identified as Ju.88 was 076 degs. A Buoy 50 miles
height 23,000 feet. Four Spitfires airborne from Skaebrea,
A/C shot down at 1738B when 25 miles E.A Buoy.
(A.C.O.S. 302235B to Admty.)

Shetlands. At 1730B/30th, 1 Ju.88 or Ju.188 approached Shet-
land from south at 27,000 feet, flew due north to
Lerwick and Sullom, and the out from Fetlar. Not
engaged by batteries or own A/C. Very wide area
probably photographed including Lerwick Harbour and Sullom Voe.
(A.C.O.S. 302245B to Admty.)

Mining

STORMCLOUD Following from HOUND. Begins: STORMCLOUD damaged
damaged. by near miss (? ground mine position 50 degs. 37'
54" N. 00 degs. 21' (?) W. while sweeping, both
boilers out of action to to burst oil-fuel pipes.
No casualties. LOYALTY is taking in tow to
Portsmouth escorted by HYDRA, 292116. Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301216B to Admty.)

/off...

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30.5.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Off Swanage G.G. Acoustic mine detonated spontaneously in position 062 degs. 'A' head 5 cables possibly countermined by three depth charges distant five miles. No ships in vicinity. Sweep in A.M. 281912B/5 had not been employed but position had been swept normal S.A. at least fifteen times.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 301833B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Technical

Smoke screen at Portland Shore-operated smoke screen at Portland and Weymouth has proved to be a severe menace to health of service personnel and civilian population under certain weather conditions. Com. Force O has complained to me on the same subject. Am taking immediate steps to institute inquiry with authorities concerned in the operation of this smoke screen and meanwhile have vetoed use of Smoke when there is no wind. Com. Force O concurs.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 300001B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Smoke screen as at present operated causes severe casualties among service personnel, both ashore and afloat, as well as civilian population, particularly when there is no wind. Request immediate inquiries into the operation of this appliance (F.O.I.C. Portland, 300002B to 69 A/A Brigade.)

Your 300030. Comr. C.D. VERNON is proceeding to Portland immediately to investigate. E.T.A. 1730. Request all facilities for him.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301228 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

Your 300001B. All experience with Pattern 24 generator shows that this smoke is likely to be toxic in heavy concentrations but non injurious with concentrations used under normal operating conditions. Numbers used should be reduced in proportion to wind speed. Smoke screen of no value in flat calm.

(D.L.D., 301359B to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

B.2. Phoenix Craft. Limited experience with B.2. Phoenix has shown that they are considerably more difficult to tow than A.1. They sheer about badly except in a strong wind which tends to keep them steady.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301536B to Tug Control, A.N.C.X.F.).

Casualties and Defects

KIAORA M.F.V. KIAORA grounded in fog last night at Anstruther. Damage very severe. Salvage Officer proceeding.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 301108B to C. in C. Rosyth).

Shipping and Convoys

Straggler Stragglers return week ending 0915/30th May. O.S.78/K.M.S.52. STANHOPE unable to maintain speed, boiler tubes in poor condition.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 300915B to Admty.).

437

30.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BLOCK ISLAND & BARR torpedoes. Sail SALVONIA forthwith to assist BLOCK ISLAND and BARR torpedoes in 31° 13' N. 22° 03' W. at 292026Z. Report time of sailing and S.O.A.

(F.O.G.M.A. 300053B to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) Admty. C.M.S.F.W. S.B.N.O.Horta, Cominch.)

Your 300043B*. E.E.ELMORE standing by BARR.

Latter no motive power good condition. AHRENS and PAINE with survivors standing clear of area for night. T.G. will depart area 300(?)00Z VINS. Course 088 speed 8. Weather good. Action F.O.G.M.A. who passes to same address ref. despatch plus C. in C.Lant. (C.T.G. 21.11 300142 to F.O.G.M.A. S.B.N.O.Azores, C.M.S.F. S.B.N.O.Horta, C. in C.Lant, Cominch. Admty.)

* No trace at time of circulation. ?300053 intended.

Comply with C. in C.Lant's 292226Z which has been passed to F.O.G.M.A. and F.O.C.W.Af.

(D.C. 300207B to S.B.N.O.Azores, EUGENE E.ELMORE, Info. Cominch, Commorseafon, C.T.G. 21.11, C. in C.Lant.)

Verification my position is 31.13 N. 23.03 W.

(EUGENE E.ELMORE 300254Z to C.M.S.F.)

Amend position in my 300053B to read 31.13 N. 23.03 W.

(F.O.G.M.A. 300515B to S.B.N.O.Azores, Info. Admty. C.M.S.F. S.B.N.O.Horta, Cominch.)

F.O.G.M.A. 300005*. SALVONIA left Horta at 0435Z/30th S.O.A. 12 knots, E.T.A. position 031° 13' N. 023° 03' W. 0030Z/1st June. Keeping continuous watch on Gib. broadcast.

(S.B.N.O.Azores 300456Z to E.E.ELMORE.)

*Sailing assistance U.S.Ss. BLOCK ISLAND and BARR.

Estimate BARR in tow of ELMORE in position A. 031° 21' N. 019° 52' W. at 0800B/31st May, course 75° 8 knots.

2. Proceed, north of Madeira as requisite to intercept. Report when met.

3. S.B.N.O.Azores 300456* not to all addressees refers.

(F.O.G.M.A. 301235B to SALVONIA, (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.Azores, Cominch, U.S.T.G. 21.11.)

* re Sailing of SALVONIA.

E-boat attack on TUDOR Amendment to 291948B. (S.O. S/Ms Gibraltar 301007B.)

U.S.S. REHOBOTH. My 291407* from position M proceed to T. 31.46 17.06. U. 31.09, 19.50 thence rejoin route at O omitting N. Search en route for BLOCK ISLAND fighter plane pilots. Guard 8470 k/cs until search completed.

(C.M.S.F. 301138 to U.S.S. REHOBOTH.)

* re Intended sailing U.S.S. REHOBOTH.

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30.5.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Northbound Japanese S/M. Your 291805. Position is confirmed. This U-Boat was previously mentioned in A.M. 221444. (D.D.I.C. 300014B to F.O.I.C.W.Af.)

TAIGETE (tanker.) Admty. 291709B* repairs to TAIGETE will not be completed in time to allow her join S.L.160 request routing instructions. (N.C.S.O.Dakar 301003Z.)
* 291700 intended.

SS. PELEUS (sunk 9 March) Three survivors now in Capetown. Interrogated separately, Facts of sinking verified and confirmed Chief Officer has wounds from hand grenades and possesses wound certificate from hospital at Lobitá.

2. Sworn statements now being prepared and copies will be forwarded this week by microgram.

3. Passages to U.K. are being arranged by first available ship name of which will be signalled. Your 272319 refers. (S.O.I. Capetown 301155B to Admty.)

439

30.5.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanGerman
auxiliaries
transitting
Dardanelles.

8 (not 9) motor vessels entered Aegean 1910 G.M.T. 29th. Course West towards Lemnos. No escorts observed.
(2) MANNHEIM and 2 M.V's still detained. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 300357 to B.N.A. Ankara.) My 292145C. MANNHEIM and remaining 2 vessels entered Aegean 2200 G.M.T. 29th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 301141C)

Italian
Navy-
clothing.

F.O.T.A.L.I. represents clothing situation in Italian Navy as desperate request therefore that all hastening action possible be taken on A.M. 251953/4.
(C. in C. Med. 300853 to Admt.) / Re Handling of supplies by Military Mission Italian Army.

U.G.S./G.U.S.
Convoys.

The proposal in Cominch 261522 to limit speed of acceptance for U.G.S/G.U.S. convoys inside the Mediterranean, is concurred in on the understanding that it will be necessary to include ships of $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots of the Tanker and Coaster Type between Algiers and Bizerta in order to ensure that the build up in Italy is not prejudiced.
(2) In order to arrange a daylight R/V off Oran and Algiers and a daylight passage through the Tunisian War Channel, it will be necessary for U.G.S. Convoys to limit their arrival at Gibraltar to between 1400Z and 1900Z.
(3) To maintain a regular five day cycle for the Italian Convoys, it is requested that arrangements may be made for U.G.S. Convoys to sail 2 days later than the present schedules. G.U.S. Convoys will be sailed one day later from Port Said commencing with G.U.S. 44 on 24th June.
(C. in C. Med. 300942B to Admt.)

Raid on
Mljet I.
22/23 May.

Cositintrep No.325 part 4.
Results of raid on Mljet Island night 22/23 May reported in part four cositintrep 320. Enemy positions on hill tops when reached were found unoccupied. Enemy garrison had retreated into very broken difficult area. Location and subsequent bringing to battle main enemy force could not have been done without involving a daylight evacuation morning of 24 May which was not feasible. Our troops were evacuated night 23/24 May No prisoners were taken and enemy casualties are unknown. Own casualties 2 wounded and nine O.Rs missing.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers No.T.O.O/30.)

Balkan
Sitrep
No.196.

(3) Athens. Agent reports. Tug San Kataldo sabotaged and sunk in Piraeus Harbour.
(4) Sea Ops. N.T.R.
(C. in C. M.E.302000C)

ARCHIMEDE.

My 291120 add 24 hours to all times.
(Cdre. Algeria, 302316B)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 43. Areas A. B. C. E. and F. believed clear of U-Boats. Scale of air escort W area D. 3 U-Boats believed northbound in Mozambique Channel with leading U-Boat possibly as far north as 013° S. Scale of air escort X.

Area G position not entirely clear. Until further information available reduce scale of air escort to X. Indian Ocean Japanese U-Boat by D/F on 29th May was approx. 600 miles E.S.E. of Ceylon. (C. in C.E.F. 300330Z.)

Madras, oil
storage risk.

Requirements of white oils for support of operations based on N.E. India are already large and are expected to increase considerably during the latter half of 44.

Chittagong but neither of these ports can accept deep draught ships.

3. The ocean going tankers are therefore sent to Madras to transfer their cargoes to shallow draught tankers. Some temporary storage on tank farms ashore is also involved.

4. The handling of such large quantities of white oils in this confined harbour is considered to involve serious fire risk to shipping using the port as well as to harbour facilities.

5. While this risk remains on the present level use of the port by H.M. Ships is not considered acceptable except in cases of operational necessity. This applies particularly to aircraft carrier.

6. An agreed proposal to transfer these oils from Ocean to shallow draught tankers in the Palk Straits has been put forward and is being considered by M.W.T. in London. This scheme would reduce the number of tankers using Madras and the consequent future risk in that port to normal. Early approval of this scheme therefore becomes of high operational importance.

7. Admiralty is requested to press M.W.T. for an early decision. (C. in C.E.F. 301117Z to Admty.)

ATHENE.

Return of ATHENE with aircraft to U.K. A.M. 121937 refers. It is reported that only essential repairs have been carried out in ATHENE since she was refitted at Port Elizabeth in December 1942.

2. Ship has an extensive repair and defect list and in order for ship to maintain any degree of efficiency it is considered that on return to U.K. an early examination of H.P. and M.P. cylinders all main and auxiliary machinery and air compressors is desirable. (C. in C.E.F. 301117Z to Admty.)

SEA ROVER
and STORM -
patrol reports.

SEA ROVER third Far East Patrol.
2. 22nd May 1043 F.G. attacked two escorted merchant ships off Penang. Six torpedoes fired at leading ship 3000 tons one heard to hit. Counter attack 17 depth charges in very shallow water caused no material damage but prevented observation

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SEA ROVER and STORM - patrol reports. (Contd.)

3. Eight mines laid successfully.
4. STORM third Far East Patrol.
5. Clandestine operation unsuccessful. Patrol blank.
(C. in C.E.F. 301234Z.)

Italian P.O.W.

Your 280900 March.
1. P.W. may be unconditionally released and placed at disposal of Admty. to be dealt with in accordance instructions of Naval Authorities.
2. They may not be re-interned as P.W.
(War Office 301400B to C. in C.India.)

Establishment for S.O.G.

Your 131612. Request confirmation urgently that establishment required for S.O.G. is H.Q. personnel 6 officers and 89 O.R. plus 25 officers and 140 O.R. operational, in addition to C.O.P.P. teams and S.B.S. personnel already on station.
(Admty. 301534B to C. in C.E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

UNGAVA M.Ls. All M.Ls. sent to Sydney C.B. from position 045 degs. 10' N. 058 degs. 06' W. at 0001Z/30. My course 000 degs. speed 10. (UNGAVA, 300110Z).

N.S.H.Q. S/m. attack and sighting summary. (1) U.S. Army Transport A/C. sights U/boat on southerly course in 46.55 N. 62.35 W. 1822Z/28th. (2) R.C.A.F. VENTURA obtains ASV contact in 46.11 N. 58.31 W. at 1815Z/29th. (N.S.H.Q. 300631Z).

U/boat dispositions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 301424Z, Cominch 301607).

Passage of blimps. Understand that beginning about 27th May continuing through first three weeks in June U.S.N. K type 251 ft. non rigid Blimps will be ferried two at a time South Weymouth Mass to Argentinia to Azores to Port Lyautey French Morocco. Following lights may be shown friendly territory. (Details). Following markings. (Details). (Air Min. 301715Z to H.Q.C.C., Transport Command, H.Q.M.A.A.F., A.H.Q. Gibraltar, A.H.Q. W. Af., 247 Group).

SS. MAURETANIA Diversion order. (Cdr. 10th Fleet 301824 to MAURETANIA).

H.X, S.H.X. and H.H.X. convoys. (1) Owing to a wholly unexpected increase in U.S. loading from Boston and Portland (Maine) the present balance of shipping makes it desirable to return to the practice of sailing a regular H.H.X. subsidiary convoy. The number of ships programmed for St. Lawrence however renders it necessary also to run an S.H.X. convoy in addition. (2) (3) Arrangements. (4) My 232030 not to all addressees is cancelled each assembly port will send its own advance sailing telegram and time of sailing and date of sailing. These signals are to be repeated to all assembly ports. (N.S. Ottawa, 301857Z).

ELMORE attacks U/boat. U.S.S. EUGENE E. ELMORE sighted periscope and attacked with D/C and Hedgehog 31.13 N. 23.03 W. 2000Z/29 3 underwater explosions followed by heavy explosion. (Cominch, 302012Z).
v. 549 sunk

Convoy C.U.26. 35 ships departed New York. (P.D. New York, 302124).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 861. Paras. 14 to 18 cover South Pacific Forces.
(6) Fifth Air Force offensive against enemy concentrations between Wewak and Yakumul maintained during forenoon. Mitchells, Boston^s, Beaufighters and Thunderbolts involved but reports not yet complete. During previous night M.T.Bs. sank two enemy barges apparently empty on northerly course off southeast Muschu Island.
(7) Aircobras attacked Hansa Bay during day and previous night M.T.Bs. operating offshore reported Hansa Bay strangely quiet for third successive night.
(18) Gunboats destroyed single enemy barge beached central Empress Augusta Bay night 28th - 29th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 300750Z).

Enemy main units. Com 7th Fleet reencodes his 301449 Action all T.F.Cs. 7th Fleet Info. C. in C. Pac. Cominch for Info. C. in C.E.F. BLUEFISH sighted 1 Battleship 4 heavy cruisers 3 destroyers position 04 degs. 40' N. 120 degs. 08' E. 1500 H course 090 speed 19.
(Com. 7th Fleet, 302238Z to C. in C.E.F.).
C. in C. Eastern Fleet has for Info. Re-encypherment by Com. Seventh Fleet of C.T.F. 71 301227 action to Com. Seventh Fleet who passes Info. C. in C. Pac. Cominch BABRILLA reports one each KONGO NAGATO FUSO Class and probably three other Battleships departed southern Sibitu (?Subutu intended) 1400H co. 160 high speed. No Carriers sighted but probably present.
(Com. 7th Fleet, 302244Z to C. in C.E.F.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack and sighting summary. Para.B.(1) Spitfire sighted U/boat at 1130Z/29 in 47 degs. 12' N. 02 degs. 15' W.
Para.C. (1) Transit A/C. sighted U/boat course 310 degs. at 1115Z/29 in 54 degs. 40' N. 21 degs. 12' W.
(2) A/C. sighted two U/boats at 1912Z/28 in 46 degs. 43' N. 06 degs. 20' W.
Para.D.(1) U.S.A/C. sighted periscope at 0749Z/29 in 50 degs. 29' N. 03 degs. 08' W.
(2) BURDOCK obtained contact at 1050Z/29 in 50 degs. 30' N. 01 degs. 15' W.
(3) Avenger A/C. sighted U/boat course 220 degs. at 1500Z/29 in 50 degs. 25' N. 01 degs. 20' W.
(D.D.I.C. 300856Z).

Promising attacks. (1) At 0719/24 Catalina V/210 attacked a surfaced U/boat in 65 degs. 08' N. 4 degs. 33' E.

/ U/boat...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Promising
attacks
(Contd.)

U/boat submerged for one minute after attack then re-surfaced and slowly submerged stern first about ten minutes later.

(2) In 62 degs. 27' N. 3 degs. 04'E. at 1349/24 Sunderland R/4 O.T.U. straddled surfaced U/boat which blew up leaving bodies and wreckage.

(3) Liberator S/59 attacked surfaced U/boat near escort vessel in 65 degs. 05' N. 7 degs. 28' E. at 0730/25. Depth charges fell slightly short of U/boat which was last seen circling to port leaving oil trail with escort vessel approaching.

(4) At 0816/27 Liberator S/59 straddled surfaced U/boat with depth charges in 62 degs. 37' N. 00 degs. 57' E. Yellow flash seen in centre of stick of depth charges. After seven minutes large oil patch appeared.

(5) In 49 degs. 16' N. 3 degs. 38' W. Wellington E/407 attacked surfaced U/boat at 0307/23. U/boat obscured by depth charge plumes. Flak ceased and radar contact lost immediately after attack.

(D.A.U.D., 302045B).

U/boat
dispositions

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 301345B, 301355B).

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Lombard"

1(a). At 1802 today V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS, with FURIOUS, BERWICK, DEVONSHIRE, and five Destroyers in company, when about 150 miles S.E. by S. of Jan Mayen on his return from Northern waters, proposed to make a strike against Enemy Shipping in the Aalesund area (62 degs. 29' N.) at about 2100B to-morrow; and at 2216B today C. in C.H.F. concurred in that proposal.

U/boat (U.289
attacked ~~sunk~~)
by MILNE.

(b) At 0127B today a U/boat was sighted and attacked by the Destroyer MILNE with V.A.2's Force about 250 miles N.E. by E. of Jan Mayen Island.

U/boats
attacked
by aircraft.

(2) At 1734 today a Liberator A/C attacked a northbound U/boat about 50 miles West of Stadlandet; and at 1340 another U/boat was attacked by a Liberator A/C 80 miles N.W. of Aalesund.

Boulogne
Coastal
Battery
bombed.

(3) 51 A/C dropped about 190 tons of H.E. on the Boulogne Coastal Battery shortly after midnight this morning.

Mediterranean

Air Attack
on K.M.S.51.

(4) Convoy K.M.S.51 was attacked by about 35 bomber and torpedo aircraft shortly after midnight last night in 37.02 N. 03.47 E. (off Algiers). SS. NORDEFLINGE was sunk. Three enemy aircraft were destroyed and one damaged.

Italy

5(a) P.T. boats last night attacked 2 enemy destroyers south of Spezia with torpedoes. No hits are claimed. The enemy returned heavy fire causing some casualties and slightly damaging one craft.
(b) There was some enemy air activity at Anzio today and two bombs were dropped in the port area, but no naval damage was caused. U.S. destroyers provided fire support in the Ardea area, engaging troops in the beach area, strong points and batteries.

Aegean

6(a) UNSPARING reports destroying 2 caiques and damaging others by gunfire in Kamara Bay, Kos on 19th May.
(b) 6 Venturas last night bombed Rhodes Harbour and 3 Wellingtons successfully laid mines at

/ Khalkis...

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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Aegean
(Contd.)

Khalkis, Portolago Bay (Leros) and Port Naussa
(Paros). The latter was mined again next night.

East Indies

Shortage
of F.A.A.
Pilots.

7. C. in C. Eastern Fleet reports today on the
grave shortage of F.A.A. Pilots, particularly
fighter pilots available in the Eastern Fleet.
For example, ILLUSTRIOUS has more aircraft than
pilots available.

Australia and New Zealand

Schouten
Island.

8. A U.S. destroyer shelled and destroyed
three barges laden with troops in a cove east
of Bosnek beachhead at dusk today.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Westray My 221246. Programme of special destroyer
evacuation. bombardment practices has been completed and I
have informed deputy commissioner and Chief
constable accordingly in confidence.
(2) While possibility of having to repeat similar bombardment
practices remains it is not repetition not intended to revoke
order made under defence regulation number 52.
(3) Use of normal bombardment range on Papa Westray continues.
(A.C.O.S., 310948B to Admty.).

Eastern It is desired to reinforce Eastern Fleet with
Fleet 10 fast escorts as soon as they can be made
re-inforce- available without reducing B groups and support
ment. groups below the minimum strength referred to in
AWE, your 301800/March.
HALLADALE. (2) River Class frigates or A/A sloops would be
suitable.
(3) Before proceeding on foreign service comple-
ments will be adjusted, ships, companies given 14 days leave and
where necessary ships given a quick docking.
(4) Request you will - (a) Arrange for AWE and HALLADALE to be
ready to leave U.K. by 19th and 29th June respectively.
(b) Nominate 10 other fast escorts from which 8 can be selected
on release of escorts from "Overlord".
(A.C.N.S.(H), 311152B to C. in C.W.A.).

French A.N.C.X.Fs. No.966/X/0911/2/15 of 1st May (to
Naval Admiralty only). Concur in proposals for
personnel employment of French Naval personnel for shore
for duty and harbour duties in France.
in France. (2) Understand that A.N.C.X.F. has begun
discussions with Admiral d'Argenlieu to ascertain
what personnel could be made available.
(3) Consider French assistance would be of great service for
(a) Port management and administration. (b) Pilotage.
(c) Management and manning of ship repair facilities. (d) Har-
bour defence and minesweeping. (e) Berthing and docking of
ships. (f) Fire fighting afloat. (g) Salvage including wreck
clearance. (h) Tug and small craft management and handling.
(i) Any other specialised port work.
(4) Suggest French Naval personnel might also be of value for
following types of work undertaken by British Army in a port.
(a) Operating port and dock machinery and pumping plants.
(b) Handling civilian dock labour. (c) Dock and pier repair
and construction. (d) Stevedore work. (e) Fire fighting ashore.
(5) If A.N.C.X.F. concurs, request C. in C. Med. will arrange
passage of all French Naval specialist personnel for duties as
(3) and (4) above, who can be spared from North Africa.
(6) Numbers of personnel, names, port and date of arrival in
U.K. should be signalled.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 311951B to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med.).

Operations

Operations Consider A.M. 302044B referred to sighting of my
"Brawn" and force in 072 degs. 53' N. 001 degs. 43' E. as
"Proteus". U/B. / destroyers...
attacked by
MILNE.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operations "Brawn" and "Proteus". U/boat attacked by MILNE (Contd.)
U. 289 sunk

destroyers obtained hearing on the ground wave. U/boat probably forced to dive by A/C. Weather forecast for operational area gave no hope for today. In view of above decided at 2200/30th to return to base. U/boat sighted and attacked by MILNE in 073 degs. 28' N. 000 degs. 45' E. at 0127B/31st. My P.C.S. 073 degs. 20' N. 000 degs. 32' E. 220 degs. 21 knots. Weather report 4777 2513. (V.A.2, 310215B and 020605B to C. in C.H.F.).

Operation "C.A." Operation C.A. 5th E.G. is to be sailed to Moelfre Bay forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 311159B to F.O.I.C.N.I., Capt. D. Belfast).
Sailed BICKERTON, BLIGH, AYLNER, GOODSON, KEATS. E.T.A. Moelfre Bay 312200B. C. in C.W.A. 311159B refers. (F.O.I.C.N.I. 311637B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool). 5th E.G. arrived Moelfre Bay. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 312205B to C. in C.W.A.).

Channel A/S operations. MIDDLETON reports doubtful contact attack in 50 degs. 15.8' N. 03 degs. 20.6' W. at 1206. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 311258B to P.W. Convoy).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 311402B, 311416, 311501, 311610B).

Operation "Potato" Carry out Operation "Potato" tonight. (1) Force M. Unit M 1. GREY FOX (S.O.), GREY WOLF, GREY GOOSE. Unit M 2 GREY SHARK, (S.O.) GREY SEAL. (2) 0130B/1. (3) 50.10 N. 00.50 W. (4) 49.24 N. 00.32 W. patrolling westward. (5) Not to proceed east of 00.25 W. (6) 50.10 N. 01.30 W. (7) As in 6. (8) So as to be in waiting position by 0530. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 311442B to ATTACK).
Carry out operation "Potato" tonight. (1) Unit C. M.T.Bs. 254 (S.O.), 252, 253, 257. (2) 0120B/1. (3) 49.40 N. 00.25 W. (4) 49.23 N. 00.07 W. (5) Not to proceed West of 00.25 W. when south of para. (3) unless in contact with enemy. (6) 50.10 N. 00.15 W. (7) As in 6. (8) So as to be in waiting position by 0500. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 311530B to HORNET).
Your 311442. Sailed 1855. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 311950 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation "Lombard" My P.C.S. 069 degs. 04' M. 004 degs. 25' W. 180 degs. 18. Have just sufficient fuel to make quick strike Aalesund area about 2100B tomorrow, or would you prefer me to return direct Scapa.

/ What...

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Operation "Lombard" (Contd.) What are weather prospects and chances of good target.
Weather 5190, 2514.

(V.A.2, 311802 to C. in C.H.F.).

Your 311802. Would like strike as proposed.

Weather favourable. Prospect of target between Aalesund and Stadlandet good about 2100B.

(C. in C.H.F. 312216B to V.A.2 in VICTORIOUS).

My 312216. Shipping movements spread now fairly evenly throughout 24 hours but slight tendency observed recently for southbound shipping to leave anchorage at Aalesund, Sovdefjord (062 degs. 06' N. 005 degs. 45' E.) and Haugsholm (062 degs. 10' N. 005 degs. 25' E.) between 2000 and 2359B to round Stadlandet in twilight period. Northbound shipping from Maaloy (061 degs. 56' N. 005 degs. 07' E.) has shown slight tendency to sail between 1800 and 2200B.

(C. in C.H.F. 312356B to V.A.2, in VICTORIOUS).

Action between own Forces off Beachy Head. Minesweeper damaged. On night 29th/30th Units F.T.I. (M.T.Bs. 602, S.O. and 615) and F.S.I. (M.T.Bs. 611 S.O. and 680) were not patrolling in 220 degs. Beachy Head 19 and 171 degs. Beachy Head 14 miles respectively. At 0118 a corrupt message was received in my operations room from Unit F.S.I. to the effect that Unit F.T.I. required assistance and Unit F.S.I. was ordered to investigate.

No hostile plots had been reported in the vicinity and, although plots of the 7th and 9th M/S Flotillas were being told by Newhaven to Dover plot, it was not realised in my operations room that they were approaching our patrols. Measures have been taken to avoid recurrence of this fault. It is regretted that C. in C. Portsmouth's 281910 and 292027 promulgating the movements of the M/S Flotillas had been overlooked and the information therein not passed to the Units concerned.

Unit F.T.I. obtained Radar contact of 8 to 10 small vessels bearing S.S.E. at approximately 0045. Range was closed to 800 yards and at 0052 four or five vessels believed to be E/boats were illuminated and fire was opened. Other ships of the M/S Flotillas opened fire, giving the S.O. Unit F.T.I. the impression that his target had increased speed and confirming his opinion that he was engaging E/boats. At 0001 further contact was obtained with two minesweepers who gave correct recognition signal. It is regretted that at least one M/S vessel was seen to be hit.

M.T.Bs. suffered neither damage nor casualties. Owing to the failure of communications and absence of enemy report from Unit F.S.I. the situation remained obscure to my operation room until 0325, when Unit F.S.I. reported being in company with Unit F.T.I. and that no assistance was required. (V.A. Dover, 311849B to Admty.). *See also Admiralty 021144B June page 20.*

Spitzbergen Enemy air R/C. May: 4 engine F.W. over
Barentsburg 0244 G.M.T. 13th May, Ju.88. over

/Advent...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Spitzbergen
(Contd.) Advent Bay 0530 G.M.T. 21st May. Look out established Russeejegla, the guard in Svdegruva withdrawn from 1st June, but place will be frequently patrolled. All well. Ends. ("Ploughshave" 312400Z to Admty.).

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard north direction 0310. Not observed. Visibility good. (A.C.I.C. 311506B to Admty.).

Mining

Falmouth Two mines detonated by sweepers as follows:-
At 310611 in 50 degs. 7' 50" N. 05 degs. 2' 6" W.
At 311129 in 50 degs. 7' 54" N. 05 degs. (?)24" W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 312141 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Casualties and Defects

THAW My 292205. H.M.D. THAW towed off a.m. today and is now in Buckie Harbour making a little water. (R.N.O. Buckie, 311005B to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

VALBORG (1) OCEAN VIEW take RECOVERY under your orders and proceed by standard route to assist SS.VALBORG in 212 degs. Bolt Head 2 miles with steering gear jammed. L'AVENTURE believed standing by.
(2) RECOVERY tow VALBORG to Plymouth escorted by OCEAN VIEW.
(3) L'AVENTURE rejoin wrecker on relief by H.M.S. OCEAN VIEW.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 312209B to OCEAN VIEW, RECOVERY).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ALGERIEN Refer C.M.S.F. 310045B. Request you join me. My P.C. and S. 310730Z 31.12 N. 18. W. 88, 20 altering at 0930Z to 70 true course if impossible to join return Casablanca. (C.T.G. 21.11 310802Z to ALGERIEN).

T.G. 21.11 Re-encypherment of Cinclant's 311322 for information Admty. Comnavnaw, begins:- Upon arrival Casablanca T.G. dissolved. Survivors BLOCK ISLAND and personnel in excess of these required to man BARR for towing return in C.V.E. Ferries. Commorseafron direct EUGENE E. ELMORE, EVARTS, WILHOITE return at best speed as soon as they are ready as they are required at an early date for next duty. AHRENS R.I. PAINE return with T.G. 27.1. Ends. (Cinclant, 311447Z to C.T.G. 21.11, C.M.S.F.).

Contraband Control My 232240B para.2. As Spanish SS, MANUCHU has been searched C.C.S.O. should not select further vessels from Med. during May programme. Still desirable to intercept one ship outward bound to South America from Cadiz if possible. (D.E.W.D., 311803B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

Transport to/from U.K. (2) We are considering handling traffic between S. Africa and U.K. for a limited period during the movement of P.O.W. from Cape to U.K. by service of vessels of over 20 knots and about 4000 capacity via Atlantic sailing at intervals of from four to six weeks and calling at Freetown and Capetown in both directions and Durban. (3) Outward these sailings could accommodate all traffic from U.K. to West Africa. (D.S.T., 310353B.)

SS. TAIGETE N.C.S.O. Dakar's 301003 report firm date for completion of TAIGETE and speed trial should be carried out if necessary to establish latter. Instructions will then be issued. (F.O.C.W. Af., 311205Z to Comar Dakar).

SS. TAIGETE. If ship can still declare 7½ knots she should be included in S.L.161 for Clyde, if not she should be sailed to Gib. for X.K. convoy as opportunity offers. N.C.S.O. Dakar's 301003 refers. (D.T.D. 311604B).

QUEEN In view of F.O.G.M.A's. 290926 it will not now be necessary for QUEEN to call at Gib. A.M. 231350 para.2. and A.M. 281232 refer. 2. Request you will sail QUEEN to U.K. (D.O.D.H., 311956B to F.O.C.W.Af.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air attack on K.M.S.51. 1 ship bombed 1 torpedoed. HENGIST and PROTEA standing by position 37° 02' N. 03° 47' E. 090° 7 knots.

(DELPHINIUM 310050.)

My 310050. One ship only sunk. 3 enemy A/C known destroyed, one damaged.

(DELPHINIUM 310131B.)

My 310131 name of ship sunk is NORDEFLINGE.

(DELPHINIUM 310215B.)

Your 302358B*. HYDERABAD who will detach to land 8 survivors at Bizerta. Further signal will be made.

(DELPHINIUM 311240B to N.O.I.C. Bizerta.) * Not recd. in W.R.

Caiques under Red Cross Flag. There have been several cases of caiques sailing in the Aegean under Red Cross flag so far only cargoes discovered have been olive oil and food for Islands. In one the Civil Authorities Khios obtained permission of Germans to operate TAKIS and another caique to feed population of Kar-

dimilia TAKIS flew Red Cross flag and Greek Ensign but whether this was approved by Germans is not known. In another case caique intercepted by UNRULY was flying Red Cross flag. Nazi Ensign was found under Captain's pillow. Nothing known here of any such craft registered with Red Cross. Only relief scheme known is American Greek War Relief Scheme which does not come into operation until after liberation of Islands nor is there any connection with Turkish Relief Scheme referred to in Admty. 271531 April.

3. Request information whether Admiralty has record of any organisation for supply of Islands by caique under Red Cross Auspices. Do not propose to give instructions that Red Cross markings on such vessels are to be ignored and craft sunk or captured.

(F.O.L.E.M. 310901C to Admty.)

Yugoslav ships. Your 181052. A.M. 170052, all ships in class C with following exceptions now in Italian waters are capable of employment in Adriatic but most only to a very limited degree on account of their poor condition.

2. Nothing is known of M.T.B. 45 or UGLIANO.

3. MALINSKA and ARBE are the same ship which is known by the former name. 4. CURZOLA is already Partisan manned.

5. RESTRELLO is not worth repair.

6. All tugs are now being used on behalf of Allied forces and most undesirable to permit them to be taken away.

(F.O.T.A.L.I. 311025B to C. in C.Med.)

Spanish & Portuguese ships not to visit Levant ports. Consider it undesirable for Portuguese ships to visit Alexandria, Port Said, Palestinian or Cyprus ports at present your 160125* refers, as the enemy is showing by his air R/C that he is very interested in what is happening in these ports and would be glad of confirmatory evidence which it would be difficult to prevent.

(C. in C.Med. 311118 to Admty.)

* Portuguese shipping in the Med.

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Mediterranean.

Spanish and Portuguese ships not to visit Levant ports. (Contd.)

Objections to Portuguese ships in my 311118 not to C. in C.E.F. hold good for Spanish ships in A.M. 231220. (C. in C.Med. 311141B to Admty. (R) F.O.L.E.M. C. in C.E.F.)

SS. SAUMUR sunk 21 May.

UPSTART report:

A. At 1826/21 May when 1½ miles N.E. Port Vendres fired four torpedoes set to 14 feet with non contact pistol at German SAUMUR. Two contact hits observed ship considered sunk. Slight counter attack by four R-Boats.

B. At 0745/28 May when half mile N.E. of Port Vendres fired one torpedo set on eight feet with non contact pistol at stopped R-Boat waiting to enter boom and overlapping boom vessel. Torpedo seen to circle and followed on Asdics finally exploding on port quarter. (S.10 311225.)

British naval co-operation on Danube.

Para. 4 of your 287136 the intention of my 081008 was that we might utilise our special knowledge of minesweeping to secure agreement to the introduction of British Naval co-operation on the Danube should such course be accord with the policy of H.M.G. it was not intended to convey the im-

pression that I advocated passing this knowledge on to the Russians.

(C. in C.Med., Naples 311303B to Admty.)

Passage of German auxiliaries through D'nelles.

Your 291030*. When ordering detention of BASARABIA and TRANSYLVANIA, Turks expressly admitted contention we have always made that vessels of mercantile appearance must still be refused passage if they are shown by circumstantial evidence to be destined for service as naval or military auxiliaries. You should use this argument in confronting Turks with facts reported in F.O.L.E.M's 271215, and

in connection with K.T. vessels, pointing out that our similar arguments concerning the Danube barges were proved completely right by the Germans themselves.

2. It is plainly a fraud upon the Convention for Germans to pass vessels through the Straits without their armament, with intention of completing their armament after passage, as is their practice.

3. If Turks raise the point of E.M.S. vessels being under 100 tons, you should refer for arguments to F.O. tel. No. 15 Saving of 30th October, 1940, to H.M. Ambassador.

4. S.O.I. Istanbul reports MANNHEIM and the motor vessels have been released. It is most important that no further vessels of these kinds should be allowed passage.

(Admty. 311340B to N.A. Ankara.)

* Passage of barges through Dardanelles.

/C....

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Mediterranean - Contd.

C. in C.Med. C. in C.Med. will return to Algiers p.m. 1st June.
Cancel my 051845 May.
(C. in C.Med. Naples 311702B.)

Black Sea. From Intelligence Reports May 13th to 30th.
1. My 261640* para. 1 on May 12th submarine sank
3400 ton merchant vessel of DACIA class which was
being towed.
2. Reports given almost every day of enemy submarine sighted or
their wireless heard working off coast from Batum to Novorossisk.
Attacks reported on two merchant vessels (unsuccessful) one tug
and one schooner.
(N.L.O.Black Sea 311730.)
* re Enemy losses as claimed from operations and intelligence
report.

Pyrotechnic In order to warn other ships and assist naval
signal. forces in the vicinity, it is proposed to issue
instructions that the use of the pyrotechnic
signal described in B.R.637, article 8, line 4,
is to be extended to merchant ships proceeding
independently. Masters of independent ships would be warned to
turn away immediately on sighting this signal.
2. Request your concurrence or remarks.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 312010B to Cs. in C.Aboard and at Home.)

Situation 5567 tons discharged Anzio on 29th May, and 5528
report 369. tons 30th. Slight shelling of ports area during
night of 28/29. F.C.EMILE BERTIN bombarded 2
targets west Albano on 29th with presumable effect.
2. During night 30/31 P.T.Boats attacked 2
destroyers south Spezia with torpedoes no hits claimed. Enemy
returned heavy fire causing some casualties and slightly damaged
1 craft. Other coastal crafts on patrol made no sighting.
3. Convoy K.M.S.51 was attacked by about 35 A/C at 0030/31st in
pos. 037° 02' N. 003° 47' E. SS. NORDEFLENGE was sunk. 3 enemy
A/C reported destroyed and 1 damaged.
4.P.55 (UNSPARING) reports destroying 2 caiques and damaging
others by gunfire in Kamara Bay, Kos, 19th.
(C. in C.Med. 312130.)

Harbour 1. Expansion of coast line owing progress opera-
launches and tions Italy necessitates urgent provision of ad-
coasters ditional launches for harbour duties and small
required. coastal cargo vessels this theatre Dodëcanese and
Force 266. All possible vessels available locally
have been requisitioned apart from any available
newly captured territory. 2. Demands to meet
Western Europe operations exhausted U.K. assets of harbour launch
type craft. 3. Our requirements other theatres and future opera-
tions now being examined envisage large demands will be made on
U.S.A.
(War Office No T.O.O/31.)

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East Indies.

U/B dis-positions. No. 44. Lettered areas no fresh information. No change in scale of air escort. (C. in C.E.F. 310340Z.)

Convoys. It is anticipated that it will be necessary to recommence following convoys early in June:
A.K.D/D.K.A. Aden/Kilindini Section. A.B/B.A.
A.P/P.A. When this becomes necessary ships will be released from the Durban - Kilindini Section of D.K.A/A.K.D. convoy unless C. in C.S.A. is able to provide escort with S.A. trawlers.
2. Ships will probably be held for convoy from the following dates Kilindini for D.K.A. June 5th, Aden for A.K.D. June 5th, Aden for A.B. and A.P. June 9th, Bombay for B.A. June 7th, Hormuz for P.A. June 8th.
3. N.O.I.C. E.Africa is requested to report proposed convoy programme assuming the following:-
A. C.M.54 to be escorted by ROCKET, VAN DER ZAAN and 2 ships of Kilindini escort force. One of the latter may return to Kilindini if desired when convoy reaches lat. 005° N.
B. Ship will be released from Durban, Kilindini sections after K.D.4 and D.K.A.19.
C. TOTLAND will be available at Aden from about June 3rd.
D. SALWEEN to proceed in trade convoy from Aden to Kilindini.
4. Further signal will be made regarding programme A.B. B.A. and A.P. P.A. convoys.
(C. in C.E.F. 310352Z.)

Assam L. of C. Ref. my 261251. As result of further investigation consider that although nine L.C.T. could with advantage be employed for increasing capacity of Assam L. of C. requirement does not justify delaying further the departure of American crews in view of need for these crews elsewhere as explained in Cominch and C.N.O. 232202. C. in C.E.F. is requested to take action as originally planned to transfer craft and release crews C.N.O. Washington 101920 refers.
(S.A.C.S.E.A. 310555Z.)

Shortage of pilots in E.F. Training of INDOMITABLE during passage. In order that the continuity of the training of INDOMITABLE's flight deck personnel may not be broken during her passage, it is requested that, if not already arranged, she should embark necessary aircraft for flying operations during the above passage. If this is not possible I consider one squadron of aircraft of VICTORIOUS should be transferred to INDOMITABLE for flying exercises during passage. A.M. 041646 refers.
Shortage of pilots in the Eastern Fleet.
2. The grave shortage of pilots particularly fighter pilots available in the Eastern Fleet has already been brought to Admiralty's notice in R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean's 151205 May. The situation is now acute for example ILLUSTRIOUS actually has more aircraft than pilots available particularly Corsair pilots.

/These...

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East Indies.

Shortage of pilots in E.F. Wing training for INDOMITABLE or FORMIDABLE. (Contd.)

These deficiencies can only be met by depleting pilots now being made in the European theatre, but it is urgently requested that as soon as they can be spared F.A.A. pilots should be sent by the fastest route to Ceylon. (C. in C.E.F. 311126 to Admty.)

H.F. carrier operations.

It would be much appreciated if particulars of recent carrier operations by H.F. could be forwarded with special reference to range of strikes, endurance of Barracudas and bomb loads carried. (C. in C.E.F. 311135B.)

Operation "Transom".

Cominch sends his congratulations (as 291235.) (V.C.N.S. 311221B to C. in C.E.F.)

Unknown carrier.

Unknown aircraft carrier and escorting ship sighted 1445Z headed N.M. (SS. FORT NIAGARA (tanker) 311445Z.)

Command of mixed Allied groups.

Your 240537 April (to Admty. only) confirmed. Question of command of mixed Allied Groups has not hitherto been discussed with Americans, but consider it now advisable to establish uniform procedure in Far Eastern theatre.

2. Dutch in London have asked that procedure hitherto in force may be reconsidered in conjunction with U.S. Naval Authorities and state that similar request has been received from Admiral Helfrich.

3. Local arrangement between C. in C.China and Dutch in East Indies arrived at in 1941 provided for the S.O. by rank or seniority to take command when 2 or more Allied ships were engaging the enemy, with the exception that when one or more ships were already engaging the enemy and were joined by ships of an Ally, the officer in command of the ships at first engaged should remain in command until or unless an officer senior in rank should join, seniority being disregarded for this purpose.

4. Request your recommendations on status be accorded to Dutch in view of your 250823Z September, 1943. (V.C.N.S. 311902B to C. in C.E.F.)

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U/B

dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 311429Z, Cominch, 311559)

Allied co-operation in Atlantic and Mediterranean. Concur in the suggestion contained in your 231700Z. On receipt of your final agreement the following instructions will be issued to British Forces.

Begins: (a) When British Forces under British operational control are operating in the U.S. Atlantic Strategical Zone the situation may arise in which the senior officer of the British Forces at the request of the U.S. Authorities, detaches part of his force to carry out some specific task.

(b) In doing so, the senior officer of the British Forces is responsible for informing the U.S. Authorities whether he is transferring to them operational control of the British ships being detached, during the time they are carrying out the specific task.

(c) The Senior Officer should normally transfer such operational control to the U.S. Authorities. He should only retain command himself when particular circumstances and his own local knowledge of the situation make this desirable.

(d) Should the U.S. request be made to a higher authority than the commander of the Force concerned the higher authority will carry out the procedure outlined above.

(e) Instructions on similar lines are being issued by Cominch to U.S. Forces operating under similar circumstances in the Mediterranean and British Atlantic Strategical Zone. Ends.
(Admty., 312046Z to Cominch.)

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30th May paras. 9 to end, cover South Pacific Forces.

4. By midday May 29th all enemy counter-attacks East of Mokmer repulsed but our troops still unable to advance and holding perimeter established this area. Close ground support being given by Destroyer and artillery bombardment. By evening same day estimated between 300 and 500 enemy killed in heavy fighting on West flank.

8. During morning an enemy task force comprising three Battleships seven Cruisers and unstated number Destroyers and other small craft reported at anchor in Tawi Bay (Sulu Archipelago). Mid afternoon five to six heavy units including possibly three Battleships two heavy Cruisers and at least three Destroyers were sighted 30 miles South of above anchorage heading East.

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(Contd.)

Allied Gunboats during night May 29th sank four barges and completed destruction 11 others vicinity Empress Augusta Bay. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 310830Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary.

1. H.M.S. ARUM attacked U/Boat with gunfire and depthcharges at 1200Z/26 in 22° 42' S. 14° 01' E. (D.D.I.C. 311059B.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 311154B, 311155B.)