

1.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 87)

General

- 1a. MALAYA shelled the island of Cezembre off St. Malo.
 b. JEANNE D'ARC arrived at Cherbourg with members of the French Government from Algiers.
 c. The German Hospital ship BORDEAUX was stopped by U.S.S. MALOY en route from St. Helier for Cezembre. As she was accepted by U.S. Government but expressly rejected by H.M. Government ULYSSES was sent to take her in to Portland, but owing to shortage of fuel in BORDEAUX she could only make Cherbourg.
 d. Cumulative landings up to this afternoon are:-
- | | Men | Vehicles | Stores |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| British Area: | 824,726 | 206,083 | 1,475,341 |
| U.S. Area: | <u>1,234,424</u> | <u>227,800</u> | <u>1,879,652</u> |
| Total: | <u>2,059,150</u> | <u>433,883</u> | <u>3,354,993</u> |

Enemy Action

2. Mining. M.G.Bs. 327 and 332 on covering patrol on the Seine Bank were mined and damaged but returned safely to harbour. 6 magnetic mines were swept in Assault Area, and a spontaneous explosion was seen 2 miles North of Arromanches Harbour.

General.

Reduction of coast defences.

3. The likelihood of attack on U.K. coasts is now confined to E-Boats, mainly off the east and southeast coasts, and submarines. In view of the reduced scale of attack urgent consideration is being given to reducing coast defences of the U.K. with the object of releasing man power for other commitments.

HURST CASTLE sunk.

4. At 0825 the corvette HURST CASTLE operating with Force 33 was torpedoed by a U-Boat 11 miles north of Tory Island and sank at 1030B. 105 survivors were rescued by AMBUSCADE.

U.247 sunk.

5. At 1400 the ^{Canadian} frigate ST. JOHN of E.G.9 sank U. 247 about 2½ miles S.S.W. of the Wolf Rock.

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

General

Dover
area
shelled.

6. From 0155 to 0430 today Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about 150 rounds across the Straits of Dover of which 66 fell on shore doing slight damage to naval property in Dover and Ramsgate and considerable civilian damage and some civilian casualties.

Operation
"Victual"

7. At 0800 today Convoy R.A.59A was about 290 miles W.N.W. of the North Cape.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

WAYFARER
sunk
19th
August.

8. The British Consul at Beira reports that SS. WAYFARER, Beira for Dar es Salaam, was torpedoed and sunk on 19th August. 10 survivors landed at Palfa near the Rovuma River (northern frontier of Mozambique)

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dragon".

9a. U.S.S. WOOLSEY, one of two destroyers supporting the right flank, bombarded targets ashore in the Monaco area today.

b. Unloading continued on the beaches according to schedule. A maximum effort is being applied to the port clearance of Marseilles and Toulon. The major minesweeping task is completed and the inner harbours are being swept; 345 contact 15 moored magnetic mines have been cleared, and the approaches to both ports are clear. Y.M.S.21 was sunk by a mine whilst sweeping in Toulon Harbour today.

West coast
of Italy.

10. The minesweeper M.M.S.117 was sunk by a mine which blew up in Civita Vecchia harbour today, and one other mine self-detonated. It is 83 days since the last mine was swept.

/Adriatic...

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Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic

11. The destroyers LOYAL and UNDINE shelled batteries and cross roads near Cattolica (east coast of Italy) today. The result of LOYAL's bombardment is not known, but UNDINE reported most effective results.

Air operations.

12a. 5 Wellingtons of Coastal Air Force last night searched for shipping evacuating the Ionian Islands: one small vessel was sunk and several damaged.
b. In the Gulf of Genoa several small vessels were hit.
c. In the central Aegean an escorted K.T. ship was attacked south-west of Melos and some hits apparently made.

China

13. U.S. Kittybombers operating in the Yangtze near Kiukiang (130 miles S.E. of Hankow) today damaged by direct bomb hits and gunning two 300 ft. vessels and 3 tugs.

Australia and New Zealand

Mining off Wewak.

14. The fast minelayer ARIADNE carried out a mining operation off Wewak, New Guinea today.

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Situation Reports.

Military

In Brittany, Allied troops closing in on Brest have advanced almost to the coast west of the port in the area south of St. Renan. The enemy has been cleared from the Doullas Peninsula south of Brest.

Coastal guns on the island of Cezembre were attacked by medium and heavy bombers.

(S.H.A.E.F. 011100B to Agwar)

Naval

(1) No reports of enemy minelaying during past 24 hours.

(2) Routine sweeping yielded 3 magnetics in positions 285° 1.7 miles, 268° 8 miles, 290° 8.5 miles from JUNO L/V.

(3) 6th M.S.F. continued clearance of channel as in my 312230B para. 3 and swept 1 magnetic in position 49° 40' N. 00° 26' 18" W.

(4) 163rd. M.S.F. continued clearance as in my 302230B August and swept 2 magnetics, this channel swept 15 times apart from one holiday about 2 miles in length swept 12 actuations only.

Enemy shore batteries from Cap de la Heve fired 10 rounds at this flotilla this forenoon. Shot fell short and ships withdrew under cover of smoke.

(5) Spontaneous explosion about 2 miles north of Arrow Harbour observed tonight.

(6) Sea and swell slight.

(7) Summary A (2) - 6 B (4) - 2.

(8) State of flotillas 113th M.S.F. - 6, 6th M.S.F. - 5, 7th M.S.F. - 4, 101st M.S.F. - 3, 132nd M.S.F. due to arrive tonight.

(Capt. M/S Seine 012230B to A.N.C.X.F.)

(G) (1) Coastal Forces. Unit G.L. 3 on defence patrol over Seine Bank was mined late night 31st/1st.

M.G.B. 332 suffered hull damage causing severe leaks.

M.G.B. 327 received damage to underwater fittings.

Both ships returned safely to harbour. No casualties.

(2) Air Activity. "Purblind" cancelled. No suitable targets anticipated south of C.A.F.

(3) Other incidents. B.Y.M/S. 2079 shelled at 1123 in position 49° 23' 35" N. 00° 07' 30" W. probably from Le Havre.

No damage or casualties.

Sweeping of Caen Canal completed. Underwater obstacle prevents navigation of canal by vessels drawing more than 10 feet.

(4) Air observed blockship sunk in Le Havre at 1800.

(F.O.B.A.A. 012326 to A.N.C.X.F.)

(A) General. MALAYA reports hits obtained on both battery positions and barrack area at Cezembre.

U.S.S. MALOY stopped German Steamer BORDEAUX proceeding St. Helier to Cezembre. Ship is being brought to Portsmouth by British warship.

Force of U.S. Minesweepers proceeded to clear St. Briec Approach. Minesweepers and P Party completed work in Caen Canal. Canal and basins declared clear of mines.

(B) Unloading Figures. British Assault Area. Figures not received.

U.S., Troops 1222965, Vehicles 225292, Stores 1844650.

(Admiral Ramsay 012344B to Adty.)

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Patrols O.N. Dover 67.
from (A) F.N. 1 M.T.B's 236, 235, 231, 202. Z.2.
Dover. (B) F.N. 2 M.T.B's 751, 607, 208° Z.2, 5.8 miles.
(C) F.U. 3 OPPORTUNE. Z.3.
(D) F.N. 4 M.T.B's 465, 462, 050° Z.4, 5 miles.
(E) F.U. 4 ORWELL. Z.5.
(F) F.N. 6 M.T.B's 433, 436, 230° Z.4, 1 mile.
(G) F.N. 8 M.T.B's 358, 362, 353, 359, No. 3 Buoy.
(G) F.N. 9 M.T.B's 486, 485, No. 3 Buoy.
(A.C. Dover O11333B to C. in C. Portsmouth, OPPORTUNE, ORWELL,
S.O. M.T.B's, S.O. 9th M.T.B's, S.O. 50th M.T.B's, S.O. 29th
M.T.B's, S.O. 2nd M.T.B's, S.O. 5th M.T.B's.)

Following additional patrols are established.

D.A. from position (A) 50° 35' 7 N. to position (B) 50° 31' 6 N.
01° 07' 6 N. 01° 12' 2 E.
D.B. from position (C) 50° 07' 6 N. to position (D) 50° 27' 5 N.
01° 13' 2 E. 01° 19' 5 E.
D.C. from position (E) 50° 26' 3 N. to position (F) 50° 24' 7 N.
01° 22' E. 01° 25' 5 E.
D.D. from position (F) in a direction 090° for 1.5 miles.

(2) Lighted Dan buoy unreliable visible 2 to 3 miles, flashing intermittently has been laid in position (C).

(3) Patrols will be detailed daily by A.C. Dover.

(4) Object to prevent break through of enemy surface craft from Boulogne to convoy route between C.2A. buoy off Newhaven and Dieppe.

(5) Execution: patrols are to be established by commencement of evening nautical twilight until commencement of morning nautical twilight when, unless otherwise ordered, ships are to anchor off Newhaven.

Route from Portsmouth or Newhaven via C.2 Buoy and West Bullock and from Dover via D. Buoy and East Bullock.

(6) Destroyer patrols will normally be established in D.A. and D.B. and coastal craft in D.D. speed of destroyers is to be adjusted in patrols D.A. and D.B. to turn at south east limits every 45 minutes commencing at 2200.

In the event of enemy surface craft being reported proceeding south from Boulogne destroyers will be ordered by signal to "Fleet one patrol east" when patrol D.A. is to be shifted to D.B. and patrol D.B. to D.C. If more than one ship is detailed for patrol D.A. only one is to fleet to D.B.

(7) Destroyers are to proceed inshore of the 7 fathom line off the French Coast unless in close pursuit of the enemy.

(A.C. Dover O11422B to Dover forces)

My O11422. Add to para. one of my O11333.

(I) Unit F.Q.1 and

(J) F.Q. 2 each one destroyer detailed by BLEASDALE in patrols D.A. and D.B. respectively.

Unit (K) F.P.1. M.T.B's 756, 603, 605 patrol D.D.

Units are not to sail until ordered.

(A.C. Dover O11920B to BLEASDALE, S.O. 50th M.T.B.F.)

Patrols P.I.N.S. Para. 5 Cover night 1st/2nd.
from (B) SEYMOUR (G.D.1) between 50° 16' N. 00° 52' E.,
Portsmouth and 50° 20' N. 00° 46' E.
DUFF (C.H.1) between 50° 21' N. 00° 44' E., and
50° 26' N. 00° 37' E.

/ (C) ...

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HOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Covering Operations

Patrols from Portsmouth (Contd.) (C) G.D.2 U.S. P.T's 519 (S.O.), 516, 512, G.D. 3 M.T.B 693. (S.O.) 692, 691, G.D.4 M.T.B. 450 (S.O.) 451, 482 with SEYMOUR. G.H.2 U.S. P.T's 517 (S.O.) 514, 513, G.H. 3 M.T.B 704 (S.O.) 702, 714. G.H.4 M.T.B 475 (S.O.) 473, 472 with DUFF.
(F) VERSATILE (G.A.1) WATCHMAN (G.A.2) Patrol Z-9, Z-102.
(G) (1) S.W. Corner Z.8. (2) N.E. Corner Z.8.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 011353B to Adty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts "HD" and "CN" in Area C. HORNET, Capt. (S) 5. VERNON Portsmouth, AGGRESSIVE, ATTACK, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven. THORNBOROUGH, DUFF. Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force Area in Portsmouth Command. 011505B and 011843B).
My 011353B. cancel (B) (C) and (H) and substitute:-
(B) DUFFIN 50° 20' N. 00° 44' E.
(C) G.H.2, 3 U.S. P.T's, G.H.3, 3 M.T.B's, G.H.4 3 U.S. P.T's with DUFF. G.D.3, 3 M.T.B's N.E. Corner Z.8.
(H) Force G.H. and G.D. 3 W/T watch 2980 kc/s R.T. Watch 8400 kc/s, G.H.1 Listening watch 375 kc/s and 8200 kc/s.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 011808B to addressees of his 011353)
British Assault Area patrols first 2nd September G.M. 1 RIOU G.M.2 STEVENSTONE G.M.3, 3 M.T.B. G.M.4 3 M.T.B. Tunny South G.K.1 SLAZAK. G.K. 2 KRAKOWIAK. Tunny North.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 011558B to Adty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover. C. in C. Portsmouth., A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth., F.O.I. C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Cardiff. Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts "HD" and "CN" in Area "C". Negative Shore Authorities.)

Cherbourg Area Patrols. Cherbourg patrols night 1st/2nd September H.M.S. ULYSSES in Z. 209, H.M.S. ORIBI in Z. 202 N, Z. 201 S. U.S.S. MALOY and 6 U.S. P.T's Z.210.
(C. in C. Plymouth 011624B to Adty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.'s I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth. Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts "HD" and "CN").

Mining

Allocation of responsibilities. U.S. Cdr. T.F. 125's 301655B not to all addressees please see 311631B.
(2) Concur that U.S. Cdr. T.F. 125 be responsible for initial Exploratory sweep.
(C. in C. Plymouth 011355B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Channel "Jig" Request you will continue establishing and buoying "Jig" channel as far as "Jig" 9 buoy 050° 05'N. 000° 58' E. tomorrow 2nd September.

/(2) ...

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Channel "Jig" (Contd.) (2) On arrival at "Jig" 9 buoy it is requested that 150th M/S Flotilla and 1st Minelaying Flotilla may be transferred to operational control of F.O.B.A.A. with instructions to proceed with inshore clearance unless enemy batteries are still active. They should act in accordance with Capt. Siene's letter of 29th August unless otherwise ordered by F.O.B.A.A. (A.N.C.X.F. 011517B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Enemy Action

Alleged Hospital Ship BORDEAUX. Ship identified as German Hospital ship BORDEAUX (?2nd) Officer named Alte. No passengers on board. En route from St. Helier to Cezembre. Stopped position 48° 53' N. 01° 58' W. Advise. (MALOY, 011509B to C.T.F. 125.)

German hospital ship BORDEAUX is reported to have been intercepted by forces operating under C.T.F.

125. Notification of BORDEAUX as hospital ship was accepted by U.S. Government but expressly rejected by H.M.G. in accordance with standing policy concerning vessels under 2,000 tons.

(2) Similar case occurred off Tunis and ship was retained with merely formal protest from the Germans.

(3) To avoid complications about future treatment of BORDEAUX propose she be turned over at once to British armed guard and sent to U.K. port. Question will then be taken up with Cominch and the State Department. Temporary detention is in any case justifiable.

(4) Foreign Office agree.

(Adty. 011756B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Request you will send a British ship with all despatch to bring BORDEAUX to Portland.

(A.N.C.X.F. 011835B to C.T.F. 125)

A.M. 011756.

Following from H.M.S. ULYSSES beings:- Addressed C.T.F. 125. BORDEAUX sailed from 048° 51' N. 001° 54' W. at 2030, speed 11 knots. Route A. 048° 53' N. 002° 19' W. B. 049° 25' N. 003° 04' W. C. 049° 37' N. 002° 56' W. D. 049° 53' N. 002° 07' W. thence Cherbourg. She has only enough fuel to reach Cherbourg.

(A.N.C.X.F. 012031B to Adty.)

Port Facilities

Tug requirements. High priority towing requirements from Ouistreham to Havre have been made by the Army for the first week after Havre being opened. This extra commitment cannot be met by the tugs at present in B.A.A. Request despatch of tugs still outstanding in your 241227 may be hastened. (F.O.B.A.A. 011147 to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Additional ...

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Operation "Neptune"

Port Facilities - Contd.

Additional
blockship
for
Arromanches

N.O.I.C. Arrow's 311633.
Provided local authorities are satisfied that the bulkheads and structure gives reasonable chance of standing up to winter stores, no objection seen to proposed use of after part of S.S. HARPAGUS, as operational security.
(Adty. 011940B to A.N.C.X.F.)

N.O.I.C. Arromanches' 311633.

HARPAGUS is only two years old and has valuable diesel and auxiliary machinery apparently intact. Consider after section should be towed to U.K. and Phoenix unit used for purpose indicated.

(P.S.V.O. 011253 to A.N.C.X.F., M.O.W.T., Adty.)

Casualties

L.S.T.
1000.

C.R. No.2102. Your 312233B U.S. L.S.T. 1000 sustained damage in port shaft from underwater obstruction while retracting. Now beached. Expect complete repair by tomorrow.
(C.T.G. 125.14. 011317B to L.S.T. Flot. 18, C.T.F. 125, C.T.F.127)

Shipping and Convoys

Designation
of "Neptune"
Convoys.

My 070929 August Para. 4.
Add H. = Le Havre. D. = Dieppe and adjacent ports.
S. = Pas de Calais Ports.
(A.N.C.X.F. 011826B to Adty.)

Administration

Movement
East of
small forces,
sloops and
frigates.

Your 311951 these reinforcements would be of considerable value especially in areas where radar cover is insufficient.
(C. in C. Nore 010947B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Medical
L.S.T. for
Casualty
Evacuation.

21 Army Group have agreed to the use of L.S.T. for casualty evacuation from the B.A.A. ceasing on 4th September. Two casualty fitted and medically manned L.S.T. are required however for future operations.
(2) Subject to this requirement request medical personnel and stores may be disembarked as opportunity offers, ratings being discharged to depots, and officers reporting to my F.M.O. before proceeding on leave to await appointment.

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Administration - Contd.

Medical
 L.S.T. for
 Casualty
 Evacuation.
 (Contd.)

(3) Further request that medical stores and equipment for two L.S.T. may be held immediately available for re-issue in case it should be necessary to make emergency arrangements for casualty evacuation for which the two fitted L.S.T. being retained may prove insufficient. (A.N.C.X.F. 011259B to C. in C. Portsmouth.) My 011259B. Three (R) three casualty fitted and medically manned L.S.T. are now considered to be required for possible future operations, and it is intended that the following L.S.T. shall be retained for this purpose, 180, 80, 239. (A.N.C.X.F. 011833B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Release
 of Covering
 Craft.

A.N.C.X.F. 311819. In addition to destroyers Frigate any M.T.B's already released intend to sail the following today Friday 1st September: 1 destroyer, one corvette, two A/S trawlers (5 groups missing) E.E. L.C.G's. three L.C.F's two L.C.S(L).

(2) Intend to sail 51st M.T.B. Flotilla a.m. tomorrow Saturday.

(3) (A) The corvette, two trawlers and H.D.M.L's to form part of the force destined for the defence of Dieppe vide my 242237 para. 1.

(B) L.C.G's, L.C.F's and L.C.S(L) to be held on call vide my 242237 para. 10 B.

(4) Remainder of defence forces required for Dieppe to be sailed to United Kingdom as soon as Dieppe is open to replace A/S craft sailed from U.K. with initial (?Dieppe) convoys.

(F.O.B.A.A. 011231B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Undesirability
 of L.C.T's
 for general
 cargoes.

Starlight groups of L.C.T's have not been sailed for the last 2 days due to the westerly weather that has prevailed. It is recommended that attention of Army Authorities be drawn to fact that delays will become more frequent and of longer duration with approach of autumn gales. If practicable L.C.T. loading should be limited to special loads that cannot be carried otherwise. For these loads delays up to a week must be expected.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011834 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Cherbourg
 Convoys

Your 231813.

There are objections to Channel 14 being used by outward bound M.T. ships both in view of the larger proportion which may be expected to be destined for Cherbourg in the near future and also

because such a course would present many difficulties to the organisation which C.T.F. 125 wishes to set up. It is regretted therefore that this proposal cannot be concurred in.

(2) The proposal that L.S.T. from Portland should sail as an independent group does not therefore arise.

(3) It is realised that there are grave objections to M.T. ships returning from Cherbourg via H Channel entering the Solent by

/the ...

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Convoys
(Contd.)

the Needles Channel, but if this were to occur in daylight it is considered that many of these would no longer be so great and in view of the small number of ships concerned it is felt that the disadvantages of this should be accepted.

- (4) It is therefore intended to lift the ban on movement south of 50° N. during dark hours in H Channel only.
- (5) The sailing of E.P.M. convoys should continue as at present but E.W.L. (A) and F.B.C. convoys should, subject to C.T.F. 125 concurrence, be sailed from Isle of Wight and Cherbourg respectively before dark each day.
- (6) C.T.F. 125 is therefore requested to modify his proposed organisation as outlined in his 171702 in accordance with the foregoing and in conformity with the views expressed in my 220918.
- (7) C.T.F. 125 is further requested to signal his amended proposals together with the time and date he desires that they should be brought into force.
(A.N.C.X.F. 011905B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

"Neptune"
area not
to be
extended
but to be
cancelled
in due
course.

Admiralty message 022132 August. It is considered that the control of forces operating in the channel will be simplified if the Commanders in Chief, Home Commands, have operational control right up to the Continental Coast. It is, therefore proposed that there should be no extension of the assault area as the army advances and that the control of local defence forces other than those within the assault area should be in the hands of the Commanders in Chief, Home Commands, Admiral Commanding Dover.

- (2) With the capture of Dieppe and Le Havre the threat of small craft attack in the present assault area will become very small and ever decreasing and it is proposed that in due course the assault area should be cancelled and revert to the control of the Commander in Chief Portsmouth.
- (3) In order to ensure that the Commanders in Chief are in possession of full information it will be necessary for information obtained by shore Radar as the army advance up the coast to be "told" to the appropriate Home Command Plot.
(A.N.C.S. 012311 to Adty.) *Reply: 071407B page 154.*

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HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Policy.

Submarine
attack
restriction
areas.

F.O.S. 242026. The 3 following areas appear to fulfil requirement of F.O.S. as closely as possible and appears to be the only areas in which attack restrictions would normally be unlikely to prejudice A/S operation and which are clear of normal shipping routes. They are accordingly proposed for Admty. approval and concurrence of C. in C.

Plymouth within whose command part of the area lies.

- (a) Between 054° N. 054° 15' N. and 010° 30' W. and 010° 55' W.
- (b) Between 053° 15' N. and 053° 30' N. and 010° 30' W. and 010° 55' W.
- (c) Between 052° 30' N. and 052° 45' N. and 010° 10' W. and 010° 35' W.

(2) Possible disadvantages are proximity to coast of Eire and presence of fishing craft. I do not consider however that an area extending further west is acceptable from the point of view of A/S operation. Further intend that neither area A nor B should be used until further notice.

(3) Consider that submarines proceeding to and from area C should be escorted when north of lat. 053° 15' N.
(C. in C.W.A. 010019B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Cousnaamb
Nore.

Appreciation message now that this base is decommissioned as a U.S. Naval Base.
(Cousnaamb Nore 010850 to C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. London, Capt. i/c Tilbury, Comdr. i/c Southend.)

M.L.R.Us.
3 and 4.

As Dieppe and Pas de Calais ports are likely to become available approx. simultaneously request you will attach number 3 M.L.R.U. to the advance party of Naval Party 1503 and retain number 4 M.L.R.U. with N.P.1686 until the repair section N.P.1710

has been established after which number 4 M.L.R.U. may be required for Rotterdam.

(A.N.C.X.F. 011152B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Defence
forces for
Dieppe.

A.N.C.X.F. 311819. In addition to destroyers, frigate and M.T.Bs. already released intend to sail the following today Friday 1st September. One destroyer, one corvette, 2 A/S trawlers, 6 H.D.M.Ls. 3 L.C.Gs., 3 L.C.Fs., 2 L.C.S.(L).
(2) Intend to sail 51st M.T.B. Flotilla a.m.

tomorrow Saturday.

(3) (A) The corvette, 2 trawlers and H.D.M.Ls. to form part of the force destined for the defence of Dieppe vide my 242237 para. 1
(B) L.C.Gs., L.C.Fs., and L.C.S.(L) to be held on call vide my 242237 para. 10B.

(4) Remainder of defence forces required for Dieppe to be sailed to U.K. as soon as Dieppe is open to replace A/S craft sailed from U.K. with initial (?Dieppe) convoys.

(F.O.B.A.A. 011231B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. - Contd.

S.O.E.G.2. S.O.E.G.2 has transferred from STARLING to WILD GOOSE as from 1200B today. (E.G.2 011330B to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Coast defences of U.K. Proposed reductions. The likelihood of attack on U.K. coasts is now confined to:-
(a) E-Boats, mainly off the east and southeast coasts. (b) Submarines.
(2) Attack by larger surface craft is unlikely except as suicidal act.
(3) In view of reduced scale of attack, urgent consideration is being given to reducing coast defences of the U.K. with object of releasing manpower for other commitments.
(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-
(a) The following guns to be reduced to care and maintenance:-
Fishguard Penrhys 2 - 6 inch Naval.
Holyhead 2 - 6 inch Naval.
Mersey Crosby 2 - 6 inch Naval, 15°
Fleetwood 2 - 4 inch Naval.
Workington 2 - 4 inch Naval.
Stranraer * 2 - 5.5 inch Naval.
(b) All other guns to retain their present state of manning.
(5) Request any objections to these proposals may be signalled to reach Admiralty not later than noon 4th September. (A.C.N.S.(H) 011735B to C. in C.W.A.)
(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-
(a) 2 - 6 inch Naval guns at Peterhead to be manned by Home Guard.
(b) The following guns to be reduced to care and maintenance.
Tynemouth Castle 1 - 6 inch 15°
Hartlepool (Hough) 2 - 6 inch 15°.
(c) All other guns to retain their present state of manning. (A.C.N.S.(H) 011748B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-
(a) The following guns to be reduced to care and maintenance:
Newhaven 3 - 6 inch 45° Shoreham 2 - 6 inch Naval.
Portsmouth, Culver Down 2 - 9.2 inch 30°. Fort Albert 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Hurst 2 - 12 pdrs. Needles 2 - 9.2 inch 15°.
Saluting 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Blockhouse 2 - 12 pdrs. Poole 2 - 6 inch Naval. Portland, Nothe 2 - 6 inch 15°. Portland, Blacknor 2 - 9.2 inch 15°.
(b) All other guns to retain their present state of manning. (A.C.N.S.(H) 011755B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-
(a) 2 - 6 inch 15° guns at Yarmouth, Links, to be manned by Home Guard.
(b) The following guns to be reduced to care and maintenance
Humber, Spurn 2 - 6 inch 15° Yarmouth, Hopton 2 - 6 inch Naval

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Coast
defences
of U.K.
Proposed
reductions.
(Contd.)

Lowestoft 2 - 6 inch 15°. Harwich, Darrells 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Sheerness, Garrison Pt. 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Sheerness, Fletcher 2 - 9.2 inch 15°.

(c) All other guns to retain their present state of manning.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 011802B to C. in C. Nore.)

(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-

(a) The following guns to be reduced to care and maintenance -

Plymouth, Renney 2 - 9.2 inch 30° Plymouth, Western Kings 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Plymouth, Picklecombe 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Plymouth, Bovisand 1 - 6 pdr. twin. Falmouth, Toll Point 2 - 75 m.m.

(b) All other guns to retain their present state of manning.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 011817B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-

(a) The following guns to be reduced to care and maintenance - Ramsgate 2 - 12 pdrs. Dover Fanhole 3 - 6 inch 45°. Dover, Lydden Spout 3 - 6 inch 45°. Dungeness East 2 - 6 inch Naval. Dungeness West 2 - 4.7 inch Naval.

(b) All other guns to retain their present state of manning.

(A.C.N.S.(H) -11829B to A.C. Dover.)

(4) The following proposals have been made affecting coast artillery within your command:-

(a) Reduce the following batteries to care and maintenance - Lerwick North 2 - 12 pdrs. Lerwick South 2 - 12 pdrs. Scalloway 2 - 4" Naval. Skerry 2 - 12 pdrs. Gate and Net 2 - 12 pdrs.

(b) All other batteries to retain their present state of manning.

(5) Request any objections to these proposals may be signalled to reach Admiralty not later than noon Monday, 4th September.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 011836B to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

U.S.S.
WAKEFIELD.

On crossing lat. 51.15 N. alter course for new position E. 46.02 N. 17.45 W. thence to position A. (D.O.D.(H) 011216B to WAKEFIELD.)

LINCOLN.

Have arranged with Russian Admiral for U.S.S.R. destroyer LINCOLN to leave Tyne 0600/5th September and join E.N.convoy at 1900/5th September.

Russian Admiral requests that Navigating Lieutenant Signalman and W/T Operator who are lent for passage to Scapa should remain in ship until arrival in Russia.

I have informed Russian Admiral that I have no authority to accede to his request.

Request a reply may be sent to him. He is remaining in Newcastle till 4th September.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne 011530B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

German
destroyers
22, 23,
30 and 32
sunk by
Russians in
Narva Bay.

Your 302002. This was taken up with Naval Staff on 23rd August.
(2) Details just received as follows. Four destroyers sunk are numbers 22, 23, 30 and 32 of ELBING class. Soviet Intelligence is that this class up to number 28 are of 600 tons and later numbers are 1943 construction of 1200.
(3) Further information promised regarding details of this action as well as other actions.
(Ad. Archer, Moscow 01115B to Admty.)

Biscay
Operations.

Unit transmitting a B signal at 0325Z/1st bearing 113° considered far. My position 49° 46' N. 04° 15' 30" W.

(CAPE BRETON 010549B to Admty.)

Carry out operation "Assault".

(A) Force 111, KELVIN (S.O.), ALBRIGHTON. (B) 1345B/1 September.

(C) To reach BB 48° 30' N. 5° 20' W. by 2115B.

(D) From BB patrol in Approaches to Brest between Ushant and Chaussee de Sein until 0100B/2. Then proceed south and patrol in Audierne Bay until further orders.

(G) Force 26, DIADEM, TARTAR, ASHANTI patrolling between Belle Ile and Archachon. ROCHESTER and 10 M.T.Bs. in L'Abervrach.

(K) 11 inch battery at St. Mathieu believed still active.

Battery approx. 6 inch calibre on Cap de la Chevre.

(C. in C. Plymouth 011121B to KELVIN, ALBRIGHTON.)

After embarking personnel at Sable d'Olonne at S.Os. discretion between Belle Ile and Archachon.

(2) Force 111 KELVIN and ALBRIGHTON will patrol in approaches to Brest from 2200B/1 until 0100/2, then in Audierne Bay.

(C. in C. Plymouth 011129B to Force 26.)

Fishing boat interrogated by ASHANTI off Ile d'Yeu at noon today states 60 Germans returned Sables d'Olonne last night and that 2000 are contained nearby by F.F.I. who are handicapped by lack of small arms.

TARTAR now investigating position at Sables d'Olonne.

(Force 26 011323B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Nr. 1. Position of 2 minesweepers, 3 medium merchant vessels 47° 16' N. 02° 12' W., stationary.

(A/C JBO 19 011340B to 19 Group.)

Nr. 2. No attack made. Have informed Naval Escort Group in area.

(A/C JBO 19 011515B to 19 Group.)

If no personnel have been embarked by dark Force 26 is to proceed to patrol as in my 011129B.

(C. in C. Plymouth 011856B to Force 26.)

Information obtained from Sables d'Olonne p.m. today 1st.

(1) Although town has been evacuated raiding and wandering parties of Germans keep inhabitants in constant fear of re-occupation. Main German movements are from La Vendee to (?concentrations) at Poitiers and La Rochelle. Noirmoutier, La Barre des Monts, Beauvois sur Mer still occupied by Germans. Germans blew up ammunition dumps at Luçon on night 31st. 24 lorries and two cars of Germans moved from St. Jean de Mont to St. Gilles de Vie today.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay Operations. (Contd.) (2) Beach at Sables d'Olonne mined but not the harbour. All locks, cranes and basin unuseable. Ships drawing 12 feet can berth at high water on north side.
(3) Capt. L. Helies, Commandant of Town F.F.I. says main requirements are arms ammunition and signalling projector. Food sufficient, no electric power in town. Force 26 has obtained 42 rifles, 51 Lanchesters, 12 pistols and 41 thousand rounds of ammunition.
(4) Reported that two M/S and some shipping between Pornic and St. Nazaire.
(5) TARTAR has on board three German privates, one German Naval rating and three Polish deserters from German coastal batteries. DIADEM has one French patriot wishing join French army. (Force 26 012102 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Dover area shelled. Between 0155 and 0430 today 1st September enemy coastal batteries in the Calais, Sangatte and Cap Gris Nez area fired approx. 150 rounds. These fell as follows -
20 in Dover, 6 in Ramsgate, 6 in Deal, 6 in Folkestone. Remainder fell in sea off Dover Harbour, and in South Foreland and Pegwell Bay areas. Considerable damage to civilian property and some civilian casualties including one fatal in Dover have been reported. There was also slight damage to Naval property in Dover and Ramsgate but no Naval casualties.
(A.C.Dover 011146B to Admty.)

Operation "Victual". My P.C. and S. 069° 53' N. 010° (53') E. (220°) 19 $\frac{1}{4}$. Returning Scapa through position C.
(2) VENUS, ZEST, ZAMBESI returning Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F. 011059B to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

Two enemy A/C shot down. (1) 1715/22nd August 071° N. 023° E.
(2) Two Seafire IIIs, LR 816 and LR 859 both 894 Squadron. (3) Two P.V.138s.
(7) Both enemy aircraft shot down into the sea.
(INDEFATIGABLE 011015B to Admty.)

Antwerp. Attack requested. It is reported that five Blockships are now moored off Antwerp in preparation for blocking entry to the port.
(2) P.R. has been requested from N.L.O. Medmenham to check above report and discover location of ships.
(3) If report confirmed and if target is considered suitable request bombing attack at high priority.
(A.N.C.X.F. 011128B to A.E.A.F.)

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
trawler
scuttled.

U.S.S. NORTHLAND sighted enemy trawler in 76.03 N. 15.50 W. attempting to work westward through ice. After gunfire from NORTHLAND enemy vessel was scuttled at 1045Z/1st September in 75.58 N. 18.30 W. NORTHLAND picked up prisoners and is proceeding to Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C. 011700B to Admty.)

U-Boats.U.247 sunk
by ST. JOHN.

Have attacked another contact 200° Wolf Rock 2½ miles. Large quantities of oil. Awaiting daylight.
(E.G.9 010510B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
At 1400 ST. JOHN dropped 5 charge pattern by echo sounder traceq in 204° Wolf Rock 2½ miles which brought vast quantities of oil to surface and in addition printed German books, photographs of naval base, radio blue prints, crossing the line certificates marked U.247, and a great quantity of splintered wood-work.
More articles still coming up.
(E.G.9 011445B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Search for
U-Boat.

SWANSEA and 2 ships are to search in vicinity aircraft sighting report in my 011113B.
(2) Remainder patrol convoy route Trevoise Head to Pendeen providing support for convoys while in this area.
(C. in C. Plymouth 012021B to E.G.9.)

HURST CASTLE
sunk. Search
for U-Boat.

HURST CASTLE torpedoed 111° BB 36.
(HELMSDALE 010825 to C. in C.W.A.)
HURST CASTLE torpedoed by "Gnat" in 000° Tory Island 11 miles.
(PEVENSEY CASTLE 010845B to C. in C.W.A.)
AMBUSCADE is picking up survivors and returning to Merville for fuel.
(PEVENSEY CASTLE 010915B to Cdre. D.W.A.)
Sail EARNER escorted by P.C.74 forthwith to assist HURST CASTLE.
X Torpedoed in 55° 27' N. 8° 12' W. at 010825B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 010918B to N.O.I.G. Campbeltown.)
HURST CASTLE sunk.
(2) 105 survivors in AMBUSCADE proceeding Merville for fuel
(Force 33 011030B to C. in C.W.A.)
KENILWORTH, PEVENSEY investigating possible contact 001° 11 miles Tory Island light. Remaining ships searching area except C.3 and FOLEY and ETTRICK. Latter two operating inshore of wreck vicinity Tory Island. Suitable.
(Force 33 011335B to C. in C.W.A.)

/Appreciate...

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats

HURST CASTLE sunk. Search for U-Boat. (Contd.)

Appreciate U-Boats (German) may act as follows in this order of preference.

(A) Bottom within 10 miles of attack on HURST CASTLE.

(B) Move northwest up wind.

(C) Move southwest away from shipping lanes.

(D) Close coastline to bottom.

(D) Move eastward.

(2) Suggest you consider following action after 2000 tonight.

(A) Employ one group of 3 ships in company in coastal waters between Aran Island and Fanad Point.

(B) Established Datum Point 103° BB 27 miles. Searched area to be A square of 60 miles side running north to south and east to west. Divide searched area into 3 north and south.

(C) Remaining ships divide into 3 groups, one group in each strip, each group containing at least one Squid ship.

(D) Carry out Gamma search with ships 2 miles apart on general courses north and south. Arrange that relative position of groups are staggered and not all at same end of strip at same time.

(3) Suggest P.N.M. Unit should be streamed without displacers.

(4) Please give me your intentions.

(C. in C.W.A. 011746 to Force 33.)

Your 011746B. Total area as in para. B.

(2) Area X 008° 12' W. to eastward. PRINCE RUPERT, DORSEY, VILLE DE QUEBEC, FOREST HILL.

Area Z 008° 36' W. to westward. LOCHY, DEVERON, CHELSEA, OXFORD CASTLE.

Area Y centre. PEVENSEY CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE, BITTERSWEET, AMBUSCADE.

Inshore area W. BAYNTUN, FOLEY, LAUNCESTON CASTLE.

(3) HELMSDALE vicinity Tory Island and inshore. Several doubtful contacts investigated under bad conditions. Suitable.

(Force 33 012022B to C. in C.W.A.)

Proposed use of Boom Patrol Boats from Parachutes

In connection with the projected anti U-Boat offensive in Northern Waters, considerable importance is attached to striking with every means at our disposal. Plans are under consideration for inshore operations by special weapons against U-Boats in harbours, their depot ships and floating docks.

(2) Desired to include in plans the parachuting of 3 Boom Patrol boats to attack U-Boats at both Trondheim and Stavanger.

(3) Understood about 12 Lancaster Mk. III aircraft are being modified to carry such patrol boats. It would be appreciated if Air Staff would examine whether possible to provide six of these aircraft for the above purpose by mid-September.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 011543B to Air Ministry.)

Casualties & Defects.

DEVONSHIRE. Request arrangements be made to sail DEVONSHIRE to arrive Liverpool p.m. 6th where she is to complete general overhaul.

(D.S.T. 010329B to D.S.T.O. Southampton.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

FORMIDABLE. A.M. 250310. Anticipate work required will take 14 days. Propose sailing from Scapa 1900B/2nd and entering Basin highwater p.m. 3rd September. (FORMIDABLE 010931B to C. in C. H.F.)

SPANKER. Arrived with collision damage SS. SPANKER. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 011304 to N.C.S.O. Cardiff)
SS. SPANKER in collision with U.S.L.S.T. 621 in 51° 40' 50" N. 05° 19' 50" W. at 0630/1.
JUSTICE entered Haven at 1302/1 towing SS. SPANKER. U.S. L.S.T. 621 entered Haven 1006/1 minor damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 011313B to Admty.)

19

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

JALEA Your 301543. Liaison officer for JALEA will be sent as soon as possible. Ratings should be provided from Station resources. JALEA is to come under British control for service in Eastern Fleet. (D.O.D.(F) 011247B to F.O.G.M.A.)

M.K.S. Convoy sailing tels. In view of shorter passage M.K.S. convoys it is essential sailing telegrams from Gibraltar be marked important. (D.T.D. 011707B to F.O.G.M.A.)

TUSCALOOSA, AUGUSTA. Your 311716 and N.C.W.T.F. 301803* TUSCALOOSA and AUGUSTA Route. (to Gibraltar for O.R. to U.S.A. Details). (D.O.D(F) 011927B).
* Not to Admiralty.

South Atlantic

S.S. PLUS ULTRA. S.S. PLUS ULTRA (Spanish). Your 212238 August refers. Brought into Freetown under armed guard P.M. 29 August.
(2) All mails with the exception of two diplomatic bags consigned to Governor Fernando P.O. which were left on board by decision of censorship police and security officials removed and handed to chief censor for investigation.
(3) No trace of razor blades in cargo other than mail bags. Preliminary search of bags has so far revealed 24000 blades apparently of cheap Spanish make.
(4) No suspected enemy agents on board.
(5) Ship sailed 1445 31st for Santa Isabel.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 011081Z (sic) to Adty.)

Ship-shore messages from Merchant Ships in Indian Ocean. Technical. (C. in C. S.A. 011534B)

S.S. WAYFARER (sunk 19 Aug) British Consul Beira reports British Ship WAYFARER torpedoed and sunk 19th August 10 survivors landed at Palfa near Rovuma River. No further details available. (S.O. (I) Capetown 011855B)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

OMAHA,
MARBLEHEAD,
CINCINNATI,
QUINCY.

My 311611. Onward routes and arrangements.
(Comnob Oran 010905.)

Use of
I.F.F. code.

Admty. 151555* your 271322 not to all. No change is intended in existing use of I.F.F. code until either (a) threat of increase of (b) (corrupt group) operation taking place in which no risk to specially important units can be accepted.

(2) Request therefore that you will take action with A.H.Q.E.M. to prepare scheme on lines laid down in A.M. quoted and which can thereafter be brought into force at very short notice if desirable.

(3) M.A.A.F's 311535 August clarifies situation for A.H.Q.E.M.

(4) In view of distance from enemy air base it is not proposed to initiate a similar scheme in Western or Central Mediterranean. (C. in C. Med. 010912B to F.O.L.E.M.) * Believed that Germans using I.F.F. Mark 3 & subsequent policy to be followed.

UNSWERVING.

(P.63) UNSWERVING) sailed from Malta at 0901B/1st and will carry out a survey for mines in the Channel east of Pondiko Nisi from dawn 3rd to dusk 5th.

(2) During nights 3/4 and 4/5 she will be patrolling in the Aegean south of lat. 036° and west of long. 023° 44'.

(Capt. S.1 010932B to 1st Submarine Flot. PIPINOS, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

Flying
restrictions
in Med.

My 151710 August. Para. 1A. Add Marseilles and Toulon.
(C. in C. Med. 011002.)

Minron 7.

It is understood that there are now 25 A.M.S. in the Meditn. in addition to 4 British M/S Flotillas. As operation "Dragoon" is now completed it is requested that Admty. may take up with Cominch and

Comnavu the question of the return of Minron 7 (10 ships) to C.T.F.123.

(2) This addition to his forces should expedite the clearance of ports and would enable C.T.F.125 later to meet with U.S. Forces all commitments at ports under U.S. control.

(3) Such an arrangement would greatly reduce administrative problems

(4) It would also release British forces for "Talisman".

(A.N.C.X.F. 011027B to Admty.)

JEANNE D'ARC.

Request you route F.S. JEANE D'ARC to Algiers Admty. 311554* August not to all refers.
(C. in C. Med. 011044B to F.O.G.M.A.)

* re JEANNE D'ARC to be sailed to Gibraltar.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

VIGOROUS,
PIPINOS,
VOX.

(1) 2 K.T. ships probably now in Suda Bay sailing imminent. (2) Likely enemy routes are
(A) Suda Bay direct Santorin then to Piraeus.
(B) Suda Bay to Piraeus, Trapani, Cape Spada and Cape Mala. (C) From Suda Bay easterly or westerly course for 25 miles thence direct Piraeus between Phalconera and Antimilos.

- (3) Departure Suda Bay 2001 to 2359B.
 - (4) Assume following patrol
 - (A) VIGOROUS in vicinity position 178° DD 33½ miles by 2101/1st.
 - (B) PIPINOS between Antimilo and Phalconera by 2359/1st.
 - (C) VOX in vicinity of Cristiani by 2330/1st.
 - (5) Establish safety lines drawn in direction from position DD 285°, 359° and 133°.
 - (6) Submarines have freedom of action in their sections on receipt of aircraft report of merchant ship but are not to approach within 3 of their safety lines.
- (Capt. (S) 1 011154 to 1st S/M F. PIPINOS, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)
c.f. VOX 011638 et seq.

Co-operation
with Turkey.

Have not yet received answer about uniforms. Consider Turkish General Staff not entirely responsible as matter has probably become one of higher policy and is being dealt with by Turkish Govt. My 301*.
(B.N.A. Ankara 011258.)
* As received. ?301210 intended.

Summary.
Attacks on
U-Boats.

Summary of attacks on U-Boats not previously reported and not yet assessed by Med. joint assessment board.

My 080958 August refers.

Serial	Date	Ship	Position	
Serial 113	171514 July	U.S.S. NIBLACK	37. (?20) N.	H
Serial 114	051245 Aug.	H.M.S. ALDENHAM BEAUFORT WHADDON	04.30 E.	
			40.15 N.	F
Serial 115	060910 Aug.	Aircraft B.14	19.21 E.	
			39.51 N.	H
Serial 116	071135 Aug.	H.M.S. ALDENHAM URCHIN UNDAUNTED	19.38 E.	
			39.35 N.	H
			19.33 E.	

(C. in C. Med. 011510.)

Assault
Escort
carrier
force.

Your 251110 August and 252249 August. Arrangements are being made to send aircraft and pilots you require in a ferry carrier. Further signal will be made regarding movements.
(D.N.A.O. 011539B to C. in C. Med.)

/VOX...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

VOX: 1 K.T.ship, 1 destroyer, 2 E.M.S. 35° 28' N. 24° 56'
Enemy Aegean mins. E. 090°, 10 knots.
convoy. (VOX 011638.)
At 0400/31st fired 4 torpedoes at K.T.ship in my
0220. Enemy returned Standia at 0500. At 1438/
1st fired torpedo at K.T. ship escorted by one
destroyer and 2 E.M.S., proceeding from Suda Bay to Candia.
Missed both times. Torpedoes expended.
(VOX 011843B.)

Adjust speed to arrive position (A) 035° 02' N. 026° 43' E.
at 2100/2nd. (B) 034° 28' 026° 40' at 0030/3rd.
(C) 034° 18' 024° 01' at 1330/3rd. (D) 035° 48' 016° 27' at
2330/5th. (E) 035° 49' 015° 18' at 0530/6th.
You are to proceed diving by day between 024° E. and 020° E. your
average surface speed is estimated as 10 knots.
(Capt. S.1 012354 to VOX.)

Black Sea. From Intelligence report Aug. 25th to Aug. 30th
(Intelligence report for Aug. 22nd and Aug. 25th,
Aug. 27th Dardanelles collected en route to
Crimea by Black Sea Staff.)

(1) Naval. Aug. 24th (?1)500 (?ton) merchant vessel sunk by
Soviet submarine western Black Sea. Enemy submarine observed
(?southwest) Sevastopol Aug. 25th and Aug. 28th and off coast
south Constantza Aug. 26th and Aug. 27th. Two unidentified
enemy mines rendered safe at Ak Mechet (further details re-
quested) Aug. 25th Kilia captured by Naval landing parties.
(2) Air attack on enemy port Aug. 23rd one Monitor damaged in
Vilkovo. Aug. 24th near Kilia two tugs, three barges and two
monitors sunk. Aug. 25th one barge sunk in Sulina and one tug
and one M.L. damaged near Tulcea.

(3) Following vessels observed in enemy ports. (?p.m.) Aug.
29th: Constantza two large and two medium merchant ships and
one type K.(?T): one 7000 ton tanker, two submarines (5
observed on Aug. 25th) one submarine depot ship, 13 special
purpose auxiliary vessels, one F-Lighter, two E-Boats, five
minesweeping M.Ls., five barges, three other craft and four
floating docks: (total 70 craft observed Aug. 28th including
three destroyers and seven merchant vessels). Varna: four
torpedo vessels, one medium merchant vessel, one small M-vessel
and two type K.T., 8 F-Lighters, three barges, five E-Boats,
three R-Boats and 15 M.Ls. including three minesweepers.

(4) Next book will be number 532.

(N.L.O. Black Sea 011745.)

See amendment 021230.

Toulon - Y.M.S. 21 sunk by enemy moored mine in Eguillette
Y.M.S. 21 Road, Toulon Harbour, at 1600, September 1st, in
sunk. 5 fathoms water. Two men missing, 3 injured.
Detailed report by C.O. follows.
(C.T.U. 80.10.2 011800B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

RAMILLIES,
DIDO.

Your 311152 to Admiralty only but which has been passed to addressees destination of RAMILLIES and DIDO is Clyde.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 012028B to C. in C. Med.)

Operation
"Dragoon".

Naysitintrep 17. "Dragoon". Period ending 2400/
1st September.

Of 2 destroyers supporting right flank WOOLSEY bombarded M.G. and anti tank guns south of Monaco with some return from probable SS. Artillery that remained unlocated. Unloading onto beaches according to schedule a max. effort being applied to port clearance Marseilles and Toulon. 3 M/V and 2 Crane ships, 5 Pont on Cau arrived Marseilles 1 oiler unloading in Port de Bouc. All G.C.I. ships released. Night fighter direction controlled from ashore. Major Task minesweeping completed. 345 contact mines and 15 moored magnetic mines cleared. Suitable channels and approaches to both Toulon and Marseilles cleared. Inner harbours being swept. Random lays found. A/C mine spotter located about 30 mines across Eguillette Roads Toulon. No O/C mining to date. "Oyster" "Katie" acoustic type mines apparently not used.
(N.C.W.T.F. 012151.)

1.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat reported near Chagos. SSSS lat. 10.46 S. long 78. 21 E. one periscope sighted.
(S.S. CHRISTY MATHEWSON 010345Z)
No further details. We are all right.
(CHRISTY MATHEWSON 010914Z to Adty.Colombo)

U-Boat dispositions Area A.D.2, wreckage sighted in 015° 14' N. 055° 41' E. on 31st indicates probably sinking in this area. Scale remains Y 2. Other areas no change.
(C. in C. E.F. 010355Z)

Unidentified Ship. Catalina A/C reports homing on to 6/8000 ton ship at 301928Z in 019° 40' S. 052° 47' E. vessel not clearly identified but reported to have appearance of Liberty Ship unable to identify ship from Merchant Ship Plot here.
(F.O.E.A. 010722Z to C. in C. E.F.)
Ship referred to in my 010722* course and speed 200° 8 knots.
(N.O.I.C. E.Af. (Kilindini) 011712Z)
* Catalina A/C reports 6/8000 ton ship.

S.S. CARABAO Request you amplify your distress / signal received here 0504Z/1.
(Admiral Mombasa 010728Z to (V.R.W.L.)CARABAO)
/ N.T. in W.R.

A.F.D. 23. Destroyer dock at Colombo. Consequent on damage to A.F.D. 23 at Trincomalee, new destroyer dock at Colombo is being completed as matter of urgency.
(2) Request all possible hastening action be taken in regard to delivery of outstanding machines for new dock workshops in order that repair resources at Colombo (5 groups missing) (?completed) and in operation at the earliest possible date.
(C.S. Ceylon 011505Z to Adty.)

U.S. JOHN BARRY sunk 28 Aug. Forwarded in accordance with E.F. 71 64/71/27.
(A) U.S. JOHN BARRY.
(B) 015° (?54' N.) 055° (?55') / E. 28th August 2155 (S.M.T.)
(C) S/M no details. (D) Torpedoed and sunk.
(E) 3. (F) 31 landed Aden 1st September.
Remaining survivors believed to have been rescued by eastbound ship.
(G) No. (H) Not known. (I) Ship sank one hour after first torpedo struck no effort made to contact survivors.
(J) Not known. (K) Not known. Chief Engineer and Purser.
(S.O. (I) Aden 011546Z) / ? Could also be "28".
American ship JOHN BARRY torpedoed in 015° N. 055° E. at 2200Z 28th August. 31 survivors landed at Aden. Wreckage reported by (? ST. LAWRENCE) 31st August considered to be from JOHN BARRY.
(C. in C. E.F. 011747)

1.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

A.A.
Defences
of Ceylon.

(1) Chiefs of Staff have taken note of the reductions in A.A. defences of Ceylon set out in Seacos* 212 cipher 18 August.
(W.O. 011915B) * 181419.

Garrison
of Diego
Suarez.

Your G.O. 21572 cipher 8 Aug. ✓
(1) Agree circumstances justify further reduction of Brit. Inf. grn. Diego Suarez. Your proposal to delete First Bn. Mauritius Regt. without replacement approved.
(W.O. 012107B to G.O.C. in C. E.Af.)
✓ 081700/Aug. Consider circumstances justify further reduction British Inf. Grn. Diego Suarez.

26

1.9.1944

FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

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

Para. D. H.M.C. Ship Asdic contact 0600Z 1st.
40° 00' N. 64° 00' W.
(N.S.H.Q. 010932Z)

S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary.

(A) (1) H.M. Ship torpedoed at 0625Z/1 in 55°
27' N. 08° 11' W.
(B) (1) E.G.9 attacked contact at 2020Z/31 in
49° 58' N. 05° 42' W.
(2) A/C P/179 sighted periscope, course 167°, at
0003Z/1 in 45° 30' N. 02° 26' W.
(3) E.G.9 attacked contact at 0310Z/1 in 49°
54' N. 05° 51' W.
(4) A/C sighted possible conning tower at 0240Z/1 in 55° 28' N.
08° 05' W.
(D). (1) Am. CHRISTY MATHEWSON sighted periscope at 0345Z/1 in
10° 46' S. 78° 21' E.
(D.D.I.C. 011148B)

PUNCHER,
TROUNCER

Your 262031.
PUNCHER and TROUNCER may carry L.V.T's only if
there are no naval aircraft awaiting shipment
to U.K. or Gibraltar. Torpedo risk cannot
be waived.

(2) Heavy commitments for lifting British Naval A/C make it
most unlikely that a C.V.E. can be provided for Lifting
L.V.T's.
(5th S.L. 011328B to B.A.D.)

U-Boat
Dispositions

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 011340, Cominch 011619Z)

R.N.A.S.
Palisadoes.

Informed. Royal Naval Air Station Palisadoes
Jamaica decommissioned effect from September 1st
1944.
(Comdr. North Caribbean Area. 011605R)

? U-Boat.

Four escorts on search within 25 miles 48.10 N.
32. 55 W. where A/C saw oil slick heard briefly
submerged propellor noises on (?301130Z) Diversion
of ST. OLAF suggested. W.X. 38 66 19 34.
(C.T.G.22.4 012056 to Cominch, C.in C. Lant Com.
10th Fleet, C. in C. W.A. Adty. C.in C. C.N.A.
S.B.N.O. Azores, Commavzor.)

U-Boat
incidents.

No report 31st. Para. (B) 011457Z U.S. Killer
Group made three attacks on deep sound contact
37. 26 N. 68. 43 W.
(Cominch 012105Z)

1.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat
dispositions

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 011459B, 011538B)

2.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 88)

General.

1(a) Channel convoy sailings to far shore suspended at request of C.T.F. 125. JEANNE D'ARC sailed from Cherbourg for Gibraltar.

(b) The German Hospital Ship BORDEAUX arrived at Cherbourg under escort of ULYSSES for fuel en route for Portland.

(c) Cumulative landings up to this afternoon are:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British :	828,030	206,910	1,482,867
American :	1,244,064	229,469	1,918,962
<u>Total :</u>	<u>2,072,094</u>	<u>436,379</u>	<u>3,401,829</u>

Enemy
Action.

2(a) Mining. The trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL was damaged by an underwater explosion, probably a mine, while at anchor.

(b) Two magnetic mines were swept in Assault Area.

General

Enemy
shipping
attacked.

3. During the night of 1st/2nd 3 M.T.B. Units from Dover engaged 3 groups of enemy light craft proceeding from Boulogne to and past Calais. They torpedoed and sank at least 2 T.L.Cs. and scored hits on another and on E-Boats. Our shore batteries also took part and claim to have damaged or sunk 7 vessels. Enemy long range guns replied, doing damage to our coastal batteries' equipment, and to M/S Trawler LOIS. Our aircraft also took part, harrying the enemy, and claim to have sunk 2 E/R Boats and damaged several other craft. None of our M.T.Bs. suffered loss or damage.

Western
France.

4. The situation around les Sables d'Olonne remains fluid, with Germans going and then returning, notably at La Roche-sur-Yon. Brest was bombed by 67 Lancasters.

Northern
France.

5. Dieppe is in our hands, port installations have been demolished, but the harbour is only partially blocked. Havre is reported being mined and evacuated.

2.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands - Contd.

? Decoy
trawler
sunk.

6. U.S. Coastguard NORTHLAND intercepted a trawler off Jan Mayen Is. and was fired at with torpedoes by a U-Boat. These hit nearby ice harmlessly, and the trawler scuttled herself.

Operation
"Victual".

7. At 0800 Convoy R.A. 59A was 280 miles E.S.E. of Jan Mayen.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean.

10th S/M.F.

8. Submarines of the 10th Flotilla are no longer required to operate from Maddalena. Captain (S) 1 has asked for their assistance in Aegean operations, and today C. in C. Med. gave orders that two of them, UPSTART and UNTIRING, are to be transferred to the 1st S/M Flotilla. UNIVERSAL is to sail with G.U.S. 51 to Gibraltar for onward routeing to the U.K. for refit. On 6th September C. in C. Med. gave orders for the Submarine Base at Maddalena to be closed down forthwith. The 10th S/M.F. is to be absorbed into the 1st S/M.F.

Operation
"Dragoon".

9. The U.S. destroyers WOOLSEY and EDISON bombarded bridges and strong points in the Monaco area in support of the 7th Army's right flank.

Aegean.

10. Aircraft attacked another K.T. ship last night south-west of Santorin and claim hits.

East Indies

11. SIRDAR today shelled a convoy off the north-west coast of Sumatra, about 110 miles south by east of Sabang, damaging a coaster and forcing it to beach. An escort vessel was also damaged.

2.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

China

12. 3 Liberators successfully mined Hong Kong harbour today.

Australia and New Zealand

13. 11 Mitchells attacked warehouses and a shipyard in Lembeh Strait, Celebes today.

Attack on
Iwo Jima
and Chichi
Jima.

14. On 31st August, 1st and 2nd September the U.S. Pacific Fleet attacked Iwo Jima (Volcano Is.) and Chichi Jima (Bonin Is.) with carrier borne aircraft and bombardment. Two fleet carriers, two escort carriers and two cruisers took part. One L.S.M., 5 small freighters, one small tanker and 6 oil barges were sunk. Three S/M chasers* were probably sunk and 5 were damaged, and shore installations were destroyed or damaged. On the first day 11 enemy aircraft opposing the attack were all destroyed, and no further aircraft were seen in the air; on the ground 35 were destroyed and a further 31 were damaged. The U.S. losses were 9 aircraft.

2.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune"

Situation Reports

Military Dieppe in our hands and reports received Havre being mined and evacuated.
 (S.H.A.E.F. 021715B to Agwar.)

Naval (1) No reports of minelaying during past 24 hours.
 (2) Two operations completed, remainder abandoned owing to adverse weather.
 (3) New approach channel to Cabourg swept fifteen times with negative results.
 (4) Two magnetic mines swept in positions: 49° 24' 30" N. 00° 9' 30" W. 49° 25' N. 00° 9' 45" W. Three spontaneous explosions reported tonight.
 (5) Fresh to strong S.W. wind with rough sea prevailed during the day. Wind veered to W. tonight and increased. Heavy sea now running. Sea intelligence unit showing activity tonight and movements of large units stopped.
 (6) 139th Trawler Group (French) arrived today. All ships require coal before operating.
 (7) Reference my 312230 August para. 4, all mines now confirmed as magnetic.
 (8) Summary. (A) 2 - 2 (B) 4 - 3.
 (9) State of Flotillas: 163rd M.S.F. - 6, 18th, 113th M.S.F., 139th T.G. (French), 5 each, 7th M.S.F. - 4, 101st M.S.F., 159th T.G., 3, 150th T.G. - 2.
 (Capt. M/S Seine B. 022230B to A.N.C.X.F.)
 (A). Intelligence. A report from Sables D'Olonne shows that the situation in that region is fluid and uncertain with small groups of Germans withdrawing from and sometimes re-occupying various places. The main enemy movement is from that district towards La Rochelle and Poitiers. At Sable D'Olonne the harbour is not mined and ships drawing 12 feet can berth at high water on the North side though the port installations are demolished.
 (B) General. Dieppe is reported free from enemy shelling. The port installations are demolished but the harbour entrance only partially blocked. Convoy Sailings are suspended owing to bad weather.
 (c) Unloading Figures.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	824,726	206,083	1,475,341
U.S.	1,234,424	227,800	1,879,652
Total	<u>2,059,150</u>	<u>433,883</u>	<u>3,354,993</u>

(Adm. Ramsay 022301B to Adty.)
 (F.) At 1750 KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL damaged by underwater explosion. Probably mine, whilst at anchor. Chief Engineer injured. No other casualties reported.
 (G) (1) Enemy air activity. Approximately 12 enemy A/C operated over the B.A.A. during the night. Some of these were composite A/C. Two fell in "Sword" area. One Ju.88 and one F.W.190 destroyed by night fighters over the sea.
 (G) (ii) General information. (A) The net in "Sword" area is now completed.
 (B) Work in the anchorage has been almost at a standstill during the day owing to weather conditions and sensitiveness of mines.
 (C) Plymouth Division R.M. Band played in Champs Elysee yesterday. They were greatly appreciated.
 (F.O.B.A.A. 022301 to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary

2.9.1944

SaturdayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Movements

JEANNE D'ARC. French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC sailing unescorted at 0700B September 2nd to Gibraltar for onward routing by C. in C. Med. Fleet. Routed via Q.Z.S. 512, 490, 472, 482, 483 and thence as in Admiralty's 311554B of August. Speed of advance 20 knots. E.T.A. will be signalled by JEANNE D'ARC to F.O.G.M.A. (C.T.G. 125.2 020005B to C.in C. Portsmouth.)

Covering Operations

Patrols from Portsmouth Pins cover night 2nd/3rd September.
 (F) FORESTER (G.C.I) Z.102. WATCHMAN (G.C.2) Z.9.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 021326B to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force Area in Portsmouth Command, Adty., V.A. Dover, FORESTER, WATCHMAN., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts HD and CN in Area C., H.M.S. HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, H.M.S. VERNON Portsmouth, H.M.S. AGGRESSIVE, H.M.S. ATTACK, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)
 British assault area patrol 2nd,3rd September.
 (1) G.M. 1(one) R 100 G.M. 2 H.M.S. STEVENSTONE Tunny South
 G.K. 1(one) D.S. SLAZAK G.K. 2 P.S. KRAKOWIAK Tunny North.
 (2) G.M. 3 3 M.T.B's G.M. 4 3 M.T.B's Tunny South.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 021708B to Adty., C. in C. Nore, V.A.D., A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Patrols from Dover. O.N. Dover 67.
 F.O. 1 M.L's 254, 452. Z.2.
 (A) F.N.2 M.T.B's 603, 607. 208° Z.2. 5.8 miles.
 (B) F.U.3 ORWELL. 050° Z.3. 3 miles.
 (C) F.U.4 OBEDIENT. 050° Z.5. 3 miles.
 (2) A/C under Swingate VH/F control will illuminate and attack vessels in an area within 8 miles radius of Boulogne Breakwater light.
 (A.C. Dover 021347B to C. in C. Portsmouth, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, S.O. 50th M.T.B.F., S.O. 21st M.L.F.)
 My 021347B. Units F.O.I. and F.N.2 are to remain in harbour at one hours notice.
 (A.C. Dover 021731B to C. in C. Portsmouth, OBEDIENT, ORWELL S.O. M.T.B's, V. 50, Q. 21.)

Patrols from Plymouth. Plymouth patrol night 2nd/3rd. 1st escort Group Z 246Z 247. 3rd escort Group South and South West of Z. 241. 9th escort Group 3 ships North of Trevoze 3 ships in Z.236. 11th escort Group West Z.246 L.C.P.(S) Z. 247 Force 111 H.M.S. KELVIN, H.M.S. ALBRIGHTON arrive Plymouth 2200 2nd from S.W.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 021825B to Adty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships Maintaining W/T Watch on Broadcasts "HD" and "CN" in Area "C".)

2.9.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Air Activity

Enemy craft engaged in Straits of Dover. My 021125B.
 E. 84 D. Attacked by four Albacores, 6 Beaufighters and 2 Avengers between Boulogne at 2246 - Dunkirk 0418.1 unidentified probably sunk. 1 E/R boat smoking. Several near misses.
 E. 85 D. Attacked by 1 Beaufighter at 0205, no results.
 E. 86 D. Attacked by 1 Beaufighter at 0102. E/R boat possibly sunk. Other targets not plotted. 31 individual attacks made against shipping moving N. - E. up French, Belgium and Dutch coasts claims:-
 (1) 2352 1 E/R boat left smoking 13 mins.N. of Flushing by Beaufighter. Several straddles and near misses.
 (2) 0001 2 T.T.A. stopped and damaged 10' N.N.E. Ostend by Swordfish.
 (3) 0247 1 E/R boat possibly sunk off Ostend by Avenger.
 (4) 0305 1 unidentified damaged off Ostend by Avenger.
 (5) 0350 1 E/R boat sunk by Albacore off Calais.
 (A.C. Dover 021936B to Adty, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, H.Q. 16 Group, C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Portsmouth, H.Q. 11 Group)

Mining

Channel "J" Your 1/6 A of 22/8/44. and your 291904B / and my 011826B / (not to all) suggest that with a view to reduction in number of light buoys position A should be amended to position 49° 59'. 18" N. 00° 55' 06" E. and that Channel from Falcon Light Vessel should join at this point thus doing away with the light buoy at position B.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 021511B to F.O.B.A.A.)
 / Top Secret Circulation. / Not identified in W.R.
 Your 021511. It is requested that points A. and B. may both be buoyed as originally proposed. This avoids a 90° turn for sweepers.
 (F.O.B.A.A. 022146 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Enemy Action

Alleged Hospital Ship BORDEAUX. BORDEAUX arrived Cherbourg due to fuel shortage. Intend to sail to Portland escorted by ULYSSES when fuelled.
 (C.T.F. 125 021411B to A.N.C.X.F.)

2.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune"

Port Facilities

Moorings
for Liberty
Ships ex
"Juno"

F.O.B.A.A.'s 301319 not to all addressees request B.D.O. Gosport may load 5 Buoy Liberty Trot equipment D.B.D's 1904/44 of 13. 8 not to all addressees for laying and shipment as early as practicable in Arrow.

(3) Names of Bar Vessels detailed by B.D.O. Gosport and expected date of commencing lay to

be reported.

(4) F.O.B.A.A. requires work completed by 8th September his 311906 not to all addressees refers.

(Adty. 020548B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Suspension
of shipping.

Request all shipping to far shore be delayed until further notice.

(C.T.F. 125 021549B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Boom Defence
Vessels for
Arromanches.

Ref. D.B.D. 2083/44 para 3. and 7. Trawlers detailed for this operation. WILLIAM HANNAN, THE WAY, and DR. LEE para 5. The following Bar vessels are nominated - BARNWELL and MARTINET. (B.D.O. Gosport 021550B to D.B.D. Adty.)

Blockship
for
Arromanches.

Cotug: Your 311633 August and A.M. 011940 September. In view of P.S.V.O. 011253 September. Approval to use after end of HARPAGUS as blockship cannot be given unless you confirm operational necessity for such action.

(A.N.C.X.F. 021629B to N.O.I.C. Arrow)

Salvage

Salvage
Base at
Havre.

Intend establishing main salvage base ashore at Havre to serve Seine Bay and Channel Ports. N.O. I/C 1501 is requested to arrange covered storage space of 5000 sq. ft. and office accommodation for P.S.V.O. and staff of 6.

(F.O.B.A.A. 021432 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties

S.S. ALDEN
GIFFORD
foundered.

ALDEN GIFFORD, Collier, gross tons 1793 net 906, registered No. 168467 from Barry to Devonport, in E.B.C. 90 foundered in gale due to cargo shifting in position 4 miles N.N.W. Longships, crew 34, 28 survivors landed Newlyn, including 2 injured and 5 D.E.M.S. gunners by French vessel onward passage Milford to Newlyn. Further signal follows.

(R.N.O. Penzance 021530B to Adty, C. in C.Ply.)

2.9.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Administration

Organisation of Trans-shipment stores at Havre and Dieppe. When Port of Havre is opened propose that Naval Store Carriers sail to Arrow and unload there stores for ships and shore parties in the original B.A.A. and then proceed to Havre to unload stores for Havre Rouen and Channel Ports. (2) Consider establishment of a transshipment store at Havre essential in order to cope with unloading and distribution of Naval and Victualling stores, spare gear etc.,. This has proved a large and unjustifiable burden on B.A.O's at Arrow and Juno but the progress eastwards should reduce this burden at Arrow to more reasonable proportions. (3) Request N.S.O. or Assistant N.S.O. and small Staff be appointed for this duty at Havre to arrive 10 days after its capture. Consider local civilian labour could be engaged as Labourers. (4) Bid for necessary storage space has been put in to Admiralty. (5) N.O. i/c Party 1501 concurs in above proposals. (6) It may be necessary to transfer this organisation to Dieppe later where similar bid for space has been made. (F.O.B.A.A. 021609 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Naval Representation on French Mission. The Supreme Commander is organising a Mission to the French which calls for Naval Representation. Request instructions as to the composition of the Naval Representation and whether it should be United States or British or both. I suggest it should be United States as France is in the United States Zone and as the French Navy is under control of Cominch. Request an early reply. (A.N.C.X.F. 021926B to Adty.)

Cherbourg Convoys Your 011905B, para. 3. Although I am anxious to fall in with your plans regarding the entry of M.T. ships through the Needles Channel, I do not consider that the general use of this channel even by day is acceptable during the winter months. Pilots cannot be put on board in bad weather. The entrance is fraught with danger due to cross currents in a narrow channel. If your plan is adopted it is requested that the attention of all masters be drawn to the sailing directions, especially Channel Pilot Chapter 5, Section III and that the Needles Channel may never be used if weather or tidal conditions are in any way difficult. The eastern entrance should be used when pilots are not available or masters are in any doubt. (C. in C. Portsmouth 022119B to A.N.C.X.F.)

2.9.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

General

Policy

S/M Attack
Restriction
Areas.

Concur with proposals in C. in C. W.A's O10019B September so far as Plymouth Command is concerned. (2) Reference paragraph (3) consider that submarines proceeding to or from area (c) should also be escorted when south of 53° 15' N. until within that area and from the time of leaving. (C. in C. Plymouth, O21351B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Proposed
amendment
of Plymouth
and Western
Approaches
Commands
boundary.

It is under consideration to route the main trans-Atlantic convoys south of Ireland (R), widening Q.Z.S.565 so that all water north-west of a line 238° from Strumble Head would be clear of mines. (2) To give effective control of these convoys by C. in C. Western Approaches and to centralise the A/U war in one Command, it is considered that the boundary between the Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands will require temporarily to

be amended.

(3) The new boundary proposed is: Along the southern boundary of the Cardiff and Milford Haven sub-commands to position 51° 14' N., 05° 12' W. thence to position 50° N., 07° W. thence to position 45° N., 07° W. thence to position 45° N., 09° 20' W. thence to position 43° N., 09° 20' W.

(4) Request your early remarks. (Admty., O21511B to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

Additional
Support
Groups
to be
formed
anti-U-Boats.

It is appreciated that a considerable U-Boat threat must be expected in U.K. inshore waters, such as the northern, north-western and south-western approaches. In fact, one ship was torpedoed 20 miles north of Malin Head on 30th and another in the same area on 1st. (2) The formation of additional support groups is urgently required, and to effect this the following steps are approved.

- (a) Reduce the nominal strength of all existing British support groups to 5.
 - (b) Withdraw fast escorts from the trans-Atlantic B groups, when the new cycle reduces present large size of convoys. The resulting nominal strength of 6 corvettes per group to be accepted.
 - (c) Reduce the escort of K.M.S./M.K.S. convoys to 3 ships. This has been approved in A.M. 242303 August not to all.
- (3) The escort of K.M.F./M.K.F. convoys is not to be reduced below the present figure. (Admty., O21605B to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence
forces for
Dieppe.

Your O11231B. Request 16th and 17th M.G.B. Flotillas and RIOU be released as soon as possible. (2) Request you will sail H.D.M.Ls. 1469, 1397, 1461 and 1408 to Portsmouth as soon as possible. This will leave you 12 H.D.M.Ls. and S.S.E.F's Forces to cover any threats still existing. (C in C. Portsmouth, O22204B to F.O.B.A.A.)

2.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of the United Kingdom

Coast Admiralty 011748 September. Para. 4(A) Consider
Defences one regular manned gun should be retained at
U.K. Peterhead for defence against possible shelling
Proposed by submarine, also that guns covering Oxcars
reduction. Boom, Firth of Forth, should be re-manned.

Following alternative proposals are put forward.
(a) Reduce Kincaig battery to care and maintenance.

(b) Reduce Peterhead to one gun regular manned, second by Home Guard.

(c) Reduce Girdleness and Montrose to care and maintenance.

(d) Use personnel available from (b) and (c) to man one 12 pounder on Inchcolm and one 6 pounder twin on Cramond.

A meeting has been held with Scotco who has forwarded proposals to Hofors to effect (b), (c) and (d).

Para. 4(B) Flag Officer in Charge, Tyne has been requested to reply direct.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 021230 to Admty.)

Your 011836B para. 4(A). Lerwick. Considered necessary to retain 12 pounders out both Lerwick North and South as they are the only suitable anti-M.T.B. batteries and are also H.A./L.A. As alternative, propose place Greenhead 2 4-inch naval guns and one of two Ness of Sound 6-inch guns in C. and M., accepting reduced state of readiness of remaining gun at latter battery. Fighting lights must be retained at both places.

(2) Scalloway - concurs.

(3) Skerry and Net and Gate concur but fighting lights must be retained as they are essential for defence against midget craft attack.

(4) In addition I am prepared to accept reduction of Stanger, Ness and Berwick to two watches.

(5) Recommendations above are on assumption that your (4B) will stand which conflicts with proposals from Scottish Command to O.S.D.E.F. This indicates intention to reduce states of readiness of all remaining batteries to a minimum of four minutes.

(A.C.O.S., 021932B to Admty.)

Movements

LINCOLN. Request Admiralty will take necessary action on F.O.I.C. Tyne's 011530 September.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 021130 to Admty.)

ACTIVITY and RAJAH. The following moves for ferrying aircraft are intended - (A) ACTIVITY to the Mediterranean and then Ceylon. (B) RAJAH to Ceylon.
(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail these ships in company when ready about 10th September, escorted by PELICAN, DEVERON, LOCHY and SWALE who are proceeding to the Eastern Fleet.

(3) Destination Gibraltar for onward routeing by C. in C. Med.

(4) Admiralty will provide route to Gibraltar.

(5) On completion of ferry duty ACTIVITY and RAJAH should be sailed to U.K.

(6) A further signal will be made in regard to loading.

(Admty., 021220B and 031225B to Cs. in C. W.A., Med., E.F.)

2.9.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

KENT. Request you will detail four destroyers to be sailed with KENT to Clyde a.m. Monday 4th Sept. to comply with Admiralty O11814 and O21250. (C.S.1, O21847B to Com. D.H.F.)
 Proceed by standard route through Minches to Clyde passing Hoxa Gate outwards at noon Monday 4th September. Speed of advance 20 knots, E.T.A. Clyde 0700 Tuesday 5th.
 (2) You will be accompanied by four destroyers detailed by Com. D. H.F.
 (3) All sanctuaries are in force except "Yorker".
 (4) Admiralty's O11814, O11818, O12042 are passed to you for necessary action.
 (5) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange Gate.
 (C.S.1, O22047B to KENT.)

WAKEFIELD. P.C.S. 2100Z/2nd 45.00 N., 19.18 W., 226, 19.5. Weather.
 (WAKEFIELD, O22036Z to C. in C. W.A.)

FORMIDABLE. Proceed by standard route to Rosyth in accordance with Admiralty 250310B August passing Hoxa Gate outwards at 2100 today Saturday 2nd September arriving a.m. Sunday after flying off aircraft.
 (2) Fighter protection codeword "Tribune".
 (3) Attention is called to A.S. Rosyth, O20940B.
 (4) Second Escort Group is carrying out A/S operations in Moray Firth area.
 (5) Com. D. H.F. is requested to detail two destroyers as screen for FORMIDABLE.
 (6) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange Gates accordingly.
 (C.S.1, O21509B to FORMIDABLE.)

Operations

Biscay operations. Reliable information received via F.F. Forces.
 (1) 3 S/Ms. were reported on 1st September at Cap de Lachevre to pick up officers from Brest.
 (2) Their probable destination thence is Isle de Groix and Spain. Weather report.
 (ROCHESTER, O20130B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 (1) Nothing sighted between Belle Ile and Gironde during night. Intend closing Sables d'Olonne about midday.
 (2) Weather report.
 (Force 26, O20745B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 (1) Boat put out from Sables d'Olonne in rough sea at 1330 today Saturday and gave following information.
 (2) Germans have re-taken La Roche-sur-Yon thus cutting off Sables d'Olonne, where situation same as yesterday from Interior.
 (3) In view of massacre of Cerizay Village for Maquis activity inhabitants fear the worse. Request H.M. Ship calling daily if military assistance not available.
 (4) Attack by 24 lorries on St. Gilles was beaten off, my O12102B, para. (1) refers.
 (Force 26, O21523B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Force 26 is to sweep to the north and west during tonight 2nd/3rd September, passing 48° N. at first light tomorrow, and then returning to Plymouth.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, O21740B to Force 26.)

/Operation ...

2.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Scapa,
facilities
for Escort
Groups.

Details of arrangements for local administration
whilst escort groups are working from Scapa.
(Com. (D) H.F., 021416B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

2.9.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation S.C. Ramose Knight, my 291515B HESSA returned at 1000B today 2nd September.
(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S., 021107B to Admty. for D.D.O.D.(I) and N.I.D.(Q).)

Action off Calais. Last night 1st/2nd in anticipation of a movement eastward of enemy shipping from Boulogne, striking forces, in addition to defensive Z patrols were disposed as follows:-
Unit F.N.1: M.T.Bs. 236, 235, 231, 202 under the command of Lt. Comdr. E.H. Larive, D.S.C., Royal Netherlands Navy in 236 at Z.2.
Unit F.N.8: M.T.Bs. 358, 362, 353, 359 under the command of Lieut. Comdr. B.C. Ward, D.S.C., R.N. and Unit F.N.9: M.T.B. 486 (Lieut. Comdr. C.A. Law, D.S.C., R.C.N.V.R.), and 485 in position 108° S. Foreland 9 miles.
(2) Shore-based radar detected the following group of vessels leaving Boulogne northbound.
(A) At 2155 4 E-Boat size at 35 knots.
(B) At 2230 12 or more trawler size at 11 knots.
(C) At 2304 6 trawler size at 9 knots.
(3) Visibility was about 3 miles, bright moon, wide south-westerly 3-4 increasing sea moderate.
(4) Plots of group A were broadcast in normal manner and Unit F.N.9 ordered to attack. Prompt action by Senior Officer resulted in interception at 2224 in approximate position 125° S. Foreland 16.5 miles but Unit was forced to engage on opposite course to avoid further group of vessels closing from Calais. Hits were obtained on group of E-Boats which were reported by plot to have entered Calais at 2234.
(5) Groups B and C were attacked between 2240 and 2330 by one Beaufighter and two Albacores whose claim of hits with bombs is substantiated by Y intercepts.
(6) From 2337 to 0102 coast artillery batteries engaged these groups with 123 rounds of 9.2 inch, obtaining many straddles observed by M.T.Bs. Coast artillery claim 7 vessels damaged or sunk by gunfire. Enemy long range guns at Gris Nez and Sangatte replied with approximately 120 rounds mainly in the South Foreland area, causing considerable damage to coast artillery equipment and 3 Army casualties. 3 shells in Folkestone and 4 in Dover caused damage to civilian property, but no casualties. One hit on H.M.T. LOIS which was holed forward, wrecked fore messdeck and store-rooms and resulted in one serious and two slight casualties to crew. Guns of the coastal artillery batteries and the R.M. Siege Regiment returned fire on enemy batteries, firing 64 rounds of 15 inch and 29 rounds of 14" respectively between 2345 and 0250.
(7) At 2350 under cover of shore batteries, Unit F.N.1 gained contact with group B in approximate position 138° S. Foreland 16 miles, closed range to 2000 yards and fired zone of 8 torpedoes at 3 T.L.C. type and one trawler type vessel. Hits were obtained on two T.L.C. one of which was observed to blow up, the other to be set on fire, and subsequently to sink. Enemy opened fire with starshell and H.E. but Unit withdrew under smoke suffering neither damage nor casualties.
(8) Unit F.N.8 was kept clear until Unit F.N.1 had retired to westward, and at 0050 Unit F.N.8 with M.T.B.485 attached were ordered to attack group C.

/At ...

41

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

Action off Calais. (Contd.) At 0121 in approximate position 110° S. Foreland 19½ miles Unit was illuminated when 4000 yards from enemy. Zone attack was pressed home to 3000 yards, all torpedoes being fired. One hit was observed on one out of five T.L.C. type vessels which almost certainly sank. M.T.Bs. then disengaged under inaccurate fire from shore batteries of large calibre. No damage or casualties to the Unit or M.T.B. 485. M.T.B. 486 had become detached with defective steering gear.

(9) Enemy was repeatedly attacked after passing Calais by aircraft who claim some hits.

(10) At about 0230 two heavy explosions were observed in Boulogne which cannot be accounted for either by air attack or gunfire.

(A.C. Dover, 021853B to Admt.)

Patrol from Dover.

Embarking personnel and equipment leave Dover and proceed by Q.Z.S. 517 to D buoy thence via West Bulde, whence BLEASDALE is to proceed to position 133° Beachy Head 43 miles and COTTESMORE to position 133° Beachy Head 21.5 miles.

Positions are to be assumed by 0630 tomorrow 3rd and maintained until further orders. Expected time of departure to be reported.

(2) Special equipment is to be switched on, unless otherwise ordered, during following periods.

(1) 0655/3rd to 1200/3rd. (2) 1730/3rd to 2300/3rd.

(3) 1300/4th to 1630/4th unless more than 2 miles out of position.

(3) On completion R/V at C.2 Buoy and proceed to Portsmouth report E.T.A. to C. in C. Portsmouth.

(V.A. Dover, 021957 to BLEASDALE and COTTESMORE.)

Allied Air Activity

Permanent air patrol instituted.

My 311254 and your 081820. 18 Group have established permanent air patrol in area enclosed by point (A) 059° 53' N., 013° 55' W. (B) 061° 40' N., 017° 45' W. (C) 062° 20' N., 016° 23' W. (D) 060° 37' N., 012° 35' W.

Details in form Green RO/93/1st Sept. (not addressed 15 Group). Propose U.R. and R.U. convoys be routed through this area to obtain advantage of air cover.

(A.C.I.C., 021416B to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats

Search for U-Boat.

Your 012021B.

SWANSEA acting in accordance with para. (1). MONNOW and PORT COLBORNE detailed to comply with paras. (2) and (3).

STORMONT and MEON are attacking probably? in position 050° 45' N., 004° 55' W.

(E.G.9, 020025B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/NORTHLAND ...

2.9.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSU-Boats - Contd.

NORThLAND. Two torpedoes fired at NORThLAND by submarine without deck armament while NORThLAND was chasing German trawler. Torpedoes hit ice and exploded. Trawler scuttled in 75.58 N., 18.30 W. at 011045Z after gunfire from NORThLAND. 28 prisoners taken. Submarine sighted again at 011430Z but contact lost because of ice. STORIS and NORThLAND now conducting joint search in 76.30 N., 15.40 W.
(C.T.F. 24, 021655, 022215 to C. in C. Lant.)

Navigational

Buoyage of channel to the Hook. A.N.C.X.F. 011156B. It is estimated that 28 Ocean Light Buoys will be required for marking the swept channels to the Hook and Flushing. Request buoys may be prepared and arrangements made for tenders to be available for laying them at short notice. Lights on buoys to be fitted with dimmers so that they can be laid at reduced or full brilliancy as required.
(C. in C. Nore, 021207B to Admty.)

Withdrawal of light buoys. In view of the decrease in cross Channel traffic of landing craft, the degree of maintenance which may be expected with the advent of winter and the necessity of conserving stocks for meeting future requirements, it is proposed to remove the following light buoys H.1, 2, 4, 6 and 8. A.2, 4 and 5. B.1 and 3, 14B, D and F. E.3 and 5, 5B, D and F. Note A.4M or A.5 buoy to be resited in approximate position 50° 27' N., 01° 23½' W.
(2) If this proposal is adopted it is intended to forward similar suggestions regarding Jig Channel when it has been in use for sufficient time to warrant this reduction in aids to navigation.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 022108B to Admty.)

Technical

Small German Submersibles. Reference A.G.M. 530A of 28th August 1944. The following is based on subsequent evidence and cancels A.G.M. 530A.
(2) In addition to the one-man torpedo and the explosive motor boat described in A.G.M. 435A of 30th July 1944 and A.G.M. 491A of 15th August 1944 the Germans have also developed and may at any time operate two new types of submersible craft for attacks on inshore concentrations of shipping and coastal convoys. (B.2.)
(3) There is no evidence that these submersible craft are at present intended for operation outside the North Sea and Channel areas. (B.2.)
(4) Evidence is not accurate enough to distinguish the details of either craft clearly, but the following particulars probably cover both.
(5) Length 18-25 ft. Crew of one or two men. Armament one or two torpedoes. Periscope probably fitted on one type.

/Both ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Technical

Small
German
submersibles.
(Contd.)

Both probably characterized by a perspex dome. Diving depth shallow. Propulsion probably electric and batteries cannot be recharged at sea. Speed probably slow. Launched either from trolleys from beaches or simple launching slipways in harbours. (B.3.)
(Admty., O21838B: A.G.M. A.557 (B.7.))

Casualties and Defects

Ship
torpedoed
in Convoy
O.N.S.251.

O.N.S.251. Ship torpedoed position 55° 55' N., 9° 28' W. WENTWORTH in contact.
(S.O. C.4, O22230Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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Saturday.

War Diary

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

TUSCALOOSA,
AUGUSTA.

Request you route TUSCALOOSA and AUGUSTA in accordance with A.M. 011729~~4~~.
(F.O.G.M.A., 021047B to Com.N.O.B.Oran).
/ 011927 intended.

South Atlantic

THANE

THANE requires boiler cleaning. Intend taking her in hand forthwith. Estimate she will be ready for sea 11th September. Para.3 of my 301135+ August refers.
(C. in C.S.A., 021143B).
+ Intend working up programme for escort carrier (THANE) due Capetown on 2nd September.

SS. ANDES

(1) From position H steer for new position K. 010 degs. 00' N. 020 degs. 02' W. rejoin route at J.
(2) H.M.S. ABERDEEN sloop on passage Bermuda to Freetown may be in your vicinity during dark hours tonight Saturday.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 021210Z to ANDES).

B.R.L.O.
Bahia.

You are to close B.R.L.O. Office as soon as convenient turning over naval reporting duties to British Consul of district.
2-5. Arrangements.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 021325Z to B.R.L.O. Bahia).

Monster

My 021225 amend P.C. S. Monster to read 013 degs. 15' 024 degs. 52' through 010 degs. 00' 020 degs. 02' thence 103 degs. 21.
(R.A.W.Af., 021334Z to Ships in Area P of West African Station North of 8 degs. N., Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.S.A., N.O.i/c Bathurst).

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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- UNIVERSAL** Intend sailing UNIVERSAL at 1130/4 through 41° 05'. 07° 39' at 2200/4 39° 18' 06° 26' at 1300/5 to R/V with escort for Algiers 1600/6 in 36° 59' 03° 05'.
- (2) Request (? UNIVERSAL) be sailed with G.U.S.51 to Gibraltar for onward routing to U.K. for refit.
(S.10. 020923, 020927 to F.O.W.M.) Message now complete.
- G.2. Summary No. 21.** (4) 800 German troops said to be awaiting departure from Crete by air. Above report credible in view of previous reports of troops returning to mainland from Milos and arrival Lavrion of Germans from unspecified location in Aegean.
(A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O. Recd.1012)
- 10th S/M.F.; UPSTART, UNTIRING.** As S/M's of the Tenth Flotilla are no longer required to operate from Maddalena UPSTART and UNTIRING are to be transferred to the First S/M Flotilla.
(2) UNTIRING is to be sailed to Malta as soon as practicable your 311009 August not to all refers.
(3) UPSTART is to be relieved at Marseilles by CURIE as soon as practicable and when relieved sailed to Malta.
(C. in C. Med. 021116B to S.1.)
- Black Sea** Correct my 01 1745 para. 3: Photograph R/C of Constanza was 0920 August 29th and Varna 1620.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 021230)
- Torpedoes** (Technical).
Your 171601B/August not to C. in C. Med.
Item A. Countermeasures are theoretically possible but at present regarded as very unlikely as a practical proposition. This incident is baffling. Patrol report states water thrown up both sides of target. Further information as to inclination of target at the time and relative position of water splashes is requested if available.
(D.T.M. 021347B)
- Combatdiv 5.** Intend to sail Combatdiv 5 in U.S.S. TEXAS with U.S.S. ARKANSAS, NEVADA plus WINOOSKI, CHEWAWA, COWANESQUE, PINTO escorted by Comdesron 16 in U.S.S. PARKER, KENDRICK, MACKENZIE, MCLANAHAN, BOYLE, CHAMPLIN, NIELDS, ORDRONAUX 040900 to United States.
(2 - 7). Arrangements.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran. 021437)
- Toulon Y.M.S.21 Sunk.** While on mission sinking enemy floating mines in Eguillette Road of Toulon Harbour this vessel struck moored enemy mine at about 1600B/1 and sank at about 1610B in 44 ft. of water at 005° 54' 02" E.

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Toulon - 43° 06' 28" N. Confidential publications
Y.M.S.21 except General Signal Book and Mersigs in ships
Sunk. safe and will attempt salvage. Gen. Sig. Book
(Contd.) and Mersigs in weighted covers on bridge not
found. Compromise not probable. Following
casualties.
(C.O. Y.M.S.21. 021530B)

PIPINOS, Cancel my 021103 and 021114. (N.T. in W.D.)
VIGOROUS. (2) One SOLFERINO class destroyer and 2 K.T. ships
present Candia a.m. today. Appreciate when they
sail they may make considerable easting or westing
coastwise before turning to northward.
(3) 1 K.T. ship had sailed a.m. today from Milos probably for
Piraeus.
(4) S/M assume patrol in Anti Kithera to Candia as follows:
(A) PIPINOS west longitude 025° 10' by 1602 3rd.
(B) VIGOROUS west longitude 025° 10' forthwith until dawn 3rd
then shift east 025° 17' by 0802 3rd.
(Capt (S) 1. 021611B to PIPINOS, VIGOROUS (R) F.O.L.E.M. 1st S/M.F)

Turkish Following 3 shipping movements reported which give
shipping some indication of relaxing of restrictions.
restrictions. (2) ULGEN reported to have left Sea of Marmara for
Cannakale 29th August. She is to proceed to
Ayvalik with cargo. Graded B.3.
(3) AKBELX left Istanbul 30th August with coal
for Izmir.
(4) ADANA is to leave Iskenderun to load grain at Ratalaya for
Istanbul. My 311252/ August refers.
(B.N.A. Ankara 021702C).
/ Restriction on movements of Turkish shipping partly lifted.

Mines in A.M. 291329 not to B.N.L.O. Black Sea, paras. 3
Danube. and 4. In order to facilitate mine clearance in
Danube when sweeping becomes practicable, it is
most desirable that only magnetic types should be
employed in any future minelaying operations. In
preparing special craft for sweeping, it is hoped to avoid
having to provide for acoustics, presence of which in the River
will greatly complicate sweeping problems.
(2) You should therefore raise the matter with the Russians on
general lines without referring to policy in A.M. 291329.
(3) Positions and types of British mines laid in River are known
but we have no information regarding Russian mines. Latter is
required by F.O.L.E.M. for purpose of planning future mine
clearance.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 021712B to Admiral Archer)

U-Boat Your 021139 from D/F bearing approx. position of
in Aegean this U-Boat at 0249B was 034° 30' N. 022° 00' E.
(F.O.L.E.M. 022032C to Capt.(S) 1st. Info: 1st
S/M F., PIPINOS.)

/Balloons ...

2.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Balloons In view of your 291045/August to Med. Station it is now proposed to supply balloons and bottles only to those ships proceeding direct from U.K. to ports north of Naples. Do you concur.
(2) As replenishments will not in future be available from ships in through Mediterranean convoys information is requested whether further shipments of equipment will be required to meet commitments arising under your para. 1(B).
(D.T.D. 022044B to C. in C. Med.)

Toulon Routine maintenance East West and North South Main Approach Channel with M/A results negative. Completed drag sweep and M/A sweep with L.C.V.(P)s into all useable berths and basins results negative. Three moored mines swept and sunk by L.C.V. P M/S in Guillette Road. Toulon harbour West of a line 172° from pier 6 to opposite beach unsafe until further notice. Tomorrow PLANTER will moor to West Wall of Old Basin. STRIVE moored to buoy in swept channel 750 yards West of old lighthouse as signal and information vessel. Both Toulon harbour.
(C.T.U. 80.10.2. 022205B to C.T.U. 30.10)

Situation Islands in approaches to Marseilles surrendered to report U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA on 30th August. Marines No. 423. were landed and 886 P.O.W. evacuated.
(2) Swept channel established to Marseilles and Toulon 67 mines swept during latter operation. U.S.Y.M.S. 21 was sunk on 1st Sept. while sweeping in Toulon area.
(3) On 1st Sept. U.S.S. WOLSEY bombarded gun positions south of Monaco. Slight return fire.
(4) On 1st Sept. LOYAL and UNDINE engaged batteries and cross roads near Cattolico. Result of LOYAL's bombardment unknown. UNDINE reported result most effective with all targets well covered.
(5) One mine self-detonated inside Civita Vecchia Harbour on 1st adrift and a 2nd blew up and sank. M.M.S.117. This occurred 83 days after last mine had been swept.
(C. in C. Med. 022248)

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

FORMIDABLE. FORMIDABLE will leave U.K. on 15th September proceeding via Mediterranean to join Eastern Fleet.

(2) Through escort will be provided by KEMPENFELT, WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER.

(3) Admiralty will promulgate route to Gibraltar. C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange onward passage.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 020010B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Area C.B.4 CHRISTY MATHEWSON reports sighting periscope 0345Z/1 in 010° 46' S. 078° 21' E. but later reported to be all right. Pending further details scale remains at W.5.

Area A.D.2 my 010355 wreckage sighted now believed to be from SS. JOHN BARRY which was sunk. Scale remain Y.2.
Area A.D.3 increase scale to YY 2.

Other areas (?no change).

(C. in C. E.F. 020407Z.)

SPITEFUL,
bombardment
of Christmas
I.

My 511125 para. 3 delete "which damaged hydroplanes" and substitute "No damage sustained."
(C. in C. E.F. 020529Z.)

B.A.78A.

Owing to further breakdown of escorts it is regretted that it will be necessary to defer the sailing of intermediate B.A. troop convoy (short title B.A.78A.) until Sept. 14th.

Your 270613 August refers.

(C. in C. E.F. 020624Z to P.S.T.O. (I))

SS. WAYFARER
(sunk 19th
August.)

WAYFARER torpedoed and sunk August 19th 10 survivors landed Palma Port East Africa. Full details follow.

(F.O. E.Af. 020848.)

K.M.F. 35.

Your 091041 August. The question of transport of Naval drafts between U.K. and Colombo is dependent on outcome of discussions which may involve alterations in K.M.F. cycles.

(2) In the meantime request existing routine may be continued in regard to K.M.F.35.

(D.O.D.(F) 021821B to C. in C. E.F.)

2.9.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B attacked. Obtained A/S contact classified submarine in D.R. position 38° 48' 63° 52'. Carried out one "Hedgehog" attack lost contact am instructed observant. (STONE TOWN 020608Z.)

N.S.H.Q. submarine attack & sighting summary. Para. (D) H.M.ship attacks asdic contact at 0608Z/2nd in 38° 48' N. 63° 52' W. (N.S.H.Q. 020851.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 021450Z, Cominch 021614Z.)

X.B.123. Cancel X.B.123 no ships offering. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 021605Z.)

Formation of additional support groups as far as C groups and E.G.16 are concerned. A.M. 021605*. To meet the urgent need for additional groups, request you will consider conforming as far as C groups and E.G.16 are concerned. It is estimated that this should produce 3 additional fast groups in due course, making 7 in all.

(2) It would be appreciated if 2 of these additional R.C.N. groups could be placed under the operational control of C. in C. W.A. for use in covering trans-Atlantic convoys, thus leaving 2 for operations in Canadian Waters. (1st S.L. 021713B to N.S.H.Q.)

* See Home Commands.

U/B incidents. Admty. give info. H.Q.C.C. N.M.C.J.S. have info. by hand. Para. (C). Prior to 012056 COR. A/C sighted oil patch and had sonobuoy contact 48.10 N. 32.55 W. 020815 P.B.M. radar contact 38.05 N. 68.58 W. All times 2. Para. (D) 020608 H.M.C.S. STONE TOWN attacked sound contact 38.48 N. 63.52 W. (Cominch 022105Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. 955. September 1st. (14) Same night (night 31st) two P.T. boats destroyed one barge beached 10 miles west Manokwari.

2.9.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. (16) Nine Beauforts bombed village near Dagua
955. forenoon 1st and 3 Beauforts hit Lairiru (?Kairiru)
(Contd.) Island that afternoon. Ground patrols from
Driniumor River encountered Japs at Dangsiwad River
mouth also camps. Previous day four Aircobras
co-operating with two M.T.Bs. set fuel dump afire
Cape Pus. Over 8,800 Jap. dead counted general Aitape area to
end August plus 130 prisoners taken.
(17) United States Navy frigate bombed (sic) Jap. positions
Soepiori Island (N.W. Biak) 30th August.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 020650Z.)

Minor Landing It is considered desirable to hold in Eastern
Craft pool Australia a number of pooled reserve minor landing
for Force X. craft and to transfer from U.K. a small drafting
pool of combined operational personnel together
with base units to serve Force X.
(A) - (E) Details.

(2) Your views, in consultation with U.S. authorities, are
requested, with particular reference to:
(a) Location for this base.
(b) Equipment required, bearing in mind local facilities
available.
(1st S.L. 022047B to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack Para. (A) (1) WAYFARER torpedoed and sunk on 19th
and sighting August off E. African Coast.
summary. Para. (B) (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at
1245Z/1 in 59° 41' N. 11° 59' W.
(2) H.M.S. PEVENSEY and KENILWORTH investigated
contact at 1135Z/1 in approx. 55° 27' N. 08° 11' W.
(3) Training Liberator V/547 sighted persicope at 0813Z/1 in
approx. 50° 40' N. 05° 01' W.
(4) H.M.S. ST. JOHN attacked U-Boat contact at 1200Z/1st in approx.
49° 46' N. 05° 51' W.
(5) E.G.9 attacked contact at 2107Z/1 in 50° 46' N. 04° 54' W.
Para. (C) (1) American transit A/C sighted 3 U-Boats, course 295°
at 1041Z/1 in 59° 10' N. 09° 35' W.
(D.D.I.C. 021129B.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 021524B, 021530B.)

War Diary.3.9.1944.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperation "Neptune" (D + 89)

General.

1(a) Channel convoys were resumed, but unloading over the beaches was still stopped by the gale. During the gale Paddle Steamer GLEN AVON, the Arromanches Examination Vessel was swamped and foundered, and EMPIRE CURZON was driven ashore off les Essarts de Langrune.

(b) Caen Canal is now clear as far as Nouveau Quai.

(c) The German Hospital Ship BORDEAUX arrived at Portland (see 2nd September).

(d) Cumulative landings to this afternoon are:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British :	830,344	206,937	1,485,519
American :	1,248,467	230,566	1,944,035
Total :	2,078,811	437,503	3,429,554

Mines.

2. Two magnetic mines were swept in the Assault Area.

General

Operation "Goodwood" (21st-24th August and 29th August).

3. Summary of results of air attacks on TIRPITZ and targets in Norway is as follows:- Four probable and two possible hits on TIRPITZ; 9 aircraft destroyed, 2 badly damaged; 6 W/T or Radar stations badly damaged; 2 U-Boat, 4 destroyers, 1 tanker, 1 large merchantman, 9 small vessels and several Radar and Flak ships hit by fighters; Banak, and Alta aerodrome buildings badly damaged; and a large oil tank fired at Lervik.

Channel.

4. Cross-Channel shelling was again indulged in, Germans starting. Damage was done in Dover and Deal, and to M.M.S.87. Dieppe fairway is now 40 yards wide and 12 ft. deep. Estimated port capacity 1,000 tons on Monday.

West Coast of France.

5. Brest was bombed by 106 Marauders (424 x 1000 lb. bombs). Leaflets were also dropped over Brest - St. Nazaire and Abbeville - Dieppe areas.

/U-Boat ...

3.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands - Contd.

U-Boat in N.W. Approaches 6. FJORDHEIM (4,115 tons) was torpedoed and sunk ~~out of~~ Convoy O.N.S. 251 60 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

Operation "Victual" U/B sunk. 7. Convoy R.A. 59A reached position 290 miles N.E. of Faroes at 8 a.m., and meanwhile Swordfish aircraft from VINDEX, in the escort, crippled a U-Boat which was then sunk by destroyers and sloops.

on 2nd September

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Operation "Dragoon". 8(a) The U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA and a destroyer carried out a bombardment near Monte Carlo today in support of the Army. Unloading was curtailed on account of the weather and some minor landing craft were driven ashore.

Adriatic. (b) LOYAL and URCHIN successfully bombarded targets in the Rimini area today.

Air Operations. 9(a) Coastal Air Force today hit with R.P. one of four vessels sighted in the Gulf of Genoa, bombed Zante and Patras, sank 2 x 500 ton merchant ships in Corfu Channel, attacked 3 x 300 ton merchant ships in Zante and probably hit all three, and attacked a 100 ton schooner off the Ionian Is., the crew of which were seen abandoning ship.
(b) Tactical Air Force last night attacked Genoa harbour and Porto Fino and started several fires.

America and West Indies

U/Bs. off Sable Island. 10(a) SHAWINIGAN today picked up 14 survivors of SS. LIVINGSTON who was torpedoed and sunk in 46.15 N., 58.05 W. (approximately 140 miles N.N.E. of Sable Island) about 0700Z today en route to St. Johns N.F. from Halifax. The Master sighted one submarine, but other members of the crew state there were three.

(b) ...

3.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

U/Bs. off
Sable
Island.
(Contd.)

(b) A U.S. transport aircraft sighted 3 U-Boats steering south-east in 56.45 N., 54.55 W. at 0015Z yesterday.

U.C.
Convoys.

11. In order to expedite the turn round of C.U. shipping, particularly fast freighters running on Army account Cominch proposes that U.C. convoys be returned to U.S.A. in two sections, fast and slow, the latter sailing 4 days after the fast section. The Admiralty concurred, and it was arranged that U.C.38 and subsequent U.C. convoys should sail in two sections.

Australia and New Zealand

12. Liberators and Naval Liberators operating off the Philippines between the night of 1st/2nd September and today sank or left sinking 4 small ships and damaged a fifth. 8 sea trucks were attacked; 3 were sunk and another 3 probably sunk.

13. 60 Liberators attacked airfields and shipping in the Celebes today. 38 of them attacked the Lembeh Strait waterfront, demolishing a small merchant vessel on slipway and doing other damage.

War Diary3.9.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 89)Situation Reports

Air Gun positions: 71 Marauders on Brest 284 x 1000 G.P. fair/excellent, 35 Marauders on Brest/Fort du Portzio 140 x 1000 G.P. good/excellent. 9 Marauders on Brest/Fort Questel 36 x 100 G.P. poor

Special Operations. 6 Marauders dropped leaflets over Brest/St. Nazaire and Lorient with excellent results. 4 Marauders dropped leaflets over Abbeville/Dieppe area.
(Air Ch. Marshal Leigh Mallory O30200B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Naval A. General. Unloading over the beaches has been stopped by bad weather and unloading is restricted at Cherbourg. Convoy sailings are still suspended. Composite A/C operated over the British Assault Area but caused no casualties. B. Intelligence. Sables d'Olonne is reported cut off from the interior by the German recapture of La Roche Sur Yon. St. Gilles is reported held by the F.F.I. against a small German attack. The report infers that the Germans carried out a massacre at Cerizay as a reprisal for Maquis activity.

C. Dieppe. The Fairway is reported to be 40 yards wide and the depth 12 feet.

D. Unloading figures:-

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores
British	828,030	206,910	1,482,867
U.S.	<u>1,244,064</u>	<u>229,469</u>	<u>1,918,962</u>
Total(D+88)	<u>2,072,094</u>	<u>436,379</u>	<u>3,401,829</u>

(Adm. Ramsay, O32210B to Admty.)

Sitrep. No reports of enemy minelaying during past 24 hrs. Magnetics swept in positions 49° 33' 11" N. 00° 15' 24" W. 49° 26' N. 00° 23' W. Considerable swell early this morning and Sea Intelligence Unit showed activity. Traffic stopped until 1000 to enable all channels to be swept at least once. Negative results in channels. Consider the majority of pressure acoustic mines in the Approach channels have now been accounted for but it is considered necessary to control traffic during swell periods for the time being to allow sweepers to carry out a search before movement in view of possible arming delays. Swell decreased rapidly as the day progressed.

Summary:- A. (2) Two. State of Flotillas:- 163rd M.S.F. seven. 119th M.S.F. Six. 18th M.S.F. 7th M.S.F., 139th French Trawler Group four each. 40th M.S.F., 101st M.S.F., 159th Trawler Group, three each. 150th Trawler Group two.
(Capt. M/S Seine O32260 to A.N.C.X.F.)

F(1) At 2300/2 GLEN AVON foundered near 86 buoy, 2 ratings known dead, 1 officer and 12 ratings missing.

(2) At approx. 2200/2 EMPIRE CURZON was driven ashore off les Essarts de Langrune between Courseulles and Ouistreham. 15 ft. of water in engine room stoke hold and No. 5 hold.

G.(1) Caen Canal now clear for coasters and barges as far as Nouveau Quai.

(2) Gale reached force 9 during the night. Shipping movements had to be stopped until 1130B due to swell conditions making mines sensitive. Sailings of L.C.T. and minor craft have been stopped on account of further gale warning.

War Diary3.9.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 89)Situation ReportsNaval
(Contd.)

- (3) KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL damaged by underwater explosion (my 022301 refers) has been towed into Arromanches. Will require repairs in U.K.
- (4) N.O.I.C. Dieppe reports that beaches cannot be developed as quickly as the port, and it is, therefore, intended to concentrate on opening of port, anticipate 4000 tons can be taken on X + 10 subject to weather, mine clearance and sweeping and discharge facilities being available. Maximum tonnage anticipated can be obtained on Monday 4th September, given best possible conditions, is 1000 tons.
- (5) N.O.I.C. party 1501 reported 12 miles east of le Havre. (MR VC/4708265) enemy resisting strongly. N.O.I.C. with R/C party and army opposite numbers has now been ordered to Brussels and carry on to R/C Antwerp.
(F.O.B.A.A. 032359B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements38th S. &
R. Flotilla
for
Grandcamp..

- (1) The 38th S. and R. Flotilla less L.B.K. is to be sailed to Grandcamp* tomorrow Monday 4th or when weather permits.
- (2) The L.B.K. are to remain in Arrow until Admiralty decision re S and R are known.
- (3) One Tug should accompany this Flotilla and act as escort with Senior Officer embarked.
(F.O.B.B.A. 031153B to N.O.I.C. Arrow, Capt. L.B.)
*(Near Isigny.)

Small craft
to
Blainville.

- (1) 31st S. and R. Flotilla is to be sailed to C.N.F. at Blainville as convenient on Wednesday 6th September.
- (2) 15th and 16th L.B.V. Flotillas total 24 craft are to be sailed to Blainville* when they are unloaded and are to be handed to a C. and M. party supplied by N.P.1529 until they are handed over to French Navy on approx. 17th September.
(F.O.B.A.A. 031154B to N.O.I.C. "Juno")*(Caen Canal)

1st M.L.
sweeping
Flotilla
to
Arromanches.

- Ships of first M.L. Sweeping Flotilla are to be sailed for B.A.A. routed to C.2A buoy thence standard route to K1 buoy and Q.Z.S. message (7510), 554, 555, 539, 541 to Arromanches on completion of their operation at Dieppe. Ships are required in B.A.A. as soon as possible.
(Capt. M/S Seine, 031459B to S.O. 150th M.S.F.)

War Diary3.9.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperation 'Neptune' (D + 89)Covering Operations

Patrols Pins cover night 3rd/4th September.
from A. G.H.1 - FORESTER Z.109. G.H.2 - WATCHMAN Z.102
Portsmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031207B and 031707B to
V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff,
H.M.S. HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, H.M.S. VERNON
Portsmouth, H.M.S. AGGRESSIVE, H.M.S. ATTACK, F.O.I.C. Portland,
N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Nore and Dover Patrol night 3rd/4th Sept.

(1) H.M.S. FERNIE south fall to 53 C buoy. H.M.S. CAMPBELL
53 C buoy to 53 A buoy. F.U.3 H.M.S. OBEDIENT Z.3. F.U.4
H.M.S. COTTESMORE N.W. corner Z.3. F.U.5 H.M.S. OPPORTUNE Z.5
F.U.6 H.M.S. WENSLEYDALE Z.4.

(2) C/F unit B.1, Z.64 F.T.1, 4 M.T.Bs. Z.1, F.N.1, 2 M.T.Bs.
Z.2, F.N.2, 2 M.T.Bs. Z.2, F.N.3, 4 M.T.Bs. Z.2.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 031706B to Admty., C. in C. Nore., V.A.
Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, ships
maintaining W/T watch on B'casts 'HD' and 'CN' in Area C,
(negative S.A.)).

B.A. A patrol night 3rd/4th Sept. (1) G.M.1 (RIOU) Tunny
South. (2) G.M.3, G.M.4 Coastal force unit Tunny South.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031744B to Admty., C. in C. Nore,
V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland,
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff,
Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts 'HD' and 'CN' in Area 'C')

Cherbourg Patrol night 3rd/4th H.M.S. JERVIS Z.201, Z.128.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031827B to Admty., C. in C. Nore,
V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland,
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Plymouth patrol night 3rd/4th September 3rd E.G. Z.241 S.
Z.246 N. Z.242 N. 9th E.G. Z.236.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031715B to Admty., C. in C. Nore etc.)

Patrols Patrols for night 3rd/4th.
from a. F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 359, 24, 362, 358, No.3 buoy.
Dover. b. F.N.1 M.T.Bs. S.5, S.6 Z.2.
c. F.N.2 M.T.Bs. 486, 485 Z.2.
d. F.N.3 M.T.Bs. 756, 751, 603, 605 208° Z.2 5.8
miles.

e. F.U.3 OBEDIENT 050° Z.3 3 miles.

f. F.U.4 COTTESMORE 176° Dungeness 8.2 miles.

g. F.U.5 OPPORTUNE 050° Z.5 3 miles.

h. F.U.6 WENSLEYDALE from position 50° 45' 06" N. 01° 11' 24" E.
to 50° 39' 12" N. 01° 11' 24" E.

(2) Destroyers in Z positions are to turn at North Eastern limit
of patrol and WENSLEYDALE at Northern limit of patrol every hour.
COTTESMORE is to patrol in a direction 050° to 230° for three miles
each side of patrol position.

(3) Freedom of action is not restricted to Z areas but patrol
vessels are not to proceed inshore of North Western Boundary of
Z areas.

(4) Unless in close pursuit of enemy, WENSLEYDALE is not to
cross to N.ward of a line joining positions 50° 42' 18" N. 01° 05'

War Diary3.9.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D.+ 89)Covering OperationsPatrols
from
Dover
(Contd.)

24" E. and 50° 50' 24" 01° 20' 48" E.
 (5) Aircraft under Swingate VH/F control will illuminate and attack vessels in an area within 8 miles of Boulogne breakwater light.
 (A.C. Dover 031339B and 031858B to C. in C. Portsmouth, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, WENSLEYDALE, COTTESMORE, S.O. 5th M.T.B.F., S.O. 8th M.T.B.F., S.O. 29th M.T.B.F., S.O. 50th M.T.B.F.)

Enemy ActionAlleged
Hospital
Ship
BORDEAUX.

Take BORDEAUX under escort at 030700B and proceed to Portland at 10 knots. E.T.A. 1400.
 ULYSSES pass to BORDEAUX.
 (C.T.G. 125.2 030221 to C.T.F. 125, Admty., F.O.I.C. Portland, A.N.C.X.F., ULYSSES)

CasualtiesGLEN
AVON.

Regret to report that at 022350 H.M. Paddle Steamer GLEN AVON foundered about one mile north of Ver Sur Mer during a westerly gale. She was the Arromanches examination vessel. She was unable to take shelter in Arromanches Harbour because her hawse pipe led from two feet above water line direct to main deck and cable locker resulting in such heavy floodings that cable could neither be weighed nor slipped.

(2) Captain, six officers and 66 rating survivors. Two ratings known dead. One officer and twelve ratings missing, feared drowned. Necessary casualty reporting action will be taken. Survivors at G.2 camp Meuvaines. Captain will report to F.O.B.A.A. p.m. today Sunday.

(3) Ship dangerous wreck showing at low tide. Navigational warning has been issued and wreck will be buoyed.

(4) All C.Bs. and S.Ps. were locked in steel chests. Possibility of salvage by divers will be examined.

(N.O.I.C. Arrow, 131226 to F.O.B.A.A., S.S.V.O., Admty., A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Shipping and ConvoysConvoy
sailings
resumed.

My 021847. Resume convoy sailings. E.B.C. 91 and 92 cancelled. E.B.C. 90 will arrive 24 hours late.

(A.N.C.X.F. 031000B to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Ships and Authorities concerned with convoy sailing signals in Western Task Force Area.)

/Troopships...

3.9.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 89)

Shipping and Convoys

Troopships
 direct to
 Cherbourg
 from U.S.A.

Naval arrangements for C.U. Convoys will be in general as given in Admiralty 231713 and my 232232 August. In amplification of these signals the following is for your information and guidance:-
 C.U. convoys from United States.

C.U. convoys	Personnel	Number of Troopships	E.T.A.
37	28,000	8	6th Sept.
38	19,000	4	14th Sept.
39	33,000	9	22nd Sept.
40	31,000	10	30th Sept.
41	28,000	10	8th Oct.

Followed at approx. 8 day intervals by C.U.42, 43 and 44. All carrying 2 Divisions each and C.U. 45 carrying one Division.
 (2) Director of Sea Transport has agreed to provide at least 2 passenger tenders for disembarkation from large ships also a Sea Transport Officer at Cherbourg especially experienced in berthing and tending large ships. Your concurrence is requested.
 (3) The difficulty of meeting the tight programme of a C.U. convoy arriving every eight days is stressed as is the need of the personnel ships catching the next return convoy eight days after parting company South of Ireland. If unloading is delayed it will be necessary to divert either the whole or part of the succeeding convoy to U.K. In this connection it is important that early reports of delays in unloading are sent.
 (4) Ships which become mismusters from their next return convoy should be cleared from Cherbourg to U.K. as soon as possible.
 (5) Personnel ships from C.U. convoys will be routed to Brest as soon as it can receive them.
 (6) In regard to escorts it is believed that the Admiralty will agree to their retention in Cherbourg and return with the personnel ships to their R/V if you can meet their needs as regards fuel and water and minor voyage repairs. Admiralty and C.T.F. 125 are requested to comment.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 031038B to C.T.F.125.)

Your 031038 para. 2. Sea Transport Officer and two passenger tenders desired. Para. 4. Recommend ships be cleared from Cherbourg and Beach Aca to U.K. as soon as unloaded in order to relieve congestion at Cherbourg and clear ships out of exposed anchorage off beaches. Para. 6. Escorts should go to U.K. for fuel water and voyage repairs.
 (C.T.F. 125, 032217 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Convoys to
 and from
 Arromanches.

My 031226. Following arrangements are proposed in regard to convoy routing and Arrow examination vessel on closing down of Juno.

- (a) Arrow anchorage to be used as convoy assembly anchorage, Shipco acting as Control Vessel as well as local examination vessel.
- (b) All convoys to be sailed from near shore to Arrow through Q.4 Z.S.536.
- (c) Shipco to sail canoe sections forward to catch tide at Ouistreham.
- (d) Ships from Ouistreham to proceed direct to Arrow anchorage to await convoy.

/(e)...

3.9.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 89)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoys
to and
from
Arromanches.
(Contd.)

(e) This obviates the necessity of providing Commodores for canoe sections who would have to be accommodated at Ouistreham.

(f) Shifting of Juno Light Vessel to be considered later.

(2) Suggest CERES carry out examination duties during the interim period, assisted by M.L. provided from Arrow.

(N.O.I.C. 031302 to F.O.B.A.A.)

Hastening of
U.S.
unloadings.

While I am desirous for naval reasons of reducing the number of preloaded ships in the U.S. area to 50 as stated in my 311043 August to S.H.A.E.F. I am equally desirous that the Army's unloading organization be kept occupied to the full extent.

(2) In as much as there has been a considerable reduction of preloaded shipping in the U.S. area during the past week I wish to point out that there are 13 such ships in the Solent which can be called to the far shore on short notice and at least 100 in other ports.

(3) Requests for the sailings of these ships should be collated by C.T.F.125 and made to A.N.C.X.F. repeated to the Admiralty.
(A.N.C.X.F. 031716B to C.T.F.125.)

War Diary3.9.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSGeneralPolicyFormation
of Support
Groups.

Admiralty 021605 not to all addressees.
Request:- (A) BALFOUR, BRAITHWAITE be sailed to Belfast. L KILLIN DOMINICA to Greenock.
(B) Ships be instructed to report boiler hours and major defects.
(C. in C.W.A., 031008B to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Plymouth).

Rein-
forcements
for the
Nore.

A.M. 271937B August. Intend to transfer WENSLEYDALE, TALYBONT, COTTESMORE, EGLINTON, PYTCHLEY to your command as soon as available. WENSLEYDALE, TALYBONT have operated with Frigate Groups vide my 311951B August (not to Capt. D.). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 031652B to C. in C. Nore).

Improvement
of anti
U-Boat organ-
isation in
W.A.Command.

It is urgently necessary that the maximum number of trained hunting groups should be made available in northwestern approaches at once in order to relieve the existing heterogeneous collection of ships now operating in that area.
(2) The ships thus relieved would then be recalled, formed into groups and undergo intensive group training.
(3) The reinforcements from the Mediterranean, if approved, will not be ready for a considerable time as it is anticipated they will need refit or extensive repairs before being operationally effective.
(4) In my view it is therefore essential that escorts now detailed to leave for Eastern Fleet should be retained temporarily in view of the serious situation now rapidly developing at home.
(5) Further it is considered that all available R.A.A. aircraft should be collected and disposed to assist 15 Group as required observing that carriers are not a requirement for the operations now envisaged.
(6) At this juncture of the war it is particularly desirable to give the enemy no light in the picture of gloom that his war news depicts by permitting him to exploit tangible and important successes by his U-Boats. Immediate approval is therefore requested to above proposals.
(C. in C. W.A. 031805B to Admty.)

Proposed
amendment of
Plymouth &
Western
Approaches
Commands
boundary.

I understood that the meetings held at Admiralty on Thursday 31st August and attended by all interested parties including A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command, had reached complete agreement on the new situation envisaged by A.M. 021511B Sept. paras. one and two. The boundaries now proposed in para. three of the Admty. message are not however in accordance with the agreement then reached and have serious objections which militate against the principles enunciated in para.

War Diary.

3.9.1944.

Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Proposed amendment of Plymouth & Western Approaches Commands boundary. (Contd.)

two of A.M. 021511B September.

(2) Unity of control of the large numbers of escort vessels operating in the focal areas, untrammelled as far as possible by arbitrary sea boundaries, is essential if full flexibility and economy in their disposition, operation and training is to be achieved. This would appear to be equally applicable to the control of aircraft as regards the line of demarcation between 15 and 19 Groups. It is considered therefore that C. in C. W.A.'s original proposal agreed to at the

Admiralty meeting, which envisaged the North coast of Devon and Cornwall as the boundaries of the South Western Approaches and giving Plymouth Command the Western Channel itself would provide a reasonable solution for both.

(3) The high standard of operational efficiency responsible for the defeat of the U-Boat in the Atlantic, is now lacking due to absence of training in the last three months. This will be particularly applicable to new groups about to be formed. It is therefore essential that a proper group training cycle be instituted at once for all A/S forces operating in the focal areas.

(4) Fully to implement paras. two and three above it is essential that (a) the support groups operating under C. in C. W.A. should have complete freedom to follow U-Boats wherever they may go within the vital area of the St. George and Bristol Channels. This will be achieved by the boundaries proposed in para. two above, (b) Support Groups now working with C. in C. Plymouth should be immediately transferred to my operational control, particularly observing that new groups cannot be in being and fit for service for a considerable time. My 031805 not to all refers.

(5) At the same time in the face of a rapidly deteriorating situation in our vital focal areas immediate decisions are essential and C. in C. W.A. is prepared to accept any decision agreeable to Admiralty and C. in C. Plymouth in order that work can be got on with and dispositions made at once. (C. in C. W.A. 031810B to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Coast defences U.K. Proposed reduction. In view of increasing boat activity in coastal waters and the proposed use of Loch Ryan later as an anchorage for surrendered U-Boats it is considered that the 2 5.5 inch naval guns at Stranraer should retain their present state of manning. There is no objection to reduction to

C. and M. of other guns mentioned in A.M. 011735. (2) In same connection it is recommended that the controlled minefield (L) at Stranraer should not be abolished at this juncture and action on A.L. T 09030/1944 of 21st August 1944 is being withheld pending further decision A.M. 021107 also refers. (C. in C. W.A. 031708B to Admty.)

/A.M....

War Diary.3.9.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.

Coast defences A.M. 011755B. No objection but in view of proximity of shipping in St. Helens Roads it would be preferable to reduce the Nodes Battery, 2 6 inch 15° to U.K. Proposed reduction. (Contd.)

C. & M. and to retain the Culverdown 2 9.2 inch 30°. The Brigadier of Coastal Artillery is putting forward proposals.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 031737B to Admty.)

Your 011802, para. 4. There is no objection to proposed reductions at Humber, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Harwich.

(2) In Thames and Medway it is considered that all the coast defence guns can now be reduced to care and maintenance. If however the threat of a suicidal attack warrants the retention of one C.D. battery in addition to the A/A Forts this should be Fletcher as having the best field of fire and fitted with radar. (C. in C. Nore 032347B to Admty.)

Movements

KENT Proceed passing Switha at 1145B 4th September to join KENT off Hoxa at 1200B/4th escort KENT to Clyde arriving 0700/5th all Sanctuaries are in force except "Yorker".

(2) On arrival Clyde complete with fuel and be prepared to sail p.m. 5th September as ordered by KENT.

(3) On completion of duties in para. 2 above you will be attached temporarily to Western Approaches Command for duties under C. in C. Western Approaches.

(R.A.D. H.F. 031258B to VENUS, SERAPIS, ZEST, ZAMBESI.)

BOGUE U.S. A.A.C. BOGUE and escorts (T.G.22.3) operating vicinity 046° N. 045° W. add to my 031244. (C. in C. W.A. 031610B to "Situation Western Section")

ACTIVITY and RAJAH. A.M. 312029 and A.M. 010144 neither to all addressees Personnel of 854 Squadron should be embarked in ACTIVITY for passage.

(2) Target date for completion of loading RAJAH and ACTIVITY is p.m. 9th September.

(3) A.M. 021220 not to all refers.

(Admty. 031632Z to F.O.N.A.S. F.O.C.T., F.O.I.C., N. Ireland.)

Operations

Operation "S.C.". "Ramose Decorum" 'My 311137B and 311139B and 012125B) sailed VIGRA at 0001B today 3rd September. (B) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired. (A.C.O.S. 03011B to Admty.)

/Operation...

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

Operation "Victual". One U-Boat attacked in position 068° 12' N. 006° 01' E. by VINDEX Swordfish at 0620/2nd Sept. subsequently destroyed by KEPPEL, WHITEHALL, PEACOCK, MERMAID at 1945.

(2) The above escorts and LOCH DUNVEGAN were detached at 0800/3rd in accordance with A.M. 311210B August.

(3) R.A.59A E.T.A. position C 0600B/5th September. Intend VINDEX, STRIKER, JAMAICA and fleet destroyers to part company at this time. E.T.A. Scapa a.m. 6th September.

(4) My position, course and speed 067° 07' N. 001° 52' E. (X) 215° 7.5. Weather report.

(C.S. 10 030801B to C. in C. H.F.)

Biscay Operations. Carry out operation "Assault".

(A) Force 27 BLYSKAWICA (S.O.), PIORUN.
(B) 1200B/3rd September.
(C) Through AA 43° 28' N. 5° 23' W. and BB 43° 00' N. 5° 21' W. after passing BB, sweep through Audierné Bay and then proceed to patrol between Belle Ile and Arcachon. Close les Sables d'Olonne a.m./4th September, investigate and report situation and embark R.A.F. personnel and Polish deserters from German army if present. Unless otherwise ordered sweep north and west during night 4/5th September to pass BB at first light 5th and then return to Plymouth.

(F) "Scratch". (H) NARVIK and ELBING not sighted since air attack on 24th August.

(C. in C. Plymouth 031008B to BLYSKAWICA, PIORUN.)

Carry out operation "Assault".

(A) Force 26 HAIDA (S.O.), KELVIN. (B) 2100B/4th September.
(C) Through CC 48° 30' N. 5° 28' W. DD 48° 00' N. 5° 31' W.
(D) After joining DD investigate Audierné Bay and then proceed to patrol between Belle Ile and Arcachon.
(F) "Pimms". (G) See my 031008B.

(C. in C. Plymouth 031937B to HAIDA, KELVIN.)

PLOVER's operations. (1) It is appreciated that operations by PLOVER can now be suspended.
(2) Request that she be retained at Portsmouth pending further developments, opportunity being taken to clean boilers if required.
(Admty. 031135B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Portsmouth O/0221/206 of 13th August. Operation temporarily completed. Retain operation orders. Ships will revert to normal duties on return to harbour.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 031555B to M.S.15, PLOVER, MIGNONETTE, WALNUT.)

Rotterdam and Antwerp. It is essential that if Rotterdam and Antwerp are to be opened quickly enemy shall be prevented from
(a) carrying out demolition and blocking of ports.
(b) Blocking and mining Scheldt and the new waterway from Rotterdam to The Hook.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Rotterdam
and Antwerp.
(Contd.)

(2) Both Rotterdam and Antwerp are highly vulnerable to blocking and mining. If enemy is successful in these operations no estimate can be made of the time it will take to open ports.
(3) It will be necessary to capture coastal batteries before approach channels to river routes can be established.
(A.N.C.X.F. 031151 to S.H.A.E.F.)

Operation
"Goodwood".

Following results obtained in operation "Goodwood"
(1) 4 probable and 2 possible hits claimed on TIRPITZ.

(2) Aircraft: destroyed and damaged by fighters.
(A) 9 destroyed 2 Arado 196 (Alta) 6 B.V.138

(2 airborne near the fleet, 4 on water at Billefjord) 1 He. 115 (Billefjord.)

(B) 2 plus damaged 1 Ju.188 (Banak) 1 Arado 196 (Alta)
Unknown number in hangar at Banak set on fire.

(3) Radar and W/T stations: 6 attacked and severely damaged by fighters viz: Gawsney, Kolvik, Sorvwer, Hasvik, Loppem, Ingoy.

(4) Shipping: The following were attacked and hit by fighters -
1 U-Boat outside Hammerfest. 1 U-Boat depot ship BLACK WATCH in Hellefjord. 1 small merchantman in Hammerfest. 1 boom vessel Kaafjord area. 1 small merchantman Billefjord. 1 small vessel at Bossekop. 1 small vessel off Auskerneset. 3 destroyers in Altenfjord area. 1 large trawler at Bukta. (1 tanker in St. Jernsund, 1 destroyer in Langfjord, attacked and set on fire.)
1 large trawler at Bukta. 1 large merchantman in Langfjord.
2 radar (?) ships off Silden Island and a number of flak ships in Langfjord, Leirbotn and Kaafjord area were severely damaged.
2 landing craft were heavily attacked. 1 flak ship at the entrance to Oxfjord blew up.

(5) (A) A large number of flak positions and batteries in Altenfjord area were heavily attacked.

(B) The control tower and adjoining buildings at Alta Aero-drome were set on fire and hits were scored on hangars and barracks.

(C) At Banak the barracks and various buildings were attacked and set on fire.

(D) At Lervik a large oil tank was attacked and left burning.

(6) Number of sorties flown (subject to minor adjustment)

(A) Barracudas 92. (B) Corsairs 65. (C) Hellcats 34.

(D) Fireflies 41. (E) Seafires 15.

(7) Losses (A) Barracudas 1 (B) Corsairs 5 (1 pilot safe.)

(C) Hellcast 3. (D) Fireflies 1. (E) Seafires 1.

(C. in C.H.F. 031435B to Admty.)

Cross-
Channel
shelling.

Hostile batteries shelled without effect H.M.T. STEEPHOLM and FORT CARILLON straggler from F.T.C. 86 between South Foreland and Deal with about 20 rounds from 1249 to 1314.

Between 1416 and 1556 enemy fired 70 rounds in area Dover to Deal. 8 rounds in Dover and 10 rounds in Deal caused considerable damage to civilian property slight damage to army establishments. 3 casualties in Deal, one in Dover.

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Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Cross-Channel shelling. (Contd.)

M.M.S. 87 holed by near miss, sustained one killed, 2 seriously wounded. R.M. Siege Regiment and C.A. returned fire with 45 rounds. During forenoon several large explosions were observed in Pas de Calais area and a large fire in Calais town. (A.C. Dover 032100B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Intelligence.

Ships at Gdynia, Pillau, Konigsberg, Stettin, Danzig.

A.I. 601 September 3rd. 544 Squadron sortie 106 Group 2597 dated September 2nd, 1000 hours shows Gdynia shipping. Naval Movement since 12th Aug. includes arrival heavy cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER in roads from Pillau, light cruiser KOLN, obsolete battleship SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN. Movement light cruiser EMDEN from roads to quayside berth. Movement within port of pocket battleship LÜTZOW & heavy cruiser PRINZ EUGEN.

Naval shipping now present includes dismantled battle cruiser GNEISENAU, pocket battleship LUTZOW, cruisers PRINZ EUGEN, ADMIRAL HIPPER, NURNBERG, KOLN and EMDEN, one fleet D/R 410 ft. one D/R 330 ft., 10 T.Bs. 270/280 ft. and two obsolete battleships SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN type, ALTMARK tanker and 23 merchant vessels 200/500 ft. including 4 in movement present in roads which are slightly cloud obscured.

Pillau shipping. Since 12th August departed heavy cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER to Gdynia. No major units present.

Konigsberg shipping. Incomplete cruiser SEYDLITZ remains usual inactive position.

Stettin shipping. Incomplete aircraft carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN remains usual inactive position.

Danzig shipping. No major naval units. 13 merchant vessels 200/500 ft. and coaster 150/200 ft. lying off port.

(Allied Photo Recce Wing 030106B to Admty.)

Military traffic between Norway and Denmark.

There have been military transports between Norway and Denmark.

Following information is now available regarding fast leave transports plying between Fredrikstad and Fredrikshavn.

(1) During first nine days of August service was operated by 3 transports MARS, ILLER and BRETAGNE each of which made one trip to Fredrikstad during period.

(2) After Aug. 9th, when ILLER was transferred east Baltic service, route was operated by MARS and BRETAGNE which maintained regular shuttle service until Aug. 20th (when last report was received) each arriving Fredrikstad on alternate days. They carry about 200 troops in each direction and have destroyer escort.

(3) KHAANT which has been regularly engaged on this route is at present undergoing repairs at Akers and is not expected to leave there until Sept. 20th. B.2

(N.A. Stockholm 301747 to Admty.)

O.I.C. Comment. It is quite probable that there are now only 2 vessels on this run as ILLER was reported in Gdynia 11 Aug. BRABANT was seen in dockyard hands by Ph./R of Oslo on 22 and 25 Aug.

3.9.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

Attack on convoy O.N.S. 251 (FJORDHEIM sunk, see casualties 031345.)

By D/F on 4420 k/cs at 0007Z position of enemy submarine 055° 57' N. (7009° - 31' W.) (S.O.C. 4 030035Z to S.O. Force 33, C. in C. W.A.) See C.S. 10 030801B to C. in C. H.F. in Operation "Victual".

O.N.S. My 022230Z not to S.O. B.4. A.C.I. para. 5. (A) 0020Z/3rd Sept. 55.55 N. 09.28 W. (B) Evidence of one only submerged. (C) Starboard side. (D) FJORDHEIM number 165. 35 survivors out of 38. (F) COLLINGWOOD. MONTREAL in company with number (?169) rejoining. (G) WENTWORTH. Convoy position 55.57 N. 09.45 W. (X)

Weather report. (C.4 030159B to S.O. B.4. C. in C.W.A.)

Ship torpedoed in O.N.S.251. Detach two groups forthwith to position 326 BB 19. (C. in C.W.A. 030203B to Force 33.)

Force Z proceeding to area 9. Force Y searching for promising (?) lost contact 110 CC 10 remainder including S.O. proceeding towards wreck. (Force 33 030305B to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat possibly in general vicinity of O.N.S. 251 transmitted on 4420 k/cs at 0008Z. (Admty. 030314B to O.N.S. 251, A.T.146, Force 33.)

02230Z? not to S.O. B.4. S.O. C.3 and 030159B not to S.O. C.3. WENTWORTH contact obtained in position R suggests possible presence of two submarines as number 165 was torpedoed on starboard side. (S.O. C.4 030529B to S.O. B.4, S.O. C.3, C. in C. W.A.)

(2) (A) H.M.C.S. WENTWORTH and H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD. (B) 0047B/3rd Sept. (C) Asdic. (D) 055° 51' N. 009° 23' W. (E) 2. (F) 0420B. Lost touch. (G) H.M.C.S. WENTWORTH. (S.O. C.4 030540Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Is FJORDHEIM sunk or considered salvable. (C. in C. W.A. 031142B to S.O. C.4.)

Consider that U-Boat whose schnorkel was sighted yesterday Saturday may be a different U-Boat from one which attacked this morning Sunday.

(2) For tonight intend C.3 group with AMBUSCADE and PEVENSEY CASTLE to search for southern U-Boat remainder to search northern area. 5th E.G. to sweep through B.2 and B.4 area on arrival. Cancel forces W. X. Y and Z. (Force 33 031500B to C. in C. W.A.)

Have obtained a 3rd class German bearing by H/F D/F of enemy submarine transmitting a B signal frequency 3795 bearing 078° near (considered ground wave). Distance not estimated. My position 056° 16' N. 009° 30' W. am investigating. (HELMSDALE 032349B to C. in C. W.A., Capt. D. Londonderry, S.O. C.3., S.O. C.5.)

It is appreciated that there may be 3 U-Boats now operating in the C.W. area as follows: (A) U-Boat (German) P which sank HURST CASTLE and now in area C. (B) U-Boat (German) Q which sank Pendant 165 of O.N.S.251 and now in area A.3 or B.1. (C) U-Boat (German) R which may be in same vicinity as Q. S.O.E.G. C.4 030529 refers.

(2) Following areas should be searched - A.3, B.1, B.3, westerly half of A.4, B.2, B.4 and all C areas. (C. in C. W.A. 031531B to S.O. 33 Force.)

/Conditions...

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Attack on
convoy
O.N.S. 251
(FJORDHEIM
sunk, see
casualties
031345.)
(Contd.)

Conditions at BB now unsuitable for Schnorkel.
Northern U-Boats therefore likely to move westward
to charge on the surface. S.O. C.3 will patrol
line north east and south west through position
CC remainder along north and south line through
areas A.3 and B.1 and 3. Last escorts to O.N.S.
251 left at about 0800.
(Force 33, 031829B to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat near
Convoy R.A.
59A (see
Op. "Victual"
for report
of sinking.)

A U-Boat outward bound from Norway is estimated
near you today 3rd September.
(Admty. 030927B to C.S. 10.)

U-Boat off
Jan Mayen
(see C.T.F.
24's 022215
to Cinclant.)

Unsuccessful torpedo attack made on U.S.S.
NORTHLAND by U-Boat in approx. position 076° 30'
N. 015° 40' W. on 1st September. U-Boat reported
as supply type was sighted again at 011430,
contact lost due to ice. NORTHLAND understood
to be continuing hunt.
(A.C.I.C. 031400B to Admty.)

GENTIAN.

Investigating contact 130° J one 5 miles.
(GENTIAN 031447 to Portsmouth W/T.)
My 031447 - contact is submarine.
(GENTIAN 031510B to Portsmouth.)

My 031447. Five depth charge attacks carried out considered non
submarine position 170° J Z Buoy 500 yards, rejoining DISCOVERY
II.
(GENTIAN 031655B to Portsmouth.)

Anti U-
Boat sweep.

BURGESS, GARDINER and CRANSTOUN have rejoined.
Have swept northern and eastern parts of area
and northern part of Minches today and intend to
sweep ahead of convoy E.N.30 from 004° 30' W.
tonight.
(Force 32 032050B to C. in C. W.A.)

(?My P.C. and S.) are 055° 09' N. 005° 49' W. 350° speed 15
knots. Intend to sweep westward through northern half of area
B.2 commencing about 0230. Acknowledge.
(E.G.5 032130 to C. in C. W.A.)

Navigational.

Buoyage of
channel to
The Hook.

Trinity House state that to lay the buoys referred
to in C. in C. Nore 021207 they will require their
three large tenders PATRICIA, WARDEN and DISCOVERY
II. A.N.C.X.F. is requested to arrange with C. in
C. Nore to release these ships when required.
(Admty. 031900B to C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F.)

3.9.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

FJORDHEIM.

O.N.S. 251. FJORDHEIM number 165 reported sunk
by H.M.C.S. MONTREAL. Your 031142B refers.
Position, course and speed 055.15 N. 011.25 W.
(S) 205, 7 knots. Weather report.
(S.O. C.4 031345B to C. in C.W.A.)

3.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

BERWICK. C.S.1 021637*. Consider definite risk for ship the size of BERWICK to enter Horta harbour in present absence of tug EMPIRE SAMSON. Strongly advise ship be diverted to Ponta

Delgada to fuel.

(2) BERWICK could be berthed in outer anchorage at Horta and tanker taken out to her but oiling in outer anchorage would be entirely dependent on weather and would involve lifting semi-permanent moorings of tanker.

(3) If BERWICK is diverted to Ponta Delgada request B.N.A. Lisbon be informed, A.M. 062042/ July also refers.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 031056Z to Admty.)

* Route for H.M.S. BERWICK.

EMPIRE SAMSON to be docked and refitted at Gib. towards end of July.

S.B.N.O. Azores 031056Z is concurred in.

(F.O.G.M.A., 032324B to Admty.)

Contraband
Control.

(no trace)
A.M. 271923 final sentence of para. 1.
In case instructions to Consula were delayed, any outward bound Spanish ships from Mediterranean ports found by Straits Patrol not navicerted to Gibraltar should be sent in for examination.
(D.E.W.D., 032044B to F.O.G.M.A.)

War Diary.

3.9.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Sabotage in Barcelona. Your 021920 to B.N.A. Madrid only and Admty's 012045* para. 3. Latest reports reliable secret source are that German sabotage organisation has received orders to cease activities until further orders. Source informs me these are not likely to be given in view of present position. Normal anti sabotage precautions now in force should ensure reasonable security of ships.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid 031217B to C. in C. Med.)
* Request report whether any danger of sabotage in Barcelona is sufficiently slight to resume calls either freely or on a limited scale.

DUQUESNE. French request that DUQUESNE may be sailed from Casablanca to Oran, where she would remain until required for transport of troops to southern France if necessary. Your 201432 August and B.A.D. 231857 August.
(F.O.W.M. 031244 to C. in C. Med.)

Aircraft for Escort Carrier Force. Pilots, aircraft and engines required in your 251110 and 252249 August not to all addressees, will be sent in ACTIVITY to arrive at Gibraltar about 14th Sept. for onward routeing as requisite.
(2) ACTIVITY can fly off aircraft or they can be hoisted out, but ship has no crane of her own for hoisting them out.
(3) On completion ACTIVITY should be sailed for Ceylon in accordance with A.M. 021220 as amended.
(D.N.A.O. 031702B to C. in C. Med.)

Follow up convoys, Operation "Dragoon". N.O.I.C. Naples is requested to sail follow up convoys as follows :
(A) S.M. 71 (?7 intended) 1730/6th. (B) S.F. 9 at 1830/7th. (C) S.F. 10 at 1930/7th.
(2) - (7) Arrangements.
(8) (A) RUNELS (S.O.), EGGESFORD.
(B) C.D.D. C.D.D. 21 in LIVERMORE with KEARNY, ERICSSON. (C) BICESTER (S.O.), CRETE, WHEATLAND.
(9) Convoy S.M.7 Maddalena R/V position N.E. at 0900/8th and Ajaccio R/V position N.H. at 1600/8.
(F.O. W.It. 032021.)

C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. is visiting bridgehead. Now at St. Tropez conferring with N.C.W.T.F. leaving p.m. tomorrow Monday and visiting Maddalena returning Naples a.m. Wednesday.
(C. in C. Med. in AJAX 032051B.)

PIPINOS. At 2054/3rd unsuccessfully attacked ship resembling K.T. ship off Cape Stavros course west 5 torpedoes remaining.
(PIPINOS 032205B.)

/D.S....

War Diary.

3.9.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

D.S.J.
MAURITS,
FRISO.

Reductions proposed in your 291222 August under consideration.

(2) In the meantime, Dutch Naval Authorities have asked whether JOHAN MAURITS and FRISO can be released in time to reach U.K. by September 15th.

(3) Request you will report if you feel able to spare these 2 ships whose complements are required in connection with re-entry into Dutch ports.
(Admty. 032230B to C. in C. Med.)

For week ending 29th August.

Admini-
strative
summary No.
25.

(Extract.) (3) Data regarding maintenance in Italy as follows:- (c) For week ending 29th August forward port discharges averaged as follows - Ancona 3,700 T.P.D. Target for week 4,000 T.P.D. Leghorn not yet opened. Piombino 4,300 T.P.D.

(4) Data regarding maintenance in Southern France as follows:-

(b) Bulk storage capacity at Port du Bouc for 1,250,000 barrels of petrol and even larger storage capacity for crude oil found intact.

(c) Provisionally estimated that Port of Marseilles will have a capacity of 3,000 T.P.D. by mid-September.
(X.F.H.Q. No T.O.O.)

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Torpedo equipment of carrier aircraft. (Extract) A.M. 231616B August. As a result of re-equipment, U.S. 22.4" Mark 13 torpedoes will be carried in place of 18" Mk. XII-XV. (D.T.M., 030131B.)

U/B dispositions. Area K.D.3 SS. WAYFARER torpedoed and sunk 0800Z/19th August in estimated position 014° 30' S., 042° 20' E. Scale remains at W.5. Other areas no change. (C. in C. E.F., 030445Z.)

STOIC. Intend to sail (P.231) STOIC at 0830Z/5th for Fremantle. Route and arrangements. (S.O. S/Ms. Colombo, 030531Z to C.T.F.71, C. in C. E.F.)

Suspicious vessels. 6 dhows or life-boats shooting red flares position 15° 00' N., 61° 17' E. Weather report. (CORVALLIS, 031310 to Admty.)
QQQQ position 001 * degs. 118 miles reference point Baker. Suspicious attempting to close to 2035.
(CORVALLIS, 032020Z.)
* Note as received previously circulated as 091°

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SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

O.N.M.
249 Convoy O.N.M. 249 107 ships arrived New York including following 6 previously reported. S.S. JOHN ~~WILLIAM~~ HOYT Straggler S.S. RILEY, S.S. FILLEIGH, S.S. WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS. S.S. WILLIAM BYRD, S.S. INGLETON. First ship arrived 022045Z. Last ship 030206Z. (P.D. New York 030232Z)

N.S.H.Q.
S/M Attack
and
Sighting
Summary. Para. D. U.S. Transport A/C sights three U-boats course Southeast 55. 45 N. 54. 55 W. 0015Z/2nd. (N.S.H.Q. 030854)

U-Boat
dispositions Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 031403Z, Cominch 031606Z)

M.V.
FORMOSA,
SAGGAT. Estimated P.C.S. 032000Z Swedish FORMOSA and SAGGAT under safe conduct 34-42N. 26-48W. 086 thirteen.
(Com. 10th Fleet 031455Z to B.A.M.S. 1B)

S.S.
LIVINGSTONE
sunk Picked up 14 survivors S.S. LIVINGSTONE (Brit.) torpedoed and sunk in position 46. 15 N. 58. 05 W. 0750Z 3rd Sept. en route St. John Nfld. from Halifax. 14 persons believed lost. One S/M sighted by Master other crew members state 3 in this position. Master believes no other (?boats) got away. Am continuing on passage.
(SHAWINIGAN 031605Z)

H.X.F. 308. Delay sailing H.X.F. 308 one day to relieve congestion.
(Com. 10th Flt. C. and R. 031630Z to Comeastseafro)

U.C.
Convoys. In the interest of expediting turn around of C.U. shipping, particularly fast freighters running on Army Account, propose that U.C. convoys be returned to U.S. in two sections as follows: A Section sailing on scheduled U.C. dates, escorted by about 2/3 of C.U. escort group. B Section sailing four days after A section escorted by about 1/3 of C.U. escort group. Ships in which substantial numbers of passengers are embarked to be sailed in A Section. C.U. Convoys sailing from U.S. to continue on present schedule. Request comment. Cinclant advise manner in which escort is to be provided for the two sections.
(Cominch 031646Z to Adty, Cinclant.)

/Chop ...

3.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

Chop for S/M's. Operation Chop for S/M's was established in 35° W. by A.M. 301808/September, 1943, as S/M's shift W/T watch in this longitude. In view of circumstances of loss of French S/M LA PERLE, it is considered that Chop for submarines should be established in the vicinity of 47° W. to conform with convoys and other shipping, and thus eliminate divided control in the area from 35° to 47° W.
(2) Request your concurrence. N.S.H.Q's 211840Z/July (not to B.A.D. or Cominch) refers.
(1st S.L. 031725Z to Cominch)

Stragglers' report. Stragglers arriving week ending 3rd September, JOSEPH ROGER LAMAR (U.S.) O.N.F. 250. Unable to maintain convoy speed.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 031855Z)

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. S.H.X.S. 306. MIGUEL DE LAMNAGA (sic) reports on sailings that at speed over half he is unable to give more than 20° starboard helm and is a menace in narrow waters. Request this be given consideration regarding port of discharge and owners be informed.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 031947Z to Adty.)

CORE's Group. Proceed to Argentinia for about 4 day visit. If in favourable position sweep against homeward bound S/M estimated 46. 15 N. 30. 45 W.
(Cinclant 032043Z to C.T.G. 22.4)

BOGUE's Group. Previous bad weather cleared sufficiently permit continuous search last 36 hours area Cominch estimates first, second and third no U-boat indications. Weather permitting tonight will search 52 to 56 - 30 W. between 42 and 44 - 30 N. Propose remain within approx. (?60) / miles S/M estimated position unless weather dictates operations from outside this limit. W.X.4862 1872.
(C.T.G. 22.3 032048Z to Cinclant) / AS received.

U-Boat incidents. (C) 1344/03 P.B.M. radar contact 36. 01 N. 70. 48 W.
(D) 1615/02 surface disturbance and small oil slick reported by P.B.M. 30 N. 78. 18 W.
1125/03 Plane sights periscope and wake 63 N. 31. 55 W. All times Z.
(Cominch 032101Z)

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SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand.

Digest (3) 33 Liberators from Manus raided Palau midday:
956. 1 plane bombed Arakabesan Seaplane Base and
2nd Sept. remainder hit Koror Town causing fires, explosions
1 aircraft noted taking off Peleliu, another seen
airborne although nil interception met. 1
Liberator missing. 3 ships seen Southern Palau group and 1
large vessel sighted 12 miles South Koror course West.
(17) Possible S/M D/F vicinity Chfkeeulø Island night first
and another in Southern Saint Georges Channel. Surface craft
made fair S/M contact 40 miles East Kieto Foreno on 2nd
September.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 030740Z)
ø As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M (A) (1) FJORDHEIM torpedoed to 2230Z/2 in 55°
attack 55' N. 09° 28' W.
and (2) JOHN BARRY torpedoed and sunk at 2200Z/28
sighting in 15° 00' N. 55° 00' E.
summary. (B) (1) FORMIDABLE obtained surface contact
possibly of U-Boat at 2330Z/1 in 60° 35' N.
04° 20' W.
(2) A/C sighted possible periscope at 0900Z/2
in 55° 08' N. 09° 08' W.
(3) A/C sighted Snort (?Schnorkel intended) at 1330Z/2 in
55° 04' N. 09° 20' W.
(4) QUEEN ELIZABETH obtained Radar contact at 0200Z/2 in 52°
26' N. 17° 32' W.
(5) QUEEN ELIZABETH sighted U-Boat at 1642Z/2 in 55° 40' N.
12° 20' W.
(6) H.M.C.S. WENTWORTH obtained contact at 2230Z/2 55° 30' N.
09° 45' W.
(7) A/C sighted periscope, course 190°, at 0604Z/3 in 55° 43' N.
09° 15' W.
A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0435Z/3 in 50° 17' N. 06° 01' W.
(D.D.I.C. 030920Z)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 031356B, 031359B)

War Diary

4.9.1944.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 90)

General.

- 1(a) Convoy sailings had again to be cancelled owing to weather, and all small craft had to take shelter.
- (b) Chiefs of Staff decision was taken to bring large troopships from U.S. direct to Cherbourg. (cf. 27th August - Convoy C.U.37)
- (c) Morlaix port was reported usable.
- (d) Five coasters passed up the canal to Caen.
- (e) An M/S flotilla, RIOU, and 2 M.G.B. flotillas have been released from the Assault Area for service farther east.
- (f) Cumulative landings to this afternoon are:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British :	833,794	207,642	1,489,664
American :	1,251,545	231,155	1,956,289
Total :	2,085,339	438,797	3,445,953

General

Re-organis-
ation of
escort
groups.

2. In order to meet the U-Boat threat which is developing in the Atlantic simultaneously with a threat to U.K. coastal routes and the Channel the escort groups in the Western Approaches have been reorganised and measures have been taken, by reduction of the number of vessels in certain groups and introduction of new vessels to form new groups. C. in C. W.A. reports, however, that the high standard of operational efficiency responsible for the defeat of the U-Boats in the Atlantic, is now lacking, as the result of absence of training during the last three months.

3. Covering forces of M.T.Bs. and M.G.Bs., supported by destroyers and/or corvettes are being moved up-Channel into the Nore Command following the movement of the War out of France into the Low Countries.

West Coast
of France.

4(a) Brest port area was bombed by 67 Lancasters and 2 Mosquitoes; 362 tons.
(b) Machine guns, grenades and ammunition were supplied to F.F.I. at les Sables d'Olonne by BLYSKAWICA.

Channel.

5. Dieppe was unable to receive coasters as the weather has prevented the completion of mine-sweeping.

4.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dragoon".

6(a) The U.S. destroyer LUDLOW gave fire support on the right flank today with good results against batteries and a strong point between Cape Martin and Monaco: there was slight opposition from one battery.

(b) The F.F.I. have occupied Monaco.

(c) The movements of ships in Port de Bouc were suspended at 1500 and minesweeping was intensified after two mine explosions had been reported, one of which sank the French tug PROVENCAL and the other damaged the U.S. salvage vessel TACKLE and caused several casualties.

(d) In Marseilles 12 magnetic mines have now been detonated inside the harbour, the northern part of which is still dangerous. An L.C.M. has been mined and sunk, blocking the Vieux Port.

Air attack
on Genoa.

7(a) B.17s of Strategic Air Force attacked Genoa harbour today, achieving good concentration. Photographs showed all four dry docks at the south-east end of the harbour damaged, one 200 ft. S/M in dry dock damaged, one 280/290 ft. S/M probably damaged, one T.B. capsized, one 210 ft. escort vessel sunk and two damaged, the destroyer SQUADRISTA damaged, 2 K.T. ships sunk or on fire, 2 F Boats damaged and numerous harbour craft sunk.

(b) Coastal Air Force attacked small shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and in Sestri Levante harbour where a 1500 ton merchant ship was damaged.

Ionian.

8. Coastal forces operating inside Cephalonia last night sank 2 caiques and 3 lighters, taking 21 prisoners.

Australia and New Zealand

Raid on
Wake Island.

9. Aircraft from a U.S. escort aircraft carrier attacked Wake Island today whilst the two accompanying heavy cruisers carried out a bombardment. Three 8 inch guns and several 5 inch A/A guns were destroyed and shore installations were hit. No enemy aircraft were seen. The U.S. forces suffered no damage or loss.

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Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

? Australia and New Zealand

Air
operations.

10. 5 Catalinas from Middleburg last night patrolled shipping centres off Ambon - Halmahera - Menado - Davao and did considerable execution amongst small craft, sea trucks, barges, motor launches, &c. Two merchantmen were hit, one of which exploded and the other was left listing. 8 troop laden barges were attacked off Menado this forenoon: 3 were sunk and 5 damaged.

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Situation Reports

Air

Details of Operations: 67 Lancasters and 2 Mosquitoes on Brest port area 362 tons good.
(Air. Ch.Mar. Leigh Mallory 040010B to S.H.A.E.F.)

C. in C.
Portsmouth
summary.
1940-1944.

The first battle of the Channel was waged and won in 1940-1942 with the defeat of the attempt by the German Air Force to destroy our coastal convoys and cause serious embarrassment for our war industries and economic life.

(2) ~~What~~ may well be described as the second battle of the Channel is drawing to a dramatic close with the eclipse of the German Naval Forces in this Area, due to a combination of Naval, Military and Air Section.

(3) The second battle of the Channel may be divided into three periods:-

(A) The defence of our coastal convoys during 1942-1944 from E-Boat attack.

(B) The preparation for the invasion of Europe and the launching from this Command of the major portion of the Assault Forces.

(C) The supply of the Allied Armies in France and the protection of the cross-Channel route from U-Boat and E-Boat attack.

(4) The Portsmouth Naval Command has played an essential part in this Battle and its successful conclusion is due to the untiring devotion to duty of all the Officers and ratings concerned, both by sea and ashore.

(5) Before the dispersal elsewhere of the strong forces lent temporarily to the Command, during possibly the most vital period in its history, I wish to express my unbounded admiration of the energy, skill and endurance displayed by the Flag Officers, Commodores, Commanding Officers, Officers and ships' companies of all H.M. Ships and Establishments concerned, coastal forces and landing craft and members of the W.R.N.S., whom I have had the honour to command or direct.

(6) Especial praise is due to magnificent work of the engine room departments and the repair organisations by which so many ships have been able to answer the continual calls made upon them.

(7) The bravery invariably shown by all those in contact with the enemy, as exemplified by the recent fruitful night actions off Cap D'Antifer, has crowned any success we have achieved as a whole and is in keeping with the highest traditions of our great Service.

(8) I ask all hands to accept my sincere gratitude, thanks and congratulations.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 041600B to Portsmouth Command)

Naval.

(I) Bad weather continued and all coastal and landing craft took shelter during the night, convoy sailings were cancelled and day patrols remained at anchor.

(II) Five Coasters have arrived at Ouistreham today and passed up the Canal to Caen.

(III) N.O.I.C. Dieppe reports being unable to receive Coasters at present: sweep not yet completed.

(F.O.B.A.A. 042244 to A.N.C.X.F.)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune"

Situation Reports

Naval (Contd.) (A) General. Bad weather has continued to restrict shipping movement and unloading.
 (B) Assault Area. Night 2nd/3rd. Arromanches examination vessel, H.M.S. GLEN AVON foundered in gale, and S.S. EMPIRE CURZON (7,067 tons) was driven ashore.
 Gales have rendered mines sensitive and further restricted shipping movement. Caen Canal is now clear for coasters and barges as far as Nouveau Quai.
 (C) Minesweeping. Day 3rd approach Channel to Dieppe has been searched to within 10 miles of the Port and buoyed to within 20 miles. Inshore channel has been searched for moored mines only to within 2 miles of the Port. Day 4th weather prevented sweeping.
 (D) Unloading figures.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	830344	206937	1485519
U.S.	1248467	230566	1944035
Total D + 89	2078811	437503	3429554

(Adm. Ramsay 042325B to Adty.)

Covering Operations

Patrols from Portsmouth Pins cover night 4/5th September.
 A.G.H.1 - ROWLEY - Z.102.
 G.H.2 - TOMPAZES - Z.109.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 041203B to V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts HD and CN in Area "C", H.M.S. HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, H.M.S. VERNON Portsmouth, H.M.S. AGGRESSIVE, H.M.S. ATTACK, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, ROWLEY, TOMPAZES.)
 B.A.A. patrol night 4th/5th Sept.
 (1) G.M. 1 RIOU Tunny South.
 (2) G.M. 3 G.M. 4 coastal Force units Tunny South.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 041634B to Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcast HD and CN in area C.)
 The Nore and Dover patrol night 4th/5th Sept. F.U. 3 H.M.S. SAVAGE Z.3 F.U. 4 H.M.S. COTTESMORE N. West Corner of Z.3 F.U. 5 H.M.S. OPPORTUNE Z.5 F.U. 6 H.M.S. WENSLEYDALE Z.4.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 041658B to Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts HD and CN in area C.)
 Cherbourg Patrol night 4th/5th.
 (1) H.M.S. JERVIS Z. 201 Z.128. H.M.S. SAUMAREZ Z. 208 MALL float Z. 209.
 (2) 3 P.C's Z.221 South.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 041815B to Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts H.D. and C.N. in area C.)

Patrols from Dover. Patrols for night of 4th/5th.
 (B) F.U.3 SAVAGE 050° Z.3 3 miles.
 (C) F.U.4 COTTESMORE 176° Dungeness 8.2 miles.
 (D) F.U.5 OPPORTUNE 050° Z.5 3 miles.
 (E) F.U.6 WENSLEYDALE From position 50° 45' 06" N.

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Patrols from Dover. (Contd.)

01° 11'24" E. to 50° 39'12" N., 01° 11'24" E.
 (2) Destroyers are to turn at north-eastern limit of patrol every hours. COTTESMORE is to patrol in a direction 050° to 230° for three miles each side of patrol position.
 (3) Freedom of action is not restricted to Z areas but patrol vessels are not to proceed inshore of north-western boundary of Z areas.
 (4) Unless in close pursuit of enemy WENSLEYDALE is not to cross to northward of a line joining position 50° 42'18" N., 01° 05' 24" E. and 50° 50'24" N., 01° 20' 48" E.
 (5) A/C under Swingate V.H/F control will illuminate and attack vessels in an area within 8 miles off Boulogne breakwater light. (A.C. Dover, 041321B to C. in C. Portsmouth, SAVAGE, OPPORTUNE, WENSLEYDALE, COTTESMORE.)

Port Facilities

Morlaix. (1) U.S. Military Authorities advise that Local Naval Authorities state ships can now be called forward to Morlaix.
 (2) Pending reply to my 311045 no action is being taken to assemble or sail shipping to this port.
 (3) Request as much notice as possible may be given of date on which shipping can be accepted so that orders can be given for its preliminary assembly.
 (A.N.C.X.F., 041304B to C.T.F. 125.)

Arromanches. Ramp M.P.5 Corncob Bosworth planted.
 86845 88035 86950 87965.
 (N.O.I.C. Arrow, 042006 to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, Tug Control Lee, C.T.F. 128, S.N.O. Peel Bank, Cdre. Southend, F.O.B.A.A., F.O. West, N.O.I.C. Omaha.)
 N.O.I.C. Arrow 031302B not to DACRES.
 (1) Para. 1A approved. DACRES is to shift berth A. 8th September as arranged by N.O.I.C. Arrow, DACRES must be released at the end of September when she will be relieved by an examination vessel.
 (2) Para. 1B. This is still under consideration. Until Q.Z.S. 536 is opened. Authorities concerned will be requested to route all convoys through Q.Z.S.539.
 (3) Para. 1C and D approved.
 (4) Para. 2. Approved until DACRES takes over these duties.
 (F.O.B.A.A., 041858 to N.O.I.C. Arrow.)

4.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune"

Shipping

Shipping to Cherbourg (1) Recommendations contained in your 032217 are approved.
(2) Regret that I cannot concur in recommendation contained in your 021123? For the time being find it necessary to insist on the provisions of my 232232 August being observed.

(A.N.C.X.F. 041427B to C.T.F. 125)

Our 71502 August 26th. Chiefs of Staff have agreed that the needs of the operations in France justify the acceptance of the risk of bringing large troopships into Cherbourg, subject to reconsideration in the event of one of these ships being lost by enemy action.

(War Office 041630B to B.A.S. Washington)

Pre-loaded ships for American section. Study with representatives Com. Z as to average number commodity loaded ships weather pre-loaded or U.K. loaded required in U.S. Sector to give needed flexibility to fill requirements combat troops follows: Utah Twenty. Omaha Forty. Cherbourg Twenty Five. Morlaix Six. Total ninety one. As additional berths Cherbourg and

Morlaix available this number increases accordingly. Danger of loss primarily due bad weather thoroughly understood by Com. Z. Your 031716B refers.

(C.T.F. 125 041545B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Use of Needles Channel. In view of your 022119 I do not wish to press for the adoption of the policy outlined in para. 3 of my 011905.

(2) The last sentence of my 220918 August should therefore be amended to read "Any M.T. Ships from Cherbourg to Isle of Wight area should return in F.B.C. convoys via Channel H with orders to part company at A.3 Buoy and proceed thence to Solent by Q.Z.S. 552."

(3) It will be observed that an increase in the number of instances when M.T. Ships act as described in para. 3 of your 231813 may well occur when the new arrangements for routing homeward bound M.T. Ships from Cherbourg are brought into force.

(A.N.C.X.F. 041957B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Use of Needles Channel.

Administration and Organisation

Proposed transfer of Le Havre to U.S.

F.W.D.13793. Secret. Under present conditions it is possible that British may not desire to open and operate Le Havre as a port, accordingly it may become available for United States Forces. Suggest contact 21 Army Group rear re. possibilities. For Lee from Crawford. Signed S.H.A.E.F. cite S.H.G.D.S.
(S.H.A.E.F. 041845B to C.G. Com. Zone)

/Movement ...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Administration and Organisation

Movement
east of
small
craft.

In view of extension of operational area anticipate it will be necessary to withdraw one B.Y.M.S. Flotilla from your Forces.
Request: (A) Confirmation that a Flotilla can now be spared.
(B) Information which Flotilla you would prefer to release.

(A.N.C.X.F. 041147B to C.T.F. 125)

- (1) Intend to release RIOU and 16th and 17th M.G.B. Flotillas tomorrow Tuesday.
- (2) Arrangements have been made for C.F.M.U.1 to proceed by road to Arras for onward routing instructions. Move to start as soon as M.G.B.s have sailed.
- (3) Intend to retain STEVENSTONE and KRAKOWIAK until reduction of Havre to act as striking force and supplement A.A. defence of shipping.

(F.O.B.A.A. 041223 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Your 041147B confirmed that 157 B.Y.M.S. Flotilla can now be spared provided that not more than two ports are required to be opened simultaneously.

(C.T.F. 125 041705B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Reference F.O.B.A.A.'s 041223. Intended proceeding at 050800 request that instructions for future administrations of remaining coastal force craft may be issued.

(C.F.M.U.I. 042130 to F.O.B.A.A.)

British
representation
on French
Committee.

Question of naval representation with French Committee is under very active consideration and reply will be made as soon as possible. It is considered that there should be both British and U.S. representation of parallel authority.
A.N.C.X.F.'s 021926 refers.
(Adty. 041240B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Removal
of F.O.B.A.A.
to Rouen.

My H.Q. will shortly move to Rouen earliest date 10th September, latest date 15th September, dependent on L/T communication, which 21 A.G. have been asked to provide.

(F.O.B.A.A. 042149 to A.N.C.X.F., Adty., C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, A.C. Dover, 2nd T.A.F., 21 A.G. Main and Rear, N.O.s.i/c. Havre, Dieppe, Boulogne, Arromanches, R.N.O. CANOE.)

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MondayHOME COMMANDSGeneralPolicy

Proposed allocation of Havre to U.S.

Final decision urgently required on allocation of ports U.S. and British control.

- (2) Propose Havre be taken over by U.S. when captured, Rotterdam and Antwerp by British.
 (3) Reply is requested today owing to shortage of time for preparing parties.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 041050B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Re-organisation of Escort Groups.

Following changes in organisation are to come into force as shown:

- (1) a. B.2, B.3, B.4 groups to be disbanded forthwith.
 b. B.5, group to be disbanded on next return to harbour.
 c. B.6 group to be renamed B.2.
 (2) Groups to be constituted forthwith for Gibraltar convoys:-
 B.21. HESPERUS (Temporary) RUSHEN C, FLINT C. *C = CASTLE*
 B.22. COTTON, OXFORD C, MORPETH C.
 B.23. FOWEY, LEEDS C, KNARESBOROUGH C.
 (3) Groups to be constituted as ships become available.
 E.G.7, CYGNET, BULLDOG, KEPPEL, WHITEHALL, ALLINGTON C.,
 BAMBORO' C. RHODEDENDRON.
 E.G.8, BEAGLE, WALKER, WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, OXLIP,
 HONEYSUCKLE.
 E.G.10, HELMSDALE, BAYTUN, FOLEY, L.DUNVEGAN, BRAITHWAITE.
 E.G.17, ANGUILLA, BURGESS, MOORSOM, L. KILLIN, CRANSTOWN.
 W.G.18, TOWY, MERMAID, PEACOCK, HOSTE, BALFOUR.
 E.G.30, PEVENSEY C., KENILWORTH C., LAUNCESTON C., PORCHESTER C.
 E.G.31, HADLEIGH C., BERKELEY C., CARISBROOKE C., DUMBARTON C.
 (4)a. PASLEY allocated to E.G.M.R.
 b. TINTAGEL C. allocated to Londonderry for B.1.
 (5) New groups to be based as follows:-
 a. B.21, B.22. Liverpool.
 b. B.23, E.Gs. 7, 8, 17, 18, 31 Greenock.
 c. E.Gs. 10, 30 Londonderry.
 (C. in C.W.A. 041135B and 041659B to Cdre. D.W.A., Capt.'s D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast.)

Movement of small Craft Eastward.

Request one Flotilla M.L. may be allocated for use in ~~RHINE~~ and ~~USSEL~~. Anticipate they may be required by 15th September. C.M.F.U. will be moved to Holland by Road. Consider that in the particular circumstances a Commander R.N. should be appointed in Command.

(A.N.C.X.F. 041159B to Admty.)

Your 311951 August and C. in C. Nore's 311912 August, not to all. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to transfer five C/F control frigates to C. in C. Nore now.

(2) Following coastal force flotillas have been trained to work with these frigates -

1st, 30th, 35th, 53rd, 55th and 63rd.

(Admty., 041257B to Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Nore.)

/Proposed...

4.9.1944
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSGeneralPolicy - Contd.

Proposed amendment of Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands.

A.M. 021511.

I consider any change of the present boundary between the Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands would contribute nothing useful towards the defeat of the U-boat offensive it would, on the other hand, introduce complications which are, happily, absent from the present division of command foremost amongst these are the communications between sea and air forces and their respective headquarters which, if made more complex, can only result in slowing up the

offensive action to be taken by these forces.

(2) I am most firmly of the opinion that there are two principles of paramount importance which must, whenever possible, be upheld to achieve the best results. These are:-

a. The boundary line between Commands must lie in an area where U-boat attack is least likely.

b. The Naval and Air Commands must coincide as nearly as possible and the headquarters of each must be closely adjacent present boundary follows both these principles.

(3) I see no difficulty whatsoever in C. in C.W.A. continuing as heretofore to have the operational control of the ocean convoys and their close escort as they pass through the Plymouth Command the close co-operation which exists between us and our staffs will ensure the most economical use of A/S hunting groups and their allocation to training and lay over as necessary.

(4) I think it would be a calamity at this stage to change the areas of command which time has shown to be easily workable.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041235 to Admty.)

Release of 61st and 68th R.M.L. Flotillas.

A.M. 081929 August.

It is understood that anti-flying bombs patrols provided by 61st and 68th R.M.L. Flotillas are no longer required in Dover Strait. To ease berthing and accommodation situation in Dover propose sailing 61st Flotilla to Newhaven and 68th to Portsmouth as soon as convenient. Request early approval.

(A.C. Dover, 041858B to Admty. and H.Q.A.D.G.B.)

Minesweeping responsibilities east of Franco-Belgian frontier.

Further to my 291232. Intend that under NEPTUNE conditions, minesweeping responsibilities for opening Continental Ports east of the Franco-Belgian border shall be in accordance with the Talisman Plan as given in A.L.M. 05829/44 of 29th August. Para. 2(C) (i.e. of Home Commands until local authorities can take over).

(A.N.C.X.F. 042241B to Admty.)

4.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

Coast Ref. A.M. 011829.
Defences It is considered that Dover Fanhole and Lydden
U.K. Spout 6 inch 45 degree batteries should be
Proposed retained for the present for the same reasons as
reduction. Hougham and Capel and the situation reviewed on
September 30th. My 251822 August refers.
(2) It is also desired to retain Ramsgate 12 pdrs.
for the time being.
(3) After consultation with Commander Coast Artillery it is
considered that South Foreland and Folkestone East can be reduced
to care and maintenance.
(A.C. Dover, 040936 to Admty.)

Movements

DEVONSHIRE Intend to sail DEVONSHIRE from Yarmouth Roads at
1900B today 4th for Liverpool. Escort, NEW
WATERFORD, to Plymouth. C. in C. Plymouth is
requested to arrange onward escort from off

Eddystone.

(2) Routed Q.Z.S. 284, 472, 482, 483, 477, 560 and searched
channels in force. Speed 13 knots. Expected time of arrival
Eddystone 0400B 5th.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041057B to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C.
Liverpool.)

The flag of C.S.1, has been transferred temporarily from
KENT to DEVONSHIRE. The office of C.S.1 will remain in KENT and
all signals and correspondence are to be sent to KENT.
04144B ends.

(A.C.O.S. 041655 to Admty.)

LINCOLN. Intend to sail U.S.S.R.S. LINCOLN at 0600 tomorrow
Tuesday 5th September to Methil for inclusion in
E.N. 31 for Scapa. Speed of advance 10 knots
E.T.A. Methil 1700/5 supplied with S.C.1 routebook
and convoy information. Constant W/T watch on port waves.
Carries naval code "XA" recoding. LOXO and Mersigs.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 041140B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

FORMIDABLE Admty. 020010. Intend H.M.S. FORMIDABLE leaving
Rosyth p.m. 15th Sept. calling at Scapa to embark
oil fuel and petrol to full capacity.
(C. in C. Rosyth 041311B to Admty.)

IMPLACABLE. Intend to sail H.M.S. IMPLACABLE from Clyde
without escort passing Boom 0845B /Wednesday 6th
September. Ship will carry out flying exercises
in Clyde area and will pass Mull of Kintyre 1530B
proceeding via Sounds if Islay and Mull thence
West of Skye passing latitude of 58° N. at 0145/7th September.
E.T.A. Scapa 0650B/7th September Hoxa Gate 0730B. Codeword
"Bottom".

(2) C. in C. Western Approaches and A.C.O.S. are requested to
arrange escort as considered necessary in North Minch and from
Cape Wrath to Scapa.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- IMPLACABLE. (3) IMPLACABLE's 290115 not to all addressees
(Contd.) refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 041826B to A.C.O.S., C. in C.
W.A.)
- SERAPH. Concur in A.M. 012315B and F.O.S. 031312B neither
to all addressees.
(2) It is requested that SERAPH may be sailed to
Rothsay and come under administration of Capt. S.
7 on completion of preliminary trials at Devonport.
(3) It is also requested that any trial requirements of H.Q.C.C.
and C.A/S.E.E. may be communicated.
(C. in C. W.A. 042335B to Adnty.)

Operations.

- Biscay operations. Doctor of Ushant escaped at 0300 with local fisher-
man Germans evacuated Ushant during past few days
destroying all guns before leaving. A few de-
serters remaining. 25 well armed Germans returned
last night and are fighting with local inhabi-
tants and deserters. Local inhabitants have no weapons and are
apprehensive of further German reinforcements. No medical
services now in Ushant. Doctor and fisherman are remaining at
l'Abervrach. Weather report wind southerly 25 M.P.H., pressure
1011 millibars 10/10 cloud at 1000 ft. weather cloudy,
visibility 12 miles.
(ROCHESTER 041255B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Closed Sables d'Olonne today and party landed and re-embarked.
(2) Following personnel are being brought back.
(A) Flight O. Martin R.A.F. O.N. 60068 from Beaufighter R.22041
of R.A.E. Farnborough.
(B) Gaspard Engelhart Captain Pilot of Air France.
(C) 3 Polish prisoners from German Army.
(3) Following information furnished by Cdmt. l'Helias O.C. F.F.I.
Estimated 10,000 Germans remain on South Bank of Loire as far as
Pornic. Evacuation in groups of approx. 500 through Roche sur
Yon to La Rochelle still proceeding. Northern troops evacuating
through Lucon where there are German posts to La Rochelle. Cholet
free of Germans. No Americans S.W. of Lorient. F.F.I. considers
evacuation could be stopped if more arms were supplied observing
S.A.S. grenades and signal projector are chief requirements.
(4) Lewis 9 Lanchester 32 grenades and ammunition supplied by
P.S. BLYSKAWICA.
(5) Mosquito pilot and Polish deserter believed inland requested
to be brought to Sables d'Olonne.
(BLYSKAWICA 041736B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

- Operation "Nestegg". Military loading plan for operation "Nestegg" has
been based on allocation of L.C.T. (4) as given
in your 242121 August. Loading plan is not
flexible and early confirmation is requested that
final allocation of L.C.T. will be mark 4 only
and not other marks.
(C. in C. Plymouth 041509B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

4.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Le Havre - A.N.C.X.F's 291232B August para. 5 (not to M/S
Dieppe Seine).
Channel. (1) Proposed Le Havre - Dieppe Channel be 1 mile
wide joining following points - (a) 49° 29' 42" N.
00° 07' 24" W. (b) 40° 50' 15" N. 00° 04' 54" E.
(c) 50° 05' 00" N. 00° 58' 00" E.
(2) Request C/C Portsmouth will arrange to lay necessary light
buoy and A light float at (b).
(F.O.B.A.A. 041851 to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Finland. Finland. (1) In hope that it may prove possible
to divert necessary shipping 2 German Divisions
are being diverted to Uleaborg and Kemi for
transportation through Gulf of Bothnia (B.2.)
(2) Trondheim area is now weakly held and troops from Finland
are to be directed to this area.
(3) Swedish are now making extensive arrangements for internment
in anticipation of an early arrival of number of German deserters.
(4) Road to Skiboth has been in active operation night and
day for last 2 weeks. Organization Todt move out today (B.2.)
(N.A. Stockholm No T.O.O/4.)
N.I.D. Comment.
(1) Not considered possible that Germans could move more than
one division with full equipment by sea from Gulf of Bothnia
ports by 15th Sept. 1944.
(2) Troop strength at Trondheim is believed not to exceed one
regiment of two battalions. Trondheim is normal port of arrival
for troops from north Norway being railhead for south.
(3) Believed very highly probable.
(4) Intensive use of Skiboth road by the remaining 3 central
divisions is expected.
(N.A. Stockholm 041824 to W.O.)

Baltic. Eastern Baltic.
(A) R/C over Baltic today Sept. 4th though not
complete has failed to reveal any unusual shipping
activity.
(B) There is no information as to naval situation in Finnish
gulf nor any reason yet to suggest the Aalands are likely to fall
(?into) German hands.
(C) Though a report from Helsingfors has suggested two southern
divisions of Rendulics army are likely to be withdrawn by sea
from Kemi and Uleaborg there is at present no information to
suggest any concentrated shipping to this purpose.
(D) R/C in southern (?Finland) p.m. today located a number of
Todt vehicles proceeding along improved road in direction of
Skibotn having come from German dumps at Rovaniemi. There has
so far been no exodus of military by this route. A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 041824 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment.
(B) The Finns strengthened the garrison of the Aaland Islands a
short time back. It is considered highly improbable that the
Germans would attempt or the Finns permit an occupation at this
stage.

War Diary4.9.1944
MondayHOME COMMANDSU-boats

Patrols

No U-boat contacts.

2. Intend E.G.5 to patrol in even numbers A and B areas and other groups as for last night. (S.O. 33, 040829 to C. in C.W.A.)

Suspected
U-boat

A U/boat is estimated to be in your vicinity today 4th September.

Was D/Fd in very indefinite position 52° 00' N. 29° 00' W. at 1610Z/3rd September and may be moving N.E.

(Admty., 040844B to Escorts of H.X.F.305.)

NavigationalBuoyage
of Channel
to the Hook.

Admty.'s 031900B. Request one Tender may be sailed to Harwich as soon as possible and a second one as soon as she can be released. - (C. in C. Nore, 041252B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Trinity House state that to lay buoys for Channels to low countries they will require

PATRICIA, WARDEN and DISCOVERY II.

(2) C. in C. Nore has requested that one of these be sailed to Harwich as soon as possible and a second one as soon as she can be released.

(3) Request you will sail first one as in para. (2) and signal intentions for release of second.

(4) A.M. 031900 and C. in C Nore's 041252 neither to C. in C. Portsmouth refer.

(A.N.C.X.F. 041604B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Rotterdam

Request that Netherlands increment for Rotterdam Port Party may be assembled at H.M.S. COCKFOSTERS or as convenient to C. in C. Nore without delay.

(2) It is understood that approximate numbers will

be:-

(A) Officers. 50 Officers including 15 pilots, 2 for recruiting duties 2 surveying officers and 8 officers for organising Civil labour and Port facilities.

(B) Ratings, 50 Petty Officers, 130 Ratings.

(3) Further request that D.S. ORANJE NASSAU be brought to 12 hours' notice and prepared to transport the party to Holland.

(4) It is intended to load stores and a limited quantity of M.T. in this ship as soon as possible.

(5) A small reconnaissance party of 3 officers and 2 ratings from the Netherlands increment will be required to enter the port with the British N.O.I.C. and should be at 2 hours' notice to proceed from 1800/5th September.

(6) It is understood that Captain Harmsen R.N.M. has been nominated as Senior Dutch Naval Officer.

(A.N.C.X.F. 041547B to Admty.)

/Ambleteuse...

4.9.1944

MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPost "Neptune" Port Facilities - Contd.

Ambleteuse landing of "Pluto". Operation "Pluto" (Dumbo area). Request representatives may attend conference at C.H.Q. Dover at 1430 Wednesday 6th.

(2) Agenda (A) to agree intended route, width of route and buoyage.
 (B) To settle action in relation to existing G.P.O. submarine cables.
 (C) To ensure that "Pluto" route is clear and kept clear of any future submarine cables.
 (D) To fix area of beach at Ambleteuse to be cleared and allocated exclusively to "Pluto".
 (E) To arrange berthing of "Pluto" craft at Boulogne.
 (F) To decide limits of prohibited anchorages.
 (G) To decide minesweeping and wreck disposal details.
 (H) Communications.

(3) Further request following or their representatives may also be invited to attend:-
 Major General Sir Donald Banks (Petroleum Warfare Board)
 Captain Firmin (G.P.O.)
 21 Army (Petroleum Board)
 21 Army Group (L. of C.)
 21 Army Group (Engineers)
 21 Army Group (R.A.S.C.)
 (A.C. Dover, 041727B to Admty., S.H.A.E.F. and F.O.B.A.A.)

Dieppe Tanker Chant 12 now at Cowes is allocated for watering service at Dieppe when tanks have been cleaned and watering fitments placed on boards. Please arrange and sail accordingly when port is open.
 281732B/August from B.O.B.A.A. to Admty. not to all addressees refers.
 (D. of S.T. 042132B to STCIC, Portsmouth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoys to pass South of Ireland. To permit the routing of main trans-Atlantic convoys south of Ireland (R), it is necessary to widen Q.Z.S.565, and clear Q.Z.X.293 to establish a width of 25 miles clear water. Request this work be undertaken as soon as opportunity offers.
 (Admty. 041259B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Belgian craft for Belgium. S.H.A.E.F. reports that a number of Belgian fishing vessels are at present working in the West Country. Request information whether any can be made available now to load civil affairs stores and proceed to Belgian ports when operational considerations permit.
 (A.N.C.X.F., 041823B to Admty.)

4.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Contraband
Control.

Your 032044 / to F.O.G.M.A. This procedure has
been put into operation.
(C.C.SD. Gibraltar 040932 to Adty.)
/ Any outward bound Spanish ships from Med. ports
found by Straits Patrol to be sent to Gibraltar
for examination.

South Atlantic

B.R.L.O.
Bahia.

Office of B.R.L.O. Bahia will close down at
2400P. Sept. 9th.
(B.R.L.O. Bahia 041315Z)

War Diary.

4.9.1944.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy destroyer off Suda Bay. One destroyer 35° 29' 25° 00' E. 000° 18 knots. (PIPINOS 040228B to Alexandria.) * North.

Force 120. Delete WHEATLAND from my 311155* and substitute GARLAND. (F.O.L.E.M. 041233C.)
* List of ships who will constitute Force 120.

VIGOROUS. From 035° 42' 023° 01' at 1958B/5th proceed on the surface at 10 knots to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 1030B/7th thence to Malta. (2) You may encounter VIVID about 0103B/6th. (Capt. (S) 1 041441B to VIGOROUS.)

A/Cs ferried by ACTIVITY. A.M. 031702 not to F.O.L.E.M. para. 2. In light wind conditions it will be necessary to hoist out approx. the first 6 Hellcats. A natural wind of 10 knots should enable all aircraft to be flown off. ACTIVITY will require the assistance of pilots to fly off the aircraft. (D.N.A.O. 041612B to C. in C. Med.)

BRUISER, THRUSTER. Following from British Chiefs of Staff. Reference Medcos. 182. Retention of these ships is approved. (2) One of them is required in U.K. by 1st Nov. Further signal will be made. (A.M.S.S.C. 041700Z to A.F.H.Q.)

DUQUESNE. Your 031244 refers. Ship is to remain at Casablanca for the present, my 181857 and A.M. 192328. (C. in C. Med. 041704 to F.O.W.M.)

German ships seized by Russians. Russian A.N.A. Ankara reports that Russians seized following German ships in Roumanian Ports but no details available - 29 small naval craft, 23 merchant ships, 4 tugs, 8 harbour service craft presumably lighters. He has no knowledge of whereabouts of submarines apparently. Some at any rate are still operating. (B.N.A. Ankara 041720Z.)

UNSWERVING, PIPINOS. Candia departed 2 K.T. ships present one U-Boat Santorin present one K.T. ship. (2) (P.63) UNSWERVING leaves present patrol JU. passing through position 035° (744') 025° 20' and 035° 39' 024° 28' to patrol approach to Suda Bay between long. 024° 28' and 023° 43'. (3) (P.71) PIPINOS remains south of lat. 035° 34' until 0203/5th

/and...

War Diary.

4.9.1944.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

UNSWERVING, and then patrols approach to Candia between long.
 PIPINOS. 024° 53' and 025° 36'.
 (Contd.) (Capt. (S) 1 041833B to UNSWERVING, PIPINOS.)
 Amended 050946.

RAMILLIES. Intend to sail RAMILLIES to Gibraltar in time to
 complete with fuel before joining M.K.F. 34 for
 destination Clyde.
 (2) On arrival Clyde ship will not be available
 for operations until boilers have been cleaned and defects made
 good.
 (3) All special gear such as type 651 is being retained on board.
 (4) Ship requests that future duties may be indicated in order
 that a programme may be submitted on arrival Clyde.
 (F.O.W.M. 041910B to C. in C. Med.)

Toulon. Approach channel to and through Toulon Bay and
 main channel Toulon Harbour swept M/A results
 negative. Sweeping Eguillette Road and La Seyne
 Bay continues. Cut three more one sunk one
 exploded and one drifted into La Seyne Bay. Completed pulsing
 between piers results negative. Understand two additional
 exploded in controlled field - unable to obtain report today.
 All mooring buoys Toulon Road checked - moorings were strong
 and secure all safe. Only two are in position shown on chart
 151 but all are in more than 30 feet of water. L.S.T. Mother
 Ship moored alongside bulkhead Jsaold* Basin.
 (C.T.U. 80.10.2 042116.) * As received.

C. in C. E.T.A. in AJAX 0030B tomorrow Tuesday.
 Med. (C. in C. Med. 042216B to N.O.I.C. Maddalena.)

Operation Situation (?report) 424. On 2nd Sept. U.S. dest.
 "Dragoon" WCOLSEY and U.S. dest. EDISON bombarded bridges
 and strong points in Monaco area in support 7th
 Army's right flank.
 (2) Sweeping in Marseilles port in progress. 8
 magnetic mines exploded. Salvage and clearance operations continue
 (C. in C. Med. 042220B.)

U/B S.E. My posn. now is 135° Stromboli 14 miles suspected
 of Stromboli. S/M am chasing 23 kts. target 3 miles ahead course
 200°.
 (VERITY 042240B to C. in C. Med. (Naples))
 Submarine has dived.
 (VERITY 042244.)

Echo faded at 6000 yards considered probable submarine. Am
 carrying out observant, my position 146° Stromboli 17 miles.
 (VERITY 042251B.)

No contact obtained, request instructions.
 (VERITY 042355B to C. in C. Med. (Naples))

4.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions.

Area A.D. 2. Aircraft obtained A.S.V. contact in 013° 00' N. 056° 54' E. at 2215Z/2nd. Search carried by Force 66 without result. Scale Y. (?2) Area A.D. 3. Reduced scale to Y.2. Area C.B.1. U-Boats before dark have now entered this area from area A.D.2 or A.D. (?3) Scale (?X) 4. Area K.D.1 and K.D.2. Scale X.4. Area V.P. Scale W.5. (C. in C. E.F. 040446Z.)

8th and 2nd S/M Fs.

The 8th S/M Flot. has been replaced in the E.F. by the 2nd S/M Flot. to date from Aug. 19th. 2nd S/M F. organization is as follows. Depot ship WOLFE acting Capt. J.E. Slaughter D.S.O., R.N., Capt. (S) 2 and (P.249 STYGIAN) P.234 STRATAGEM (P.239 SURF), (P.245 SPIRIT) (P.246 STATESMAN) (P.235 STRONGBOW) also (P.251 SUBTLE) on passage from U.K. Request authorities concerned be informed and that instructions may be given to substitute second for eighth Flot. in local orders and instructions. Operations are conducted by Capt. (S) 4 (S.O. S/M E.F.) and exercised by Capt. (S) 2. (S.O. S/Ms. E.F. 041125Z to C. in C. E.F.)

U/B report.

U-Boat by D/F at 040918 at 13700 k/cs within 60 miles either side of a line joining 002° 00' S. 082° 00' E. and 009° 00' S. 085° 00' E. with centre point at 005° 30' S. 083° 30' E. (C. in C. E.F. 041137Z.)

Summary of events for week ending 30th Aug. '44.

(Extract.) 30th August. 2 B.25s (Mitchells) on a sweep of the Yangtze River near Shihweiyao damaged a 75 ft. and two 100 ft. boats. Scored a direct hit on a 200 ft. gunboat and three hits on a floating dock. (S.A.C.S.E.A. 041700.)

4.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. Sighting and Attack Summary.	Para (A) S.S. (Br.) LIVINGSTON torpedoed and sunk 0750 3rd. 46. 15 N. 58. 05 W. Para (C) Canso A/C U/160 Radar Contact 0224 3rd. 43. 43 N. 54. 52 W. Para (D) H.M.C. M/L attacks doubtful Asdic contact 0230 3rd. 49. 15 N. 66. 33 W. All times Z. (N.S.H.Q. 040640Z)
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CORE's Group.	Weather Bird muzzled but unlocated. Have plenty powder no Prisoners. To exploit first clear weather in two weeks request optional two day stay in execution your 032043 (not to all) 040900Z Lat. 5128 Long 3059 course 168 speed 14 but if approved will return near (753) N. 30 W. 4581 2275. (C.T.G. 22.4 040950 to ?)
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U-Boat off N.F.	Submarine sighted in 049° 00' N. 052° 41' W. at 0930Z 4th U.S. C.G. 1601 still in contact. (C. in C. C.N.A. 041321Z to G.B.7A) My 041321 periscope only sighted hunt continuing until 1000Z 5th. (C. in C. C.N.A.)
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U-Boat dispositions.	Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 041435Z, Cominch 041607Z)
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2 French S.B.D. Squadrons. ? AIR SQDONS	Commander 8th Fleet has stated to Cominch his intention to transfer two French S.B.D. Squadrons now in Morocco to C.G. Twelfth Tactical Air Command in South France. This assignment to be temporary and in the interest of morale and for prestige of French Naval aviation as well as increasing air offensive in that area. Transfer to be effected 10th September. (2) Cominch intends to inform Commander 8th Fleet, on 6th September, unless you have any objection, that proposed transfer is approved provided that it is agreeable to Sacmed, C. in C. Med. and C.G. Med. Allied Air Forces. (J.S.M. 041547Z to A.M.S.S.O.)
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Cherbourg.	W.O. 041630B to B.A.S. Washington. See Home Commands, Operation "Neptune".
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S.S. LIVINGSTON (Sunk 3 Sept.)	LIVINGSTON torpedoed and sunk 46. 15 N. 58. 05 W. at 0700Z/3. Ship struck by torpedo on starboard bow at 0640Z which failed to explode followed by second torpedo 20 minutes later on starboard side aft ship sinking in 90 seconds. My 042035Z with list of survivors follows. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 042031B.)
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4.9.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat incidents. (A) 0750/03 Br. LIVINGSTON torpedoed and sunk 46. 15 N. 58. 05 W. all times Z.
(B) 1927/03 and 2134/03 CROATAN escorts attacked sound contacts area 36. 43 N. 69. 43 W.
(D) 2001/03 P.B.M. Radar contact 35. 50 N. 71. 19 W.
1805/04 Mariner Radar contact 34. 23 N. 67. 29 W. which was attacked following Sonobuoy indications. Results negative. (Cominch 042047Z)

Russian S.C's. Request you will sail 3rd group Russian S.C's to Londonderry as soon as practicable for onward routing in J.W.60 sailing 15th September. (D.O.D.(H) 042334B to F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand

Flag of Cdre. Collins. Flag of Cdre. J.A. Collins R.A.N., transferred from SHROPSHIRE to AUSTRALIA 3rd September. (A.C.N.B. 040408Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para A. (1) A/C attacked U-Boat at 0420Z/2 in 68° 12' N. 06° 01' E. KEPPEL, WHITEHALL, PEACOCK and MERMAID attacked same U-Boat at 1745Z/2.
(2) A/C H/330 sighted U-Boat at 0316Z/4 in 59° 42' N. 10° 47' W.
(3) Ref. A.M. 021129B para. A. WAYFARER torpedoed and sunk at 0800Z 19th Aug. in approx. 14° 30' S. 42° 20' E.
Para. C. (1) U-Boat reported before 1120Z/3 in 50° 55' N. 04° 34' W.
(2) GENTIAN attacked contact at 1247Z/3 in 50° 30' N. 00° 18' E.
(3) Transit A/C sighted cigar-shaped object under water at 1214Z/3 in 44° 10' N. 09° 43' W.
(D.D.I.C. 041140B)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 041441B, 041448B)

5.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+91)

General.

1.(a). Convoy sailings to the Assault area were resumed today.

(b). Four ocean transports from convoy C.U.37 were ordered direct to Cherbourg, and the port of Morlaix will open to shipping up to 500 ft. in length on Thursday. With the improvements in quayside facilities the release of 18 L.S.Ts. and 12 L.C.I.(L)s every fortnight, and of all L.C.Ts. and L.C.V.Ps. now, from the American area, has been decided upon, and in view of the sweep to the eastward the last two destroyers in the American area, all smoke-making trawlers, and all anti-flying-bomb craft have been withdrawn from the Assault area.

(c). Cumulative landings to this afternoon are:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	834,301	208,397	1,493,940
American	<u>1,259,554</u>	<u>231,802</u>	<u>1,986,712</u>
Total	<u>2,093,855</u>	<u>440,199</u>	<u>3,480,652</u>

Enemy action.

2. EREBUS, while bombarding Havre, was hit by an enemy shell and had to discontinue her practice, but withdrew unaided.

General.

Plymouth/
W.A. boundary.

3. An amendment to the boundary between the Plymouth and Western Approaches commands, for the greater efficiency of anti-U-Boat operations by sea and air, was proposed by Admiralty on Sunday and objected to by both Commander in Chief Western Approaches and Commander in Chief Plymouth, but "after full consideration of their objections" Admiralty ordered the new limits to be brought into force at 1200B on Sept. 11th, C. in C. Western Approaches to continue to control ocean convoys and to maintain support groups in the Plymouth Command.

Channel area.

4.(a). Cross channel shelling was resumed with 90 rounds from the Gris Nez and Blanc Nez batteries, doing damage to Dover, coastal artillery equipment and R.F.A. MOORFOWL. We replied with 145 rounds, and claim to have sunk one E-Boat, but in the afternoon a request was received from the Army for cease-fire from Dover in view of the expected arrival of the British in Boulogne and Calais today.

/(b)...

5.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

General

Channel
area.
(Contd.)

4. (b) Antwerp was liberated; enemy withdrawal as far as the Somme is virtually complete with the exception of the Havre garrison.
(c). Dieppe was opened to shipping, although German mines are reported buried in the quay surrounding the Avant Port.
(d). Ports were definitely allocated as between Americans and British. Brest and Havre to the U.S. Antwerp, Rotterdam and Boulogne to us.
(e). Two M.T.B. flotillas were released from Dover for service further east from the Nore.

W.C. France.

5. (a). Gun positions in the Brest area were bombed by 593 Fortresses, 105 Marauders, 105 Thunderbolts and 57 Bostons, over 1,000 tons of bombs in all being dropped. Leaflets were dropped in the Brest district and also in the Calais - Ghent area.
(b). Ushant surrendered.
(c). 800 F.F.I. are in les Sables d'Olonne, but are short of arms, ammunition and boots, and are in jeopardy from Germans in Pornic and La Rochelle.
(d). Ile d'Yeu is short of food.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Dragoon".

6. (a). The French cruiser MONTCALM fired 443 rounds against troop movements between Monte Carlo and Sospel today. There was some return fire. The U.S. destroyer LUDLOW operated against shore batteries on the coast from Monte Carlo to Mentone, and the French destroyer LE MALIN fired 103 rounds at a concrete emplacement north of Sospel.
(b). There were two attacks by human torpedoes today on ships off Monaco. The attacks were driven off without damage to our ships and LUDLOW took 3 prisoners.
(c). The northern half of the port of Marseilles was ready by 2400 today to receive 8 Liberty ships.
(d). The first Liberty ships berthed at Pier 6 in Toulon today. Twenty five mines have been disposed of in the inner harbour up to this evening, but more remain. C.T.G. 80.10.2 is having difficulties with the French over their disposal. A controlled

/minefield...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Dragoon".
(Contd.)

minefield of 96 mines is reported across the entrance.

(e). Two mines were exploded at Nice and one rendered safe. The harbour has been swept and the controlled minefield at the entrance eliminated. It was not until 10th Sept. however, that C. in C. Med. reported Nice harbour cleared of mines and ready to receive shipping.

(f). At Port de Bouc 2 oilers and a Liberty ship are unloading.

Adriatic.

7. The destroyers UMDINE and URCHIN engaged and silenced batteries in the Rimini area today. There was some counter fire, but no damage or casualties were caused.

Air operations.

8. Wellingtons and Venturas of the Tactical Air Force operating today in the Gulf of Genoa hit an 8,000 ton merchant ship amidships and attacked barges and small shipping. R.P. Beaufighters sank a small merchantman and left a 2000 ton ship heavily on fire.

Aegean.

9. Beaufighters last night attacked 3 small merchant ships in convoy southwest of Paros and made possible R.P. hits.

China.

10. Liberators last night laid 51 mines in the Bangkok River and Kohsi Tang harbour (35 miles S.S.E. of Bangkok): others bombed the Moulmein railway and jetty area.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

11. Continuing their attacks on shipping off the Philippines Catalinas last night sank 3 out of 5 small freighters south of Mindanao. G.H. S.W.P.A. reports that on the "night 4th Sept." (?night 4/5th intended) a Catalina bombed and hit two minelayers in Masilok Anchorage, Zamboanga; both ships "burned and exploded."

12. P.T. boats last night shelled enemy coastal positions in the Wewak area of New Guinea.

War Diary.5.9.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 91)Situation Reports

Air. Details of operations: gun positions Brest area: 45 Bostons and 60 Marauders 642 500 G.P., fair to excellent; 16 Thunderbolts 29 500 G.P. unobserved; 12 Bostons 48 500 G.P. fair; 35 Marauders 137 1000 G.P., good to excellent; 16 Thunderbolts 21 500 G.P. unobserved; 41 Thunderbolts 79 500 G.P., good to excellent; 32 Thunderbolts 53 500 G.P. unobserved. 393 Fortresses 1037.9 tons G.P. fair to excellent. Special operations: eight Marauders dropped leaflets over Pas de Calais/Ghent area with satisfactory results and Thunderbolts dropped leaflets in Brest area with satisfactory results. (Air Ch.Mar. Leigh-Mallory, 050245B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Military. Antwerp has been liberated. After a 2 day drive across Belgium Allied armour entered the city yesterday and by evening was clearing the dock area. Steady progress is being made.

Our troops reached Hesdin, Montreuil and Etaples.

(S.H.A.E.F., 051100B to Agwar.)

Movement eastwards from Pas de Calais indicates withdrawal from coast defences with exception fortress forts. Infantry contacted is in state of great confusion and it is not possible to state where many divisions are now located. General impression is that no line is being formed across Flanders and only skeleton garrisons of static troops remaining in Channel port fortresses. Everything else likely to withdraw behind Meuse.

(S.H.A.E.F., No T.O.O./5 to Agwar.)

Naval. O.N.1 para. 52. F.O.B.A.A. Navisitrep No.69 5th September.

(D) EREBUS (sailed to Portsmouth 1700).

(E) Nil. (F) (1) At approximately 1240 M.M.S.

49 was damaged by near miss mine near 56 "H" Buoy and was towed into harbour.

(2) At 1455 H.M.S. EREBUS, whilst bombarding Le Havre perimeter in approx. 49° 33' N., 00° 14' W. was hit by a shell in bulge port side forward. Ship proceeding under own steam to Portsmouth to effect repairs. Casualties nil. (EREBUS 051445 not to all refers).

(G) (1) Weather has improved sufficiently to allow for normal sailing except for landing craft and below.

(2) Report received that garrison Le Havre is fighting hard and ultimatum has been rejected.

(3) Cap d'Antifer Lighthouse reported demolished. Confirmation awaited pending inspection.

(4) Dieppe. 2 magnetic mines have been detonated in Approach Channel. Bottom line sweep in Avant Port and P. Party search have been completed with negative results. Harbour is now open for entry coasters.

(F.O.B.A.A., 052147 to A.N.C.X.F.)

No reports of enemy minelaying. Two magnetic mines swept by 18th M.S.F. in positions: 49° 34'42" N., 00° 12'26" W. and 49° 36'36" N., 00° 17'54" W. (B. de la Seine). M.M.S. 49 damaged by near miss acoustic close to 56 H Buoy. Ship will

/require ...

5.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 91)

Situation Reports

Naval. require to be towed back to U.K. for repairs.
 (Contd.) Sweeping of Approach Channel and Harbour of Dieppe completed, two magnetic mines detonated 157° and 159° 3.6 miles from J.9 Buoy. Sea and swell moderate decreasing to slight this evening.

Summary - A(2) two, A(3) one.
 State of Flotillas - 163rd M.S.F. seven, 119th M.S.F., 139th (French) Trawler Group. 132nd M.S.F. five each. 159th Trawler Group, 150th Trawler Group two each, 7th M.S.F. four, 40th M.S.F. three.

(Capt. M/S Seine 052230 to A.N.C.X.F.)

(A) General - weather has improved sufficiently to resume shipping movement to and from Assault Areas. Dover heavy batteries have been instructed not to open fire on French Coast owing to rapid approach of army to Channel Ports of Boulogne and Calais, this comes after a sharp engagement last night when about 100 rounds were fired from each side.

(B) Assault areas and captured ports. 5 coasters arrived at Ouistreham yesterday and passed up canal to Caen.

H.M.S. EREBUS was hit forward by enemy shell while bombarding Havre p.m. today: shell passed through bulge fracturing main suction pipe, temporarily preventing pumping out. Flooding became fairly extensive and bombardment was discontinued. 12 German C type mines have been found buried in Quay surrounding Avant Port at Dieppe.

(c) Intelligence. (1) An escaper from Ushant reports that after having evacuated the Island, 25 Huns returned on 3rd Sept. to deal with a few deserters, who, together with locals, are fighting them. At 0800 this morning O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA closed to two miles of Ushant unopposed and saw French flag flying. (2) F.F.I. at Sables D'Olonne estimate 10,000 Huns between Loire Estuary, and Pornic, evacuating in parties of 500 to La Rochelle via La Roche Sur Yon and Lucon. Cholet is reported free.

(3) Reliably reported majority port installations Brest now destroyed and harbour entrance partially blocked. There is much traffic by boat with Crozon Peninsula mostly under Red Cross.

(D) Unloading figures.	Personnel.	Vehicles	Stores
British	833,794	207,642	1,489,664
U.S.	1,251,545	231,155	1,956,289
Total D + 90	2,085,339	438,797	3,445,953

(Adm. Ramsay 052328 to Adty.)

Covering Operations

Flag of A.N.C.X.F.'s 041203B not to all addressees, Flag of F.O. Force 130 is to be hoisted in MALAYA at sunset today 5th September and at the same time hauled down in MAURITIUS. (C. in C. Portsmouth 051308B to F.O. Force 130. Info. Adty. A.N.C.X.F., MAURITIUS, MALAYA, C. in C. Plymouth)

/Patrols ...

War Diary5.9.1944
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 91)Covering OperationsPatrols
from
Dover.

Patrols for night of 5th/6th.
 F.U. 3 MIDDLETON Z.3., F.U. 4 BLANKNEY Z.5.
 (2) Patrol vessels are not to proceed inshore of
 north-western boundary of Z areas.
 (3) ORWELL and SAVAGE not required for patrol
 tonight. (My 041344B not to all refers).
 (A.C. Dover 051326B to C. in C. Portsmouth,
 BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON.)

Allied AirAircraft
corridors.

Following corridors for use by non operational
 aircraft between sunrise and sunset are being
 brought into force forthwith. Number 3 Eastbourne
 to St. Valery En Caux for Southbound traffic only.
 Number 4 Etretat to Littlehampton for Northbound
 traffic only. Aircraft will fly at a height of not less than
 3000 feet if cloud ceiling permits.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 050731B to F.O.B.A.A., N.O.I.C.Arrow, N.O.I.C.
 Dieppe, C.T.F.125)

MiningSweeping -
Havre.

Suggest further consideration be given to
 destroying P.M. mines by continuous magnetic
 actuation on St. Laurent ground:
 (A) L.L./S.A. sweeping will have to be done
 before tackling P.M. mines by any method.
 (B) If movement of large ships into Havre is not anticipated
 in early stages, then time taken for clearance is not of
 paramount importance.
 (C) If suitable heavy cable is available a loop sunk on the
 bottom of dredged channel would not be affected by tide.
 (Capt. M/S Seine 050950B to Adty. D.M.S., D.T.M.)

Port FacilitiesMorlaix
(moorings)

Your 311045B. Shipping at Morlaix can be
 received 7 September. Can accomodate 6 stores
 ships of Liberty type at moorings and 8 Coasters
 in Harbour. Anchorage off Roscof for miscellan-
 eous ships but due to exposed position limited
 to 6 store ships and 1 tanker. Length of ships at Morlaix not
 to exceed 500 feet draft 30 feet. Vessels to be routed by
 (1) How channel to H-8 Buoy.
 (2) 000° Alderney light 15 miles.

5.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 91)

Port Facilities

Morlaix (moorings) (Contd.) (3) 315° Casquets light 15 miles.
(4) Buoy M.1 048° 56.9" N. 003° 49.2" W.
(5) Buoy M.5 048° 42.8" N. 003° 38.8" W. Under existing conditions ships should pass position (2), at approximately 2100.
(C.T.F. 125 051533 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties

EREBUS Regret unable to carry on at present owing to fairly extensive flooding forward due to shell through bulge fracturing main suction pipe and temporarily prevents pumping out bulge main room number 2 hold and S.A. magazine between number 21 and 30 stations from midship to port side. Approximately 140 tons water in at present and listing 3½° to Port. To plug outboard will necessitate calm water. Ship uncontrollable in present weather at less 8 knots. Request instructions.
(EREBUS 051445B to F.O.B.A.A.)

My 051445 consider risk of more serious damage to bulkheads of flooded compartments at present shored up would be involved by firing 15 inch and that it would be wiser to plug hole temporarily and pump out before resuming bombardment. Can ship be taken inside at Arromanches.
(EREBUS 051550B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Landing Craft. C.R. No. 324.
Following losses British Landing craft lent U.S. Navy for operation "Neptune" reported by Commander Gunfire Support Craft 11th Phib.
L.C.F.(4) 31. L.C.T.(A)(5) 2402. 2273. 2301.
L.C.T.(5) (M.H.E.) 2049. 2229. 2307. L.C.P.(L) 43.85. 88. 97. 98. 110. 118. 128. 137. 145. 146. 149. 162. 163. 198. 200. 230. 231. 232. 233. 235. 238. 239. 241. 242. 243. 244. 246. 247. 269. 293. 294. Total 32 craft. Following damage L.C.P.(L) on far shore reported as possibly salvageable. 3 and 84 at Omaha. 86. 95. 150 and 240 at Utah.
(Com. 12th Fl. 051709 to Adty.)

Shipping

Shipping to Cherbourg C.U. 37. My 032217 and A.N.C.X.F. 041427B. Request U.K. destination for escorts when released and troopships when unloaded.
(C.T.F. 125 051753B to Adty.)
C.U. 37. Request following be passed to Commodore begins: GEORGE WASHINGTON, ARGENTINA, LE JEUNE, SATURNIA proceed from H 10 buoy 49-43N. 01.40W. to outer anchorage Cherbourg for pilots thence enter harbour in order given. Other ships Cherbourg section led by British

/Destroyer ...

War Diary.5.9.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 91)ShippingShipping to
Cherbourg.
(Contd.)

Destroyer proceed via Swept Channel to Utah anchorage by following route from H.10 buoy 072 true 10.8 miles, 095 true 7.2 miles, 156 true 19.2 miles, 124 T 3.2 miles, 226 true 1.7 miles, 277 true 3.9 miles. Thence on approach course 284 true for 3.1 miles to anchorage, anchor at 500 yards intervals on line 104° true from Port Director ship which is in 49.26 N., 01.08 W. Pilot vessel will lead on approach course. Escorts proceed with Utah section thence to U.K. to await return convoy. Ships carrying troops should be stationed in van of Utah section.

(C.T.F. 125, 051929B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Owing to suspension of sailings, Cherbourg tomorrow will have only 14 ocean ships available for discharge against maximum of 19 acceptable by Naval Authorities. Resultant loss of tonnage is deplorable to say the least. To avoid a further deterioration in this situation, request that following ships several days ago cleared by Comtaskfor 125 be sailed without further delay: S.M.T.250 JOHN HENRY, S.367 FORT ORANGE, New York 66 ALEXANDER WILSON, New York 48 ANISTON CITY, New York 40 HENRY MIKE ROBERTS. In addition, to arrive at Cherbourg on 8th September, request you sail L. HENRY MCNEELEY and New York 868 OWEN WISTER.

(H.Q. Com. Z(Main), 052205B to H.Q. Com. Z (Rear))

Administration and OrganisationWithdrawal
of British
and U.S.
L.S.Ts.

Reference Comnavu 041821. Admiralty consider that withdrawal of British and U.S. L.S.T. from "Overlord" for refit and preparation for operations in Far East should be considered together and an integrated programme prepared and suggest this should be discussed at an early meeting between S.H.A.E.F., Admiralty, Comnavu and A.N.C.X.F. It is proposed that meeting should be convened by S.H.A.E.F. in France as early as possible next week. Request this may be arranged and time and place of meeting signalled to all concerned.

(A.N.C.X.F., 051106B to S.H.A.E.F.)

My serial 001967 of 29th August addressed to S.H.A.E.F. refers. In order to meet:

- (1) Expressed desire of Cominch for return of U.S. Landing Ships and Craft for operations in another theatre.
 - (2) Anticipated transfer of U.S. Landing Ships and Craft in this theatre to Royal Navy for operations in another theatre.
 - (3) Request from W.S.A. for return of W.S.A. vessels now under control of the U.S. Navy in this theatre.
- The following proposals are submitted:
- (a) That 18 U.S. L.S.Ts. be released from "Overlord" to Com. 12th Fleet for transfer either to U.S. or Admiralty semi-monthly commencing earliest practicable and not later than 15th Sept.
 - (b) That 18 U.S. L.C.I.(L) be released immediately to Com. 12th Fleet and that 12 be released semi-monthly for transfer as in (a) above commencing 1st October.
 - (c) That all U.S. L.C.Ts. now operating in B.A.A. be immediately released to Com. 12th Fleet.

/(d) ...

5.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 91)

Administration and Organisation

Withdrawal
of British
and U.S.
L.S.T's.
(Contd.)

(d) That all U.S. L.C.V.P's now operating in B.A.A. be either released immediately to Com. 12th Fleet or that arrangements be made for these craft to be taken over by British crews.
(e) That two tugs be released to Com. 12th Fleet immediately and that the remaining six be likewise released as soon as Phoenix tows to Arromanches are completed.

Regarding proposal (a) above the quota set for U.S. Landing Ships in the shuttle service has proved to be an overestimate. The necessity for peak lifts is diminishing rapidly and increasing numbers of U.S. L.S.T's are being used for cargo lifts for which they are not primarily designed, or suitable, which lifts could be handled by cargo ships and coasters.

Regarding proposal (b) there is already an excess of U.S. L.C.I's over the quota and U.S. L.C.I's are being used for purposes other than that for which they were intended.

Regarding proposals (c) and (d) the need for U.S. L.C.T's and U.S. L.C.V.P's in the British ferry service is reported to have greatly decreased. The acceptance of proposal (c) would make available sufficient U.S. L.C.T's for transfer of one on each L.S.T. returned to U.S. up to 1st November. The acceptance of both proposals would permit release of W.S.A. vessel GEORGE WOODWARD now engaged solely in maintenance and accommodation for the comparatively small number of U.S. craft on British beaches.

The proposal in (e) to return two W.S.A. tugs to US. immediately appears warranted in consideration of the progress of completion of units which these tugs are being retained to tow. Based on quotas and actual loadings during August estimate 18 U.S. L.S.T's and 18 U.S. L.C.I's can be released now and urge that this be done. Request separate reply on this initial release to permit prompt inauguration of the overall withdrawal programme.

(Comnaveu No T.O.O. to A.N.C.X.F.)

Smoke
making
Trawlers.

Remaining smoke making trawlers can now be released for (? from) "Overlord." Request early instructions for their disposal may be given. S.N.O. BROWNJACK's 161000 August not to F.O.B.A.A. refers.
(A.N.C.X.F. 051719B to Adty.)

5.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Policy.

Amendment
of Plymouth
& Western
Approaches
Commands
boundary.

C. in C.W.A.'s 031810 and C. in C. Plymouth's 041235 have been fully considered and it has been decided temporarily to introduce the new limit between the W.A. and Plymouth Commands as proposed in A.M. 021511 from 1200B Monday Sept. 11th. (2) C. in C. W.A. is to continue to control the ocean convoys when these pass through the Plymouth Command. "Chop" for ocean convoys or sections of convoys proceeding up Channel or to continental ports is to be 07° W.

(3) The limits of the Commands will be kept under review by the Admiralty.

(4) The number of support groups to be maintained by C. in C. W.A. in the Plymouth Command will be ordered by Admiralty, Cs. in C. arranging mutually between them the change round so that these groups will have the proper layover and training. (V.C.N.S. 050316B to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth.)

Improvement
of anti
U-Boat or-
ganisation
in W.A.
Command.

Your 031805. Para. 4. These ships must be sailed as arranged. Reinforcements for your command from the Mediterranean will shortly be available.

Para. 5. Further signal will be made. (V.C.N.S. 050322B to C. in C. W.A.)

C. in C. Portsmouth's 041510.

(2) C. in C. Nore is requested to transfer three frigates as soon as practicable to C. in C. W.A.

A.M. 271937 para. 4. (c) refers.

(3) A.M. 271937 para. 4 (d) is cancelled.

(D.O.D. (H) 051832B to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Nore, W.A.)

Allocation
of ports
between U.S.
and British.

My 041050. Not to all addressees. Intend to open ports at first priority as follows:-

(A) U.S. port parties, Brest and Havre.

(B) British port parties, Antwerp, One Pas de Calais port (preferably Boulogne) and Rotterdam.

(2) F.O.B.A.A. should arrange that any British equipment prepared specially for Havre is made available to U.S. port party and any necessary assistance afforded.

(A.N.C.X.F. 051007B to C.T.F. 125, F.O.B.A.A. Admty. Comnavu.)

Release of
anti-flying
bomb craft.

As RYDE, COATFELL, DOWE, AWKS, SCAWFELL and SANDOWN are no longer required by C. in C. Portsmouth for anti flying bomb duties they can be released from "Overlord".

(A.N.C.X.F. 051250B to Admty.)

A. 67 5 Sept. ref. your 041858B Sept. R.M.Ls. employed on anti flying bomb patrols may be withdrawn forthwith.

(H.Q. A.D.G.B. 051805B to A.C. Dover.)

/Movement...

5.9.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. - Contd.

Movement
of small
craft
eastward.

It is considered that the 30th and 35th M.T.B. Flotillas can be released without relief. Intend sailing them for Nore tomorrow Wednesday. A.M. 041257 refers.

(2) 2nd and 9th Royal Netherland Flotillas can also be spared. Request disposal instructions.

(3) The retention of 5th, 8th, 29th and 50th

M.T.B. Flotillas, 50th and 52nd M.L.F. together with 4 Hunt class destroyers is desirable until situation clarifies.

(A.C. Dover 051311B to Admty. C. in C. Nore.)

My 291811. Present indications show no U-Boat in English Channel and not more than 2 E-Boats west of Cherbourg. I do not therefore feel justified in retaining any destroyers in your area. Request you will sail the two remaining destroyers to Portsmouth.

(2) Should you require destroyers for an operation special arrangements will be made.

(A.N.C.X.F. 052216B to C.T.F. 125.)

Security.

Forces taking part in the recent carrier operations against Norway may describe personal experiences but no reference may be made to ships names or casualties to ships.

(2) Forces taking part in the Russian convoy operation may state that they have been at sea on an operation but may not indicate its nature until it is released in the press. Personal experiences may be described in general terms but no reference may be made to ships names or casualties to ships.

(C. in C. H.F. 052332B to H.F.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Bombardment
from French
Coast.

Last night 4/5th hostile batteries at Cap Gris Nez and Cap Blanc Nez between 2324 and 0018 fired 90 rounds of which 8 fell in Dover town, 14 in the harbour and 20 in South Foreland area and remainder to seaward. R.F.A. MOORFOWL damaged by near miss sustained one killed and one injured.

No other casualties slight damage to C.A. equipment and considerable damage to civilian property in Dover.

(2) R.M. Seige Regiment replied to Gris Nez with 20 rounds and C.A. to Sangatte with 40 rounds of 15 inch from 2343 to 0125.

(3) C.A. also engaged small vessels probably E-Boats on passage eastwards from Gris Nez with 85 rounds of nine point two inch and claim one sunk. This is substantiated by Y intelligence my 051320B refers.

(A.C. Dover 051350B to Admty.)

Movements.

IMPLACABLE.

N.O.I.C. Greenock 041826 passed to R.A.D. No escort of sufficient speed available in Western Approaches. Request you will provide escort to R/V at 058° N. in Minches.

(C. in C. W.A. 051330B to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.5.9.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.IMPLACABLE.
(Contd.)

F.O.I.C. Greenock 041826 and 041844 passed to you. Request you sail two destroyers to R/V with IMPLACABLE in position 57.45 N. 06.15 W. at 0045B/7th Sept. and escort her to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 051532B to Com. (D) H.F.)

KEMPENFELT.

Request you will sail KEMPENFELT to Scapa on completion of repairs about 8th Sept. A.M. 020010 and C. in C. Rosyth's 041311 not to all refer. (D.O.D.(H) 051945B to F.Os. i/c Milford Haven, Cardiff.)

Operations.Operation
"S.C."

Ramrose Decorum my 030011B. VIGRA returned at 0315B today Tuesday 5th Sept.

(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 050350B to Admty.)

Intend to sail "S.C" Operation from Scalloway.

(1) A.M. 7th Sept. (2) 2 days. (3) 069° Muckle Flugga.

(4) Air escort not especially desired on return journey.

(5) My 051126 gives codeword and area.

(A.C.O.S. 051124B to Admty.)

My 051124. (1) 061° 50' N. 004° 54' E. (2) Ramose Razor.
(A.C.O.S. 051126B to Admty.)

Liberation
of Channel
ports.

Liberated ports Sitrep 0700 today Tuesday.

(1) (A) Antwerp. Antwerp advance party with N.O.I.C. left vicinity Havre 0700 today Tuesday for Antwerp.

(B) Another Antwerp party with 2 T.C.S. and 3 B.28s waiting at Abbeville to be picked up by party (A)

if not picked up by 1200 will proceed independently.

(2) Boulogne. Party reported at 2206/4th moving at full speed to the northward N.O.I.C. not yet in company.

(3) Havre. (A) Original party destined for Havre are now allocated Antwerp and are waiting to be called forward on report of party 1(A). Location somewhere east of Havre.

(B) Temporary communication team for Havre leave Rouen with new N.O.I.C. representative 1300 today Tuesday.

(4) Intend shifting station to frequencies in A.N.C.X.F. 041935 as soon as they are reasonably established.

(F.O.B.A.A. 050738 to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Nore.)

Army hope to be in Boulogne and Calais today and request no heavy artillery fire from Dover area.

(A.N.C.X.F. 051551B to V.A. Dover.)

Western
Approaches.

Patrol areas extended as follows - E.G.5 areas A.2, A.4, B.2 and B.4. E.G.B.4 areas A.1, A.3, B.1, B.3, E.1, E.2. E.G.C.3 all C areas and E.3.

Intend AMBUSCADE joins E.G.B.4.

(S.O. Force 33 050816B to Force 33.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. (Contd.) Series 8 not heard since 0600/3rd, September. Request confirmation that search for it should continue. (Force 33 051333B to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation "Victual" (Convoy J.W. 60.) Your 240635 and 021703 not to all. C.S. 1 will conduct convoy operation. Request two escort carriers preferably VINDEX and STRIKER may be made available as well as the six escorts. (C. in C. H.F. 051122 to Admty.)

Operation "Victual" (Convoy R.A. 59A.) Convoy R.A. 59A expected 059° N. 005° 30' W. at 0930/6th bound for Minches. (2) Convoy E.N. 31 crosses 004° 30' W. about 2300/6th 9 knots. (3) Convoy W.N. 30 sails from Loch Ewe 2030/6th 8 knots. (4) IMPLACABLE crosses 058° N. in Minches at 0145/7th bound Scapa 20 knots. (5) Cover convoys in above order keeping ahead of W.N. 30 and clear to seaward of IMPLACABLE. (C. in C. W.A. 051616B to Force 32.) R.A. 59A. E.T.A. Loch Ewe Buoy 1300B/6th Sept. P.C. and S. 2000B 059° 50' N. 005° 01' W. 170° 8 knots. (S.O. E.G. 20 052021B to C. in C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Straits of Dover. Enemy surface craft plotted by radar in the Dover Command from 0900/4th to 0900/5th. E.16D. Two size A from one mile north of Cap Gris Nez at 0001 eastbound at 11 knots. Increased to 36 knots 3 miles west of Blanc Nez until 7 miles north of Calais, then reduced to 13 knots, fading 9 miles north of Gravelines at 0145. E.17D. Four size A from one mile north of Cap Gris Nez at 0005 eastbound at 11 knots increased to 27 knots 5 miles N.W. of Blanc Nez until 5 miles north of Calais, then reduced to 13 knots, fading 7 miles N.E. of Calais at 0130. Engaged by coast artillery with 85 rounds of 9 point 2 inch between 2343 and 0125. One vessel claimed sunk. Radar conditions, normal to good. (A.C. Dover 051320B to Admty. C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. Newhaven, H.Q.C.C., H.Q. 16 and 11 Groups.)

Biscay. My 281505. (1) Latest report from Ile d'Yeu indicates that greatest need is flour and medical stores. Existing supplies of flour will carry them over another four days. (2) Engineer Laidin, Food Administrator for Ile d'Yeu and Noirmoutier, at present at Ile d'Yeu? wishes to know if he can issue emergency supply, good for one month, of certain food stuffs with the knowledge that Allies will help with more. (C. in C. Plymouth 051420B to Admty.)

/Carry...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.OperationsBiscay.
(Contd.)

Carry out operation "Assault".

(A) Force 28 URANIA (S.O.), ALBRIGHTON.

(B) 1200B/6th September.

(C) Through CC 48° 30' N. 5° 28' W. and FF.
48° 00' N. 5° 35' W.

(D) After passing FF sweep through Audierne Bay and then proceed to patrol between Belle Ile and Gironde. Communicate with Ile d'Yeu and les Sables d'Olonne. Sweep north and west during night 7/8th Sept. to pass BB 48° 00' N. 5° 21' W. at first light 8th and then return to Plymouth communicating with Ushant signal station if possible on passing.

(F) Links. (K) See my 031022 (B) copy to Force 28 only.

(C. in C. Plymouth 051631B to URANIA, ALBRIGHTON.)

Capt. Gustale, S.F.N.O. of North (?Brittany) has (?Force) of Marines at l'Abervrach ready to allot to Ushant if sea transport can be made available. He requests appreciation of situation may be communicated to him via ROCHESTER. Weather report.

(ROCHESTER 051635B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Following information on conditions at les Sables d'Olonne obtained on 4th Sept. by S.O. Force 27 in an interview with Commandant of F.F.I.

(2) F.F.I. control Sables d'Olonne but are not in contact with F.F.I. east of town of La Roche sur Yon, since Germans control communications between Pornic to the north and La Rochelle to the south.

(3) F.F.I. fear these enemy forces may converge on and occupy les Sables d'Olonne.

(4) F.F.I. report they could muster 1,500 men but have arms for 80 only. Some arms supplied by S.O. Force 28 but more arms and equipment are urgently required.

(5) Commandant asks that a detachment of fighting French troops be sent to reinforce him and states that if this were done enemy communications between St. Nazaire and La Rochelle could be cut. He reports no contact with U.S. forces in Nantes area.

(6) It is reported that some Allied airmen and Polish deserters from German army are in Vendee district unable to reach les Sables d'Olonne owing to Germans patrols still being about.

(C. in C. Plymouth 051906C to Admty. A.N.C.X.F., S.H.A.E.F., C.T.F. 125, C.T.F. 123.)

Germans in Ushant surrendered at 0700 today to Mayor, were transferred in Cutter OUESSANTINE to Argenton and (?handed) over to American forces at Ploudalmezeau. 1 French naval officer with 8 policemen left Argenton for Ushant at 1900. All guns and ammunition in Ushant destroyed. Baie de Lampaul reported free of mines, roads on Island free but some mined beach defences. No signal apparatus on Ushant.

Weather report. Barometric pressure 1012. Wind westerly 5 m.p.h. Visibility 12 miles 3/10th cloud above 3,000.

(ROCHESTER 052015 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Closed Ile d'Yeu and Sables d'Olonne. Latter in Jibuti communication with La Tranche, La Roche sur Yon, Beauvoir sur Mer and St. Gilles.

F.F.I. leaders report (?recent) German traffic from St. Nazaire to La Rochelle passing through Boeuifs or Pornic Challans, Aizenay, La Roche sur Yon, Mareuil Lucon and Marans.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Biscay. (3) F.F.I. at Sables d'Olonne 800 strong including 160 trained soldiers in need of arms and ammunition and boots and clothing to serve as uniform.
(Contd.) (4) F.F.I. reinforcement expected shortly from La Roche sur Yon, about 1,000 men.
(5) Intend returning d'Olonne 0830B/6th to embark 3 deserters.
(6) Opas. para. 17. (B) 045° 34' N. 001° 47' W.
(C) Sables d'Olonne.
(Force 26 052327B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation "Pluto". It is requested that one only sets of "Pluto" moorings may be laid as soon as possible in following positions:
Head Buoy lat. 50° 56.22' N. long. 01° 00.14' E.
Quarter Buoy lat. 50° 56.29' N. long. 00° 59.84' + E.
Quarter Buoy lat. 50° 56.10' N. long. 00° 59.90' + E.*
Admiralty's 291103 August to B.D.O. Gosport refers.
(S.N.O. "pluto" 051555B to B.D.O. Gosport.)
* East side Dungeness. + sic.

Allied Air Activity.

Air Corridors A.145 5th Sept. 1944 secret. With effect 0900 hrs. No. 3 to 6th Sept. Corridor No. 3 Eastbourne to St. France. No. Valery en Caux will be brought into use for 4 return. southbound traffic only and Corridor No. 4 Etretat to Littlehampton for northbound traffic only. Aircraft will fly at a height not less than three thousand feet if cloud ceiling permits.

If weather conditions force aircraft to cross the coasts below fifteen hundred feet para. eleven of Air Ministry publication S.D. 533 will be complied with. Corridors will be five miles wide and will be in use from sunrise to sunset only. No notification of clearance will be required for flights which keep strictly to these Corridors. Request Air Ministry D. of Ops. A. D. to promulgate necessary amendment to Neugrip.
(H.Q.A.E.A.F. 051930B to Second T.A.F. (Main), 9th Air Force (Main), A.D.G.B. H.Q. No. 11 Group, Admty., F.O.N.A.S., 21 Army Group (Fwd.), 12 Army Group (Fwd.), S.H.A.E.F., (Air Defence Div.) A.E.A.F. (Cator) Adv. A.E.A.F. Air Ministry Whitehall, D. of Ops. A.D. 38 Group, 46 Group, Transport Command.)

Following received from A.N.C.X.F. begins:-
Following corridors for use by non-operational aircraft between sunrise and sunset are being brought into force forthwith. No. 3 Eastbourne to St. Valery en Caux for southbound traffic only. No. 4 Etretat to Littlehampton for northbound traffic only. Aircraft will fly at a height of not less than 3,000 feet if cloud ceiling permits. Ends.
Request you will warn all concerned.
(Head of Air Branch 052246B to A.I.G. 514, F.O.N.A.S.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat sunk by VINDEX. (1) VINDEX 825 Sqdn., Swordfish X/NR 857.
 (2) 22 August 1944 0835B (day).
 (3) 74° 54' N. 15° 26' E.
 (4) 3 Mk. XII Torpex depth charges 250 lb.
 (5) U-Boat sank within 10 seconds, nil debris,
 1 live and 1 dead body.
 Reference ALA/Press 1202/43. Pilot Lt. (A) G. Bennett, R.N.V.R.
 observer Sub. Lt. (A) P.S. Couch, R.N.V.R.
 (VINDEX 050310B to Admt.)

Navigational.

Anchorage at Dieppe. A merchant ship anchorage at Dieppe has been swept bounded by the following positions bearings and distances all from east pier light on break-water. 293° 4.1 miles, 329° 2.8 miles, 330° 47 miles, 307° 5.6 miles. Obstructions exist within circle of radius $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from position 342° 3.6 miles. Ships to be warned to keep to the western side of the channel. Centre line of channel is marked by Dan (?buoys) one mile apart from position (H) 9. Sweeping of (?harbour) and approach channel will be completed today.
 (Capt. M/S Seine 050845B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Dieppe Approach Channel. In view of withdrawal of T.H. vessels to Nore Command, all buoyage requirements off French coast must be kept to a minimum. Priority should be given to Dieppe approach buoys already loaded followed by Havre main channel buoys.
 (2) Alternative approach channel to Dieppe not now considered necessary, buoys should not therefore be laid in positions A, B, C and F, of F.O.B.A.A's 291904.
 (3) Light float requested in F.O.B.A.A's 041851 not available.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 051225B to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.B.A.A.)

Boulogne Approach Channel. S.H.A.E.F. Forward's 041200 not to F.O.B.A.A. Anticipate a shipping channel will be required from U.K. to Boulogne. Propose that in the early stages this be combined with "Pluto". Routed from Dungeness to Ambleteuse

(2) To assist in sweeping this route intend allocating 15th M.S.F. temporarily to A.C. Dover who should detach them to operational control of F.O.B.A.A. for sweeping "Pluto" inshore and, if Boulogne is required, for clearing port and approaches.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 051228B to A.C. Dover.)

Your 051228B Sept. Concur in using "Pluto" Channel in the initial stages.

(2) It is intended as soon as practicable to sweep cross channel passages as follows - (a) Sandhead Buoy - 270° Cap Gris Nez 2 miles-Boulogne. (b) C.1 Buoy (50° 47' 24" 0° 44' 00" E.) East Bullock (50° 45' 39" N. 01° 09' 36" E.) Boulogne.
 (c) Dover - 1 mile S.W. Ridens de Calais No. 1 Buoy (50° 59' 24" N. 1° 46' 00" E.)
 (A.C. Dover 051657B to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Dieppe, Pas de Calais, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg. Naval port parties will be deployed as follows -
(1) France. (A) Dieppe naval party 1686 N.O.I.C. Commander E.P.G. Sandwith R.N.
(B) Pas de Calais naval party 1503 N.O.I.C. Commander F.H. Ashton R.N.
(C) Havre U.S.N. port party.
(2) Belgium. Commodore i/c and Naval representative on S.H.A.E.F. Military Mission. Commodore F.E.P. Hutton R.N. (Naval party No., 1733) Antwerp Naval party 1501. N.O.I.C. Capt. Cowley Thomas R.N.
(3) Holland. Flag officer in charge and Naval representative on S.H.A.E.F. Mission vice Admiral Sir Gerald C. Dickens K.C.V.O. C.B., C.M.G. (Naval party No. 1731).
Rotterdam Naval party 1732 N.O.I.C. Capt. Colin Maud D.S.O., R.N. Senior Dutch Naval officer Capt. Harmsen R.N.N.
(4) Germany. Hamburg Naval party 1730 N.O.I.C. Capt. H.T. England, D.S.O., R.N.
(A.N.C.X.F. 051118B to Admty. Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Nore, A.C. Dover, F.O.B.A.A., S.H.A.E.F., (Fwd.) S.H.A.E.F. (Main), A.N.C.X.F. (P.H.) 21 Army Group (Fwd.), 21 Army Group (Main), 21 Army Group (Rear.))

Dieppe. 12 German C type mines have been found buried on quay surrounding Avant Port. Owing to urgent shipping situation risk of berthing ship on arrival is being accepted.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 051201B to F.O.B.A.A.)
My 041402. Coasters may now be detailed 5 berths for 32 P.B. now available. Your 021849 request coasters detailed be sailed to reach Dieppe 1st tide Wednesday morning and anchor in (?) waiting anchorage as indicated in Capt. M/S 050845B and include in convoy 500 (?) coasters loaded with coal.
Also include in convoy remainder N.P. 1686 and stores for 2 tugs and remainder of harbour craft asked for. Water Chant not now required. Remainder part 1710 and stores not required present. Capt. M/S Seine request also 1 M.F.V. be sailed forthwith to Dieppe as pilot boat.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 051245B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Antwerp. Request following ships of Belgian origin may be concentrated at ports convenient to C. in C. Nore, for early use in the opening and operating of Antwerp, and that I may be informed of the earliest date they can be made available.
(A) Pilot ship KERNOT manned by R.N. section Belge
(B) Twelve armed drifters where necessary crews being completed with Belgian merchant navy personnel. These are an early requirement for harbour duties.
(2) F.O.B.A.A. pass to N.O.I.C. 1501, A.N.C.X.F. (P.H.) pass to Commodore i/c Belgium.
(A.N.C.X.F. 051639B to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

SERAPH.

I agree with the views expressed by D.N.C. in his 041835 not to S.7.

Although I am very anxious to start A/S trials as soon as possible I realise that they cannot be effective until:-

(A) The control of SERAPH at high speed submerged has been thoroughly tested.

(B) Fairly accurate submerged speeds and turning circles have been established.

(2) It is requested that F.O.S. may co-ordinate the trials necessary to obtain this data and that I may be informed of the earliest possible date of their completion. My 042335 not to S.3 also refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 051316B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy
H.X.F. 305.

It is estimated that you may encounter up to three northbound U-Boats today, 5th September.
(D.D.I.C. 050836B to Escorts H.X.F. 305.)

Convoy
O.N.S. 251.

U-Boat tracking suggests that you may encounter northwestbound U-Boats between longs. 16° 00' W. and 22° 00' W. probably not more than two.
(D.D.I.C. 050841B to Escorts O.N.S. 251.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- ACTIVITY A.M. 031702 and 041612.
Request information whether ACTIVITY will be
discharging at Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A. 051034B to C. in C. Med.)
- Portuguese 5th and 4th Groups Cod Fishing Fleet start
fishing return voyage from (corrupt) Banks to Portugal
fleet. by reverse of outward route on ninth and tenth
September respectively. My 091747 May refers.
(N.A. Lisbon 051138A to Adty.)
- CARMELITA. My telegram 041230/ CARMELITA destination
believed to be Vigo.
(Guyatt 051240B to Adty.) / Not yet
identified in W.R.
- Combatdiv 5. To avoid southbound U-boats alter course on
crossing 14 W. for new positions.
(F) 37.00N. 20.00W. (G) 39.24N. 25.00W.
thence to (C) omitting (B).
(F.O.G.M.A. 052202B to Combatdiv 5.)
- BERWICK B.4. Unless otherwise ordered by Admiralty
alter course forthwith for new position.
(A) 040° 50' N. 020° 00' W. thence to Ponta
Delgada.
(F.O.G.M.A. 052226B to Adty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposal
of ships
released
from Op-
eration
"Dragoon".

Your 291222 August. Para. 4(a) concur.
Para. 4(b) and (c) concur but 4 fleet destroyers
and 4 Hunts additional to forces in para. 2 may
be retained for the present.
(2) It is particularly desired that Hunts and
fast escorts may be released as early as prac-
ticable. A.M. 242319 refers.
(3) Request intended date of sailing of ships
released may be signalled.
(V.C.N.S. 050257B to C. in C. Med.)

VERITY.

Your 050045B not in contact complying. E.T.A.
Naples 1130B/5.
(VERITY 050600B to B.N.L.O. Ajaccio.)

PIPINOS.

Delete reference to German U-Boat in para. 1 my
041833.
(Capt. (S) 1 050946 to 1st S/M F. PIPINOS,
(R) F.O.L.E.M.)

VIVID,
UNSWERVING.

(P.77) VIVID proceed through following position
(A) 035° 49' 023° 29' (B) 035° 57' 023° 35' at
0058/7th. (C) 035° 53' 024° 01' at 0330/7th to
patrol approach to Suda between longs. 024° 01'
and 024° 29'.
(2) (P.63) UNSWERVING pass through 035° 45' 023° 45' at 0302/7th
and proceed to carry out a survey of the channel east of Pondiki
Nisi in accordance with your sailing order.
(3) During the night of 7/8th UNSWERVING is to patrol inside the
Aegean west of long. 023° 42' and south of lat. 036° 01'.
(Capt. (S) 1 051158 to VIVID, UNSWERVING, (R) 1st S/M F. PIPINOS,
F.O.L.E.M.)

3,000 French
C.N.L.
personnel.

(1) French authorities have now made a firm
demand for movement of 3,000 personnel of French
Committee of National Liberation and arrangement
will be made to embark them in DERBYSHIRE and
SOBIESKI to sail M.K.F. 34.
(2) Only French personnel as stated in para. 1
will be embarked in these 2 ships.
(3) French authorities make urgent appeal for direct voyage to
Cherbourg. They have been informed that the question of escorting
the two ships from normal convoy route rests entirely with you.
Please send urgent signal giving your decision. Personnel will
sail with M.K.F. 34 in any case.
(4) In case decision not known before sailing date will arrange
for sailing wire for these two vessels to include addressees
of this cable. (5) Agreed.
(A.F.H.Q. 051245B to W.O.)

/Flying...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Flying restrictions. Amend my 151710* August as follows, para. (a) delete Augusta para. (b) add Augusta para. (c) delete Palermo.
(C. in C. Med. 051455B.)
* 014B MSGO 53 part 3 para. 21 - following shows flying restrictions over parts in Med.

JOHAN MAURITS, FRISO. In view of the desirability of allowing JOHAN MAURITS and FRISO to assist in opening up Dutch ports, I am prepared to release these 2 ships. A.M. 032230 refers.
(2) These ships are being detached so as to arrive Gibraltar on 7th Sept. and will be sailing for U.K. independently after refuelling.
(C. in C. Med. 051748 to Admty.)

Toulon. Area 31 M and A high percentage negative. Area 32 M and A high percentage negative. Postponed sweep Cropsa dangerous area and 40 foot sweep boom entrance and on each side negative results in swept channel. Four additional small mines cut two detonated and two sunk by gunfire.
Y.M.S. pulsed in all piers basins and useable waterways north of 43.07 including entrance basin to La Rode Port with negative result. L.C.V.P. manoeuvred tail. French are objecting to sinking mines in inner harbour. Immediate disposal considered essential safety all vessels in harbour.
Further, consider contact mine when sunk by filling with water perfectly safe thereafter consider rifle fire best method disposing mines unless French will agree to recover immediately when cut and dispose of. Such procedure exceedingly dangerous which has been pointed out to them.
Total inner harbour to date 25 more remain.
(C.T.G. 80.10.2 052045B.)

Situation report No. 425. (1) U.S. PHILADELPHIA and destroyer gave fire support on 3rd Sept. in Monte Carlo area. Unloading was curtailed on account of weather and some minor landing craft were driven ashore.
(2) LOYAL and URCHIN bombarded batteries and troop movements in Rimini area on 4th Sept.
Result reported (?good). Enemy batteries straddled LOYAL but was engaged by both ships until fire was very slow and short.
(3) VAMPIRE reports destroying 30 ton armed caïque during Aegean patrol.
(C. in C. Med. 052137B.)

Operation "Dragoon". Navsitintrep 21. "Dragoon". Period ending 2410/4. Right flank G.S.3 DDKK LUDLOW 366 Rds. Ste. Agnes - Cap Martin to vicinity Monte Carlo with good coverage against batteries, troops, strongpoints and buildings. Reported one Italian floating

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Dragoon".
(Contd.)

mine destroyed. F.F.I. occupies Monaco.
Battery Mt. Agel fired about 60 rounds at D.D.S.
At 1500 ship movements Port de Bouc suspended.
M/S intensified after 2 mine explosions reported.
In Marseille 12 magnetic mines have now been
detonated inside harbour. North part harbour
still dangerous. 2 mines sunk near north end mole. L.C.M.
mined and sunk 200 yards west wreck blocking Vieux Port. Thrim
(?three) mines cut in west in Toulon Harbour. Survey entrance
completed. Width from north blockship to Grande Jette 350 feet,
depth 40 feet. 2 mile channel swept from Camel area to approaches
Nice Harbour. French tug PROVENCAL sunk, TACKLE damaged in
Port Dybgouc (? de Bouc) by underwater explosion while shifting
berth. TACKLE casualties - 1 dead, 1 missing, 12 injured.
Material damage major further report will be made after Navy
Yard inspection. Ordered towed Toulon.
(N.C.W.T.F. 052316.)

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Weather security. For reasons given in my 220931Z / August and A.M. 291553B/8 / consider relaxation of weather security from 15th September of area to west of Meridian of 125° east to be inadvisable. A.C.N.B's 011039Z / refers.

(2) Request representations to combined Meteorological Committee may be made that derestriction of this area should be deferred until policy agreed on by all concerned has been decided. (C. in C. E.F. 050253Z to Adty.) / S.W.P. Meteorological Committee as commended (sic? "has recommended" intended) relaxation of weather security in S.W. Pa.

U-Boat dispositions Areas A.D. 1(one) B.B. V.P. C.B. 3(three) and K.D. 3(three) Scale W 5 area A.D. 2(two) wreckage sighted 1120Z Fourth in 014° 13' N. 061° 02' E. may indicate another sinking. Scale Y 2(two).

Area A.D. 3(three). No fresh information. Scale Y 2(two).
Area K.D. 1(one) K.D. 2(two). Scale remains X 4(four).
Area C.B. 1(one) possible periscope sighted by AWE in 004° 49' N. 065° 57' E. at 0530Z Fourth.

Scale Y 2(two)
Area C.B. 2 and 4. U-Boat indicated by D/F at 0918Z 4th within 60 miles either side of a line joining 002° 00' S. 082° 00' E. and 009° 00' S. 085° 00' E. with centre point 005° 30' S. 083° 30' E. Scale Y 4 P. Area K.D. 4. No fresh information Scale X. 4.
(C. in C. E.F. 050405Z)

S/M's proceeding to Far East. (1) Capt. (S) 1. reports.
(A) Cases of sandfly fever are not numerous except where S/M's make a long stay in Malta as did H.M. S/M P.235.
(B) Sandfly season is expected to end mid Sept.
(C) S/M barracks at Port Said closed down in June and personnel withdrawn.

In view of above and F.O.G.M.A. 221225 August intend subject to any further remarks by F.O.G.M.A. and if approved that P.325 P.236, P.252 and all subsequent eastbound S/M's call for short period at both Gib. and Malta.
(F.O.S. 051059B to C. in C. E.F.)

STORM. Leave patrol through (A) 008° 42' N. 096° 16' E. to pass (B) 005° 37' N. 094° 24' E. about 2130Z/8th Sept. thence through (C) 002° 21' N. 094° 21' E. (D) 005° 59' S. 099° 38' E. (E) 021° 45' S. 112° 15' E. thence to Exmouth Gulf via safety lane.
(2) Your E.T.A. at (D) is 0430Z/12 shifting to B broadcast at 1630Z/11.
(3) If endurance permits examine Christmas Island en route. Defences there are on alert.
(4) Report E.T.A. to C.T.F. 71 at least 48 hours before arrival at (E).
(S.O. S/MS. E.F. 051133Z to STORM.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

SS. JOHN BARRY (sunk 28th August.) In accordance with E.F. 716H/71/27.
(A) JOHN BARRY. (B) 015° 10' N. 055° 18' E. 28th August 2200 approx. (ship time).
(C) U-Boat presumed. (D) Torpedoed ship sank at approx. 2250. (E) (?2) (?the) second at approx. 2245. (F) 35 landed Khoramshar 31 reported Aden. (G) 510. (H) Yes several trans-missions at approx. 2205. (I) U-Boat not seen total crew BARRY was 68. (J) (?Believed) overboard. (K) Left in W/T office in closed steel box. (L) Yes 1000 fathoms. (M) Ship not boarded no compromising considered possible. (N) Capt. chief radio operator and engineer officer. (O) to (U) Not applicable.
(2) All? survivors Americaⁿ, list being signalled to Washington by U.S.N.O. Basra assumed not required by British Columbia Authorities.
(S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf 051424Z.)

SS. WAYFARER (sunk 19th August.) WAYFARER torpedoed and sunk 19th August estimated position 14° 30' S. 42° 20' E. Your 030936Z refers.
(D.T.D. 051500B to N.C.S.O. Aden.)

SIRDAR, attack on convoy. Attacked convoy by gunfire 2nd Sept. one coaster damaged and beached in 003° 54' N. 096° 20' E. Salvage possible but no sign yet. One escort damaged. Third in neighbourhood hit but escaped to northward. Failed to regain contact. (Last 3 groups corrupt.)
(SIRDAR 051628Z to S.O. S/Ms. E.F.)

Force 66. M.V. TROILUS sunk 31st August. Am approaching lifeboats now. Report follows. (S.O. Force 66 051730Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)
Motor ship TROILUS sunk by U-Boat in estimated position 014° 00' N. 060° 00' E. at 2230Z/31st August. (2) Master and 98 survivors mostly Chinese embarked in escorts from lifeboats which escaped from wreckage already reported in para. 1.
My 041600Z. (3) Intend searching either side lat. 15° N. between 060° and 065° E. from first light 6th. Sept. hoping that if this U-Boat has not already gone S.E. she may still be lurking in this area.
(4) My P.C. and S. 015° 48' N. 062° 02' E. (180°?) 15 knots.
(S.O. Force 66 052145Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

AMERICA + WEST INDIES

"Chop" for submarines. Concur with your 031725 passed to F.O.N.F. (N.S.H.Q. 051914Z to Admtty.)

War Diary.

5.9.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

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

M.Ls. 053, 055, 057 attack Asdic contact with D/Cs in 48.84 N. 63.44 W. from 1520Z/4th. Contact lost at 1923Z.
Para. (D) U.S. C.G.S. 85,001 sights periscope in 49.00 N. 52.41 W. at 0926Z/4th.
(N.S.H.Q. 050646Z.)

(T.A. 143)
ILE DE
FRANCE.

Diversion order.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet 051317Z to ILE DE FRANCE.)
My P.C. and S. 039° 22' N. 061° 14' W. 259° 19 E.T.A. Ambrose 070900Z. My radar is out of order essential that you keep me fully informed of ships in my vicinity.
(ILE DE FRANCE 052359Z to Connav.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 051442Z, Cominch 051600Z.)

U.C. convoys.

Concur your 031646Z. Request you will indicate approx. top limits for A and B sections.
(D.T.D. 051731B to Cominch.)

New Support
Groups.

Reference Admiralty's 021605 and 021713. It is agreed that the formation of more support groups is urgent.
(2) In view of there not being enough corvettes to form 8 C Groups of 6 each, it is intended to re-organize the existing C groups and form new ones on the basis of one frigate and five corvettes to each group. By this means more suitable S.Os. ships are retained and the groups will all be similarly constituted. Little or no delay in forming the new support groups will be occasioned by this plan.
(3) Unless a serious threat develops in the Canadian coastal area, the first two new support groups formed will be employed as suggested in para. 2 of your 021713. E.G.16 and the third group being retained here as necessary.
(4) C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to implement the above intentions.
(N.S.H.Q. 052013Z to Admty.)

SS.
LIVINGSTON
(sunk 3rd
Sept.)

My 042031Z not to C. in C. C.N.A. Further evidence from survivors of SS. LIVINGSTON affirm that enemy submarine surfaced 15 to 20 minutes after sinking and played spotlight on wreckage. Doubtful evidence of periscope sighting indicate that submarine remained in vicinity of sinking for approx. two hours. Only one submarine sighted.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns 052031Z to Admty.)

U/B incidents.

Para. (D) 050030Z U.S.S. ROCHE radar contact 34.41 N. 65.48 W. 051035Z P.M. sighted C/T submerging 38.40 N. 72.00 W. course 180.
(Cominch 052050Z.)

5.9.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Establishment of bases in the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

In view of M.O.W.T. Bilge 4809 request confirmation no further action is required on A.M. 242211 May. My 060115 July para. 2 also refers. (B.A.D. Washington 052227 to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Attacks on Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima, Wake I.

Following from Capt. Tufnell. Hicom report on carrier task force strike and ships bombardment of Iwo and Chichi Jima on 31 August one and 2 Sept. by 2 C.V. 2 C.V.L. 2 C.L. Destroyed all 11 enemy airborne A/C after which none other airborne on 2nd and 3rd days. 35 destroyed on ground plus 31 more probably destroyed. Ships sunk one L.S.M. 5 small A.K. one small A.O. 6 oil barges. Probably sank 3 submarine chasers. Damaged 5 submarine chasers. Shore installations destroyed or damaged. Own losses 5 A/C in combat 4 operational one pilot 3 crew men lost. During an air strike and bombardment of Wake Island on 4th Sept. by one C.V.L. and 3 C.A. training purposes* 3 8 inch guns and several 5 inch A/A guns destroyed, and shore installations hit. No enemy A/C seen. No damage or losses to U.S. (Cinpac 050621.) * As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary.

Para. (B) (1) A/C F/547 sighted periscope, course 050° at 0844Z/4 in 50° 27' N. 05° 30' W.
(2) E.G. 9 attacked contact at 0135Z/5 in 50° 27' N. 05° 43' W.
(3) E.G. 11 attacked contact at 0228Z/5 in 50° 45' N. 06° 02' W.
(4) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2215Z/2 in 13° 00' N. 56° 54' E.
Para. (C) (1) VERITY reported chasing contact, course 200° at 2051Z/4 in approx. 38° 31' N. 15° 29' E.
(D.D.I.C. 051054B.)

U/B dis-positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 051400B, 051402B.)

6.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 92)

General.

1(a) A.N.C.X.F. will close his H.Q. at Southwick, Hants, on September 10th and reopen them at Granville, Manche. Owing to the absence of submarine and surface threats it has been decided that shuttle shipping from the Western Assault Area may now sail independently and unescorted.

(b) Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British :	838,394	209,238	1,501,795
American :	1,261,720	232,324	2,013,985
<u>Total :</u>	<u>2,100,114</u>	<u>441,562</u>	<u>3,515,780</u>

Enemy
Activity.

2. There was none in the Assault Area.

General

3. Commander in Chief Nore suggests that repairs to elderly destroyers shall be limited to those needed to keep them in service for 6 months.

Channel.

4(a) Anti-flying bombs measures and organisation were cancelled owing to lack of flying bombs.

(b) At Antwerp, Kruisschans lock is in our hands, and intact, so that the whole of the wet docks area is available to us except for a minor restriction imposed by 22 moored mines between Nos. 14 and 21 berths.

(c) Fighters of 2nd T.A.F. sank a 1500 ton ship and fired a 1000 ton one, and damaged 3 others off the Dutch coast.

(d) Gris Nez and Sangatte batteries opened up with 50 rounds between them and caused civilian casualties and damage in Dover and Kingsdown.

West Coast
of France.

5(a) Small German parties continue to try to escape in fishing craft from West Coast harbours for Spain. KELVIN collected two such vessels and 25 Germans, with documents.

(b) Belle Ile is reported to be manned by 1000 Germans with supplies for 4 months.

(c) 5000 to 10000 Germans in Le Verdon - Pauillac - Royau area control the entrance to Bordeaux. Three sunken ships block the channel, but otherwise the port facilities are not badly damaged.

/(d) ...

6.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

West Coast
of France.
(Contd.)

(d) Brest (and Le Havre) were again bombed with over 1000 tons.

Western
Approaches.

6. C. in C. Western Approaches' anti-submarine forces were reinforced by 3 frigates from the Nore.

North
Russia.

7. Convoy R.A. 59A (Operation "Victual") arrived safely in Loch Ewe from Murmansk.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Adriatic
Inshore
Squadron.

8. An inshore squadron is shortly to be established in the Northern Adriatic with H.Q. at Ancona in the first instance. S.O.I.S. Northern Adriatic will operate under the orders of F.O.T.A.L.I. in the same way as S.O.I.S. Bastia operates under F.O.W.It.

9. UNDINE and the gunboat APHIS engaged batteries and anti-tank guns north-east of Rimini today. Direct hits and explosions were seen.

Air
Operations.

10(a) Coastal Air Force last night bombed Porto Garibaldi, Porto Corsini and Ravenna, vessels and barges off Portofino, barges and shipping off Levante, Imperia, Albenga, Spezia and Genoa. The Italian monster SS. REX was attacked and possibly hit south-east of Genoa.
(b) 12 R.P. Beaufighters were despatched today to attack a 1500 ton merchant vessel with two escorts which had been sighted by air north of Syros. The convoy was attacked west of Kos and both escorts were set on fire and the escorting Arado aircraft was damaged.
(c) Wellingtons successfully laid mines in the Danube last night.

/Aegean ...

6.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

11(a) The dismantling of coast defence guns is taking place in the south Peleponnese, and in addition it is believed that equipment and surplus personnel are being sent northward. Movement of troops by sea is reported from Piraeus to Salonica and air transport activity Rhodes/Athens sufficient to lift 400 men.

(b) SS. CAROLA was unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft today N.W. of Syros when heading for Piraeus.

6.9.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune"(D + 92)

Situation Reports

Cositintrep
 No.154.

Part 2 Naval.

A. Intelligence.

Antwerp port demolitions are stated to be slight. Morlaix will be ready 7th September to accommodate 6 Liberty Ships at moorings and 8 Coasters in

harbour. A limited anchorage exists at Roscoff. Dieppe outer harbour is now open for not more than six Coasters. F.F.I. about 1500 strong but with very few arms control Sables D'Olonne and are in communication with La Tranche, La Roche-Sur-Yon, Beauvoir-Sur-Mer and St. Giles. They continue to report considerable enemy movement from Loire Estuary to La Rochelle along the main roads through Pornic and Challans, La Roche Sur Yon and Lucon.

(B) Assault Area. Nothing to report.

(C) General. Yesterday afternoon, fighters of 2nd T.A.F. sank a 1500 ton ship and set on fire a 1000 ton ship, also damaged a 200 ton coaster and 2 small trawlers all off Dutch Coast.

(D) Unloading Figures

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	834,301	208,397	1,493,940
U.S.	1,259,554	231,802	1,986,712
Total D + 91	2,093,855	440,199	3,480,652

(Adm. Ramsay, 062351 to Admty.)

Covering Operations

Channel Is. Patrol. This is C.T.F.125's 031631 MALOY patrol day and night area 185 degrees St. Martins Point 12 miles 2. P.T/s Section A on patrol Station 015° Sark Light 11 miles. 4 P.T/s Sections B and C. on patrol Station 115° Sark Light 5 miles.

P.T/s to be on station during darkness. P.T/s MALOY Jobourg on 8400 Kc. Jobourg Main Vectoring Station MALOY secondary. C.T.U.125.4.4 to maintain competent Vectoring Officers at Jobourg and on MALOY.

(C.T.F.125 061145 to MALOY & C.T.U.125.4.4.)

Cherbourg
 Patrol.

Cherbourg patrol. Night 6th/7th.

(1) MALOY ZM, BORUM Z Context.

(2) 4 PTZ 209 2 PTZ 203.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061945 to Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff. Ships maintaining W/T watch on b'casts HD and CN in Area 'C'.)

Mining

Seine

No reports of enemy minelaying. Two magnetic swept. L7 buoy and one 350° 56 H buoy 3 cables.

/One...

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Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 92)

Mining

Seine (Contd.) One spontaneous explosion reported in 49° 40' 42" N. 00° 30' 24' W. Sea slight. Summary:- 'A' (2)2 'B' (4)1.
(Capt. M/S Seine 062230B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements

38th S. and R Flotilla. My 031153B and 031831 38th S. and R. Flotilla is to remain in Arrow until further orders.
(F.O.B.A.A. 061617B to N.O.I.C. Arrow.)

Shipping and Convoys

W.D.G. convoys. (1) Convoy W.D.G. one is being sailed from Isle of Wight p.m. today 6th September.
(2) Thereafter these convoys will sail daily under arrangements to be made by C. in C. Portsmouth.
(3) Joiners from Thames and east coast ports should be sailed in E.T.C. convoys to Newhaven for onward routeing to Dieppe (A.N.C.X.F. 061806B to Ships and Authorities concerned with convoy sailing signals in Eastern Task Force Area, F.O.I.C. London, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Southampton, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Cdre. Southend, F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Preloaded ships off U.S. beaches. I consider it wrong to retain an excessive number of ships off U.S. beaches to unsure undue flexibility. On the other hand I am altogether agreeable to authorize as many ships to remain there as the army can unload in the generally accepted time of 8 to 10 days. I find it difficult to believe this number will be as great as 40 ships for Omaha.
(2) Subject to the above and as stated in para. 3 of my 031716 I will expect you to call forward ships as they are needed by the Army at the same time ensuring that the number of unworked ships off the U.S. beaches for the sake only of flexibility are kept to a minimum.
(3) H.Q. Etousa 051739 presents an immediate problem bearing on the above. These vessels will be sailed when you advise me you are ready.
(A.N.C.X.F. 061250 to C.T.F.125.)

Shuttle Shipping to sail unescorted. UR 052216B. Considering lack of submarines and surface threat, it is proposed that all shuttle shipping sail independently and unescorted from W.A.A. L.C.Ts. to sail in groups under group

/Commanders...

War Diary

6.9.1944
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 92)

Shipping and Convoys

Shuttle
shipping
to sail
unescorted.
(Contd.)

Commanders. Local authorities to be responsible for sailings and sailing despatches. Shuttle control to be discontinued. Shipping from Omaha and Utah to return via 14 Channel and others via H Channel. All ships to burn dimmed running lights. This procedure will materially decrease turn around time particularly during periods of adverse weather. Your concurrence

requested.

(C.T.F.125 061905B to A.N.C.X.F.)

It is requested that a list may be supplied to A.N.C.X.F. repeated Admty., and Commaveu giving details of captured enemy vessels taken in your area as ports fall. Information of vessels captured in St. Malo and Granville is requested now.

(A.N.C.X.F. 061830 to C.T.F.125.)

Administration and Organisation

A.N.C.X.F.
H.Q.

A.N.C.X.F. H.Q. will close at Southwick Park on 10th September.

(A.N.C.X.F. 060030 to Admty.)

Fwd. - 13958 your 051106 September. Meeting will be held at A.N.C.X.F. H.Q. Granville at 1100/12.

(S.H.A.E.F. 061710B to A.N.C.X.F.)

6.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Policy.

S/M attack
restriction
areas.

In view of the changing U-Boat situation, it is not desired to use the areas proposed in your O10019 for the present. F.O.S. concurs.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 060222B to C. in C. W.A.)

Maintenance
of old
destroyers.

Due to age and general condition large repairs are necessary to maintain V and W class destroyers in seagoing and fighting efficiency. At the present stage of the war, it is suggested that only such repairs be taken in hand to enable the vessels to continue in service for a further six months.
(C. in C. Nore 061447B to Admty.)

Reactions to
reallocation
of manpower.

The Government's plans for the re-allocation of the Nation's manpower after the defeat of Germany will be announced shortly. When such announcement is made a summary of the White Paper will be signalled. This is to be given as wide a circulation as possible and arrangements are to be made for the scheme to be explained in all ships and establishments. This message will include some amplifying remarks concerning the application of the scheme to the Navy.

(2) Whilst the opinions of officers and ratings are not to be canvassed in any way T.Ls. wish to be informed of the general reaction to the principal provisions of the Government proposals. This will probably best be obtained by personal observation by Heads of Departments and by Divisional Officers after opinion has had time to clarify but in any case by 23rd September. Cs. in C. are requested to arrange accordingly for reports from Commanding Officers and to signal a summary of these with their remarks and recommendations.

(3) So that all Flag Officers should be aware of the general outline of the Release Scheme in advance of general publication Cs. in C. are requested to distribute copies of Admiralty letter C.W. 20890/44 dated 18th May 1944 to Flag Officers now, if this has not already been done. The scheme has been altered in a few minor details since the despatch of the letter. In particular the age referred to in para. 12 is now 50 instead of 35.
(2nd S.L. 062251B to all F.Os. everywhere.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Bombardment
by Gris Nez
batteries.

Gris Nez batteries opened fire with about 40 rounds on MIDDLETON at 0742 in approx. 50° 50' N. 01° 18' E. one killed, 7 wounded, superficial damage.

From 1235 to 1335 about 45 rounds were fired apparently at A.S.R. float in position 093° Dungeness 10 miles. Sangatte batteries also fired 5 rounds between 1348 and 1411 at convoy E.T.C. 90, then between St. Margarets and Dover. No damage to convoy but 2 rounds in Dover town and 1 at Kingsdown caused 2 serious and 2 slight civilian casualties and some damage to civilian property.

(A.C. Dover 062100B to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

6.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- DIADEM. DIADEM can be docked at Swan Hunter, Tyne, at 0800 Friday 8th for repairs to asdic dome.
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail DIADEM accordingly.
(3) On completion of docking F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail DIADEM for Scapa where she will come under the orders of C. in C. Home Fleet.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 060228B to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Tyne.)
Admty. 060228B Sept. Request ship be sailed so as to arrive Tyne Pierhead not later than 0700 Friday Sept. 8th.
(N.O.I.C. Tyne 061000B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Intend sailing DIADEM at 2000B/6th Sept. to Newcastle on Tyne to comply with A.M. 060228 not to all addressees.
(2) By standard route, south of I.O.W.
(3) Speed 23 knots adjusted so as to pass Sandhead Buoy at 0630B/7.
(4) Codeword "Ropsley".
(C. in C. Plymouth 061229B to N.O.I.C. Tyne.)
- IMPLCABLE. Sailed IMPLACABLE in accordance with my 041826 codeword "Bottom".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 060838B to A.C.O.S., C. in C. W.A.)
- FORMIDABLE. Request WRANGLER and WHIRLWIND may proceed to Rosyth arriving p.m. 15th Sept. to escort FORMIDABLE to Scapa. C. in C. Rosyth 041311 not to all refers.
(C. in C. H.F. 061117B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- VINDEX, STRIKER. VINDEX and STRIKER passing Hoxa at 1600 today Wednesday bound Clyde. Join them off Hoxa and escort them to 058° N. in the Minches. Then join IMPLACABLE. Switha and Hoxa ordered 1545.
(R.A.D. H.F. 061309B to VIRAGO, SIOUX.)
- ACTIVITY, RAJAH. Admiralty 021220 not to all addressees.
(1) ACTIVITY S.O. RAJAH are to sail from Clyde Sept. 10th. (2) A/S escort (A) from Clyde PELICAN (B) from Liverpool LOCHY, DEVERON. (C) From Londonderry SWALE.
(3) F.O.I.C. Greenock to arrange R/V.
(4) S.O. of A/S escort LOCHY.
(C. in C. W.A. 061522B to F.Os. i/c Greenock, Liverpool, Com. D.W.A.)
A.M. 021220. Route ACTIVITY and RAJAH by Q.Z.S. 565 to C. 50, 11. D. 43, 12. E. 39, 12. F. 36.20 09.30 then to Gib.
(D.O.D. (H) 061743B to C. in C. W.A.)
- DEANE, FITZROY, REDMILL. A.M. 051832B not to all addressees. DEANE, FITZROY and REDMILL will be transferred to your command. Request destinations. Ships available to sail 8th Sept. average boiler hours on 3rd Sept. were DEANE 265, FITZROY 510, REDMILL 780.
(C. in C. Nore 061747B to C. in C. W.A.)

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6.9.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Western Approaches patrols. Request R/V. Stationary at 0001B 055° 13' N. 005° 51' W. 312° 15. (BRAITHWAITE 060029B to S.O. Force 33.) S.O.E.G. 5 take BRAITHWAITE under your orders. (HELMSDALE 060245 to AYLNER.) Intend INMAN and BRAITHWAITE to search close inshore between Malin Head and Tory Island during dark hours tonight rejoining me a.m. 7th. (S.O.E.G.5, 061135 to S.O. Force 33.) My 061132 and escort group 5061135. Escort group C.3 search inshore East of Tory Island. INMAN, BRAITHWAITE and PEVENSEY CASTLE Patrol C areas. (S.O. Force 33, 061430 to Force 33.) Force 32 CRANSTOUN (S.O.) FOWEY 4 Frigates, 2 Corvettes operating in North Minches covering EN 31 and Fleet Carrier. Add to my 061218. Force 33 HELMSDALE, AMBUSCADE, 11 Frigates, 7 Corvettes operating general area North of Ireland. PRINCE RUPERT one Frigate, 3 Corvettes, detached to arrive Londonderry early a.m. 7th. (C. in C.W.A. 061533B to Situation Home Section.) At 1450B in position 085° BB 16 miles sighted patches of brown smoke 345° 10 to 12 miles. Ship detached has not sighted source. Suspect Snort of U-boat charging am searching vicinity. 54 91 16 74. Suitable. (S.O.E.G.5 061553B to S.O. Force 33.) Detach one group to support convoy H.X.F.305 (C.5 E.G. in DUNVER) from 13° W. to 7° W. Estimated P.C. S. of convoy at 1030B/7th 55° 15' 13° 00' 087° 9 knots. (C. in C.W.A. 061927B to S.O. Force 33.) 5th E.G. is to comply C. in C.W.A. 061927B. (S.O. Force 062118 to S.O. E.G.5.) Am complying with C. in C.W.A. 061927 and S.O.33 Force 0621 (?22) not to all addressees. My P.C.S. at 2330. 056° 21' 008° 57' 235° 15 knots altering to 267° at 0900 7th Sept. (S.O.E.G.5 062335B to C. in C.W.A.)

Plymouth Patrols. Your 060906 and 060950 have searched area thoroughly with negative result. Part of a German torpedo was picked up in 050° 50' N. 005° 54' W. Consider this to be the cause OF A.S.V. contact obtained by A/C LKX.25 and LZS.11. Am now returning to try to obtain evidence of contact attacked at 0400/5th. (S.O.E.G.11, 061405 to C. in C. Plymouth.) On completion of present duty proceed to establish zigzag search between 050° 03' N. 006° 38' W. and 050° 44' N. 007° 35' W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061830B to E.G.3.)

Operation "Victual" My 051122. It is now understood that VINDEX and STRIKER Squadrons cannot be made serviceable in short time available. Request 2 other escort carriers may be allocated. (C. in C.H.F. 061102B to Admty.)

R.A.59A arrived.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 061222B to Cin C.W.A., Admty., A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C. Rosyth, F.Os. and Captains (D) Home Fleet, S.B.N.O. Archangel, S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/Operation...

6.9.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation Request you will carry out the following operation
"Begonia" (1) Object laying of mines from aircraft in Aara
Sund 62° 12' 10" N. 5° 29' 40" E. which is an
important shipping channel.
(2) Forces taking part: FURIOUS (S.O.)
DEVONSHIRE, TRUMPETER and six destroyers. A/C ex NABCB are also
available.
(3) D day is the day on which the force is to sail from Scapa
a maximum postponement of 24 hours due to weather is permissible.
(4) Chart 1146 refers. Other available intelligence will be
forwarded as soon as practicable.
(5) Codeword and D day are given in my immediately following
signals.
(C. in C.H.F. 061145B to FURIOUS.)
"Begonia" codeword my 061145 September.
(C. in C.H.F. 061151B to FURIOUS)
D day Monday 11th September my 061145 refers to this subject.
(C. in C.H.F. 061154B to FURIOUS.)

Biscay Second fishing ship with 25 Germans on board in
operations. position 046° 43' N. 001° 52' W. Am capturing.
(KELVIN 061302B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Photographs during recent A/C attack show possible
bows of damaged U-boat in position between 046°
18' N. 001° 46' W. and 046° 21' N. 001° 46' W.
(2) If time permits examine this area and report result.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061442B to Force 28.)
Swept south during night. Encountered several fishing
ships showing light north west of Arcachon. Returned Sables
D'Olonne a.m. today and embarked three deserters. H.M.S. KELVIN
sent to investigate two suspicious vessels west of D'Olonne,
and captured both, twenty-four prisoners being landed Sables
D'Olonne, one officer being retained. Confidential chart Bay
of Biscay port dated 20th August 1944 and books obtained.
Intend sweeping north-west to pass Penmarch about 0100/7.
O.P.A.S. paragraph 17 (A) Ile d'Yeu.
(S.O. Force 26, 061457B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Carry out operation "Assault".
(a) Force 27, BLYSKAWICA (S.O.) PIORUN.
(b) 1400B/7th September.
(c) Through (CC) 48° 30' N. 5° 28' W. and (FF) 48° 00' N. 5°
35' W.
(d) From (FF) proceed to patrol between Belle Ile and Gironde
keeping west of Force 28 on night 7/8th. Communicate with
Ile d'Yeu and les Sables d'Olonne. Sweep north and west
during night 8/9th Sept. Examine Audierne Bay and pass (BB)
48° 00' N. 5° 21' W. at first light 9th. Thence close Ushant
to communicate with signal station and return to Plymouth.
(f) LIEGE.
(h) See A.M. 301808B, August, and my 061040B September (copy
to addressees) bring ROSTOCK to Plymouth if intercepted.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061727B to BLYSKAWICA, (PIORUN)
After leaving Audierne Bay at approx. 2340 today 6th, intend
passing through position 47° 10' N. 03° 22' W. at 0300 7th then
patrol North West Ile d'Yeu until daylight.
(S.O. Force 28 061816B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Channel...

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Channel patrols. Nore and Dover patrol night 6th/7th.
SOUTHDOWN 051° 25' N. 001° 44' E. to 051° 40' N.
(001°?) 47' E. F.U.3 BLANKNEY Z.3 N.
F.U.4 BRISSENDEN Z.5 North.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061829B to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.
F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Portland,
Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, Ships
maintaining W/T watch on b'cast HD and CN in Area 'C'.)
Plymouth patrol night 6th/7th September. (1) 9th E.G. - Z.
236 11th E.G. - Z.241 S.E.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061836B to Admty., C. in C. Nore,
V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland,
Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on
b'casts HD and CN in Area 'C')
Patrol tonight Wednesday B.1 2 M.T.B. (L) Z.16. B.2 2 M.T.B.
(L) Z.13. B.3 2 M.T.B (L) Z.11. B.4 2 M.T.B (L) Z.8, B.5 2 M.T.B.
(S) Z.5. B.6 2 M.T.B (S) Z.3. B.7 2 M.L. 128° 54A 11. B.8
2 M.T.B. (S) 53 Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 061932B to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Allied Air Activity

Allied Activity off Dutch Islands and Brest. Enemy shipping off the Dutch Islands was attacked by rocket firing fighters. 1 medium sized vessel was sunk, another left on fire and 3 smaller craft were damaged. During the night railway targets in Holland and Germany were attacked by light bombers. Aerial bombardment of the fortified area of Brest was continued during the day, by heavy, medium and light bombers. Troop concentrations at le Havre were attacked by heavy bombers which dropped more than 1000 tons of high explosives.
(S.H.A.E.F. 061100B to A.G.W.A.R.)

Anti-flying Bomb measures.

The provisions laid down in my A.61 July 21 and referred to further in my A.782 12 regarding special routeing and recognition procedure to be followed in the sea area between Brighton, Colne Point, Dunkirk, Cap D'Antifer, Brighton are cancelled.
(Air Ministry 061147B to A.E.A.F.)

Release of No.63 Sqdn.

My 281059. No 63 Squadron is no longer required. The provision of this squadron at very short notice was much appreciated, and it is regretted that it has not been possible to employ them more fully.
(A.N.C.X.F. 061150 to A.E.A.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

1st M.L. My 031459 not to all addressees propose 3 motor
 S.F. launch sweepers of the 1st M.L. sweeping Flotilla
 be diverted to Dover for operation with 157 M.S.F.
 and opening up of Boulogne and remainder sailed
 to B.A.A.
 (Capt. M/S Seine 061036 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Sweeping - 3rd M.T.B. Flotilla is to R/V with 15th and 6th
 Dover M/S Flotilla at Dumpton Buoy at 0930B tomorrow
 Straits Thursday. M.T.Bs. to remain astern of sweepers
 until sweeping starts. They are then to take
 station as necessary and be ready to lay smoke
 when ordered by M/S 15 between sweepers & shore should
 coast batteries open fire. M.T.Bs. are also to act against
 any enemy surface forces that may threaten sweepers.
 (2) Sweeping will take place from 051° 20' N. 002° 13' E. to
 Kwinte Bank Buoy, if batteries do not open fire.
 (C. in C. Nore, 061920B to FERVENT.)

Enemy Intelligence

Dunkirk Dunkirk Blockships. (P.R.U.)
 (a) A vessel sunk across approach channel, on the
 Eastern side opposite the S.E. end of the inner
 Western jetty.
 (b) Vessel sunk in Ecluse Tristran.
 (c) 16 harbour craft grouped in entrance lock to turning basin.
 Demolitions. (a) Bassin Freycinet: mines detonated at three
 points.
 (b) Dock 3, West Quay: mines detonated at five points.
 (c) Dock 2, East Quay: mines detonated at ten points.
 (d) Quai d'Armements and Quai des Anglais two-thirds demolished.
 (e) Workshop entrance to Chantiers de France damaged.
 (D.N.I. 061525B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Zeebrugge, Details of prepared demolitions, latest defences,
 Bruges, and shipping Belgian ports:-
 Ostende, Zeebrugge: entire mole mined and at extreme tip
 Ymuiden, launching place for torpedoes (B.2)
 Flushing. Bruges: No shipping of importance and no
 demolitions visible. (P.R.U.)
 Ostende: All ships departed between 3rd September
 and 5th September. On either side of entrance
 channel outside boom 2 self-propelled hoppers and 4 barges.
 In entrance lock to fishing harbour two lighters (P.R.U.).
 Dutch ports: demolitions.
 (1) Ymuiden: No demolition activity visible. (P.R.U.)
 (2) Flushing (a) No further quayside mining (P.R.U.)
 (b) Torpedo tubes reported near landing ferry. (B.2).
 (Admty., 061647B to B.A.A.)

/Finland...

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Finland German Military movements in Scandinavia.
evacuation. There are now indications of significant military movements in Finland, Denmark and probably Norway.

(1) Finland (a) It was quite definite that by a.m. yesterday September 5th Rendulics Army was moving out of Finland. Large bodies of troops were proceeding by 3 land routes to Petsamo area, Porsanger and Skiharv side as was to be expected. It is possible that Southern most division (?may) use port Kemi or Uleborg to withdraw by sea if necessary shipping can be obtained. Nevertheless whole evacuation is estimated by Swedish Staff to take Axis few weeks.

(b) German material from (dumps) at Uleborg Vasa and Bjorneborg is already being embarked whilst shipping has been ordered to Hango and Abo for conveying civil and administrative staff from Finland to Germany.

(c) 1 small artillery Sturm brigade whose presence in Karelia was hitherto unknown to us arrived Helsingfors yesterday afternoon where sea (carries?) was awaited.

(d) Most German minor warships hitherto employed defending Eastern barrage of Finnish Gulf between Kotka Hogland and Estonia coast passed westwards out of Finnish Gulf certain vessels calling en route at Helsingfors to fuel during afternoon yesterday 5th.

(e) At Helsingfors Admiral Boehmer is still flying his flag in escort vessel F.3. At Tallin Captain Prevlhardt Germany's Sea evacuation expert arrived some days ago.

(f) There is no information to suggest Russian U-boats have yet broken out of Finnish Gulf.

(g) Reconnaissance of Baltic during past 2 days though not complete has failed to reveal any abnormal shipping activity but few vessels sighted have all been preceded by minesweepers. A.2.

(2) Denmark. (a) 3 Transport as yet unidentified laden troops arrived Elsinore p.m. yesterday September 5th. A.2.

(b) Many troop trains have been ordered in Jutland to convey troops from North to South. A.3.

Please repeat to War Office and Soviet Mission.

(N.A. Stockholm 061802 to Admty.)

(1) Swedish Government source has reported Germans making great haste to get out of Finland into North Norway and anticipate latter area will be crowded by middle of September. There is no indication yet how onward movement is to be affected.

(2) Germans are already sending 500 Red Cross nurses through Sweden from Finland and have asked permission to dump large quantity Red Cross stores on Swedish side of frontier hoping to remove them later.

(3) Source anticipated Swedish Government would allow this on humanitarian grounds. He was warned that whatever was done should be reported to Allied Governments.

(Military Attache, Stockholm, No T.O.O. to W.O.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Rotterdam. A.N.C.X.F.'s 041547. Dutch increment is being assembled at Cockfosters.

(2) Para. 2 confirmed.

(3) Para. 3 is being dealt with separately.

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(Contd.)

- (4) Para. 5 Cockfosters has been advised.
 (5) Para. 6 confirmed.
 (Admty., 060506B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Bordeaux

Following state of Bordeaux September 5th.
 5,000 metric tons intact capable of discharging
 100,000 tons per week. Channel blocked between
 114 and 15 by sunken ships. To obtain passage
 three ships 6,000, 4,500 and 2,500 tons must be moved and three
 other larger ships shifted before satisfactory channel secured.
 Suggest salvage expert proceed by air to decide what equipment
 required.

(2) Contact mines suspected in area of sunken ships and all
 along river also Allied magnet mines suspected. Authorities
 ask that M.S. officer come by air bringing light sweep (sic)
 which would be operated from their tugs. No M.S. Gear or craft
 available.

(3) 5,000 to 10,000 well equipped Germans in Verdon Pauillac
 Royan area thus control entrance. French trying to obtain
 surrender or departure of Germans to avoid destruction of Verdon
 mole and sinking of ships in Grande Passe. Authorities suggest
 show of Naval and Royal Air Force strength might force
 capitulation and greatly ease the situation. Immediate action
 appears most desirable.

(4) Tanker quay situation. Ambes: slightly damaged, storage
 for 20,000 M.3. Rail and water transport available shortly.

Bourg: storage destroyed berth blocked.

Furt: intact but berth blocked. Blaye: destroyed.

Pauillac: 80,000 M.3. storage available in one month.

(5) S.M. shelters intact their workshops blown up.

(6) Italian S.M. burnt out but Authorities preparing list of
 spares which will be sent to Commander in Chief Mediterranean.

(7) Authorities most grateful for visit and I undertook to
 submit their request. It is to be hoped that (gp. undec.)

assistance may be sent as effect would be excellent. Port
 authorities very good team. All enemy mines in quays already
 moved.

(8) Urgent supplies required oil, fuel, petrol, sugar, chocolate,
 milk for children.

(9) Detailed report by air bag.

(Naval Attache Madrid, 061046 to Foreign Office.)

N.I.D. Comment:- Para. (3) - Pauillac 'Royan' is presumably
 intended.

Para.(5) - The workshops are included in the shelter building and
 their destruction may consequently have weakened the whole
 structure.

Dieppe

If coasters sailing in first convoy in Dieppe
 are to be berthed on arrival as is essential to
 Army plans, it is imperative that the two M.F.Vs.
 and two tugs in list given in F.O.B.A.A. 281732 are
 included with the convoy.

(F.O.B.A.A. 061516B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Hook...

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Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Hook Request arrangements be made for supply of oil fuel diesel oil coal and petrol by small carriers to the Hook and Flushing when minesweeping forces are established there.
(C. in C. Nore, 061736B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Antwerp Antwerp Situation Report Wednesday 6th.
In compliance with former confirm first reports except 22 moored mines reported stream between number 14 and 21 berths which imposes minor reduction unloading quay temporarily. Have contacted local Corps and Divisional Commander re urgency clearing river bank to Flushing but preventing movement enemy shipping. Kruisschansluis intact in British hands thus preserving whole wet docks. City under constant light shell fire and regret one communication rating killed and wounded 5 in hospital. Details follow.
(N.O.I.C. Party 1501, 062229B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Casualties

NORTHLAND My 011700 and 031400 September neither to C. in C. Western Approaches. U.S.S. NORTHLAND has broken rudder in heavy ice in position 075° 48' N. 015° 14' W. U.S.S. STORIS standing by. Submarine sighted 4 times in last 4 days. C.T.U. 24.8.5 has sent 2 B.24s to search for submarine. Congrepat has asked through C.N.O.B. Reykjavik if A/C carrier can be sent and also ocean going tug to tow NORTHLAND.
(A.C.I.C. 061658B to Admty.)

Subsequent developments my 021655. NORTHLAND 40 prisoners aboard in edge of pack ice. 75.59 N. 15.58 W. rudder broken. STORIS standing by EASTWIND en route to assist, E.T.A. 12th Sept. S-M in vicinity sighted 4 times in last 4 days Congrepat endeavouring to get ship from Reykjavik to tow NORTHLAND. Planes based Iceland have been requested to assist in U-boat attack.

(C.T.F.24, 062015 to Cinclant.)

My 061658. U.S. authorities inform me that 2 B 24s were not sent, none being available.

(A.C.I.C. 061756B to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

Despath-boat F.O.B.A.A. 011216. There is no doubt that it will be necessary to maintain a cross-channel service on the lines of the present N.M.S.S. to carry mails and despatches for all services and for American as well as British Forces.

(2) Such a service will also be needed for the transport of Senior Staff Officers of all Services and Government Officials travelling on duty and when air passage is impracticable. This traffic will be heavy.

(3) Until the situation on the Continent is less fluid and more is known about the future location of S.H.A.E.F. and other H.Q., final details of the eventual service cannot be given but it

/seems...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Despatch-boat
Cross-channel Services.
(Contd.)

seems reasonable to estimate on two being required.
(A) Dover to Calais or Boulogne or Newhaven to Dieppe.
(B) Harwich to Hook.
(4) It would be advantageous if these ships sailed under the White Ensign until cessation of active hostilities against Germany, and Naval missions are properly established in Germany.
(5) Request provision of necessary ships may be examined.
(6) In the meantime it is intended to continue N.M.S.S. as at present and certainly until S.H.A.E.F. Forward and A.N.C.X.F. from Granville, since N.D.S.S. to ARROW will become increasingly unreliable from now on.
(A.N.C.X.F. 060025 to Admty.)

O.S./
K.M.S.
Convoys.

Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os.
All vessels from West coast ports and Bristol Channel for O.S./K.M.S. convoys are to assemble at Milford Haven.
Those from the east coast are to proceed south about in appropriate F.S., E.T.M. and F.B.C. convoys.
(D.T.D. 061337B to Cs. in C. at Home.)

K.M.S./M.K.S. convoys. In view of shortened routes now in operation, request you will report whether escort oilers are still required.
(D.T.D. 062152B to C. in C.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DIDO.

Intend to sail DIDO for Clyde at 2100B/6th
(A.M. 012028 not to all.)
(2) - (6) Arrangements. and route.
(F.O.G.M.A. 06III1B.)

S.L. 169.

S.L. 169. Request you will direct convoy as
convenient to Bay route.
(D.T.D. 061812B to F.O.G.M.A.)

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Enemy Aegean convoy. P.C.S. 1 merchant vessel 1,500 tons, 2 escort vessels, 1 aircraft 37° 37' N., 24° 48' E., 330°, 7 knots.
(A/C VZNN, 060640.)

RAMILLIES. Request Admty. will signal information requested in para. (4) of F.O.W. Med. 041910*.
(C. in C. Med., 061106B to Admty.)
* RAMILLIES requests that future duties may be indicated.

Mine clearance in Danube. A.M. 021712, para. (2) Action taken by interview with People's Commissar. Information on Russian mining operations also asked for.
(2) Air Attache hopes to ask Russian intentions as to use of River. This information being required by H.Q.M.A.A.F. in order to co-ordinate British Mining Policy. Reply promised.
(3) Russians request information on type and positions of British mines laid in Danube. This request was independent of our requests to them.
Admty. pass to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M. and N.A. Ankara.
(Adm. Archer, 061116B to Admty.)

Release of Hunts and Fast Escorts. Para. (2) of A.M. 050257. The date of release of these vessels cannot be estimated so long as the conditions given in para. (1) of my 291222 August have not been fulfilled.
(2) You will notice that JOHAN MAURITS and FRISO have already been released and it is intended to sail UNDINE, URCHIN and UNDAUNTED for U.K. about 18th September provided anticipated date of release of escorts from "Dragoon" is maintained.
(C. in C. Med., 061356B to Admty.)

Allied Naval Courts. Your 071920 October 1943 and A.M. 141841 March 1944. As proposal to establish Allied Naval Courts in Eastern Med. has been abandoned, request you will state whether there still exists any real need for Allied Naval Courts in the Western Med.
(Admty., 061529B to C. in C. Med.)

Med. Area L.B. (Extract).
When ordered by signal that part of the Med. bounded on East by the coast of Turkey and long. 30° E., on the South by parallel of 35° N. but including all Cretan and Sea to a limit of 10 miles round it and on West by existing limit of Eastern Med. Area will become area L.B. (? of) Med. Station.
(C. in C. Med., 061604B.)

PIPINOS, UNSWERVING. P.71 leaves patrol about dawn 7th passing through 035° 45', 023° 44' at 0230/8th to arrive in 035°

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PIPINOS, UNSWERVING.
(Contd.) 49', 023° 29' about dawn 8th. Thence through Antikithera Channel.
(2) P.63 is to be south of latitude 035° 39' and west of longitude 023° 34' by 0230/8th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 061604B to PIPINOS, UNSWERVING.)

3000 F.N.L.C. personnel. Ref. Fwd. 13976 your F.X.-92318 of 5th. FHDGT. There can be no question of our accepting 3000 personnel of the French Committee in France at the present time. Our ports are congested and at this stage of the battle, all capacity required both through ports and overland for stores and personnel. Even if we could take this personnel, we could not move them to the Interior. Under no circumstances should any personnel of this type be sent to this theatre without previously ascertaining our ability to handle them on arrival. General de Gaulle has been informed that if he will notify a priority list of key personnel whom he urgently requires we will then collaborate with you in ascertaining the best method and route by which to transport them. There can be no question of a mass immigration such as suggested in your telegram under reference at the present time. It may be possible at a later date to deal with a movement of this type through Marseilles but that must wait an improvement and link-up of the rail system.
(Eisenhower, 061645B to A.F.H.Q.)

Italian troop lift, Sardinia to Naples. An urgent commitment has arisen to supplement lift of Italian troops from (? Sardinia) to Naples at present being carried out by Italian cruisers.
(2) STAFFORDSHIRE will be withdrawn from Eastern Group on arrival Taranto in X.I.F.21 and will commence ferry service earliest possible with special escort arranged by C. in C. Med.
(3) Agreed.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 061750B to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

UNSWERVING, PIPINOS. UNSWERVING proceed forthwith to patrol approaches to Candia between longitudes 024° 53' and 025° 37' S. of latitude 035° 44'.
(2) PIPINOS leave present patrol forthwith to patrol close west of Cristiani.
(3) Cancel my 061604*.
(Capt. (S) 1, 061904 to UNSWERVING, PIPINOS, (R) 1st S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M.)
* Not yet identified in War Registry.

VIVID. Cancel my 051155.
(2) From position 035° 49', 023° 29' about 0001/7th proceed through 036° 02', 025° 22' and Kinaros Channel to patrol on Salonika - Skiathos Channel route.

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Mediterranean

VIVID. (3) At your discretion you may proceed on surface
 (Contd.) by day when north of Kinaros Channel.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 061920 to P.77 (VIVID), (R) 1st
 S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M., PIPINOS.)

S/M Base, Submarine base Maddalena is to be closed down
 Maddalena. forthwith. Report when you will be ready to
 transfer stores and equipment to Malta and
 forward proposals for disposal of personnel
 when TALBOT pays off.

(2) 10th Submarine Flotilla will be absorbed into 1st S/M.F.
 (C. in C. Med., 061932B to (S) 10.)

S.O.I.S. I am shortly transferring Captain N.V. Dickinson
 Northern D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N. as S.O.I.S. North Adriatic
 Adriatic. with H.Q. at Ancona in the first instance. Cdr.
 S.H. Dennis, D.S.C., R.N. will be appointed as
 his chief staff officer and as S.N.O.A.L.(E).

(2) S.O.I.S. North Adriatic will operate under
 the orders of F.O.T.A.L.I. in the same way as S.O.I.S. Bastia
 operated under the orders of F.O.W.It.

(3) Request F.O.T.A.L.I. propose limits for his operational
 area and prepare directive.

(4) A relief for Capt. Dickinson as S.O.I.S. Bastia will be
 appointed.

(C. in C. Med., 061940B.)

Situation (1) U.S. LUDLOW gave fire support on 4th Sept.
 Report with good results against batteries and strong
 No. 426. point between Cape Martin and Monaco slight
 opposition from 1 battery.

(2) (? Underwater) explosions in Port de Bouc on
 4th Sept. sunk French Tug and badly damaged U.S.
 Salvage Ship, port closed. Minesweeping continued in Marseilles
 and Toulon ports and further magnetic mines were detonated.

(3) An attack by human torpedoes twice on 5th Sept. on ships in
 the vicinity 79 buoy was driven off and (? 3) prisoners taken
 by LUDLOW.

(4) Night 3rd/4th September coastal forces operating inside
 Cephalonia Island sank 2 caiques and 3 lighters off Oxia Island.
 21 prisoners.

(5) On 5th September UNDINE and URCHIN bombarded gun positions
 in Rimini area. Hits were observed and batteries silenced.

(? Some) return fire caused no damage to destroyers or M/Ss.
 also operating in vicinity.

(C. in C. Med., 062018B.)

PENN. Orders to sail 1613/7 to Gibraltar.
 (R.A. Levant, 062015C to PENN.)

M.E.Balkan (Extract).
 Sitrep 295. 2. Int. (A) Greece reliable CX reports 4500
 German tps. mostly 11 G.A.F. Div. left Athens by
 rail for north between 26th and 30th August.

/Dets. ...

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M.E. Balkan
Sitrep 295.
(Contd.)

Dets. from Crete and Islands continue to arrive by air Tatoi and leave immediately by rail for north.
(5) Sea Ops. Crete. Night 4th/5th Sept. Brit. L.O. and party successfully infiltrated.
(C. in C. M.E., 062015C.)

Operation
"Dragoon":
Navsitintrep
22.

Right flank G.S. (? F.S. intended) MONTCALM 443 rds. troop movements between Monte Carlo and Sospel. Navsitintrep 22. "Dragoon". Period ending 052400. LUDLOW against shore batteries on coast Monte Carlo to Menton. MALIN 103 rds. against concrete emplacement north of Sospel. Some return fire. All used Sfc. 0830 off

Monaco MALIN with LUDLOW detected presence human torpedoes. Opened fire and dropped charges frustrating attack. Recovered 3 Germans. Sank 3 human torpedoes. Marseilles M/S Vieux Port 1 magnetic mine blown. Shore side northern half port ready to receive 8 Liberties. Estimate 5 days for cut through north black basin Mirabeau. Only dangerous area reported outside mole in vicinity Le Lave due to wreckage. Toulon - 4 more mines destroyed, 25 more remain. Control minefield 96 mines reported across entrance. French engineers have set off 6 mines. Shore side unloading preparations behind that afloat. Nice. 2 mines exploded, 1 rendered safe. Harbour swept M/A. entrance control minefield eliminated. 11 mines destroyed, 1 dud. Unloading figures - Personnel 11971, vehicles 2263, cargo 8419. First Liberty M/V berthed Pier 6 Toulon. De Bouc 2 oilers, 1 Liberty unloading.
(N.M.W.T.F., 062152B.)

G.2 Summary
No. 26.

(Extract)

(5) Greece and Aegean. Air transport activity reported Rhodes - Athens, sufficient to lift 400 men. First suggestion troops being transferred from this Island. Dismantling C.D. guns taking place in South Peloponnese and in addition equipment and surplus personnel believed being despatched North. Movement troops by sea reported Piraeus - Salonika.
(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./6.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Area A.D.2. SS. TROILUS sunk in vicinity of 014° N. 060° E. at (?22)30Z/31st August my 050405 refers. Scale remains Y.2. Other areas. No fresh information. Scales remain (?unchanged.) (C. in C. E.F.. 060345Z.)

O.19.

Leave patrol to pass through (A) 006° 01' S. 101° 05' E. at 0730Z/10th Sept. thence through (B) 021° 45' S. 112° 15' E. and via safety lane to Exmouth Gulf.

- (2) Shift to (?use) Baker broadcast at 1930Z/9th Sept.
 - (3) Report your E.T.A. to C.T.F. 71 at least 48 hours before arrival (B).
 - (4) Your S.O.A. is estimated as 12 knots.
 - (5) You may meet friendly submarines exercising either surfaced or submerged in the safety lane.
- (S.O. S/MS. E.F. 060435Z to O.19.)

SS. TROILUS
sunk 31st
August.

SS. TROILUS sunk by German U-Boat in estimated position 14° N. 60° E. at 312230Z August. (C. in C. E.F. 060440Z to Admty.)

SS. RADBURY.

Following is a repetition my 230817 August addressed C. in C. E.F., (R) (?Admty.) C. in C. S.A. begins: B.C.M.S. RADBURY due Kilindini 20th August not arrived, ends. (N.O.I.C. E.Af. 060614Z to Admty.)

6.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SS. LADY LAURIER, U/B report. LADY LAURIER claim to have sighted U-Boat submerging on course 70° in position stated. Visibility 2 miles. No contact made. LADY LAURIER not attacked and remaining with LADY LAURIER and anchoring off Cape Race until daylight. (H.M.C.S. ESQUIMALT 060525Z to F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
SSSS position lat. 46.28 ? .05 long. 53.18 W. time 0255 G.M.T. (LADY LAURIER no T.O.O/6th.)
Cancel my 060535* now considered non-submarine. (C. in C. C.N.A. 061241Z.)
* Circulated as No T.O.O. from (C.G.S.L.) LADY LAURIER - submarine sighting.

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. (D) SS. LADY LAURIER sights U-Boat 0255Z/6th in 46.28 N. 53.18 W. (N.S.H.Q. 060715Z.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 061442, Cominch 061610Z.)

Cable repairs. My 301711* July para. 2. This question is now arising in case of EDOUARD JERAMEC ready to sail to repair cable in vicinity 59° 00' N. 27° 00' W. (2) If R.C.N. had escorts available we would be glad to carry out this commitment even as far to the eastward as 27° 00' W. (3) However escorts cannot be spared now and it is for decision whether (a) you can provide escorts or (b) work can be deferred until a later date. (N.S.H.Q. 061537Z.)
* Cable ship NORSEMAN endeavouring repair cable. Request clarification as to necessity provision of escorts straining depleted western escort resources.

Disposal of Allied, Italian and enemy ships captured in ~~Allied~~ ports. FRENCH Following from Chiefs of Staff. Ref. N.A.F. 763. We consider that Italian warships and merchant ships captured in French ports should be dealt with under the surrender instrument and the Cunningham-Courtin Agreement. This means that ships would be turned over to Italians for operation or care and maintenance pending ultimate settlement concerning Italian Fleet and merchant shipping. We have in fact already so treated Italian ships captured from the Germans since the surrender. (2) It follows that we are in full agreement with S.A.C. Med's policy concerning Italian ships and consider it would be advisable for the French to be informed at once of the policy. (3) We agree that recaptured Allied ships should be treated in accordance with S.H.A.E.F. A.G. 546-1 G.D.S. A.G.M. of 30th May, which means that they will be returned to the Ally concerned.

/Disposal...

6.9.1944.

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

Disposal of Allied, Italian and enemy ships captured in Allied ports. (Contd.)

Disposal of ex-Yugoslav ships would follow the arrangements made between Dr. Subasic and Marshal Tito.

(4) The treatment of enemy ships captured in French ports is more difficult in that no agreement exists comparable to that concerning recaptured Allied ships upon which S.H.A.E.F.'s instructions of 30th May are based. The question is a general one not confined to ports of Southern France, and it is considered essential

that a general policy directive should be issued and the policy agreed with the Allies.

(5) Following is policy suggested:-

(a) S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C. Med. are to have first call on enemy ships captured in ports within their command as they have on ex-Allied ships for the purpose of their operations.

(b) S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C. Med. should have discretion to turn over enemy merchant ships captured in allied ports to the Ally concerned for manning and operating within the United Nations Pool and without prejudice to the ultimate disposal of the ships. The Ally would be called upon to account for the vessel in the ultimate shipping settlement, and the vessel would be taken over subject to all claims including salvage claims.

(c) Enemy merchant ships captured in German ports before surrender are to be at disposal of S.C.A.E.F. who should refer to C.C.S. for directions concerning assignment.

(d) Captured enemy warships, other than ex-Allied ships, are at the disposal of S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C. Med. who should refer to C.C.S. for directions concerning their assignment.

(6) If policy in para. 5 is agreed, it is suggested that negotiations with Allies would most conveniently take place in London. Directive should, however, be issued without delay. (A.M.S.S.O. 061555Z to J.S.M. Washington.)

SS. EMPIRE FRANKLIN.

(Extract.) EMPIRE FRANKLIN put back from Q.S. 89 damaged in collision. (Quebec 061608Z.)

Routeing for Irish ships.

To meet points raised in para. 2 of N.S.H.Q.'s 112124 (not to C. in C. Plymouth) and as a result of requests for shortening of route to Canadian ports made by Eire Govt., following revised routeing for Eire ships is suggested:-

"By Great Circle from Fastnet to 41° N. 40° W. thence along parallel of 41° N. to cut into existing port approach routes."

Your comments are requested.

(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 061853B to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

2 French S.B.D. Squadrons.

Ref. J.S.M. 242. We have no objection to proposed transfer of two French S.B.D. squadrons now in Morocco to C.G. 12th Tactical Air Command in South France provided this is acceptable to authorities listed in para. 2. (A.M.S.S.O. 061920Z to J.S.M. Washington.)

/U/B...

Recd. by WD 9 Oct 44

146A

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 in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

*Friendly S/m's crossing
the Atlantic*

TOP SECRET

061827Z/September

FROM: COMINCH

Date: 6.9.44

Recd: 2108

C.C.M. F.O. A. by T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty

Repeated: N.S.H.Q. C.in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. C.in C. C.N.A.
B.A.D.

Your 031703/affirmative. Concur in principle your 031725 but in interests simplicity and uniformity suggest diverting authorities areas and CHOP for friendly submarines should be same as specified in para.9 section 1 of MARO. B.A.D. has info.

061827Z

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(H) D.D.I.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 2nd S.L
- 5th S.L
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(A) (2)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- D.O.D.(H) (4)
- D.O.D.(F) (2)
- D.C.
- Plot.
- D.A.U.D.
- D.A.S.V.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.of P. (2)
- D.of P.(Q) (2)
- D.T.D. (4)

- D.D.I.C. (2)
- C.N.M.O. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10. (2)
- D.S.D. (2)
- D.N.A.O. (2)
- D.A.W.T.
- Hd.of M. (4) (M.057661/44) for action
- F.O.S. by courier.

After considering loss of French S/M LAPERLE it has been decided that for safety friendly submarines should make Atlantic crossing in convoy.

WD

War Diary.

6.9.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B incidents. All times Z para. (C) 042205 transport A/C reports being fired on by U-Boat with decks awash at 60.15 N. 42.20 W.
Para. (D) 052204 K/81 had made contact 38.51 N. 71.42 W. 060510 Mariner radar contact 34.00 N. 64.35 W.
(Cominch 062101Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 959. September 5th.
(7) 12 R.A.A.F. Beauforts attacked enemy positions and communications west of Wewak dropping nine tons of bombs also strafing starting fires in stores areas damaging many huts. Previous night P.T. boats shelled enemy coastal positions same vicinity.
(G.H.Q.S.W.F.A. 060840.)

Naval facilities in Australia. (Extract.) Your 171344 July para. B.2 propose that M.Ls. arriving under own power proceed (?) direct Darwin where a coastal force maintenance vessel and supplies of spare engines etc. should be stationed in advance.
(2) Dockings to be carried out on existing Fair-mile Slip as well as on the concrete L.C.T. docks now approved to be constructed in Australia when these become available. Provided the M.Ls. arrive in advance of the L.C.Ts. no difficulty foreseen with latter arrangement.
(3) M.Ls. and H.D.M.Ls. arriving by freight to be off loaded Sydney or Brisbane where servicing can be arranged before proceeding north subject to limited numbers being in hand at any one time.
(4) Tentative allocation of docks quoted in message under reply is Sydney one battleship dock, two destroyer docks, Brisbane two destroyer docks. Cairns one destroyer dock. Darwin one cruiser dock, one destroyer dock, one L.S.T. dock.
(5) Review of docking requirements indicates three additional L.S.T. docks required to meet probable commitments, provisionally allocated if and when available to Cairns, Darwin and Brisbane respectively. Berths are available at the first two parts without dredging.
(6) Your para. D.2.
(A.C.N.B. 061000Z to Admty.)

6.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. (A) (1) TROILUS torpedoed and sunk at 2230Z/
31st Aug. in 14° 00' N. 60° 00' E.

Para. (B) (1) A/C L/110 obtained A.S.V. contact
at 1245Z/5 in 46° 13' N. 09° 05' W.

(2) A/C Y/53 obtained disappearing A.S.V. contact
at 0603Z/6 in 50° 33' N. 06° 20' W.

(3) LADY LAURIER made SSSS signal at 0255Z/6 in 46° 28' N. 53°
18' W. (See amendment 071130B.)

(4) A/C sighted possible U-Boat, course 180° at 0324Z/5 in 10°
20' N. 20° 21' W.

(5) AWE sighted possible periscope at 0530Z/4 in 04° 49' N. 65°
57' E.

Para. (C) (1) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on surface course 270°
at 1530Z/5 in 55° 33' N. 07° 42' W.

(D.D.I.C. 060855Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 061433B, 061434B.)

7.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 93)

General.

1(a) C.U.37, Cherbourg section, 19 ships, the first troop convoy direct from the U.S., arrived at Cherbourg.

*No evidence for this, but see
FOBAA 171603B p.160: Dieppe
to be transshipment depot instead
of Havre / omf.*

* (b) The first convoy arrived at Dieppe.
(c) Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British :	844,488	209,613	1,509,316
American :	1,270,985	233,499	2,046,553
Total :	2,115,473	443,112	3,555,869

General

Norway.

2. VIKING on her return off patrol, reports having scored two hits on a 3,000 ton merchantman on September 1st in 58° 29' N., 5° 43' E.

Channel.

3. 348 aircraft dropped 1,812 tons of bombs on le Havre.

14 flying bombs were launched from the Hook of Holland. Of these, 10 made landfall but none reached London.

11 ground mines were swept in Dieppe approach channel, and Convoy W.D.C.1 arrived.

West Coast of France.

4. Perusal of KELVIN's captured documents suggests that 500 German troops only are on Belle Ile and of these 50 are Russians "and unreliable". The documents complain that the islanders are becoming actively hostile.

Two German M.Ls. attacked Ushant Is. last night, but were driven off by F.F.I.

416 aircraft dropped 1,013 tons of bombs on Brest.

7.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

U/B in S.
Mozambique
Channel.

5. SS. VERNON L. KELLOG reported sighting a U-Boat at 2030Z today in the southern approaches to the Mozambique Channel, in 25.53 S., 36.41 E.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dragoon".

6(a) An attack by explosive motor boats was made at 2350 today on ships off Capo Sant' Ampeglio (43.46 N., 07.41 E.) The attack was repulsed and 5 or 6 of the weapons were destroyed, though the control boat escaped. Our ships sustained no damage.

(b) Minesweeping in Marseilles continues; 24 mines have been found out of, it is reported, 200. 160 vehicles and 615 tons were unloaded today.

(c) The controlled minefield at Toulon has been rendered safe.

Adriatic.

7(a) LOYAL and the gunboat SCARAB bombarded gun positions near Rimini today. Low visibility prevented observation of results. There was no return fire.

(b) Vessels of the Coastal Force, patrolling off Rimini last night encountered what is believed to have been a minelaying force; they damaged one of the enemy who then retired.

Aegean.

8. On return from patrol in the Aegean VAMPIRE reports that she destroyed north-east of Mykoni 2 or more armed caiques.

Danube.

9. 17 Wellingtons laid mines last night in assigned areas in the Danube.

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

China

Formosa.

10. Liberators last night sank 3 freighters west of Takao; 3 others successfully mined Keelung harbour.

Australia and New Zealand

11. 53 Liberators dropped 150 tons of bombs on Manado warehouse and dock areas with good effect today.

Air attack
on Carolines.

12. Carrier borne aircraft today attacked Peleliu, Koror and Arakbesan (Palau Is.)

War Diary.

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 93)

Situation Report

Naval.

(A) General.

Two German M.Ls. attacked Ushant night 6th Sept. but were repulsed by F.F.I. remaining Germans on Island surrendered 5th Sept. and handed over to

U.S. Forces on mainland.

Force 26 captured two German armed M.F.Vs. with prisoners and documents. Latter indicated Belle Ile manned by 1000 troops with four months supplies.

(B) Assault Area. Nothing to report.

(C) Unloading figures:

		<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	:	838,394	209,238	1,501,795
U.S.	:	1,261,720	232,324	2,013,985
Total (D + 92)	:	<u>2,100,114</u>	<u>441,562</u>	<u>3,515,780</u>

(Adm. Ramsay, 072320 to Admty.)

Movements

31st S. & R.
Flotilla.

F.O.B.A.A's 031154.

Owing to loading delays consequent on weather and remaining fuelling commitments, propose sailing to C.N.F. Blainville p.m. Friday 8th September. (S.O. 31st S. & R. Flotilla, No T.O.O./7 to N.O.I.C. Juno.)

Port Facilities

Havre.

F.O.B.A.A's 021609. Concur in provision of small Naval Store staff to cope with trans-shipment work. Proposals are under consideration to appoint in the first instance Deputy Naval

Store Officer and Assistant Inspecting Officer with commission for time only as Lieutenant-Commander and Sub.-Lieut. respectively.

(2) Para. (4). It is estimated that 10,000 square feet of wharftside covered accommodation will suffice.

(3) Para. (6). Further report requested where this party will now be required, in view of A.N.C.X.F's 051007.)

(D. of S., 070708B to F.O.B.A.A.)

In view of changing situation consider action proposed in para. (3) of F.O.B.A.A's 021609 should not be necessary.

(A.N.C.X.F., 071235 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Your 021609. Request present proposals in view of A.N.C.X.F's 051007. Repeat reply to Plymouth pending decision on your 271646.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071905B to F.O.B.A.A.)

War Diary.

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 93)

Casualties and Defects

L.S.T. 282.

Reporting loss.
(C.W.N.T.F., 071627B.)
See Mediterranean. P. 164

Shipping and Convoys

Escorts.

Your 051753.
Escorts should proceed to Portsmouth when released for fuel and water.
(2) Instructions for troopships follows. A.M. 231713 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 070312B to C.T.F. 125.)

Shipping
for
Morlaix.

My 051533B.
Cancel position (5) add from position (4) ships for Saint Michel en Greve proceed to (5) buoy M.5 in 048° 42.8' N., 003° 38.8' W. Ships for Morlaix and Roscoff proceed to (6) 48° 52.6' N., 003° 54.8' W. thence to (7) 48° 46.6' N., 003° 54' W. where pilots for either port board.
(? Com. Z) has infor.
(C.T.F. 125, 071745B to A.N.C.X.F.)

W.D.C.
Convoys.

O.N.1 para 52. F.O.B.A.A. Navisitrep No.71
7th September.
(D) Nil. (E) Nil. (F) Nil.
(G) (1) The sailing of all landing, coastal and smaller craft to U.K. has been suspended due to weather.

(ii) Sailings of convoys from B.A.A. transferred from F.O.B.A.A. to N.O.I.C. Arrow as from 0001 today.
(iii) Convoy W.D.C.1 arrived at Dieppe.
(F.O.B.A.A., 072241B to A.N.C.X.F.)

7.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Policy.

"Neptune" area not to be extended but to be cancelled in due course.

Proposals in your 012311 are approved except that control of local Naval defence forces should be exercised by F.O. or N.O.I.C. of port concerned, who will remain responsible to you.
(V.C.N.S. 071407B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Dutch mine-sweeping to be undertaken by Netherlands Navy.

In view of sweeping of contact mines in Dutch shallow waters, to be undertaken by the Netherlands Navy, it is requested that four motor launches fitted with Oropesa gear may be allocated to the Royal Netherlands Navy.

(2) They will be manned by Dutch personnel, and in view of necessary training a speedy allocation would be appreciated.

(3) Harwich would be preferred as temporary station for training until required in Holland.
(B.D.Z. 071521B to Admt.)

Movements.

KEMPENFELT.

Reference A.M. 051945B not to all. Intend to sail KEMPENFELT at 1030B to Scapa fuelling Milford Haven on passage.

(2) Speed 20 knots. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1500B/8th. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1300B/8 E.T.A. Scapa 2000B/9.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 070950 to A.C.O.S., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

DIDO.

On arrival at Clyde DIDO is to give 10 days leave to each watch.

(2) On completion ship is to come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. until taken in hand for refit and modernisation about December.

(V.C.N.S. 071543B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DUKE OF YORK.

It has been decided that DUKE OF YORK is to be taken in hand at Cammell Lairds, Birkenhead, for refit and partial modernisation on 16th Sept. The work is to be completed in four and a half months.

(2) It is not intended to sail KING GEORGE V immediately for the Eastern Fleet.

(V.C.N.S. 071607B to C. in C. H.F.)

BACHAQUERO.

C.F.M.U.2 and L.S.T. BACHAQUERO are allocated temporarily to A.C.O.S. Command.

A.N.C.X.F. 051047 and A.M. 041502 not to all addressees refer.

(2) Request BACHAQUERO with C.F.M.U. 2 embarked may be sailed to Scapa as soon as convenient.

War Diary.

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements

- BACHAQUERO. (3) Accounts of C.F.M.U. 2 should be transferred
(Contd.) to FOX II.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 071619B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- STRIKER, STRIKER and CAMPANIA are required to arrive at
CAMPANIA. Scapa a.m. 14th Sept. A message 071527 passed to
F.O.C.T. refers.
(2) Leave may be granted at your discretion during
period of layover.
(C. in C. W.A. 072251B to F.O.C.T.)
- DESPATCH. DESPATCH is transferred to your administration
and is to be reduced forthwith to Category C
in accordance with C.A.F.O. 406/44, para. 6.
(2) Berthing proposals are to be submitted.
(V.C.N.S. 072355B to F.O.C. Reserve Fleet.)

Operations.

- Bay of Biscay. Opas. 17. (B) Ile d'Yeu.
(2) Unless further intelligence received ref.
Rostock intend ALBRIGHTON patrol between Belle
Ile and Ile d'Yeu while URANIA closes Sable
d'Olonne, after which URANIA joins ALBRIGHTON.
(3) Opas, 17.
(C) URANIA at Sable d'Olonne ALBRIGHTON 510° Ile d'Yeu.
(S.O. Force 28 070008B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 061457. Captured ships were small armed naval craft
disguised as fisherman. They attempted to escape and were
stopped by gunfire. KELVIN has 2 officers one wounded and 7
wounded ratings prisoners, 16 prisoners and one boat turned over
to F.F.I. Les Sables d'Olonne. 2nd boat sank in tow. Boats
left Brest 23rd August and stopped Audierne and Belle Ile.
Documents include report on defences Belle Ile dated 1st Sept.
which states batteries manned garrison 1000 can last 4 months.
Radar report passing cruisers and destroyers. Natives becoming
unfriendly.
(2) Force 26 patrolling Audierne until 0600.
(S.O. Force 26 070330B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Information received via Marine National states 2 German M.Ls.
attacked Ushant at 2330 yesterday but were repulsed. Further
attempt expected tonight. Close-in Naval patrol requested.
Weather report:- 3/10 cloud at 3,000 ft. visibility 12 miles.
Weather fair, pressure 1012 millibars. Wind W. Force 6.
(ROCHESTER 071515B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Les Sables d'Olonne signal station established by French in
position of semaphore inset to chart Q.M. 48 has lamp visible 3
miles and international code.
(2) Situation unchanged from your 051908. Communications with
Ile d'Yeu could not be established but Commandant Les Sables says
no Germans on island, and probably none on (?Noirmoutier.)
Am patrolling with ALBRIGHTON between Ile d'Yeu and Belle Ile.
Intend passing Penmarch at 0440/8th to sweep through Audierne Bay.
(S.O. Force 28 071600B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Closed...

War Diary.

7.9.1944.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Bay of Biscay. Closed port Breton Ile d'Yeu at 2030. Established (Contd.) communications with signal station. Woman interpreter came out in boat. No one officially in command on island. Food stocks low as inhabitants afraid to go St. Gilles as Germans still around there. Several Vichy supporters on island. Have taken off Merchant Service Captain of Dutch nationality who has sailed in German controlled Dutch ships on this coast for past year. (S.O. Force 28 072211 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Western Approaches. WILD GOOSE hunting U-Boat (German) in 058° 24.5' N. 005° 43' W. Pass clear. (C. in C. W.A. 070031B to ships escorting E.N. 31, IMPLACABLE.) Intend to contact convoy before dark and then search in two groups one on either bow not less than 25 miles from convoy on closing land southern group will work round ahead. Northern group will drop back to port beam. (S.O. Force 33 071026 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols from Plymouth. O.N. Plymouth 5 Sups. (A) E.G.9 patrol convoy route Trevoise to Lundy. E.G.6 patrol convoy route Pendeen to Trevoise. E.G.3 zig-zag search between 51° 15' N. 9° 15' W. and 51.35 N. 08.00 W. (C) E.G.6 on completion of present duty. E.G.9 on relief by E.G.6. E.G.3 forthwith if not in contact. (D) 4th and 16th M.S. Flotillas are sweeping in vicinity of Q.Z.3. 565. (C. in C. Plymouth 071040B to E.Gs. 9, 6, 3.)

A/S operations in N.W. Approaches. I want 2nd Support Group to remain in the Minches area as long as present U-Boat threat remains or state of group allows. Request report of major defects and how long you can reasonably continue operations without falling off of efficiency through fatigue or any other reasons. (2) Meanwhile you are to assume command of Force 32 (C. in C. W.A. 071159B to E.G.2.)

Your 071159B. Propose to remain in North Minches area until 1200/9th when if no further (?evidence) of U-Boat's presence is found it is considered threat has passed. There is no major defect except in WREN. Intend to despatch her 1400/7th to Falmouth.

(S.O.E.G.2 071356B to C. in C. W.A.)

Intend KENILWORTH CASTLE and AMBUSCADE leave the area tomorrow 8th to fuel and HELMSDALE 9th.

(S.O. Force 33 071515B to C. in C. W.A.)

Detail one group to support convoy O.N.F. 252 (B.2 E.G. in HIGHLANDER) from 007° W. to 013° W. Convoy leaves Oversay R/V at 1300/8th course degrees 280 9½ hours.

(C. in C. W.A. 071954B to Force 33.)

/Your...

War Diary.

7.9.1944.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations in N.W. Approaches. (Contd.)

Your 071356. I appreciate that the U-Boat sighted by you and VINDEX yesterday might be one of the boats mentioned in Admty. 051402. In case they are operating in the Cape Wrath area I would like you to remain on operation 'C.X.' till about Sept. 15th. Signal fuel state of group. (C. in C. W.A. 072013B to S.O.E.G. 2.)

North Russia.

Russians wish to operate submarines to the westward up to 020° E. during the period Sept. 10th to 30th.

(2) Request confirmation that zone between 022° 47' and 020° E. is clear of other submarines and

that Russians may operate in this area.

(3) Your 072350 Aug. refers.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 070837B to Admty.)

Operation "S.C."

Ramose Razor (my 051124 and 051126) sailed HITRA (S.O.) and HESSA at 0900B today 7th Sept.

(2) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired.

(A.C.O.S. 070930B to Admty.)

Dover patrols.

Following dispositions are to be assumed by 2150 today Thursday.

F.U.3 BRISSENDEN patrol positions 127 Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200° Dungeness 12.5 miles.

F.U.4 C.X. BLANKNEY anchor as convenient in Dungeness east roads. Steam is to be kept at immediate notice.

(3) Unless otherwise ordered BLANKNEY is to weigh at 0615/8 and proceed by Searched Channels in force to Portsmouth reporting E.T.A. to C. in C. Portsmouth.

(4) Communications:- from sunset 1700 k/cs and L/S watch on 375 k/cs BLANKNEY shift to C.N. and 2450 k/cs at sunrise.

(A.C. Dover 071308B to Admty. A.N.C.X.F. C. in C. Nore, D. 17, D.1, WASP, FERVENT, CAK, S.O. M.T.Bs. S.O. 50th M.T.B.F., S.O. 29th M.T.B.F. S.O. 9th M.T.B.F. S.O. 8th M.T.B.F. S.O. 5th M.T.B.F. S.O. 2nd M.T.B.F. S.O. 21st M.L.F. S.O. 50th M.L.F. S.O. 52nd M.L.F. i/c Newhaven.)

Patrols from Portsmouth.

WHITAKER and WALDEGRAVE pass Spithead Gate at 0930 tomorrow 8th Sept. WHITAKER relieve GENTIAN on patrol in Z.102 WALDEGRAVE relieve MIMICO on patrol in Z.109 GENTIAN, MIMICO arrange R/V and return Portsmouth on relief.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 071753B to WHITAKER, WALDEGRAVE, GENTIAN, MIMICO.)

Pins cover night 7/8th September. (A) G.H.1 GENTIAN Z.102. G.H.2 GENTIAN Z.109.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 072207B to Admty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, etc.)

/Operations...

War Diary.7.9.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operations (P.253) SEA SCOUT leaves Lerwick 1850B/7th to
off Norway. patrol within 15 miles of 059° 59' N. 000° 01' W.
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 071410B to VIKING.)
VIKING (P.69) reports in accordance with I.S.O.H.
(1) 1st Sept. 1758 P.C. and 3. of convoy of four
merchant ships escorted by four patrol vessels 58° 29' 30" N. 05°
43' E. 343° 10 knots. Attacked 3000 ton merchant ship with four
torpedoes from 5000 yards range. Two explosions at three minute
35 and 38 seconds after firing. Hunt carried out by two escorts
using Asdics but no counter attack.
1304/4 P.C. and 3. of 7000 ton tanker with 6 escorts 58° 16'
06° 11' 30" E. 313° 10 knots. Attacked with four torpedoes from
3000 yards. Missed. No counter attack but three escort
vessels hunted for two hours.
(3) No air patrols sighted.
(4) Surface patrols sighted operating in Skudenes Fjord on 31st
August.
(5) VIKING(P.69) considers it possible that small fishing boats
are co-operating with patrol boats.
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 072149B to F.O.S.)

Operation C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for CAMPANIA
"Victual". to be sailed for Scapa as required by C. in C. H.F.
(2) On arrival CAMPANIA is to come under the
orders of C. in C. H.F.
(3) CAMPANIA, STRIKER and TRUMPETER will remain
under the orders of C. in C. H.F. for forthcoming operations.
(4) C. in C. H.F. 051122 not to F.O.I.C. Greenock refers.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 071527B to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Operation In case psychological warfare operations against
"Nestegg". garrison on Channel Islands succeed it is intended
to instruct German Commander to send envoy to pre-
arranged rendezvous at sea to effect formal
surrender.

Desire you nominate suitable British ship to embark Supreme
Commanders representative and party at Cherbourg and specify
proposed rendezvous at sea.
Please state shortest practicable notice on or after 10th Sept.
at which ship could sail from Cherbourg.
(S.H.A.E.F. 071745B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operation "Nestegg". Request information whether it will
be convenient for M.Ls. employed as escort referred to in my
191627 August to refuel at Cherbourg as requisite.
(2) It would also be appreciated if a 350 ton tanker could
replenish with 87 Octane petrol at Cherbourg when necessary.
(C. in C. Plymouth 071844B to C.T.F. 125.2.)

7.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Cositintrep (Extract.) Gun positions and strong points, 96
155. Bostons and 110 Marauders on Brest, 1298 x 500 G.P.
348 aircraft on Le Havre 1812 tons good. 67 air-
craft on Brest 384 tons good. Gun positions,
143 Fortresses on Brest 450 tons G.P. fair to good.
Flying bombs were active again after a lull of 88 hours, coming
in from The Hook of Holland. Of the 14 launched, 10 made land-
fall but none reached London. Claims: 2 destroyed by fighters.
(A.E.A.F. 070103B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Iceland. A.840 7 Sept. Your A.182 6 Sept. not to Admty.
Much regret impossible at present juncture to
detach long range aircraft to Iceland owing to
very heavy commitments now developing in the main
areas of U-Boat activity.

(2) Cover could be provided with Cansos at earliest opportunity
and no doubt you will consider sweeps by Cansos at extreme range
even if this leaves no time for patrolling in area.

(3) Please explain to American General Commanding Iceland that the
detachment of sufficient long range aircraft to maintain conti-
nuous cover is unacceptable in the situation outlined in para. 1.
(H.Q.C.C. 071053B to A.C.I.C. (C))

Channel area. Air attacks on targets not plotted by radar.
(2) E/R Boats course 050 speed 15 knots were
attacked by 4 individual Swordfish between 062304 -
070210 in positions 1 mile N.E. Ostend - 240°
Flushing 8 miles. All bombs missed.
(A.C. Dover 071228B to Admty. N.O.I.C. Newhaven,
H.Q. 16 Group, C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F., H.Q.C.C.,
C. in C. Portsmouth, H.Q. 11 Group.)

Mining.

Dieppe approach. No report of enemy minelaying. Negative result
from all routine sweeps in B.A.A. and Central
area. 11 Ground mines swept close westward of
the approach channel to Dieppe. 1 magnetic and
remainder probably acoustic. Channel had been
swept 15 times previously. Sea moderate to rough decreasing
tonight. Summary A (2) 1 A (3) 10.
(Capt. M/S Seine 072230B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. Air R/C of Brest shows: Digue Abri du Port de
Laninon has been breached in three places, and the
Jetee des Flotilles severed for a length of
nearly 200 feet. The Assembly Shop in the Quai
de Laninon has also been destroyed.
A disarmed Sperrbrecher (525') in dry dock No. 8 is sunk. The
gate of dry dock No. 9 has been severely damaged at its western
end and the dock is now flooded.
A vessel (170') in the Baie de Roscanvel and a trawler (150/200')
in the Anse du Fret have both been sunk or scuttled.
(D.N.I. 071249B to A.N.C.X.F., etc.)

/Air...

War Diary.

7.9.1944.

Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Air damage
at Stettin
and Bremen.

Following damage of naval interest was caused by
air bombardment at following ports.

(1) Stettin. Air bombardment at 2345 Aug. 29th -
(a) Stettin works damaged. (b) U-Boat stores
damaged. (c) 3 transports damaged including
FINLAND and EMMY FRIEDRICH. Both vessels had

bridges burnt and destroyed. C.1.

(2) Bremen. Air attacks Aug. 18th caused 3,000 killed and (?total
of) 27 craft sunk in (?western) harbours 1 and 2. C.3.

(N.A. Stockholm 071601 to D.N.I.)

N.I.D. Comment.

(1) Stettin: Attacked by 383 aircraft bomber command night 29/30
August. Photographic R/C shows damage to the Stettiner Oderwerke.
EMMY FRIEDRICH a new ship of 5,000 g.r.t. is at Stettin being
armed as a transport and may have been damaged. FINLAND has
previously been reported as a transport.

(2) Bremen: Attacked by 272 aircraft bomber command night 18/19
August. Number of craft sunk presumably includes small craft
which would not be identified by photographic R/C.

Belle Ile.

Following is extract from a report on Belle Ile
captured by KELVIN from German naval artillery
officer to German F.O.I.C. graded A.1 dated Sept.
1st 1944. On 1st Sept. there were 500 German

troops in island of which 50 are Russian and unreliable. There
are 2 Naval flak batteries with 2 75 millimetre, 1 37 millimetre
and some Oerlikon and one S/L Battery. As the garrison strength
is too little to defend the whole island strong point of the
defence is established at Le Palais. On the coast no other
defence ports are manned except Radar Stations and Batteries at
Taillefer if no further provisions are taken from the island or
are lost by any other means garrison can hold out another 4 months
the hitherto meek demeanour of the islanders is becoming actively
hostile and acts of sabotage have proved it.

(C. in C. Plymouth 071905B to Admt. C.T.F. 123, A.N.C.X.F.,
S.H.A.E.F. C.T.F. 125.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Hook and
Flushing.

Your 061736 (not to all addressees). All arrange-
ments for supply of fuel and water for The Hook
and Flushing should be made with Admt. vide
A.M. 022132 August para. 6(a) (not to all).

My 042241 (not to all) also refers.

(A.N.C.X.F. 071120B to C. in C. More.)

Dieppe.

My 021609 (not to Naval party 1686). In view
of altered situation it is now proposed that this
transshipment depot should be set up at Dieppe
instead of Havre and that Naval store carriers
should proceed to Dieppe after unloading at Arrow.

(2) Request information when naval store staff may be expected.
(F.O.B.A.A. 071603B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Antwerp...

War Diary.

7.9.1944.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Post "Neptune" Port Facilities. - Contd.

Antwerp.

Your 051639. Arrangements are being made to sail KERNOT without delay to Cliffe from Liverpool.

(2) It is expected that 12 Belgian motor fishing vessels (some armed) can be provided within 14 days; some of these within 7 days.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 071752B to A.N.C.X.F.)

To meet requirements of A.N.C.X.F.'s 051639B (not to all addressees) Belgian Pilot vessel KERNOT is re-allocated to A.N.C.X.F. for use at Antwerp.

(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail her forthwith with present crew to Cliffe (River Thames).

(3) All arrivals and departures to be reported to Admty. and A.N.C.X.F.

(D.S.V.P. 072101B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

To meet requirement 1(B) of A.N.C.X.F.'s 051639B (not to F.O.I.C. London) it is desired to utilise when required two of the A/P Belgian M.F.Vs. based on Cliffe and one from Greenhithe.

(2) Request confirmation that these can be released from present duties without relief and that names of selected vessels be reported to Admty.

(D.S.V.P. 072223B to C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. London.)

Casualties.

NORTHLAND.

U.S.S. NORTHLAND is in ice with damaged rudder in position 075° 59' N. 015° 58' W. U.S.S. STORIS is standing by. U-Boat (German) is in vicinity.

After exchanging personnel at Jan Mayen proceed with all despatch consistent with endurance to position of U.S.S. NORTHALDN to hunt U-Boat, reporting STORIS on arrival. Render all possible assistance, if necessary escorting NORTHLAND to Reykjavik. Do not enter ice. Report E.T.A. to A.C.I.C.

(2) W/T instruction in accordance with sailing orders number 107. U.S. ship-shore waves as necessary. You cannot communicate direct with U.S. ships. Necessary signals should be passed to A.C.I.C. for onward transmission.

(3) Acknowledge on arrival at Jan Mayen.

(A.C.I.C. 071532B to HONNINGSVAAG.)

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.S/M.K.S. convoys.

Escort oilers are no longer required in K.M.S/M.K.S. convoys. A.M. 062152 refers.

(2) In the event of a return of enemy activity to this route the provision of escort oilers for the fuelling of support groups could presumably be made at reasonably short notice if found necessary.

(C. in C. W.A. 071304B to Admty.)

O.N. & O.N.S. convoys.

Pass to F.Cs. i/c and N.C.S.Cs. Cancel A.M. 062150B. Vessels for O.N. and O.N.S. convoys should be sailed to Loch Ewe as usual until further orders.

(D.T.D. 072200B to Cs. in C. Nore, Rosyth.)

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Spanish
fishing.

Your 242000 August. Operational considerations preclude grant of permission at present time for either alternative. The position may be reviewed after French Biscay ports are in Allied hands.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 072020B to N.A. Madrid.)

South Atlantic

SS. VERNON
L. KELLOG
- U/B in S.
Mozambique
Channel.

S S S S S S S S latitude 25.53 S., longitude
36.41 E., 2030Z/7, submarine sighted.
((KXNW) VERNON L. KELLOG, No T.O.O./7 Recd. 2305)

7.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Route for
Greek
relief
Vessels. Germans have proposed an amendment to the "Pink" route for Greek Relief Vessels proceeding to Venice as follows:-
From Position F on existing route to 44° 04' N. 14° 02' E., thence through 44° 20' N. 13° 55.2' E. and 44° 43.02' N. 13° 57.6' E. at which point vessel must arrive at daybreak to be piloted coast-wise to Venice.

(2) Unless you have any objections it is proposed to accept the above amendment subject to the condition that after reaching position 44° 43.02' N., 13° 57.6' E., vessel should not proceed outside a six mile limit for the remainder of voyage to Venice. (Admty., 070207B to V.A.M., C. in C. Med., F.O.T.A.L.I., F.O.L.E.M.)

A.M. 070207. Concur in the proposed route subject to
(a) F.O.T.A.L.I. having no objections.
(b) That the mines in Q.B.270, 271 and 272 can be considered safe at 5 fathoms in winter weather.
(V.A.M.3, 071521C to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea. From Intelligence Report (?August 31st) to Sept. 5th.

(1) Naval. W/T of enemy S/M heard working N.W. part Black Sea August 31st, Sept. 1st, Sept. 2nd and Sept. 3rd S/Ms at Sea in touch with German Naval H.Qs. at Muller only. Two non contact mines destroyed off Ochakov and two type U.M.A. and one other off Skadovsk. Unidentified mines in my 011745 paragraph one were wooden mines.

(2) Following vessels observed in Bulgarian port Sept. 5th Bourgas: 1 S/M 13 M.L. including 3 M/S 2 barges and 3 other craft. Varna: 4 T.Bs. 1 medium merchant vessel and 2 type K.T.3 escort vessel, 4 special purpose auxiliary vessels 6 F (?Z) and 20 M.L. including 4 minesweepers (on Sept. 3rd) 2 floating docks also reported.

(N.L.O. Black Sea 071000)

From Intelligence Report Sept. 6th and further to my 071225 (?071000 intended)

(1) Considered on Sept. 4th three German submarines and one Italian Midget submarine still operating Black Sea. 3 German submarine (? sunk) in Constanza 23rd August or 24th August.
(2) Enemy's coast defence of Bulgaria carried out by two marine regiments of two battalions and two artillery regiments, one of each based at Varna and Bourgas respectively.
(3) From those second detachments long distance R/C bombers now based Satu Calewell.

(N.L.O. Black Sea, 071040)

3,000
French
O.N.L.
Personnel. (1) Cancel our 92223* of 5th Sept. Governmental personnel will not be embarked in M.K.F.34.
(2) Paraphrase of S.H.A.E.F. cable explaining reasons for inability to accept these personnel follows. Agreed.
(A.F.H.Q. Caserta, 071037B.)*Presume 92318
T.O.O. 051245 intended.

/Aegean...

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

(Extract)

Air transport 5/6th September. Now known that 14 Ju. 52s reported yesterday landing Athens came from Rhodes.

(C. in C.M.E. 071310C) Cf. C. in C.M.E., 062015C and A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O./6.

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

24 hours to 0900/7. All times G.M.T.

(Extract).

(3) Photographic R/C 6th Sept. revealed following. Partheni Bay. SS. CAROLA departed subsequently sighted N.W. of Syros heading for Piraeus reported with cargo fuel. Attacked by aircraft without result.

Peleponnese. Kalmata. No shipping. West Quay demolished others prepared for demolition.

Seso arrived 1 F lighter, 2 EMS. craft, 1 ferry 100/120 foot, 1 tug, 2 caiques all probably connected removal troops, guns, fuel and ammunition from South Peleponnese as reported by ground sources. Piraeus. Arrived second K.T. ship seen approaching yesterday also minelayer ZEUS and 10 Pioneer Landing Craft. 6 of latter probably those departed 2 days ago probably on trials. ZEUS and DRACHE both reported by C.X. loading baggage and munitions also probably troops. Ground source reports concrete ships being prepared for blocking quays and floating dock to be towed to Salonika.
(C. in C. M.E., 071310C.)

VORACIOUS.

VORACIOUS sailed from Malta at 1403B/7th routed south of Crete to pass through Kaso or Scarpanto Straits p.m./11th for patrol in the Aegean.
(Capt. (S) 1, 071459 to 1st S/M.F., PIPINOS, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

PIPINOS.

Leave patrol at dawn 8th to arrive in 035° 42', 023° 32' at dawn 9th thence east of Pondiko Nisi to 035° 42', 023° 01' at 2002B/9th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 071511 to PIPINOS, (R) 1st S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M.)U.S.
casualties.Request following vessels be stricken from the Navy Register.
L.S.T. 282 bombed while proceeding beach? West of Cape Brammong? beached and burned. Ship and cargo total loss.

P.P. (? P.T. intended) 202 and P.T. 208 sunk by mines 16th August Gulf of Frejus.

P.T. 555 stern blown off by mine 23rd August off Port de Bouc being stripped of salvageable equipment.

Y.M.S. 24 sunk by mine Gulf of Frejus 15th August.

Y.M.S. 21 sunk by mine Toulon Harbour 1st September.

C. in C. Med. and info. addressee requested advise Cominch date this info. may be released.

(C.W.N.T.F., 071627B to Sec. Nav. Cominch, C.N.O.)

/JEANNE D'ARC ...

7.9.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

JEANNE Before receipt by A.N.C.X.F. of copy of S.H.A.E.F.
 D'ARC - Forward telegram number F.W.D. 13976 dated 6th
 French Admty. September re non-acceptance in France at present
 officials of 3000 personnel of Franch Committee I approved
 for proposal of F.O.W.M. to sail F.S. JEANNE D'ARC at
 Cherbourg. 2000/9th from Algiers to Cherbourg with French
 Admiralty Administrative Officials number not
 known. Request immediate covering approval or
 cancellation of this movement may be signalled
 to C. in C. Med. and other addressees of this message.
 (A.N.C.X.F., 071628B to S.H.A.E.F. ?Forward, Info. Admty.,
 S.H.A.E.F. Main, F.O.W.M., C. in C. Med., C.T.F. 125.)

Turkish Return of some (of ?) Turkish Shipping Services
 shipping seems likely in near future.
 restrictions. Normal Black Sea Passenger Service will be resumed
 on afternoon 8th September. My 021702* refers.
 F.O.L.E.M. please pass to C. in C. Med., Admty.
 (B.N.A. Ankara, 071710C to Admty.)
 * Turkish Shipping.

Aircraft C. in C. Med.'s 042342 Sept. In order to avoid
 ferried by (? further) delay suggest air passage to Malta be
 ACTIVITY. arranged for sufficient additional pilots to
 enable all aircraft in C. in C. Med.'s 251110
 August to be flown ashore to Dekheila. A.M.
 041612 Sept. also refers.
 (2) V.A.M. is requested to arrange for embarkation of pilots in
 ACTIVITY using one escort from those detailed.
 (3) Aircraft should be flown off after passing Malta when wind
 conditions are suitable and staged to Dekheila.
 (C. in C. Med., 071826B to KELVIN.)

SS. FORT K.M.S.61. FORT FRONTENAC arrived Bone with fire
 FRONTENAC. in bunker.
 (N.O.I.C. Bone, 072005B.)

M.E. Balkan (Extract)
 Sitrep Continued reports of withdrawal from Ionian Islands.
 No. 296. Leaving a small Grn.
 (C. in C. M.E., 072025C.)

Situation UNDINE and APHIS engaged batteries and anti-tank
 Report guns north-east of Rimini on 6th September direct
 No. 427. hits and explosions observed.
 (2) (P.72) VAMPIRE in addition caïque in my 052137
 para. (3) destroyed one 50 ton and one 50 ton
 caïque. Action took place north-east of Mykoni.
 (C. in C. Med., 072302.)

7.9.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

TANTALUS. Leave patrol alongside northern boundaries Zone E and D to pass position (A) $006^{\circ} 40' N.$, $094^{\circ} 59' E.$ at 2130Z/10th Sept. thence through (B) $005^{\circ} 59' N.$, $094^{\circ} 23' E.$ (C) $002^{\circ} 21' N.$, $094^{\circ} 20' E.$ (D) $005^{\circ} 59' S.$, $099^{\circ} 38' E.$ (E) $021^{\circ} 45' S.$, $112^{\circ} 15' E.$ thence to Exmouth Gulf via safety lane.
 (2) Your E.T.A. at (D) us 1100Z/14th.
 (3) Shift to Broadcast at 2300Z/13th.
 (4) Report E.T.A. at position (E) to C.T.F. 71 at least 48 hours before arrival (E).
 (5) Friendly submarines may be met exercising either on surface or submerged in safety lane.
 (S.O. S/Ms. E.F., 070411Z to P.318 (TANTALUS))

U/B Area C.B.1. Two empty wooden rafts sighted in dispositions. $001^{\circ} 50' S.$, $071^{\circ} 50' E.$ and $002^{\circ} 51' S.$, $071^{\circ} 49' E.$ on 5th and oil patches in $001^{\circ} 22' N.$, $070^{\circ} 22' E.$ and $001^{\circ} 38' N.$, $070^{\circ} 11' E.$ on 6th indicate probable sinking in this area. Scale

VIII Y.2.

Area A.D.2 and A.D.3 in view of recent lack of sightings (? in) these areas considered U-Boats threat has now decreased.

Scale X.4.

Area K.D.4 and C.B.4, no written information. Reduce scales to W.5. Other areas no fresh information, no changes in scales. (C. in C. E.F., 070433Z.)

Rocket landing craft. (1) Absence of rocket support craft can be accepted in Conacula transfer but anticipate these craft will be useful in later operations in this theatre.
 (2) Request information earliest dates L.C.S.(R), or L.C.I. fitted rocket projectors, will be available. This will then be related to planning of future operations (? and) a firm demand put in for all support craft and support amphibian requirements.
 (S.A.C.S.E.A., 070601Z to Admty.)

Pilgrim traffic. In order to formulate escort arrangements request confirmation that first and second flight of ships conveying pilgrims will leave Karachi for Jeddah on (? 3rd or 6th) October and 4th November respectively. Also that these flights will consist of 3 personnel ships each. Your 230954* June not to all addressees refers.
 (2) Request also speed of these ships.
 (C. in C. E.F., 070844Z to F.O.C.R.I.N.)
 * Not identified by W.R.

Diego Suarez controlled minefield. Request approval may be given to proceed with weighing of the controlled minefield Diego Suarez. My 021303 May, para. (6) and Admty. 141516 June para. (3) refer.
 (C. in C. E.F., 071011Z to Admty.)

/Dutch ...

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Dutch S/Ms.
to operate
from W.
Australia.

It is regretted that your prior concurrence was not obtained for the operation of Dutch S/Ms. from Western Australia.
(2) Dutch S/Ms. O.19 and P.322 (ZWAARDVISCH) if required, latter a British T class, are attached to the 8th S/M. Flotilla and are additional to the 3 T class and 6 S class which originally formed that flotilla.
(C. in C. E.F., 071051Z to Cdr. S.W. Pacific.)

U/B report.

By D/F U-Boat bearing 090, 100 to 120 miles from Addu Atoll at 1440Z.
(A/C Base 70Y, 071550Z to A/C C/S DGNL.)

Defences of
Colombo and
Trincomalee.

OZ.5089. Cossea 130, 7th September 1944.
Following for Admiral Mountbatten from Chiefs of Staff. Reference Seacos 218*.

Admty. consider and we agree that it would be imprudent to reduce defences to the extent indicated in the above telegram, and that an

inner line of defence covering the booms is still necessary, as in the case of all other Main Fleet Bases.

(2) We have therefore approved the proposals contained in Seacos 218, subject to the retention of the following equipments additional to the 6-inch batteries at Colombo and Trincomalee:-
Colombo - 1 6-pdr. twin East Breakwater. 1 6-pdr. twin Main Breakwater.

Trincomalee - 1 6-pdr. twin Clapenburg Point. 1 6-pdr. twin Elephant Point.

(3) Please take action accordingly.

(A.M.S.S.O., 071959Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.)

* 210841/8. N.T. in W.D. War Registry state they are unable to supply a copy.

War Diary.

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- H.X.M. 304. Average speed 9.1 knots. Off Oversay 0001/31st August. All arrived. (D.T.D. 070028B.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. (C) H.M.C. M.Ls. series of attacks on asdic contact held intermittently 1044Z to 2011Z/6th in positions 48.58 N. 64.04 W. to 49.03 N. 64.18 W. (N.S.H.Q. 070846Z.)
- U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 071350Z.)
- New support Groups. In order to commence implementing N.S.H.Q's 052013 it is intended to delete STE. THERESE and THETFORD MINES from C.6 leaving 5 ships in this group for H.X.F. 308, however as this convoy will not be reduced in numbers by the instigation of the new cycle H.M.C.S. SNOWBERRY will be sail'd in time to join C.6 for passage to U.K. and it is anticipated another escort will also be available to augment this group for the same convoy. (C. in C. C. N.A. 071505Z to F.O.N.F.)
- Routeing Irish ships. Concur proposal your 061853B routeing Irish ships. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 071538Z to Admty.)
- Weather security. Following received from C. in C. E.F. begins Admty. (R) A.C.N.B. (repeats C. in C. E.F. 050253Z.) (2) In view of strategical interest of north-western portion of S.W. Pacific area, to Eastern Fleet, it would seem desirable for C. in C. E.F. to have been included among theatre commanders consulted even though area in question is outside the limits of the East Indies Station. (3) Please place these views before C. M. C. and endeavour to obtain reconsideration of decision regarding western limit of derestricted area. My 231504 (not to C. in C. E.F.) and E.F. 220913 passed to you refer. (D.N.M.S. 071632B to B.A.D. Washington for N.M.L.O.)
- A.N.76, A.P.C. 58. A.N.76 and A.P.C. 58 will leave New York in Army Barge Convoy. Cominch's 142250 August refers. New date departure 11th Sept. (2) Request you will inform A.N. 76 and A.P.C. 58 of required destination. (B.A.D. 071741Z to Admty.)
- Apamama Atoll. Cominch has informed C. in C. Pacific Ocean area that State, War and Navy Depts. concur in complete abandonment by U.S. Forces of Apamama Atoll. (B.A.D. 071753Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

7.9.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B incidents. (C) U.S.S. ULVERT M. MOORE sound contact 37.27 N. 69.27 W. held intermittently from 061800Z to 062130Z.
(Cominch 072100Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
960.

(W.D. Note. No date given.)
(8) Night 4th Sept. R/C Catalina bombed and hit two minelayers in Masilok anchorage (Zamboanga). Both ships burned and exploded.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 070710.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. (A) (1) WILD GOOSE attacked periscope at 2124Z/6 in 58° 24' N. 05° 43' W.
Para. (B) (1) A/C W/518 sighted possible U-Boat course 315° at 0830Z/6 in 58° 50' N. 10° 10' W.
(2) E.G. 5 sighted possible U-Boat at 1250Z/6 in approx. 55° 52' N. 08° 50' W.
Ref. A.M. 060855Z para. (B) (3). It is not now considered that LADY LAURIER sighted U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 071130B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 071400B, 071418B.)

8.9.1944

FridayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperation "Neptune" (D + 94)

General

1a. The weather improved sufficiently for all Landing Craft convoys to be resumed.

b. EREBUS completed repairs and is ready for further service again.

c. Cumulative landings up to this afternoon were:-

	Men	Vehicles	Stores
British	848,778	210,097	1,521,138
American	<u>1,290,669</u>	<u>234,423</u>	<u>2,067,348</u>
Total	<u>2,139,447</u>	<u>444,520</u>	<u>3,588,486</u>

General

U/B attack
on H.X.F.
305:
2 ships
sunk.

2. The large tanker EMPIRE HERITAGE was torpedoed and sunk in Convoy H.X.F.305 off Inishtrahul at 0600, and the rescue ship PINTO soon after, during rescue operations. Trawler NORTHERN WAVE picked up 40 PINTO's and 46 EMPIRE HERITAGE's, leaving 21 and 110 respectively unaccounted for. She also was fired at during rescue work, and in avoiding the torpedo rammed the U-boat "damage unknown". It is believed that 2 U-boats were present. The hunt continues.

A/S
Operations
in N.W.
Approaches.

3a. In order further to tighten up U-boat control A.O.C. 15 Group has been given operational priority control over all aircraft of Groups 18 and 19 as well as his own, for offensive hunts and convoy protection in the Northwestern approaches, from Cape Wrath as far as Iceland.

b. H.Q.C.C. also request additional prohibited fishing areas to aid them in their anti-U-boat operations.

Channel

4a. 9 coasters are discharging alongside at Dieppe.

b. Belgian motor fishing and other minor vessels are being collected throughout the United Kingdom for manning by Belgians with a view to service in Antwerp.

c. 109 aircraft dropped 516 tons of bombs on le Havre.

d. One flying bomb was launched from Holland but crashed short of Harwich.

War Diary

8.9.1944
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

General

West
Coast
France.

- 5a. BLYSKAWICA supplied small arms to Ile d'Yeu and St. Gille-sur-Vie, which is now free of Germans and in road communication with les Sables d'Olonne, but 6,000 Germans are reported to be between St. Nazaire and la Rochelle.
- b. 625 aircraft dropped 4148 500 lb bombs on Brest strong points. Leaflets were also dropped on Brest and Crozon.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dragoon"

- 6a. Cruisers and destroyers continued the bombardments in the Mentone area on 6th, 7th and 8th September, the principal targets being batteries and troop concentrations. Good results are reported.
- b. At Marseilles the final phase of minesweeping is taking place previous to opening the Vieux Port. The French are assisting in locating mines.
- c. At Toulon 6 mooring buoys are reported safe and additional berths are available alongside (cf. 5th Sept.)

Adriatic

- 7a. The Coastal Force last night sank an E-boat in Hvar Channel, Yugoslavia.
- b. An enemy force, apparently of enemy mine-layers, was again encountered last night by our coastal forces off Rimini, but could not be brought to action.
- c. The gunboats APHIS and SCARAB bombarded batteries and ships in harbour at Rimini. Enemy return fire caused no damage.

REX
damaged.

- d. Air operations were restricted by the weather last night. Today 8 Beaufighters of Coastal Air Force attacked the liner REX lying off Capodistria, Gulf of Trieste and made many R.P. hits below the waterline, and it is reported that the vessel was set on fire; the ship was seen to be capsized two or three days later.

8.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

STATESMAN
patrol
report

8. On return from her first Far East patrol STATESMAN reports that she considers she sank by torpedo the Japanese EIYO MARU whilst entering Port Blair, Andaman Is.

Air-
raid
on Cocos
Is.

9. One enemy bomber attacked the Cocos Islands in the early hours of today. Bombs fell near Cable and Wireless property and in the sea but there were no casualties and damage was practically nil. Home Island and the Fortress Command were machine gunned, but no casualties or damage were caused. The aircraft was not detected (the islands have no detection apparatus) and there was no return gunfire from the ground defences.

China

10. Liberators last night sank 3 large and one medium freighter south of Hongkong.

America and West Indies

U-boat
in Gulf
of St.
Laurence

11. The Canadian corvette NORSYD attacked a U-boat with gunfire at 0110Z today in the Gulf of St. Laurence in about 48.18 W. 62.40 W. The submarine dived and contact was lost.

Australia and New Zealand

Air attack
on
Caroline Is.

12. Today carrier borne aircraft attacked Yap.

War Diary8.9.1944
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Situation Reports

Naval On. para. 52. F.O.B.A.A. Navisitrep No. 72 8th September.
 D. EREBUS.
 E. Nil. G (1) EREBUS. Whilst engaging perimeter batteries at Havre was hit by shell. Bulge compartment Port Side abreast engine room holed. Ship ready for further service. Target battery responsible position 465314.
 (2) Weather has improved and landing craft convoys are proceeding.
 (3) At Dieppe 9 coasters are discharging. Delay in discharging being caused by serious shortage of cranes and M/T it may be practicable to discharge by L.S.T. if survey of Bassin de Paris proves it to be clear at Eastern End.
 (F.O.B.A.A. 082316 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Covering Operations

Patrols Pins cover night 8th/9th September.
 from A. G.D.1 WHITAKER Z.102.
 Portsmouth. G.D.2. WALDEGRAVE Z.109.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 081141B to Admty., WALDEGRAVE, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts 'HD' and 'CD' in area 'C', Portsmouth Night Patrol, WHITAKER.)
 Cherbourg patrol night 8th/9th September.
 (1) BORUM Z.208 MALOY Z.209.
 (2) 6 P.Ts. Z.203 W. 4 P.Ts. Z.221 south.
 (3) M/S and small craft Z.210.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 081604B to Admty., V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts 'CN' and 'HD' in area 'C')

Force The flag of Rear Admiral Tennant F.O. Force 130
 130. is to be struck in MALAYA a sunset on Saturday September 9th.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 082358B to F.O. Force 130.)

Movements

WARSPITE My 081527. Request you will amend time of arrival of WARSPITE at 58 E Buoy to 0830 tomorrow Saturday instead of 0700.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 081917 to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.B.A.A. WARSPITE, GROWLER, Admty.)

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8.9.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"CasualtiesS.M.T.
CHOICE

Ref. ADVENTURE's 251256 Smoke Making Trawler CHOICE which was holed at Arromanches on Aug. 24th is now reported a total wreck. ADVENTURE's 251256 now repeated to Admty.
(S.N.O. Brownjack, 081009B to Admty.)

Port Facilities

Le Havre

In the event of entrance between the breakwaters of Le Havre being found effectively blocked preventing entry of coasters, it is proposed to sweep an approach channel 6 cables wide to the beaches N. and W. of the Digue Nord. Centre line of channel to be on a line of bearing 060° between the charted position of A.9 buoy and the centre of Fort de St. Adresse. The Petite Rade also to be swept as coaster waiting anchorage. Sweepers would then proceed to clear Avant Port if entry can be made. Army would be required to clear beaches from low water spring mark. Request early approval for this alternative plan.
(Capt. M/S Seine 081625 to F.O.B.A.A.)

Operation
"Pluto"

Operation "Pluto" Hamel. No.1. Intend sail S.N.O. "Pluto" in CAMPANULA with tugs MARAUDER, BUSTLER and DANUBE towing Conun 3 from Sandown Bay at 0630B/9th by "Pluto" route to H.10 buoy. Escort POTENTILLA S.O., VERVAIN and M.L.291.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081950B to C.T.F.125, A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping and ConvoysShipping
for Morlaix
and Roscoff.

My 052325B following is repetition of C.T.F.125's 071745B begins:- My 051533B cancel position (5). Add from position (4) for Saint Michel En Greve proceed to (5) M 5 buoy in 48° 42.8' N. 03° 38.8' W. Ships for Morlaix and Roscoff proceed to (6) 48° 52.6' N. 03° 54.8' W. thence to (7) 48° 46.6' N. 03° 54' W. where pilots for either port board. Ends.
(A.N.C.X.F. 081825B to Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Plymouth.)

Return
routeings
from France.

Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. In order to facilitate last minute diversions, ships returning from France to Bristol Channel should be given return destinations as follows:- (a) Where the port is expected to be Swansea, Port Talbot or Llanelly - Mumbles for orders. (b) Where the port is expected to be Barry or ports to the E. thereof - Barry Roads for orders. (c) U.S. Liberty ships should normally return to Mumbles for orders.
(D.T.D. 081959B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth and Plymouth.)

8.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMAND

Operation "Neptune"

Administration and Organisation

Manning of
landing
barges in
U.S. Area.

At the meeting on landing barges called by my 301610 August it was reported that U.S. Authorities both naval and military are unable to man landing barges in U.S. Area. As U.S. Forces must be kept supplied through small Normandy ports, request barges allocated to W.T.F. and used in Normandy ports and beaches continue to be manned as at present until C.T.F.125 no longer needs them. (A.N.C.X.F. 081150 to Admty., S.H.A.E.F., C.T.F.125, C.T.F.123, Comnavu, Capt. L.B. Com. L.C.B. COPRA.)

Due to administrative difficulties it is impracticable for landing barges in ports west of Cherbourg to be manned by British crews. You are, therefore, requested to investigate and report on the possibility of providing French Naval crews for these barges. In case the above is arranged barges required from U.K. would be lifted without crews and manned as you may direct upon arrival. (A.N.C.X.F. 081554 to C.T.F.125.)

Shifting
of A.N.C.X.F.
H.Q. from
Southwick
to Granville.

- (1) C. in C. Portsmouth requested to cause my flag to be struck at 2000B Saturday 9th.
- (2) Flag of A.N.C.X.F. is to be hoisted in ADVENTURE or some other suitable ship at Arrow at 2000B 9th. Flags will be sent to Arrow.
- (3) Flag is to be hoisted in ROYAL HENRY in addition at 2000B 9th.
- (4) N.O.I.C. Arrow acknowledge.
(A.N.C.X.F. 081224B to Granville W/T C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Arrow, A.S. Portsmouth.)

Departments
of
A.N.C.X.F.
H.Q.

A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) is concerned with the present and prospective movements of shipping and landing craft, both in and out of convoy between U.K. and Continent.
(2) A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug) is concerned with cross channel and coastwise towages generally.
Movements of all tugs, and M.W.T. and Military floating equipment: subjects lately concerning Ramp, general operations, progress in opening ports and movements of shipping.
(3) A.N.C.X.F. (Ph) is concerned with Naval Post Hostilities planning, future operations and plans, and signals concerning Naval Port parties.
(D.S.D., 081832B to A.G.M. 397AZ.)

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8.9.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSGeneralPolicyProhibited
fishing
areas
required.

H.F. 01335/9 of 22nd November 1943. H.Q.C.C. requests that the additional restrictions for fishing boats be invoked as night anti-U-Boat operations are seriously handicapped.
(2) If you recommend this course as essential, additional prohibited area will be promulgated and inconvenience to fishing boats will be accepted.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 080010B to Cs. in C. H.F., Rosyth.)

Icelandic
drifters
to return
to Owners.

My 261648 August. Request names of Icelandic drifters be reported to Admiralty when vessels are returned to owners.
(D.S.V.P., 080015B to A.C.I.C.)

FROBISHER.

A.N.C.X.F.'s 051833 August and A.M. 111056 August neither to C. in C. Nore or FROBISHER. It appears that FROBISHER still considers she is attached to Home Fleet. Request instructions as to her administration may be issued.
(C. in C. H.F., 081619B to Admty.)

New Escort
Group
Numbers.

Propose numbers 25 to 29 be allocated to R.C.N. for designation of new groups as they are formed.
(C. in C. W.A., 081704B to C. in C. C.N.A.)

New
Boundary
between
Plymouth
and Western
Approaches
Commands.

As from 1200B/11th September the boundary between the Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands will be temporarily amended. The new boundary is:-
Along the southern boundary of the Cardiff and Milford Haven sub-commands to position 51° 14' N., 05° 12' W. thence to position 50° N., 07° W. thence to position 45° N., 07° W. thence to position 45° N., 09° 20' W. thence to position 43° N., 09° 20' W.
(2) Limits of Port Wave W/T areas are unaffected by the above change and will remain as in Art. 29 of S.2/44.
(V.C.N.S., 081941B to Home Station 398 AZ B.5, Western Atlantic Station 596 AE, Mediterranean Station 455 AB B.2, West Africa Station 329 AL.)

Fishing
vessels.

My 071754*. War Office has been informed that employment of fishing vessels is considered undesirable unless unavoidable.
(P.A.S.(L), 082124B to A.N.C.X.F.)
* N.T. in W.D. ?071752B intended (Belgian fishing vessels for employment at Antwerp).

8.9.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSDefence of the United KingdomCoast
Defences.
Proposed
reduction.

Your 031708, para. (2). Having regard to the depth of water, risk of submarine attempting to cross the area covered by C.M.(L) is considered very slight and must be accepted. Decision to remove minefield therefore holds good. (A.C.N.S.(H), 081137B to C. in C. W.A.)

MovementsFrigates
LOCHY and
DEVERON.

Intend to sail LOCHY and DEVERON 0900B/10 to comply with F.O.I.C. Greenock 071634. S. of A. to R/V 15 knots. C. in C. W.A.'s 061522 also refers. Mails as diverted by Admiralty. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 081802B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

OperationsA/S
operations
in N.W.
and W.
Approaches.

By D/F on 5710 k/cs at 2144Z/7 U-Boat making WW message estimated within 100 miles of 55° 00' N., 020° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 080030B to Forces 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, E.Gs. 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, PRIMROSE.)
By D/F on 3795 k/cs at 2300Z/7 U/B making Enigma message fixed within 75 miles of 53° 00' N., 23° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C., 080136B to Forces 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, E.Gs. 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, PRIMROSE.)

D/F of Enigma message on 4425 k/cs at 0440Z gives fix within 60 miles of 53° 20' N., 23° 30' W. This may be from same U-Boat as that referred to in A.M. 080136B.

(D.D.I.C., 080811B to Forces 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, E.Gs. 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, PRIMROSE.)

It is appreciated that there are probably several U-Boats operating in the North West Approaches. The policy is to give close support to all convoys passing in and out.

(2) The above does not prevent a small striking force being sent to deal with a sighting or contact by aircraft provided the aircraft's report is considered reliable and the distance is not too great.

(3) Widespread searches should not be carried out except during the blank periods between passage of convoys.

(4) U-Boats may bottom when being hunted. Therefore after pin-pointing the U-Boat A/S forces must remain on the spot to the limit of the U-Boat's air endurance i.e. up to 72 hours.

(C. in C. W.A., 081320B to Force 33.)

A.245, 8th Sept. the following instructions are to be brought into force with effect from 1200B/11th Sept.

(2) Subject to Stipple requirements A/U operations in the areas of Cape Wrath, The North Channel, and the St. Georges and Bristol Channels are to take priority over all other A/U operations.

(3) All air operations including offensive hunts and convoy protection in the area bounded on the north by the line Cape Wrath to Cape Portland 63° 30' N., 19 W. and on the south by boundary described in Admiralty signal 021511B are to be under the operational control of A.O.C. 15 Group who will have first call on the aircraft of 18 and 19 Groups for this purpose.

8.9.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

A/S operations in N.W. and W. Approaches. (Contd.)

(4) A.O.C. 18 and 19 Groups are therefore to regard the provision of aircraft to fulfil 15 Group's requirements as their primary commitments.

(5) Aircraft of 18 and 19 Groups not required by A.O.C. 15 Group are to be employed on offensive hunts in their respective areas. All groups are to cover probability areas within their own boundaries in accordance with normal practice.

(6) A.O.C. 15 Group is to state his requirements daily direct to 18 and 19 Groups repeated H.Q. Coastal Command for the following day's operations.

(H.Q.C.C., 081720B to 15, 18, 19, 106 Groups.)

A.246, 8th September reference H.Q. Coastal Cmd. signal A.245, 8th September addition to para. (3) begins. With the exception that the hunting of U-Boats on passage through the northern transit area will remain the responsibility of the A.O.C. 18 Group as defined in Coastal Command directive TS/134 dated 10th August 1944.

(H.Q.C.C., 082130B to 15, 18, 19 Groups.)

Following doubtful sighting of periscope at 1640 contact obtained and attacked by FOWEY and ORANGEVILLE in position 105° GG 15. Have left 3 ships still in contact to continue hunt and remain in vicinity until further orders. Consider it possible that this is a submarine but not certain.

(Force 32, 082135B to C. in C. W.A.)

Biscay area. Proceed at asdic sweeping speed to join E.G.14 in approx. 048° 09' N., 010° 20' W.

(2) Shift to BN at 2359/8th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081506B to RESTIGOUCHE.)

Carry out Operation "Assault".

(A) Force 26, HAIDA (S.O.), URANIA.

(B) 2000B/8th September.

(C) As requisite to pass west of Ushant and westward of Force 27 a.m./9th September (my 061727B refers).

(D) After passing 48° N. proceed to patrol between Penmarch Point and Arcachon, communicate with Ile d'Yeu and les Sables d'Olonne during patrol.

(F) "Groom".

(G) MINNA may be met on passage from Benodet to Dartmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081312B to HAIDA, URANIA.)

Landed Ile d'Yeu and embarked 3 German P.O.W. 2 of whom are wounded. Small arms supplies. French signal station N.E. point de la Tranche now established constant communication by light.

(2) Closed St. Gille-sur-Vie contacted F.F.I. and supplies small arms. This town now free of German and coastal road to Salbes d'Olonne open.

(3) Landed Sables d'Olonne where situation unchanged no one awaiting passage.

(4) 6,000 Germans still menacing local population inland between St. Nazaire and La Rochelle.

(BLYSKAWICA, 081948B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Channel.

Immediately the coast is captured and routes can be swept it is desired to lay cables as follows:

(A) Two cables from St. Margaret's Bay to Sangatte (802776).

/(B) ...

8.9.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

Channel. (B) One cable from Abbotscliff to Gris Nez
(Contd.) (693702).
(2) Request A.C. Dover will arrange for the necessary minesweeping to be carried out, and for the cables to be laid using ALERT and MONARCH for 1(A) and ST. MARGARETS for 1(B). Cables in 1(A) should be laid simultaneously.
(3) To reduce minesweeping it is suggested that route for 1(A) should coincide as far as possible with Dover/Calais channel proposed in A.C. Dover's O51657 not to all.
(4) Admiralty is requested to make the ships and cable barges NORMAN and LESLIE available. If ARIEL has completed number 6 lay and reloaded in time she should relieve ST. MARGARETS who can then be released for service in another theatre provided ARIEL is not required to relieve ALERT for repair work in the Portsmouth Command.
(5) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail EMPIRE FLAMINIAN to Dover as convenient.
(6) F.O.B.A.A. is requested to inform A.C. Dover of any changes required by Army Group and when far shore ends can be received.
(A.N.C.X.F., 081222 to Admty., A.C. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.B.A.A.)
C.F.M.U.1 arrived Brussels awaiting fall of Ostend or some suitable port. Communication through N.O.I.C. Antwerp.
(C.F.M.U.1, 081800 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Norway. Three merchant ships with three escorts in position 059° 12' N., 005° 05' E. at 0828B, course south, speed five knots.
(F.O.(S), 081047B to S/Ms. operating north of 51° N.)

A.C. 542, 8th September.
F.O.(S) has been consulted and agrees that by day U-Boats which are escorted by surface craft or form part of a convoy may be attacked provided such escort or convoy is within visibility distance of the Norwegian coast even though a total submarine bombing restriction is in force covering the area. This is on the express understanding that the sortie or sorties are carefully briefed as to the position of own submarine and that F.O.(S) shall have been previously informed of the intention in sufficient time to warn the submarine concerned by W/T.
(H.Q.C.C., 081850B to Admty., F.O.(S))

North Request Russian submarines keep to eastward of 25°
Russia. E. for the present.
(2) S.B.N.O. North Russia 070837 refers.
(C. in C. H.F., 081157B to Admty.)

Operation Request you will reply to S.H.A.E.F. Forward's
"Nestegg". 071745 which is being passed to Admty.
(A.N.C.X.F., 081158 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.

8.9.1944.

Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Victual". J.W.60 (1) W.A. Escort will be E.G.7 comprising CYGNET, KEPPEL, BULLDOG, WHITEHALL, ALINGTON CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE.
 (2) S.O. Cdr. Thorold in CYGNET.
 (3) Convoy is due to sail from Loch Ewe Sept. 15th (C. in C. W.A. 081307B to C. in C. H.F. etc.)

J.W.60. N.C.S.O. Clyde 041549 not to all addressees.
 (1) Convoy will proceed Clyde to Loch Ewe on Sept. 12th.
 (2) Escort (a) ALINGTON CASTLE from Clyde.
 (b) BULLEN from Liverpool and LOCH DUNVEGAN from Londonderry to join in position 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1600B/12th.
 (3) S.O. LOCH DUNVEGAN.
 (4) On completion of escort (a) ALINGTON CASTLE remain at Loch Ewe (b) LOCH DUNVEGAN, BULLEN proceed to Greenock.
 (C. in C. W.A. 081309B to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

J.W.60. Request rescue ship ZAMBLEK be sailed with special convoy from Clyde. C. in C. W.A. 021511B and N.C.S.O. Clyde 041549B refers.
 (D.T.D. 081542B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Razor my 070930B. HITRA and HESSA returned at 1725 today 8th September.
 (2) Operation successful.
 (A.C.O.S. 081755B to Admty.)

Support groups A.M. 050316 para. 4. to be maintained by C. in C. W.A. in Plymouth Command. From 1200B Monday September 11th C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to maintain two support groups in the Plymouth Command arranging to relieve these groups as necessary for training and layover. One group at least should consist of frigates or destroyers.
 (A.C.N.S.(H) 082004B to Cs. in C. W.A. Plymouth.)

Allied Air Activity.

Attack small vessels off The Hook. P.C. and S. 4 E-Boats 2 small craft 52° 05' N. 04° 05' E. fixed by pinpoint within 1/2 hour 2300 030° 15 knots. Have attacked enemy with bombs level.
 (S.O.Q.B. 082320 to 16 Group.)

Mining.

Sweeping in Dover Straits. Ramsgate 8th Sept. Departure M.T.Bs. 439, 440, 442, 443, 444 and 445 in accordance with your 061920 and 061725B.
 (FERVENT 080931B to C. in C. Nore.)

U-Boats.

EMPIRE HERITAGE & PINTO sunk in H.X.F. 305. 3333 and 84 torpedoed. (15th Ship in convoy H.X.F. 305 No T.O.O/8 to Cdre. of convoy H.X.F. 305.)

/H.X.F. 305...

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

EMPIRE H.X.F. 305, attacked in 55.35 N. 07.41 W. at
HERITAGE 0600B/8th, one ship torpedoed.
& PINTO (S.O.C. 5 080622B to C. in C. W.A.)
sunk in My 080622. H.X.F. 305 second ship PINTO rescue
H.X.F. 305. ship torpedoed and sunk in 55.35 N. 07.41 W.
(Contd.) (S.O.C.5 080655B to C. in C.W.A.)
Am carrying out A/S search in the vicinity position
of sinking 055° 31' 30" 007° 41'. 5th E.G.

HESPELER and HUNTSVILLE in company. Rescue trawler is picking
up survivors. 45 78 13 77. Unsuitable.
(S.O.E.G.5 080805B to S.O. Force 33.)
H.X.F. 305. Atlantic convoy instructions 39 para. 4 and 5
(a) 0600B/8th 055° 35' N. 007° 41' W.
(b) one submerged. (c) EMPIRE HERITAGE torpedoed on starboard
hand. (d) EMPIRE HERITAGE pendant 95 PINTO during rescue
operations NORTHERN WAVE reported many survivors. (e) Nil.
(f) HUNTSVILLE, HESPELER, NORTHERN WAVE and Force 33. (g) Nil.
(h) W/R 4570 1174.
(S.O.E.G.C.5 080833B to C. in C. W.A.)
If no contact obtained, U-Boat may have bottomed. 3
escort should continuously search area within 3 miles of torpedoing
until further orders. Employ remainder at your discretion.
(C. in C. W.A. 080925B to Force 33.)
Leave up to 4 ships in immediate vicinity of torpedoing. My
080925 refers. All the remainder of Force 33 are to sweep in
close vicinity of convoy O.N.F. 252 to give support until
crossing 012° W.
(C. in C. W.A. 081148B to Force 33.)
EMPIRE HERITAGE and PINTO torpedoed and sunk 055° 27' N.
008° 01' W. at 0400Z and 0434Z.
(2) Following survivors on board PINTO 40 EMPIRE HERITAGE 46.
Unaccounted 21 and 110 respectively. Ramméd submarine while taking
avoiding action from torpedo damage unknown. Still searching.
Intend proceed Londonderry on completion.
(NORTHERN WAVE 081030Z (081230B) to C. in C. C.N.A. DUNVER.)
My 081030. Survivors from PINTO report sighting 2 sub-
marines in vicinity of wreck.
(NORTHERN WAVE 081040Z (081240B) to C. in C. C.N.A. DUNVER.)
Amend my 081141. AMBUSCADE returning with NORTHERN WAVE
and to fuel.
(S.O. Force 33 081251 to C. in C. W.A.)
Abandoning search proceeding Merville in company AMBUSCADE
E.T.A. 1420Z.
(2) Doctor from the PINTO attending injured 5 cot cases, 4 wal-
king, remaining 77 superficial. Request pilot to Londonderry
be arranged.
(NORTHERN WAVE 081225Z (081425B) to Com. D.W.A. C. in C. W.A.)
Asdic conditions appear reasonable and all possible escape
areas have been swept without result. I have been unable to gain
contact with wrecks and consider U-Boat has bottomed near them.
Escort group 5 less KEMPTHORNE remaining in area. Remainder of
Force 33 supporting O.N.F. 252.
(Force 33 081651B to C. in C. W.A.)
Report from James C. Gibson first officer supported by other
survivors submerged speed of submarine 4 foot periscope showing
was at least 15 knots.
(NORTHERN WAVE 081540Z (081740B) to Admty.)

/S.O....

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

EMPIRE
HERITAGE
& PINTO
sunk in
H.X.F. 305.
(Contd.)

S.O. Force 33's 081651. 5th E.G. commenced searching area at 1907. Wreck probably EMPIRE HERITAGE giving off heavy (?oil) found by asdic in 049° Tory Island Light 24 miles. 2nd wreck probably PINTO 132° 1.25 miles from above. 5478 2086 (unsuitable). 081030B refers. (S.O.E.G.5 082101B to C. in C. W.A.)

A/S tactics. Experience gained in the Channel since D-day has made it clear that the most likely tactics to be adopted by a U-Boat after it has torpedoed a ship are to lie on the bottom until all escort activity has ceased. Request your comments on the following proposed counter-measures.

(2) Action to be taken by escorts when a ship in convoy is torpedoed in waters where U-Boats can bottom. All available escorts in the close vicinity of the torpedoing carry out operation on lines of "Scabbard" (A.G.M. 359 AZ) without delay. A support group, when present, is to take over operation "Scabbard" at a convenient moment, such as on completion of the depth charging of the area or on completion of the initial asdic search of the area. The close escort, when released from "Scabbard," to rejoin the convoy unless otherwise ordered. On completion of item 4(c) of operation "Scabbard" a search to be instituted as follows:-

- (a) Inner Search. (b) Outer Search.
- (3) Inner Search.

A force of at least three escorts, but preferably more, to carry out an A/S patrol to cover effectively an area 6 miles square centred about the position of the torpedoing. This force to patrol the area continuously for a period of up to 48 hours, depth charging every likely contact. The Inner Search is not to be moved without orders from the operating authority which will decide after sifting all information from reports and sightings when the moment is ripe to shift to a new datum point. Apart from locating the U-Boat the function of this force is to flood the area with asdic transmissions, H.E. etc., and thus force the U-Boat to continue its anti-asic tactics of remaining still on the bottom until it is exhausted. Should the U-Boat decide to move away, it must rise off the bottom and get under way, thus giving the asdic a favourable opportunity of picking it up.

(4) Outer Search.

The Outer Search is to be carried out under the directions of the S.O. on the spot and is to be composed of all escorts which the operating authority can make available. This search is to cover the area of the U-Boat's likely furthest-on to within asdic range of the perimeter of the Inner Search. This area will increase as time passes and should, as far as possible, allow for a max. U-Boat escape speed of $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Any likely new datums such as Schnorkel sightings from aircraft are to be followed up by units detached from the outer searching force immediately. Further searches are to be established about these new possible datums at the discretion of the S.O. present, on the lines of the original Inner Search. The operating authority will ultimately decide whether any such new datum is to replace the initial one.

(5)...

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HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

A/S Tactics.
(Contd.)

(5) The operating authority will, during the course of the search, issue tracking appreciations of the most likely movement of the U-Boat to assist the S.O. present in disposing his patrols on the Outer Search.

(6) Aircraft.

The whole area will be flooded with aircraft to prevent the U-Boat from surfacing and making good its escape outside radar range of A/S vessels.

(7) Artichoke.

Request your views whether operation "Artichoke" (A.C.I. 119) is a satisfactory form of search for convoys approaching the North Channel which are formed on a narrow front with long columns (D.A.U.D. 081734B to C. in C. W.A.)

Port "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Antwerp.

Request immediate P.R. of Flushing and River Scheldt for blockships that could block channel to Antwerp and full report by signal.
(A.N.C.X.F. 081012 to Admty.)

Request immediate P.R. of Flushing and River Scheldt for blockships that could block channel to Antwerp.

Full report by signal to be made to A.N.C.X.F. info. Admty.
A.E.A.F., F.O.B.A.A.

(D.D.I.C. 081115B to J.P.R.C. R.A.F. Benson.)

Your 072223B. Following ex Belgian drifters can be released without relief as from 13th Sept.

RENAISSANCE, DE DRIE, GEZUSTERS, LUCIENNE, CHRISTIAN, each manned by R.N.P.S. crews with no officers.

Armament Browning Machine Guns.

(F.O.I.C. London 081830B to Admty.)

Your 671/7517 of 27th August 1944 to C. in C. Nore and my 071752B Sept. neither to all addressees. Belgian M.F.V. JORDEANS is re-allocated to A.N.C.X.F. for harbour duty Antwerp.

(2) Humber is requested to prepare JORDEANS (including fitting light A/A armament as necessary) with all possible speed and report to Admiralty and A.N.C.X.F. date of readiness for crew of six Belgian Merchant Navy personnel which A.N.C.X.F. is requested to supply.

(3) On arrival of crew, vessel to be sailed without delay to Cliffe (River Thames).

(4) Sailings and arrivals to be reported to Admiralty.

(D.S.V.P. 082323B to F.O.I.C. Humber, A.N.C.X.F.)

My 071752B Sept. (not to all addressees). Belgian M.F.V. PHARAILDE is allocated to A.N.C.X.F. for use at Antwerp.

(2) F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to fit light A/S armament, prepare vessel for passage and report to Admiralty and A.N.C.X.F. date of readiness for crew of five Belgian merchant navy personnel which A.N.C.X.F. is requested to supply.

(3) On arrival of crew PHARAILDE to be sailed without delay to Cliffe (River Thames.)

(4) Sailings and arrivals to be reported to Admiralty.

(D.S.V.P. 082326B to F.O.I.C. Cardiff, A.N.C.X.F.)

/Boulogne...

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities - Contd.

Boulogne. Message from V.A. Dover T.O.O. 051657B. Request I may be informed of proposed approach channel to Boulogne from position Cap Gris Nez 270° 2 miles in accordance with A.N.C.X.F.'s 291232B para. 3 so plan can be prepared for initial clearance and subsequent maintenance. Request similar details approach channel for Calais. Suggest representation of local M/S forces should be up to 20 fathom line in both cases.
(Capt. M/S Seine 081145B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Passages between Newhaven & Dieppe. A.N.C.X.F. 061806B para. 2. Intend to sail coasters bound Dieppe from Wight area unescorted by inshore route to Newhaven.
(2) Com. Southend is requested to sail coasters bound Dieppe in E.T.C. convoy to Newhaven.
(3) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail W.D.C. convoy daily from Newhaven to arrive at Dieppe 3 hours before daylight H.W. and to promulgate weekly list of sailings in advance to all concerned.
(4) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is to escort W.D.C. convoy with one A/S trawler of those now at Dieppe. Escort will return with empty coasters from Dieppe to Newhaven. Coasters proceeding to Wight unescorted or included in P.T.C. convoy. Trawlers will be relieved at regular intervals from Portsmouth.
(5) In the event of bad weather making convoy assembly off Newhaven undesirable Wight section will be sailed to R/V with Newhaven section at C2A Buoy.
(6) Convoy W.D.C. 5 will sail from Newhaven on 10th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 081632B to N.O.I.C. Dieppe, N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

War Diary.

8.9.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Ships
joining
S.L/M.K.S.
convoys from
Lisbon.

S.L. /M.K.S. convoys. In view of more easterly routing request consideration be given to ships from Lisbon joining direct at sea instead of proceeding to Gibraltar. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 081233B to F.O.G.M.A.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Diversion order.
(D.O.D.(H) 081912B to NIEUW AMSTERDAM.)

South Atlantic.

Escort
carriers
working up.

Your 501135 August not to F.O.C.T. The escort carriers concerned are those which will be sent to embark and work up the Hellcat Squadrons to be formed at Wingfield.

(2) It is intended that these ships shall carry out a preliminary work-up of the ship under F.O.C.T. before leaving U.K. On arrival in South Africa it will then be necessary for them to complete the working up of their squadrons in carrier operations before proceeding to the Eastern Fleet.

(3) The first ship is expected to arrive early December and will bring any relevant orders on the subject which have been issued by F.O.C.T. It would be of great value if other appropriate orders could be obtained from C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

(4) It is not yet possible to give a firm programme for these ships until their completion dates are known, but as far as possible it will be matched with the completion of working up of their squadrons and it is unlikely that more than one will be in South Africa at a time.

(5) THANE should be sailed for U.S.A. to load with aircraft for ferrying to the U.K.

(D.N.A.O. 081823B to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

PIPINOS. Unable to dive P.C. and S. 035° 57' 025° 15' 119° 10 acknowledge.
 (PIPINOS 080135B to Capt. (S) 1, F.O.L.E.M.)
 Adjust speed to pass the following positions at the times indicated (A) 035° 02' N. 026° 43' E. at 1200/8th.
 (B) 034° 28' N. 026° 40' E. at 1600/8th.
 (C) 034° 18' N. 024° 01' E. at 0640/9th.
 (D) 035° 48' N. 016° 27' E. at 0040/11th.
 (E) 035° 49' N. 015° 18' E. at 0700/11th.

If you are able to dive between long. 024° and 020° E. you should do so report the fact first.

It is estimated that your S.O.A. will be 9 knots.

(Capt. (S) 1 080346 to PIPINOS, (R) M.A.C.A.F. Air H.Q. Malta, F.O.L.E.M. V.A.M., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.H.Q. Eastern Med.)

Am proceeding on surface in accordance with your 080304 (corrupt group) to (corrupt group) hull (incomplete group) conning tower forcing damage caused by gunfire no casualties.

(PIPINOS 080639B to Capt. (S) 1.)

Your 080639. Proceed at your discretion through position ordered in my 080346.

(2) Report your position by immediate signal at dusk today.

(Capt. (S) 1 080805 to PIPINOS.)

(P.71) PIPINOS is damaged and may be up to 9 hours late at position (A) (B) and (C) in my 080346 she is only capable shallow dives.

(Capt. (S) 1 080816 to F.O.L.E.M., V.A.M., R.A. Alexandria, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.H.Q.E. Med. A.H.Q. Malta, M.A.C.A.F.

(R) P.71 (PIPINOS))

Estimate PIPINOS in 034° 22' N. 025° 02' W. at 0140/9th course 265° speed 9.

(2) Estimate M.L. 842 passing same position at ?2030/8th northbound and at 0330/9th southbound speed 15.

(3) Time C.

(F.O.L.E.M. 081216 to PIPINOS, M.L. 842.)

Amend times of passing positions in my 080346 as follows

(C) at 0515B/9th (D) at 2330. (B) 11th. (E) at 0540B/12th to R/V with ?459.

(2) You are to dive by day between longs. 020° and 024° making good 102 miles per day speed on surface west of 020° E. is estimated at 9½ knots.

(3) You may encounter P.75 at 0802B/9th.

(Capt. (S) 1 082104B to PIPINOS.)

Route for
Greek relief
vessels.

V.A.M. 071521 (A) no objections.

(F.O.T.A.L.I. 080927 to C. in C. Med.)

A.M. 070207 to V.A.M. No objection.

(C. in C. Med. 081104B to Admty.)

EASTON,
VORACIOUS.

N.O.I.C. Alexandria requested to sail EASTON

p.m. 8th at 20 knots toward 34.40 N. 22 E.

(2) Intention. To R/V and escort VORACIOUS on the surface as far as long. 27.20 E.

(3) Reason. Surface force under F.O.E.C.

operating south of Crete.

(4) Capt. (S) 1 signal R/V and route orders to EASTON (R) F.O.E.C.

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.EASTON,
VORACIOUS.
(Contd.)

(5) Capt. (S) 1 enter VORACIOUS through Scarpanto Straits.

(6) On crossing long. 27.20 E. EASTON return Alexandria. Report P.C. and S. and E.T.A. when crossing lat. 34 N.

(7) EASTON codeword "Gabardine" Conshore.

(F.O.L.E.M. 080952C to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Capt.

(S) 1, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.E.C. Capt. (F) Levant destroyers, EASTON.)

Orders to sail as F.O.L.E.M. 080952.

(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 081125C to EASTON.)

VORACIOUS and EASTON R/V in 034° 45' 021° 42' at 1500B/9th.

(2) EASTON then escort VORACIOUS through 034° 06' 024° 01' to 034° 09' 027° 20' speed 9½ knots.

(3) From 034° 09' 027° 20' about 2102B/10th VORACIOUS proceed independently to position 035° 03' 027° 29' thence through Scarpanto Strait EASTON proceed as previously ordered.

(Capt. (S) 1 081334B to VORACIOUS, EASTON.)

UNSWERVING.

Leave patrol about 2202B/8th passing east of Pondiko Nisi to arrive 035° 42' 022° 30' at dawn 10th.

(Capt. (S) 1 080956 to UNSWERVING.)

Special
operations,
Sitrep No. 7

(Extract.) (2) Recently reported successes against Danube shipping all took place in daylight. Enemy traffic is confined to the left bank to obtain shelter from Partisan fire and this has meant a cessation of oil traffic as the water is too shallow for oil barges.

(H.Q. Balkan Air Force No T.O.O/8.)

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

(Extract.) (3) Aegean shipping summary. Ph. R. 7 September revealed following - Niseros. Reliable source reports garrison being evacuated. Comment. If correct probably to Rhodes. Peloponnese. Kalamata. West quay partly demolished by blowing of mines. Gythion. Quays prepared for demolition.

Movements plus preparations for demolition seen on landing ground indicate Paros also being thinned out.

Mityleni and Chios. Not covered but C.K. reports food supplies still arriving Mityleni by caique 5 Sept. On other hand stores being moved to quayside 5/6 Sept. suggesting thinning out envisaged.

General. Regular Shuttle Service now operating Piraeus - Salonika.

Air transport 7 Sept. Considerable activity (possibly escorted) last light and after dark sixteen or more Ju.52s landed Athens from Rhodes 1600/1800 hours. Ten other Ju.52s landed Athens from probably Crete or Rhodes. Activity continued to midnight. (C. in C. M.E. 081340C.)

/Operation...

8.9.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Manna".
 ? *reoccupation of Greece*
 Loadings.
 (P.S.T.O. Med. 081442B to P.S.T.O. M.E.)

Restoration of submarine cables. Concerning French cables as set forth in C. in C. Med. 301702B* of 30 August (signed Eisenhower) concurrence is given to proposed recommendation, vide that French cable ship ALSACE repair French cable Dakar to Brest and that alternate (?alternative intended) cables between North Africa and France will defer repair of Casablanca to Brest cable until cessation of hostilities.
 (S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. 081530B to Admty.)
 * French pressing for restoration of submarine cables.

Torpedoes. (Technical.)
 (S.1 081658.)

JEANNE D'ARC Party is not to sail. Your 081050 A.N.C.X.F. French Admty. 07(16?)28 cancels his 0710?(38). Admty. pass officials. A.N.C.X.F. and S.H.A.E.F. forward.
 (C. in C. Med. 081932B to F.O.W. Med.)

Force 120. Add BLACK PRINCE to ships in my 311155.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 081942.)

Situation report No. 428. F.S. MONTCALM, F.S. LE MALIN and U.S.S. LUDLOW gave fire support in Mentone area on 5th Sept. against battery emplacements and troop movements some return fire no damage.
 Nice harbour was swept and 2 mines exploded. Controlled minefields rendered safe. The first liberty ship berthed at Toulon.
 (2) LOYAL and SCARAB bombarded gun positions near Rimini on 7th Sept. Result unobserved due to low visibility. No return fire.
 (3) VOX reports destroying 30 ton caique by gunfire north of (?Crete) on 31st August.
 (4) VIGOROUS reports attacking convoy 4 large caique and an R-Boat north of Crete and estimate one caique possibly 2 sunk.
 (5) PIPINOS reported torpedo (K.T.?) ship north of Crete on 6th Sept. R/C did not (substantiate) this claim.
 (C. in C. Med. 082132B.)

Operation "Belligerent" Operation "Belligerent" cancelled.
 (2) From a position 034° 28' 026° 40' at 0030B/10th proceed at 9½ knots to arrive in 035° 03' 027° 29' about 0610B/10th.
 (Capt. (S) 1 082305B to VIRTUE, (R) F.O.L.E.M. V.A.M., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, C.F.B. 1st S/M F. S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.H.Q. E. Med.)

8.9.1944.

Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Navsitintrep 24. (W.D. Note. No copy of Navsitintrep 23 (which should have been dated 7th Sept.) has been seen by W.D. War Registry state they are unable to supply.)

C.R. 1386.

"Dragoon". Period ending 2400/7...Right flank.

EMILE BERTIN 114 rds. at vehicle troop concentration west of Sospel. Pillbox at Cenrillon obtaining 1 direct hit. LUDLOW 179 rds. troop concentrations. All using S.F.C.P. S.F.O.N. with excellent results reported. MADISON and H.P.Ts. relieved LE MALIN, LUDLOW 1500. DUGUAY TROUIN standby at St. Tropez. G.S. D.D.S. 5 miles south Cap Arreglio attacked by explosive boats between 2350 and 0110/8. MADISON and HILLIARY P. JONES each sighted and avoided 1 direct attack. Engaged Control Boat which escaped. 1 explosive boat destroyed. P.T. screen on-shore destroyed 4 additional boats and 1 probable. Minesweeping. Marseilles Harbour. Y.M.S. detonated 3 magnetic mines in Port Vieux. 1 magnetic detonated Avant Port Nord and 1 detonated in Bassin de Jaliotte. Total 24. Influence 20 contact swept Loufate. Toulon. 1 contact mine detonated in harbour. Controlled minefield rendered safe 6 mines detonated 36 duds to date. Field consisted double row 84 mines with 2 connected each lead.

Port Cros. A 50 yard channel on north side and 600 yard between Ile de Bagau and Ile Port Cros was swept into Port Cros Harbour detonating 7 mines. Channel to be used to remove air force radar equipment for return to mainland. De Bouc. 14 L.C.M. returned from Arles having completed ferrying service of French forces across Rhone. Unloading. Over the beaches 2526 personnel 162 vehicles 6318 tons.

At Marseilles. 160 vehicles 615 tons.

(N.C.W.T.F. 082316B.)

8.9.1944.

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

U/B in Gulf of St. Lawrence. One submarine on surface bearing 285° distance 0.5 position 48.18 N. 62.40 W. (NORSYD 080105Z to Halifax W/T.) U-Boat attacked by gunfire by NORSYD position at 2200Z 048° 35' N. 062° 46' W. (NORSYD 080110Z to Admty.)

Following intercepted by Gaspé W/T from NORSYD U-Boat attacked by gunfire in 048° 35' N. 062° 46' W. at 0110Z/8th. (C. in C. C.N.A. 080233Z to G.B. 7A, (R) Connav, Admty. A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Cdre. (D) W.A. H.Q.C.C.) (W.D.Note. The above position is not the position where the U-Boat was attacked but is NORSYD's 2200Z position (vide her 080110Z.) The U-Boat was attacked within 5 minutes' steaming of 48.18 N. 62.40 W. (vide NORSYD's 080105Z.))

Sighted one submarine on surface at 0102Z/8th. My position 048° 38' 062° 40' illuminated with starshell. Submarine dived lost (?shadow) classified as torpedo. Carrying out box sweep (100%) in vicinity.

(NORSYD 080148Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

At 0102Z/8th H.M.C.S. NORSYD sighted U-Boat on surface in 48.38 N. 62.40 west and attacked with gunfire. Submarine dived and contact lost. Hunt being continued.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 080559Z to C.T.G. 22.3, C.E.S.F.)

Position at 2300Z 48.57 N. 63.31 W. course 310 speed 10.5 intend searching Gaspé passage between 62.30 W. and 65 W. until further advise of enemy position. NORSYD and KING HAARON VII in company. Weather report.

(E.G.16 082339Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

Convoy O.N.F. 250. 51 ships arrived New York 7th Sept. (P.D. New York 080122Z.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attacke & sighting summary. Para. (B) H.M.C.ship sights and attacks U-Boat at 0110Z/8th in 48.38 N. 62.40 W. H.E. classified as torpedo. (N.S.H.Q. 080757Z.)

CORE's group. CORE escorted by MOORE, SLOAT, KEITH J, IG RICHARD WARD and OTTERSTETTER E.T.A. lat. 46.20 N. long. 53.10 W. 100018Z.

Group requires total of S.7500 barrels fuel oil 14000 barrels diesel upon arrival Argentia 101000Z. 081200Z position lat. 49.41 N. 41.35 W. course 250, speed 14. (C.T.G. 22.4 081155Z to N.S.S. pass to C.T.F. 24 for action.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 081429Z, Cominch 081606Z.)

Revised route- ing for Eire ships. Concur your 061853B. (N.S.H.Q. 081435Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

8.9.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- U.C. 37. Presenters estimated total 62 ships comprising 24 U.S. tankers, 7 U.S. troopers, 24 U.S. dry cargo, 2 British tankers, 1 British trooper and 3 British and 1 Allied dry cargo. Request you will indicate top limit.
(D.T.D. 081846B to Connav.)
- SS. HORACE BINNEY. SS. HORACE BINNEY is scheduled to sail in convoy U.G.S. 54 for Santa Maria Azores for discharge and return in first appropriate G.U.S. convoy. Request you will arrange A/S protection for ship while in Azores waters.
(Cominch 082012Z to Admty.)
- Employment of escort carriers in war against Japan. Employment of escort carriers in war against Japan. Admiral King would appreciate as early reply as possible to my 281501 which would be helpful to him in the planning on which he is now engaged.
(B.A.D. 082031Z to Admty.)
- Stragglers report No. 67. One arrival Halifax from H.X.F. 305. JAMES B. MILLER (U.S.) August 31 damaged hull due to shifting cargo. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.F. 250. JOSEPH R. LAMAR (U.S.) Sept. 3rd. Unable to maintain convoy speed.
(N.S.H.Q. 082038Z.)
- C.U. 37. Convoy in position 49° 30' N. 06° 47' W. at 1115Z/6th. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 082250B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

- S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. (A) Unknown ship torpedoed and rescue ship I PINTO torpedoed and sunk both ex H.X.F. 305, at 0404Z/8 in 55° 35' N. 07° 41' W.
Para. (B) (1) A/C sighted suspicious smoke at 1407Z/7 in 55° 32' N. 08° 16' W.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2130Z/5 in 09° 16' N. 19° 52' W.
(D.D.I.C. 081110B.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 081356B, 081409B.)

War Diary9.9.1944
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperation "Neptune" (D + 95 day).

General.

1(a) Juno beaches are now closed down, and the French coast from Port en Bessin to Dives (approx. the original British Assault Area) is now to be known as the East Calvados Area. All shipping control in this area is now concentrated in N.O.I.C. Arromanches.

(b) St. Brieuc harbour, in the Gulf of St. Malo, will be opened on Sept. 11th available for 5 coasters at a time, drawing 14 ft.

(c) Paimpol is also being brought into use.

(d) Shipping other than personnel ships from the U.S. Assault Area bound for the Isle of Wight area and Portland will now proceed independently.

General

North Russia.

2. The 3rd Group of M.Ls. that we are turning over to the Russians are to sail in Convoy J.W.60. They will fuel from tankers on passage.

U-Boat sunk
off
Inistrahull.

*U. 743 sunk
HXF 305*

3. No certain results accrued from Force 33's hunt for the U-Boat, supposedly damaged by NORTHERN WAVE, which sank EMPIRE HERITAGE and PINTO yesterday, but contact was made further west by PORCHESTER CASTLE with a U-Boat which she blew to the surface and engaged with gunfire and depth charges. Human flesh and wood panelling and a metal compressed air bottle were recovered, and this U-Boat is regarded as sunk.

Channel.

4(a) From Sept. 12th Dieppe will be able to accommodate 14 ships to to 17 ft. draught. One magnetic mine was swept West of Dieppe.

(b) Hostile shore batteries fired 22 ineffective rounds towards South Foreland and Deal. We did not answer for fear of hitting our own troops.

West Coast
France.

5(a) LONDONDERRY reports attempted German landings on Ushant on the 6th and 7th and that a mine barrage exists at the entrance to the River Abernoit.

(b) HAIDA reports Noirmoutier evacuated by the Germans on the 4th after destruction of all batteries.

(c) 3 U.S. Jeeps had visited la Roche sur Yon from Nantes.

(d) Brest was bombed by 77 A/C dropping 104 500 lbs bombs.

9.9.1944

Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dragoon".

6(a) The U.S. destroyers HILARY P. JONES and MADISON aided in successfully breaking up counter attacks to-day and in delivering harassing fire against flak wagons, machine gun nests and mortars. The French cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN fired 85 rounds at 8 batteries at Bordighera whilst covering minesweepers.

(b) Minesweeping in Marseilles harbour and Toulon continues. N.C.W.T.F. in CATOCTIN has proceeded to Toulon and moored in the inner harbour. Nice Harbour and Channel were declared safe.

(c) Task Force 87 (Camel Support Force) was dissolved at 0000 and was absorbed in T.F.85 (Delta support Force) with the exception of BAYFIELD (U.S. Commodore i/c) who departed to Naples with staff embarked. At 1300 unloading over Alpha beaches was completed and T.F.84 was re-assigned to other Forces.

7. Coastal Air Force searched for human torpedoes off Mentone and attacked Argostolion harbour and a ship at Sestri Levante.

Adriatic.

8. URCHIN and APHIS carried out bombardments of an ammunition dump, battery and road junction in the Rimini area to-day, obtaining direct hits. URCHIN was near missed, but no damage resulted.

Force 120.

9. F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with SEARCHER, KHEDIVE, PURSUER and HUNTER sailed from Alexandria to-day for operations south of Crete and in the Aegean.

East Indies

U-Boat
sinkings.

10. SS. RADBURY and SS. NARIRUNG, overdue at Kilindini and Dar es Salaam since 20th and 21st August respectively (see 23 August) must now be assumed to be casualties. At present there is no information of survivors.

9.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

China

Enemy
Destroyer
Sunk.

11. 3 Liberators operating from China last night sank a 400 ft. destroyer south-east of Hongkong.

America and West Indies

U.C.37

12. Cominch has approved a top limit of about 65 ships for Convoy U.C.37, on the understanding that the Admiralty will augment the escort sufficiently to provide adequate protection in the danger areas under their control.

Australia and New Zealand

13. Early to-day a Navy Catalina located and attacked a large tanker and 7 merchantmen with escorts and barges all anchored around Basilan Island in the northern part of the Sulu Archipelago. Direct hits on the tanker caused explosion followed by intense fire, and the vessel is considered to have been destroyed.

War Diary9.9.1944
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 95)Situation Report

Air. 43 Lightnings and 34 Thunderbolts on Brest gun position 104 by 500 G.P. poor to excellent. 311 Lancasters, 30 Mosquitoes 3 Stirlings on Le Havre 1531 tons. Good.
(Air Chief Marshal, Leigh Mallory No T.O.O. to S.H.A.E.F.)

Port Facilities

Cherbourg Employment of ferry tenders at Cherbourg for personnel unloading not considered desirable and practicable. Intend to return FRESHWATER, AMBASSADOR and PRINCESS ELIZABETH to U.K.
(C.T.F.125, 091331B to A.N.C.X.F.)

St. Brieuc. For information concerning harbour at St. Brieuc. (Baie de St. Malo).
(1) Harbour to be opened 11th Sept. for Coasters drying out. (2) Harbour available for 5 coasters 14 feet craft. (3) Route: H 10 buoy to all positions N. & W. unless indicated A. 049 degs. 54' 002 degs. 01' 30" to B. 049 degs. 54' 002 degs. 17 mins. to C. 049 degs. 28' 003 degs. 16' to Z. 049 degs. 02' 003 degs. 00' to L. 048 degs. 56' 9" 002 degs. 46' 30" thence 167 degs. to M. 238 degs. Rohein light 1.75 miles. Channel $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, danned at 1 mile intervals on centre line.
(4) Pilot will board in vicinity of dan buoy in position 048 degs. 35' N. 002 degs. 40' W.
(C.T.F. 125, 091501B to A.N.C.X.F.)
Navwest 27 new swept channel established in approach to St. Brieuc centre line of channel width 5 cables either side centre line runs in a 119 $\frac{1}{2}$ degs direction from point Red, 049 degs. close ash 02' N. 003 degs. 00' W. to point L, 048 degs. 56' 9" N. 002 degs. 46.5' W. thence 167 degs. passing in through point M, located 238 degs. 1.75 miles S. from Rohein Light, thence 191 degs. to the 1 fathom line. Dan buoys placed along centre line at 1 mile intervals from point L to the shore, anchorage has been swept south of latitude 048 degs. 37' N. & W. of long. 002 degs. 37.8' W. extending to the 1 fathom line.
(C.T.F.125, 092025B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Paimpol. Channel established into Paimpol width 1/2 miles, centre line joining the following positions 048 degs. 46.6 002 degs. 42.6 (?)' W. and 048 degs. 44.8' N. 002 degs. 54.6' W. thence 27 course 337 degs. for Inner Approach, then requisite to Harbour. Request promulgated Q message.
(C.T.F.125, 092025B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Morlaix. Operation completed. Submit KIRRIEMOOR, CHINA-BERRY and CATCLAW remain Morlaix to complete moorings for L.C.T.(I)'s. BAROVA and SONNET returning Portsmouth.
(KIRRIEMOOR, 091810B to C.T.G.125, C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Le Havre. Concur in Capt. M/S Seine 081625.
(2) C.T.F.125 has been informed.
(A.N.C.X.F. 091818 to F.O.B.A.A.)
Arromanches /...

War Diary

9.9.1944
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 95)

Port Facilities

Arromanches. Phoenix B 2/105 arrived in a sinking condition. Unit could not be planted owing to weather and has been beached in 1½ fathoms West of Mulberry. (N.O.I.C. Arrow, 091954B to Ramp, M.P.5.)

Shipping and Convoys

Sailings from W.A.A. C.T.F.125's 061905 intend that shipping other than personnel ships from U.S. Assault Area bound for Isle of Wight area and Portland shall proceed independently as follows:-
A. Coasters. (1) For Isle of Wight - to return independently from beaches by Channel 14 and Cherbourg by Howe Channel and Needles.
(2) Those destined for the westward both from beaches and from Cherbourg to be sailed in organised F.B.C. convoys from Cherbourg, coasters after unloading at beaches to proceed independently to Cherbourg to join convoy. Escorts to start from Cherbourg.
B. M/T Ships. To return to Isle of Wight area independently, those from the beaches by Channel 14, those from Cherbourg by Howe Channel to A.3 buoy and thence by Q.Z.S.552.
C. Store ships. (1) Those bound for Southampton - as for M/S ships. (2) Those bound for west coast ports to join F.B.C. convoys at Cherbourg. (3) Those bound for Thames and east coast port as for M/T ships as far as St. Helens and thence in F.T.M. convoys.
(2) It is an essential condition that C.T.F.125 shall be ready to re-institute the convoy system for these ships at very short notice if the U-Boat situation requires it.
(3) It is considered undesirable for ships to burn dimmed navigation lights except in emergency.
(4) C. in C. Portsmouth concurs in above proposals.
(A.N.C.X.F. 090934B to Admty)

Administration and Organisation

Requirements of L.C.T. in B.A.A. and W.A.A. My 312126 and A.N.C.X.F's 011908. Neither to all. Army now agree to the return of these craft to U.K. provided that these or other 12 L.C.T(5) are immediately available on call in U.K.
(2) Intend, therefore, to sail following L.C.T.(5) to U.K. as soon as possible, loaded with L.C.M. from Juno area - L.C.T(5) Nos. 2453, 2044, 2226, 2272, 2292, 2477, 2005, 2338, 2427, 3628, 2232, 2270.
(3) Craft will be under the command of Flotilla Officer 102 Flotillas and maintenance party will sail with them.
(4) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to keep these 12 craft or 12 refitted available on immediate call. A.N.C.X.F's 031625 and a.m. 060051 neither to all refer.
(F.O.B.A.A.091233B to A.N.C.X.F. C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C.Juno)

Closing /...

War Diary

9.9.1944
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 95)
Administration and Organisation

Closing
down of
Juno.
Institution
of "East
Calvados
Area".

Request following may be issued as an A.Z. message
Begins.

Consequent upon the closing down of Juno beaches
the following instructions are to take effect forth-
with.

A. General Instructions. (1) That part of the
French Coast extending from Port En Bessin to Dives
(approximately covering the original British Assault
Area Anchorage) will be known as the "East Calvados
Area".

(2) A ship anchored off Arromanches at the junction of Q.Z.S. 538
and 541 will combine the duties of East Calvados Shipping Control
Vessel and Examination Vessel. Until relieved at the end of
September this ship will be H.M.S. DACRES.

(3) N.O.I.C. Arromanches is the sailing authority for the East
Calvados Area and will make all Northbound convoy sailing signals.
B. Procedure for Escorts. All convoys for East Calvados will
be routed to Arromanches and escorts including M.L's are to report
on arrival to N.O.I.C. Arromanches in accordance with Section C
below.

C. Reporting on Arrival etc. (1) Major War Vessels and all con-
voy escorts arriving shifting berth or leaving the area are to
establish their identity with the P.W.S.S. at Arromanches.

(Latitude 49 degs. 20/5' N. Longitude 00 degs. 37' W.)

(2) If V/S is impracticable reports are to be made by W/T using
Call Signs from S.P. 2573.

(3) When there is more than one ship the Senior Officer is
responsible for reporting names of all ships in company.

(4) Passing instructions need not be included.

(5) All tugs whether rescue or otherwise and salvage and wreck
disposal vessels are to report through Arromanches Examination
Vessel to N.O.I.C. Ends.

(A.N.C.X.F. 091746 to Admty)

War Diary.

9.9.1944.

Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Policy.

Amended boundary between Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands.

As from 1200B/11 the Milford Haven and Cardiff commands will revert to the administration of C. in C. Western Approaches. A.G.M. 398 AZ of 8th September refers. (C. in C. W.A. 090940B to C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. i/c Milford Haven, Cardiff.)

Forward H.Q. in Brussels.

G.O. 137A Secret. Warning order. Exfor Adsec opens Brussels 141200B Sept. Exact location later. All infm. (Exfor Main 091140B to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Bombardment from French coast.

Hostile shore batteries fired 20 rounds at F.T.C. 2 off South Foreland between 0738 and 0756. No damage. Two rounds fired at 1115 burst in the air 3 miles inland from Deal. (A.C. Dover 091931B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK.

A.M. 071607. For 16th read 19th. (D.O.D.(H) 090156B to C. in C. H.F.)

LORD DARLING.

H.M.T. LORD DARLING paid off Thursday 7th Sept. 1944. (F.O.I.C. Humber 090915 to Admty.)

RAJAH & ACTIVITY.

Cancel my 081802 (not to all addressees) and substitute. Intend to sail LOCHY and DEVERON 0800B/10 to Bangor Bay for escort conference thence in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 081658. S.O.A 17 knots E.T.A. Bangor 1600B/10

RAJAH's 081748 (not to all) also refers. Mails as directed by Admiralty.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 091000 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Owing to delay in loading RAJAH due to weather cancel all signals from N.O.I.C. Greenock A.M. 061743 Sept. and C. in C. W.A's 061522 Sept. Intend that force should now assemble at Bangor Bay p.m. (710th) Sept. and be sailed by N.O.I.C. Belfast when RAJAH is ready.

(2) Authorities concerned are requested to sail LOCHY, DEVERON and SWALE accordingly.

(3) ACTIVITY take PELICAN under his orders and comply with above. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 091114B to Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, Com. D.W.A.)

/Admiralty...

War Diary.

9.9.1944.

Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RAJAH &
ACTIVITY.
(Contd.)

Admiralty 021220. Intend sailing RAJAH (S.O.) and ACTIVITY escorted by LOCHY, SWALE, DEVERON & FELICAN at 2000B/10th Sept. routed in accordance with Admty. 061743 S.O.A. 14 knots, E.T.A. Gibraltar 0600B/15th Sept. codeword "Olympus".
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 091928 to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. W.A.)

F.O.S.

The Flag of Rear Admiral Creasy (Rear Admiral Submarines) will be hoisted in UMBRA at 0900 on 12th September and transferred to DOLPHIN on 13th September. The Flag of Rear Admiral Barry will be struck at sunset on 12th September.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 091050B to F.O.S., S.5.)

DESPATCH.

Your 072355. Not to F.O.I.C. Falmouth. Subject to the concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth propose that DESPATCH destore at Devonport and be then towed to Falmouth for laying up in King Harry Reach in charge of civilian ship keepers.
(F.O.C.R.F. 091105 to Admty.)

Ref. F.O.C.R.F. 091105 to Admiralty. DESPATCH can be laid up at King Harry Reach by surrender of mooring berths for 4 L.S.T.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 091613B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

RODNEY.

Intend sailing RODNEY at 1600B/12th Sept. to Scapa in accordance with A.M. 272118B August not to C. in C. W.A. escorted by 3 S class destroyers.
(2) A/S support group will cover movements between Lands End and Lundy Island.
(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange relief escort to take over in vicinity of The Smalls at daylight 13th Sept. and to arrange direct with A.C.O.S. any further onward escort required.
(4) Further details will be signalled.
(C. in C. Plymouth 091313B to A.C.O.S.)
C. in C. Plymouth's 091313 not to all addressees.
(1) FITZROY (S.O.), DEANE, REDMILL are to meet RODNEY off The Smalls at daylight Sept. 13th and escort to Scapa.
(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange R/V.
(3) Escort to Belfast on completion.
(C. in C. W.A. 091911B to N.O.I.C. Belfast, C. in C. Plymouth, A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Western
Approaches.

I would be most grateful if you would sail 3rd E.G. to Moville as soon as possible. They are urgently required for operations in N.W. Approaches.
(2) Request your early concurrence to following additional programme. (a) 9th E.G. to continue to operate under your orders being relieved on 16th Sept. by 1st E.G. and then returning to lay over at Londonderry.
(b) 11th E.G. to continue to operate under your orders being relieved on 22nd Sept. by 6th E.G. and then returning to lay over

/at...

War Diary.

9.9.1944.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Western
Approaches.
(Contd.)

at Londonderry.

(c) To enable 11th E.G. to be given timely relief and to give 6th E.G. a full lay over and short period of training it would be necessary to sail the latter to Londonderry immediately. Your 081533 refers.

(d) From Monday 11th Sept. I intend to employ 14th E.G. in the S.W. Approaches.

(C. in C. W.A. 090007B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

D/F bearings of B barred signal at 2137Z, 2138, and 2152 on 5710 k/cs indicate U-Boat in position between 58° N. to 61° N. 05° 30' W. to 06° W.

(D.D.I.C. 090119B to Force 32, E.G.2 N.O.I.C. Aultbea, R.N.O. Stornoway, Info. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S., Force 33, C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Faroes, E.Gs. 3, 5, 9, 6, 14.)

U-Boat transmitted enigma signal on 4420 k/cs at 0017Z from position 54° N. to 54° 25' N. 16° " to 17° W.

(D.D.I.C. 090320B to E.Gs. 3, 5, 6, 9, 14, 2, Forces 32 & 33, Info. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

You are to be guided by policy laid down in my 081320.

(2) Support following convoys. (A) W.N. 31 S.O. escort ANGLE sails Loch Ewe 2330/9th 8½ knots.

(B) E.N. 32 S.O. escort ARAB crosses 4° 30' W. 0200/10th 8 knots.

(C) U.R. 135 S.O. escort MARIATO sails Loch Ewe 1645/10th 8 knots.

(C. in C. W.A. 091327B to Force 32.)

From 0700B/19th Sept. aircraft controlled by 15 Group operating between 54° N. and 57° N. and 10° W. and 6° 30' W. will temporarily discontinue use of I.F.F. except for distress and homing. Object of this procedure is to decrease possibility of U-Boats detecting aircraft by G.S.R. use of I.F.F. codes 4 and 5 by aircraft will continue as before.

(2) All aircraft in this area are to be treated as friendly unless definitely recognised to be enemy.

(C. in C. W.A. 091424 to Force 33.)

Cdre. (D) W.A. 091103. LONG BRANCH, NENE and HUNTSVILLE R/V as ordered by S.O. E.G.C.5 who is to proceed with C.5 E.G. to search A.3, A.4.

5th E.G. and AMBUSCADE remain in vicinity of 100° BB 51 (?weather report) 63 90 30 02 suitable.

(S.O.E.G.5 091840B to S.O. E.G.C.5, LONG BRANCH.)

Fishing vessels operating in the North Western Approaches are by their mere presence seriously hampering the present anti U-Boat operations and correspondingly aiding the enemy in their serious attack on the vital focal area of the main supply lines to this country.

(2) At night aircraft, and to a lesser extent surface craft, experience great difficulty owing to the numerous contacts on these vessels.

(3) It is requested that immediate consideration may be given to prohibiting for the present all fishing vessels in an area bounded by 54° N. and 57° N. 6° 30' W. and 10° W.

(C. in C. W.A. 091852B to Admty.)

Your 090007 para. 2 concur in principle. It would be more convenient for E.G. 11 to be returned for laying over at Londonderry on relief by E.G.1 on 18th. This would enable E.G.1 to have 48 hours training before sailing.

War Diary.

9.9.1944.

Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.
(Contd.)

(2) E.G.9 would then continue to operate in Plymouth Command until relieved by E.G.6 on 24th Sept.
(3) Intend sailing E.G.6 to Belfast at 1200/10th.
(4) Your para. 4(d) on completion fuelling a.m. 10th intend sailing E.G.14 to patrol in the vicinity Q.Z.3. 565.
(C. in C. Plymouth 092018B to C. in C.W.A.)

1 submarine submerged bearing 054° distance 2 miles course 020° 263° BB 57 miles based on a fix at 2200.
(DUNVER 092234B to C. in C. W.A.)

North Russia. Owing to Home Fleet operations, request Russian submarines be kept to the eastward of 25° E. for the present. C. in C. H.F's 081157 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 090109B to S.B.N.C.N.Russia.)

Spitzbergen. Following for C. in C. Royal Norwegian Force. Patrol S (corrupt group) (?E) A 4th Sept. found place completely burnt down and everything destroyed. Only the mine is O.K.
"Ploughshare" 090900Z to Admty.)

Operation "Victual".

J.W. 60. My 081307. Escorts are to arrive Loch Ewe September 14th in daylight if possible.
(C. in C. W.A. 091057B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Head of Soviet Naval Mission has been informed that 3rd group of Russian M.Ls. are not expected to arrive Londonderry until a.m. Sept. 14th but is most anxious that they should sail in J.W. 60 if practicable. Admty. concurs.
(2) Request you will sail the M.Ls. to Loch Ewe in time to attend convoy conference and arrange for British V/S ratings to take passage in S.Os. ship.
(3) Interpreter will be sent to Loch Ewe for convoy conference.
(4) Arrangements have been made to fuel M.Ls. from tankers during passage of convoy.
(D.O.D.(H) 091942B to Com. (D) W.A.)

Operation "S.C."

Intend to sail "S.C." operation from Scalloway.
(1) a.m. 11th September. (2) 4 days.
(3) 046° Muckle Flugga. (4) Air escort not, especially required on return journey.
(5) My 091112B gives codeword and area.
(A.C.O.S. 091109B to Admty.)
My 091109B. (1) 64° 35' N. 10° 45' E. (2) Ramose Tramp.
(A.C.O.S. 091112B to Admty.)

Biscay area.

P.C.W.O. 120. (A) Force G.P. M.T.Bs. 713 (S.O.) 704. (B) 1330B/9..(C) (PP) 270 Creach Pt. 5 to arrive 2000B/9 thence to (QQ) 230 St. Mathieu 7.4.

/(D)...

9.9.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Biscay area. (D) From (QQ) patrol to cover Channel between Basse Royale and Basse de l'Astrolabe.
(Contd.) (E) Destruction of enemy shipping.
(F) Remain in area during daylight and endeavour to gather intelligence. Force is not to proceed south of 48° N.
- (H) Constant 2300 k/cs - 3 Y.S.X. - Prince.
(2) Attention to Q.Z.X. 1303 and 276.
(3) Repeat patrol on night of 10th/11th September.
(C. in C. Plymouth 091215 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
Landed on Ushant a.m. today Saturday. No enemy on island. V/S communications established in vicinity Creach Point. Arms flour and vegetables required. 2 E-Boats apparently operating from Brest. Written report on arrival E.T.A. Force 27 1630/9th.
(BLYSKAWICA 091311B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Mayor of Ushant has visited me and reports following situation on island.
Germans attempted to land on Wednesday and Thursday night on south coast. Suspect Germans in occupation of Men Tensel Lighthouse. Request M.T.Bs. be ordered to patrol passage Deu Fromveur during dark hours and contact the Mayor in Ushant Harbour for any further information.
(2) F.F.I. report mine barrage at entrance to River Aberbenoit.
(LONDONDERRY 091610B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
My 091215 not to force 26 amend para. 1 to read -
(A) Force G.P. M.T.Bs. 713 (S.O. 704). (C) (PP) 270 Creach Pt. 5.
(QQ) 193 Penmarch Lt. (F.L. Ev. 5 secs.) 10. (RR) 020° Plateau de Birvideaux 3 to arrive about 0200/10.
(D) patrol in vicinity of (RR). (E) Destruction of enemy shipping. (F) Force to be west of 3° 25' W. by first light 10th.
(G) (QQ) and (PP) l'Abervrach. Speed as requisite to conserve fuel.
(C. in C. Plymouth 091653B to Force G.P.)
Following information obtained as a result of the landing on Ushant a.m. today Saturday. My 091311 refers. Germans left Ushant on 29th August and returned to carry out demolitions leaving again on 31st. Twelve are held as prisoners of war by French garrison. Garrison consists of 40 French sailors and 60 volunteer civilians and is commanded by a Lieutenant of French Navy.
Two E-Boats attacked the S.E. coast of the island on 6th August. The lights at St. Mathieu, Basse Royale and Men Tensel were lit just previous to the attack. Island garrison requires S.A. ammunition of American or German manufacture and also guns of a heavier calibre. Current recognition signals for Allied warships required, all ships approaching close at night are engaged by small arms. French technicians are endeavouring to put W/T equipment into service again and desire a wavelength etc. for co-operation with Allies.
(BLYSKAWICA 091840B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Carry out operation "Assault".
(A) Force 28 ASHANTI (S.O.), KELVIN.
(B) 1400B/10th September.
(C) Through (CC) 48° 30' N. 5° 28' W. (FF) 48° 00' N. 5° 35' W.

War Diary.

9.9.1944.

Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay area. (D) From (FF) sweep to south eastward keeping west of Force 26 who will be approaching (BB) (Contd.) 48° 00' N. 5° 21' W. about first light 11th from south east. Force 28 is to close les Sables d'Olonne a.m./11th September and is to land Free French Officers and ammunition. Then to patrol between Belle Ile and Arcachon. Communicate with Ile d'Yeu during patrol.

(F) Links. (H) See A.M. 301808B August and my 061048B (copy to Addressees). Bring ROSTOCK to Plymouth if intercepted. (C. in C. Plymouth 091850B to ASHANTI, KELVIN.)

Landed Ile d'Yeu and les Sables d'Olonne.

Former made contact with Noirmoutier by boat today and reports Germans evacuated Monday 4th September after destroying all batteries.

(2) Latter informed of supply of arms and ammunition and will arrange disembarkation.

(3) 3 U.S. Jeeps reached La Roche sur Yon yesterday from Nantes returning later.

(4) Opas 17. (B) All following positions north and west unless indicated 045° 15' 001° 40'

(C) 046° 10' 002° 10' . 8 figure weather report 73901122.

(S.O. Force 26 092345B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation Foliot 271140, my 301056 and A.M. 292246 (all "Nestegg". August none to all addressees). L.C.T. lift for this operation will be L.C.T.(4) but craft allocated cannot be made available until order to mount operations is given.

In order that military personnel may gain necessary experience in loading into this type of craft permission is requested to retain British L.C.Ts. 521, 733 and 10, in addition to 515 (my 271140 August not to all addressees refers) now completing refit at Plymouth until Saturday 16th September for loading exercises.

(C. in C. Plymouth 091235B to Admty.)

Your 071745 September. A cruiser or destroyer from Plymouth will be nominated. Name will be signalled when date is given.

(2) Estimate ship could leave Cherbourg twelve hours at latest after notice is received at Plymouth.

(3) Proposed R/V is 50° 00' N. 02° 50' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth 091309B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Plymouth
Patrol.

Night 9/10. (1) 6th E.G. Z.236, 9th E.G. north of Z.236 14th E.G. E.T.A. Plymouth 2200B/9th from S.W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 091745B to Admty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

/Channel...

War Diary.9.9.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Channel.

The Nore and Dover patrols night 9/10th Sept.
 (1) CAMPBELL 051° 25' N. 001° 43' E. to 051° 40' N. 001° 47' E. KRAKOWIAK northern boundaries Z.3 and Z.5 BLEASDALE Dungeness east road.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 091817B to Admty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts HD and CN in Area C. C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. i/c Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff.)

Mining.Minefields
in Kattegat.

German minefields Kattegat.
 Following appeared in Swedish notices to Marin(ers) of September 7th copied from German notice.
 On account of mines fishing and passage in area bounded by following points is forbidden:

- (A) 57° 41.4' N. 10° 31.7' E. (B) 57° 39.5' N. 10° 39.5' E.
 (C) 57° 30.3' N. 10° 39.9' E. (D) 57° 26.9' N. 10° 35.8' E.
 (E) 57° 10' 32.8' E. (F) The coast between points A and E.
 (2) See also my 0512.
 (N.A. Stockholm 091209B to D.N.I.)

Comment: This area covers some 40 miles of the east coast of Denmark from the Skan to Hals - varying from 1 to 8 miles from the coast. (w)

Mine swept
west of
Dieppe.

No reports of minelaying negative results from routine sweeping in B.A.A. and central area.
 One magnetic swept to westwards of Dieppe approach channel.
 (Capt. M/3 Seine 092230B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Allied Air Activity.Attacks on
French
harbours.

Allied bombers were sent against 3 resisting harbour defences in France yesterday while fighter bombers continue to harass enemy movements, transport and communications in the Low Countries and western Germany.

Yesterday morning heavy bombers attacked Le Havre, and strong points and gun positions at Brest were targets for fighter bombers. In the evening medium bombers attacked fortifications at Boulogne.

(S.H.A.E.F. 091100B to War Office.)

Attack on
convoy off
Hook.

Nr. 2. Have attacked enemy 4 M.V., 4 escort vessels with bombs result of attack hits probable position 52° 02' N. 04° 03' E.
 (Aircraft KQJB 092215 to 16 Group.)

9.9.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

EMPIRE
HERITAGE
& PINTO
sunk in
H.X.F. 305
off Inistra-
hull. U/B. 743
sunk by
PORCHESTER
CASTLE.

Following is a summary of events during attack on H.X.F. 305 at 080400Z September. All times G.M.T.

(A) At 0400 EMPIRE HERITAGE in the Commodores column was torpedoed starboard side and sank in approx. 10 minutes. There were two explosions.
(B) PINTO proceeded from port quarter of convoy and stopped to pick up survivors. NORTHERN WAVE proceeded to close to carry out observant. At least 15 survivors including the Chief Officer EMPIRE HERITAGE reported 4 to 10 feet of periscope close on port bow of PINTO moving right to left to seaward at a speed of 12 to 15 knots.

Periscope passed through survivors and dipped apparently on sighting NORTHERN WAVE approx. three cables on PINTO's port beam.

(C) Almost immediately afterwards at 0434 PINTO was hit starboard side under the bridge and sank in 90 seconds.

(D) NORTHERN WAVE opened to five cables and commenced square search anti clockwise. At approx. 0440 NORTHERN WAVE turned to port to avoid torpedo reported by asdic. Very shortly afterwards NORTHERN WAVE hit an object reported by lookouts as a submarine diving steeply periscope and stern being identified. NORTHERN WAVE sustained no damage.

(F) NORTHERN WAVE searched with square search around this position. No contact was obtained. This search included sinking position of PINTO and continued till E.G.5 arrived E.G.5 contained the position with box search while NORTHERN WAVE picked up survivors.

(G) Asdic conditions reported generally good to very good. Working range 2000 to 2500 yards. Reverberations musical. (Com. D. W.A. 090105B to C. in C. W.A.)

Have searched area within 4 miles of wreck for 12 hours without result I am now increasing search to 6 miles. HESPELER, NEW WESTMINSTER and DUNVER are searching 10 miles southwards.

(S.O. E.G.5 090701B to S.O. Force 33.)

Aircraft hunting U-Boat 055° 56' 011° 27'. Detach half your force to assist. Remainder close E.G. 5.

(C. in C. W.A. 09111B to Force 33.)

All have been in A/S contact in 56° 11' N. 11° 55' W. after sighting periscope. Eight ships of Force 33 remaining to hunt.

(B.2 091133A to C. in C. W.A.)

Cancel my 09111B.

(C. in C. W.A. 091157B to Force 33.)

My 1045B PORCHESTER CASTLE detected and attacked. Blew U-Boat to surface, opened fire and counter attacked with depth charges. After 2 further (corrupt group) attacks all ships lost contact at 1130, oil and some wreckage on surface, U-Boat damaged if not sunk. Intend to detail for search the 10 ships of Force 33 now in company in position 55° 53' N. 11° 33' W.

(S.O. Force 33 091415B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 091415. U-Boat considered sunk have recovered human flesh, wood panelling and metal compressed air bottle. Intend to sweep through areas B.1 and B.2 during the night. Correct position to read 055.46 N. 011.41 W.

(S.O. Force 33 091725B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.9.9.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.

A/S tactics. 0.45 N. Action to be taken by escorts when a ship in convoy is torpedoed in water where a U-boat can bottom.

All available escorts in the close vicinity of torpedoing carry out operation on lines of "Scabbard" (A.M. A.Z. 359) without delay. A support group when present is to take over operation "Scabbard" at a convenient moment such as on completion of the depth charging of area or on completion of initial asdic search of area. The close escort when released from "Scabbard" to rejoin the convoy unless otherwise ordered. On completion Item 4(c) of operation "Scabbard" a search to be instituted as follows (a) inner search, (b) outer search 2 inner search a force of at least 3 escorts but preferably more to carry out an A/S patrol to cover effectively an area 6 miles square centre about position of torpedoing this force to patrol area continuously for a period of up to 48 hours depth charging every likely contact the inner search is not to be moved without orders from operating authority which will decide after. Sifting all information from reports and sightings when the moment is ripe to shift to a new datum point. Apart from locating the U-Boat the function of this force is to flood the area with asdic transmissions H.B. etc., and thus force the U-Boat to continue its anti asdic tactics of remaining still on the bottom until it is exhausted. Should the U-Boat decide to move away it must rise off bottom and get underway thus giving the asdic a favourable opportunity of picking it up.

(3) Outer Search. (A) When the presence of more than one U-Boat is suspected or another convoy is in the vicinity. The outer search should not normally be formed and all escorts available after the completion of "Scabbard" and who are not required for the inner search should proceed to support the convoy.

(B) When only one U-Boat is suspected. The outer search is to be directed by the S.O. present and is to be composed of all escorts not carrying out the inner search this search is to cover the area of the U-Boat likely. FURTHERSTON to within asdic range of the inner search. This area will increase as time passes and should as far as possible allow for (?max.) U-Boat escape speed of $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots any likely new datum such as Schnorkel sighting from aircraft are to be followed up by unit detached from outer searching force immediately. Further searches are to be established about these new possible datum as discretion of S.O. present on line of original inner search. The operating authority will ultimately decide whether any such new datum is to replace the initial one.

(4) The operating authority will during the course of the search issue tracking appreciation of most likely movement of U-Boat to assist the S.O. present in disposing his patrol on outer search.

(5) Aircraft. The whole area will be flooded with aircraft to prevent the U-Boat from surfacing and making good its escape outside Radar range of A/S ship.

(6) Operation "Artichoke" (A.C.1 Article 119). This is considered to be the next form of initial action by day prior to forming escort for operation "Scabbard" even though the convoy be formed on a narrow front with long columns the escort in position Sugar however should not immediately close the wreck but should either remain clear for a period of 15 mins. or else stream "Foxers", "Cat" or single P.N.M. Unit before closing

044 N. was a Bgrm.

(C. in C. W.A. 092030 W.A.G.M. (N) 045 N.)

/Your...

9.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

A/S tactics.
(Contd.)

Your 081754B. Concur generally in operation proposed.

Para. (4) The formation of an outer search, though desirable, should be at the discretion of the S.O. and should depend on situation. If a second U-Boat is considered likely or another convoy is in the vicinity outer search should not be formed and all escorts still available after detaching escorts for "Scabbard" should continue to support convoys.

Para. (7) Consider "Artichoke" is still most suitable counter-measure but ship in position S should either stream foxers before closing wreck or wait 15 mins. before closing in order to avoid second torpedo fired to circle wreck in anticipation of an escort closing the wreck. Experience gained in sinking of BICKERTON also supports this view.

(C. in C. W.A. 092035 to Admt.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Antwerp.

My 071752B September, not to all addressees. Belgian M.F.V. BLANCHE MARGUERITE is re-allocated to A.N.C.X.F. for use at Antwerp.

(2) Dartmouth is requested to prepare vessel with all possible speed and inform Admiralty and A.N.C.X.F. when vessel is in all respects ready for sea and for crew of 8 Belg Merchant Seamen which A.N.C.X.F. is requested to supply.

(3) On arrival of crew vessel to be sailed forthwith Cliffe (River Thames).

(4) All arrivals and departures to be reported to Admiralty.

(5) Further signal will be made concerning relief for BLANCHE MARGUERITE.

(D.S.V.P. 090339B to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, A.N.C.X.F.)

Dieppe.

P.E.C. has agreed that there are 12 coaster berths available now at Dieppe.

(2) As from 12th Sept. when lock gates are repaired larger ships max. draft 17 feet can be taken. A total of 14 berths will be available including one for a hospital ship and one for a collier.

(3) Train ferry ship terminal cannot be accepted. It is hoped L.S.Ts. including train carrying L.S.Ts. may be taken when lock gates are repaired.

(F.O.B.A.A. 091222B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

9.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

FRISO. Have been stopped 12 hours to effect temporary repair engine D.S. FRISO. At 0800B/9th P.C.S. 037° 16' N., 010° 18' W., 310°, 11. Weather report 8280 1785.
(JOHAN MAURITS, 090826B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Ships from Lisbon joining S.L./M.K.S. convoys. Arrangements have been made for ESKBANK to join S.L.169/M.K.S.60 direct from Lisbon and it is considered that in view of present situation this organisation should continue.
(2) Additional escort is being provided on this occasion for passage Lisbon to R/V.
(3) A.M. 081233 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 090954B to Admty.)

KENT (C.S.1) KENT arrived Ponta Delgada 0930Z/9th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 091032Z.)
KENT left Ponta Delgada 2000Z/9th for Scapa. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 092011Z, KENT 092127Z.)

DA PROCIDA. Intend to sail Italian S/M DA PROCIDA escorted by P.C.E.846 at 0900/11 for Bermuda.
(Route and arrangements).
(F.O.G.M.A., 091936Z.)

South Atlantic

Assessment of A/S attacks. Following A/S attacks in your area have been assess as follows:-

Date	Attack	Assessment
5th July	Catalina L/262	E
6th July	Ventura B/23	

(D.A.U.D., 091600B to C. in C. S.A.)

Falkland Is. No.218.
In view of the altered military position I propose, subject to your approval, to begin reducing the Defence Force towards peace-time basis.
Naval Officer in Charge and O.C. Troops agree with me that coastal batteries need no longer be maintained on war footing. Demand for civilian labour exceed the supply.
(Falkland Is., No T.O.O./9.)

9.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Aegean S/M operations. From position 035° 42' 022° 30' at dawn 10th proceed diving to 022° 15' E. thence on surface at 8 knots to R/V with escort in 035° 49', 015° 18' at 0540B/12th.

(2) PIPINOS passes through 035° 48', 016° 27' about 2330B/11th, speed 9½ knots to R/V with escort at same time.

(Capt. (S) 1, 091057B to UNSWERVING.)

From position 035° 03', 027° 29' entering Aegean through Scarpanto Strait passing East of Sirina and through Kinaros Channel. Thence to patrol North of Skiathos and Skopelos Channel south of latitude 039° 29'.

(2) At your discretion you may proceed on the surface whilst on passage.

(Capt. (S) 1, 091246B to VIRTUE, (R) 1st S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M.)

Patrol within 12 miles of the south coast of Pallene Peninsula on the Salonika - Lemnos - Mitylene route.

(2) Focal point of this traffic is about 8 miles due south of Kassandra Point.

(Capt. (S) 1, 091250B to VIVID, (R) S.1, F.O.L.E.M.)

Shift patrol on to Piraeus - Salonika route forthwith.

(2) Two ships loaded with troops reported to have sailed from Piraeus to Salonika at 2000/8th.

(Capt. (S) 1, 091855B to VIVID, (R) S,1m F.O.L.E.M.)

Air route,
 U.K. to Med.
 Theatre.

Details of corridors and arrangements for using them.

(H.Q.A.E.A.F. Stanmore, 091300B.)

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

(Extract)

General. Strong indications increasing employment smaller craft in addition K.T. ships for thinning out Crete.

(C. in C. M.E., 091315.)

German
 mines -
 80 day
 clock.

Authorities concerned inform port parties, R.M.S. and bomb safety officers. Attention is called to the increased use by the enemy of the 80 day clock. This clock may be used as an S.M.D. or P.D.M. and may be encountered in German mines types G, N, R, S and Y.

(C. in C. Med., 091602B.)

Aegean
 shipping
 movements.

DRACHE and ZEUS sailed from Salonika a.m. today in ballast destination unknown.

(2) 5 ships loaded with troops and equipment reported ready to sail from Piraeus to Salonika.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 091831 to 1st S/M.F.)

ACTIVITY.

A.M. 031702 and your 071826 neither to all addresses.

It has been necessary to weld obstructions to flight deck to enable aircraft to be secured for passage. Regret ship cannot now fly off aircraft.

(D.N.A.O., 092110B to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.9.9.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Situation Night 6th/7th September. Coastal Force
Report 429. patrolling off Rimini encountered probable
minelaying force, one M/S boat damaged and
enemy retired. Following night similar force
was encountered but could not be brought to
action.

(2) Night 7th/8th September Coastal Force sunk E-Boat in Hvar
Channel.

(?3) Explosive M/B attack was made on ships off Cape Ampeglio
(043° 46' N., 007° 41' E.) at 2350/7. Destroyer sunk one and
P.T. Boat 4 and one probable. No damage sustained.

(4) APHIS and SCARAB bombarded (corrupt group) battery and ship
in harbour Rimini on 8th September. Enemy returned fire
but caused no damage.

(C. in C. Med., 092204B.)

Navsitintrep "Dragoon" period ending 2400/8th.
25. Right flank. G.S. DUGUAY TROUIN 457 rds. attacked
batteries, troops and pillboxes in Sospel area.
HILARY P. JONES fired 44 rds. against machine
gun nests, good results reported.

Marseilles. Maintenance M/S and harbour clearance sweeping.
Final phase sweeping prior to opening Vieux Port. Two mines
set off while blasting block ships Marechal Petain Basin. 200
moored and influence mines were laid in harbour (? area)
according to P.O.W. info. French assisting in locating mines.
Toulon. Two mines cut in La Seyne. Six mooring buoys reported
safe. Additional berths. One Liberty West Pier (?SVLSMPONE)
Liberty East Pier five. One L.S.T. rpt. L.S.T. at Arsenal in
New Basin. Five L.C.T. repeat L.C.T. in Basin substances.
Shore side repairs by Seabees ahead Marine clearance.
Discovered enemy plan for laying 190 mines. Vitor portion
apparently unexecuted. Unloading AL HA ANE M/V remains. 75%
unloaded M.C. beaches. Personnel 50 vehicles 22 tons 8672.
P.O.W. evacuated 800, awaiting 5229.

Marseilles. Vehicles IDO 14 tons 793.

Toulon. Personnel 181, tons 1050.

(W.C.W.T.F., 092231B.)

W.D. Note: No attempt has been made to correct the corrupt
groups.

G.A.F.
activity.

(Extract).

(2) Air Transport. Night 7th/8th 15 Ju.52
landed Athens from Rhodes around 2300 hours
making total 41 Ju.52 landing Athens between
1600 and 2359 hours. Night 8th/9th indications
continued heavy air transport activity.

(C. in C. M.E., 092315C.)

G.2 Summary
No. 28.

(Extract)

(3) Aegean. Continuation heavy air transport
from Rhodes and Crete to mainland. Withdrawal
of troops from Kos by air also mentioned.

(A.F.H.Q., T.O.O. Nil.)

9.9.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U/B All areas no fresh information. Scale unchanged.
dispositions. (C. in C. E.F., 090355Z.)

WAKEFUL Your route is altered, my 260851 August refers.
(with Omit positions (K), (L) and (M).
Convoy (2) From Seychelles pass through position (Q)
K.R. 12) 001° 09' S., 060° 10' E. (R) 007° 40' N., 072°
32' E. thence to Colombo.
(3) Acknowledge forthwith.
(C. in C. E.F., 090512Z to WAKEFUL.)
Your 090512 to WAKEFUL acknowledged.
(WESSEX, 091130Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Daily (Extract)
Opsum. September 5th/6th. 1 Catalina shipping escort
No.909. Socotra - Masirah located 5 lifeboats 2204 hours
showing distress flares. Three vessels diverted
from convoy picked up 98 survivors.
September 6th. 7 Wellingtons searches for crew of lost
Wellington N. of Socotra. Merchant vessel contacted 1600 hours
had already picked up crew. 5 Wellingtons A/S patrol and
shipping escort Gulf of Aden - Masirah - Socotra areas.
(A.C.S.E.A., 090746.)

SS. RADBURY, Consider SS. RADBURY and SS. NAIRUNG overdue at
SS. NAIRUNG Kilindini and Dar-es-Salaam since August 20th
assumed and 21st respectively, must now be assumed to be
lost. casualties. At present no information of
survivors.
(C. in C. E.F., 091147Z.)

China

Enemy Ride signals "Following convoy seen 20 miles
convoy east of Hong Kong by own source from junk at
off Hong 0800 hours of August 21st, graded D.4. One
Kong. aircraft, 8 merchant ships and 4 submarines.
Comment: Air force here (? report) that B.24s
have sighted several convoys off coast during
the last 2 weeks". Above passed to U.S. Naval
Attache.
(M.A. Chungking, 091215FG.)

War Diary

9.9.1944
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Weather security. B.A.D. 090117Z see Australia and New Zealand.

N.S.H.Q. Submarine attack and sighting summary. No report since my para. A* 1837Z to 2302Z/8th. T.G.22 3 A/C and surface vessels intermittent contacts and attacks in 43° 42' N. 52° 20' W. (N.S.H.Q. 091135Z.)* Reference omitted.

U/Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 091432Z, Cominch, 091559Z.)

U.C.37. Top limit U.C.37 about 65 ships Urdis 081846B not to C. in C. Lant refers but with understanding this is special case and that you will augment escort sufficiently to provide adequate protection until clear of danger areas under your control. (Cominch, and C.N.O. 091647Z to Admty.)

T.F.69 Task Force 69 hereby constituted WAINWRIGHT, Desdiv 16, Comcortdiv 76, in ROBERT BRAZIER, Cortdiv 76, HOUSATONIC. Escort convoy U.G.F.15 ARIEL included departing Hampton Roads 20th Sept. for Naples. SHAMROCK BAY with Non-operative A/C included in Convoy for Casablanca. Taskforce 69 return escorting G.U.F. when directed by C. in C. Med., Commorseafron requested to return SHAMROCK BAY in G.U.F.15. (C. in C. lant, 091729Z.)

U.C. convoys. Request Admiralty will return convoy U.C.38 and subsequent U.C. convoys in two sections.
(a) Section to sail on presently scheduled U.C. dates to contain about 40 ships including personnel shipping.
(b) Section sailing four days after (a) section to contain about 15 ships. C. in C. Lant designate escorts for each section using Diesel escorts when possible for (b) section to avoid necessity for escort oiler. When escort oiler is required for (b) section standby oiler from C.U. convoy is to be returned with (b) section. My 031646 not to allrefers.
(Cominch, 091927Z.)

R.C.N. escort groups. Concur with 081704B.*
(C. in C. C.N.A. 091939Z to C. in C.W.A.)
* Propose numbers 25 to 29 be allocated to R.C.N. for designation of new groups.

/Special...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Special
convoy
U.G.S.55B
Comeastseafron sail special convoy U.G.S.55B from Hampton Roads 27 September for Southern French ports. Convoy will consist of minimum of eight, maximum of 29 freighters which will return in regularly scheduled G.U.S. convoys. Better estimate convoy six will be furnished later. Cinclant provide escort. Foregoing necessary to meet scheduled delivery dates of army shipping. (Cominch, 092014Z, to Comeastseafron and Cinclant.)

U-boat
incidents.
B. 1837/08 BOGUE A/C sighted periscope or schnorkel 43.42 N. 52.20 W. Planes and surface vessels attacked sono buoy and sound contacts same area until 2302/08. All times Z.
D. 1338/08 U.S.G.G. P.G. UNALGA reported possible contact 41.18 N. 71.21 W. (Cominch, 092031Z) See amendment 101950Z.

A/S
defence
of Trinidad.
S.B.N.O. Trinidad informs me that U.S. Naval Commandant there has been asked to make proposals as to the composition of Naval Defence Forces at Trinidad on conclusion of European War and requests his co-operation. Understood one of the directives will lay down possibility of submarine attack on the harbour and U.S. are likely to call upon British to maintain full anti-submarine measures including loop and loop patrols involving retention of 60 Imperial personnel for former and 350 for latter to man M.Ls. In view of the extreme improbability of an attack on the Gulf of Paria by a Japanese submarine consider it most desirable to release these officers and men as soon as possible. (2) A/S yachts and minesweepers which are manned by R.N.V.R. could be retained for latter decision. (S.B.N.O.W.A, 092151Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Weather
security.
Your 071632 not to A.C.N.B. At special meeting today Friday, C.C.M. agreed following be despatched to C. in C. S.W.P.A. from C.C.S. The Meteorological Committee is advised by C. in C.E.F. that Mob broadcast in clear of weather reports from stations in Western Australia between 110° E. and 125° E. will provide the enemy with information prejudicing operations in the Netherlands East Indies area and jeopardizing Indian Ocean shipping routes to Australia. In view of this information the combined Meteorological Committee requests you defer the proposed relaxation of security of weather information in the southwest Pacific area south of latitude Y 20° S.

/and...

9.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Weather
security.
(Contd.)

and between the Meridians of 110° E. and 125° E. Request your concurrence or objections to adoption of 125° E. as western boundary for in-clear area.
(B.A.D. 090117Z to Admty.)

Digest
962.

(?Sept 8th) (Extract)

(7) Southbound enemy convoy described four medium merchant with ASASHIO Class destroyer attacked by submarines off N.W. of Luzon noon September 6th.

(8) Approximately 50 ships counted Manila Bay September 6th including 2 battleships, four heavy cruisers, 5 light cruisers, 9 destroyers, 8 patrol craft and remainder merchant men of different types. Several simultaneous unopposed landings affected South Coast Soediori Island (North-western Biak) supported by aggregate 36 Kithxhocks* dropping ?fifthvm* tons bombs on enemy occupied villages. 7th September, Early evening enemy submarine reported 25 miles North of Waigeo Island heading South-east.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090906.) *As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. NORTHERN WAVE attacked U-boat about 0434Z/8 in 55° 27' N. 08° 01' W.
Para. B. 1. A/C of VINDEX attacked possible periscope or schnorkel at 1955Z/6 in 58° 20' 05° 49' W. 2. FOWEY and ORANGEVILLE attacked periscope at 1440Z/8 in 58° 25' N. 05° 45' W.
3. A/C M/502 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2205Z/8 in 47° 37' N. 03° 25' W.

Ref. A.M. 081110B para. A. Unknown ship was EMPIRE HERITAGE.
(D.D.I.C. 090925Z.)

U-boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 091430B, 091436B.)

War Diary.

10.9.1944.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+96)

General.

1.(a). WARSPITE and EREBUS carried out a successful bombardment of Le Havre, EREBUS in particular being credited with 30 direct hits, out of 130 rounds, on the casemate guns of the perimeter defences.

(b). One magnetic mine was swept in the Baie de la Seine.

(c). Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	853,676	212,095	1,549,096
American	1,315,052	237,381	2,120,106
Total	<u>2,168,728</u>	<u>449,476</u>	<u>3,669,202</u>

General.

Norway.

2. A change of policy is to be introduced by Coastal Command on the Norwegian coasts, where it has been the custom not to molest unescorted ships below 1500 tons, since Germans moved only in larger armed and escorted vessels. With the probability that the enemy must now use every available ship, with the shifting of his U-Boat bases to the north and the Swedish virtual withdrawal of all their shipping, it is proposed first to warn Norwegian nationals, and then to attack everything that floats.

N.W. Approaches
A/S offensive

3. H.Q. 18 Group request fishing restrictions in the Shetlands - Faroe area to assist in U-Boat repression. The convoy assembly port is to be changed from Belfast to Milford Haven. (see Sept. 15th.)

Channel.

4.(a). Progress continues in sweeping the approaches to Flushing and the Schelde, the Approach Channel from S.Falls being now clear as far as 2° 45' E. Ground mines, and one British, have been found. It is estimated that it will take a minimum of 3 weeks, however, to sweep right up to Antwerp.
(b). The opening of Dieppe lock gates, after repair, will not now take place before the 14th.
(c) Gris Nez and Sangatte batteries fired 32 rounds at Dover, Folkestone and Convoy M.T.C.94 off Dover. The convoy was untouched, but civilian casualties and damage were suffered in both towns, and M.T.B. 353 was slightly damaged.

10.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Dragoon".

5. (a). Gunfire support forces and minesweepers encountered human torpedoes apparently staged from Ventimiglia this morning and 10 or 11 are reported to have been destroyed in the area Cap Martin to Capo Mortola. Survivors are reported to have been recovered; there was no damage to our ships. It is reported that the main factor contributing to success in breaking up the attack was co-operation between aircraft and P.T. boats.

(b). U.S. MADISON, WOOLSEY and HILARY P. JONES gave fire support on the right flank and covered minesweepers.

(c). Sweeping in the Rade d'Hyeres has been begun, in order to provide an anchorage. The U.S. minesweeper SEER was damaged by the explosion of a mine in the Grande Passe and was towed to Toulon.

(d). Alpha beaches are closed.

(e). C. in C. Med. reported today that Nice harbour is cleared of mines and ready to receive shipping.

(f). British ships other than reefers (small shallow draught refrigerator ships) allocated to C.U. convoys may be directed to Marseilles. Minesweeping in the port continues, and also at Toulon. 6 mines were detonated in Marseilles harbour.

Adriatic.

6. (a). LOYAL and UNDINE engaged targets ashore today in support of the Army; all targets are reported to have been well covered. The only two salvos fired in return both straddled UNDINE but caused no damage.

(b). Strategic Air Force dropped 236 tons on Ravenna Canal wharves last night with good coverage 79/88 escorted B.24s of the Strategic Air Force dropped 178 tons on Trieste port installations with good coverage today.

(c). 9 Venturas of Balkan Air Force bombed Durazzo jetty.

Aegean.

7. (a). 6 M.E. Wellingtons successfully mined Khalkis last night.

(b). ~~Last night and~~ On the previous night aircraft laid mines in Khalkis Channel.

Danube.

8. There are unconfirmed reports that enemy aircraft laid mines in two areas of the Danube today.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Convoy
Tamatave/
Dar es Salaam
one.

9. The first convoy from Tamatave to Dar es Salaam sailed today.

Burma.

10. 14 Beaufighters today attacked shipping off the Tenasserim coast in the area Kalegawk Island - Double Island with R/P and cannon and left some 6 small cargo ships and a gunboat beached and on fire and damaged another gunboat and one or two small merchant ships.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

11. Further air attacks were made on enemy shipping off the Philippines. Off Zamboanga (Mindanao), a naval Catalina made direct hits on two medium sized ships early today.

War Diary

10.9.1944.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 96)

Situation Reports

Naval

(A) Assault Area.

(1) H.M.S. EREBUS whilst engaging perimeter batteries at Havre on September 8th was hit by shell in bulge compartment. Ship is ready for further service.

(2) At Dieppe 9 coasters are discharging.

(B) Intelligence.

St. Gilles-sur-Mer is reported free of Germans with the coast road to Sables d'Olonne open.

(C) Unloading figures.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores
British	848,778	210,097	1,521,138
U.S.	1,290,669	234,423	2,067,348
Total	2,139,447	444,520	3,588,486

(Adm. Ramsay 100126B to Adty.)

(A) Assault area. Day 10th. H.M.S. WARSPITE and H.M.S. EREBUS carried out a successful bombardment in support of the assault on Havre.

(B) General. C.T.F.125 reports that St. Briec Harbour will be opened for coasters (5) drying out on 11th September.

Dieppe now has 12 coaster berths available and ships of 17 feet maximum draught will be taken when lock gates are repaired on about 14th September. A total of 14 berths will then be available including one for a Hospital ship and one for a collier.

(C) Intelligence. (1) Ushant. The situation is not clear but although the island is reported to be clear of the enemy there may still be a small pocket of troops there.

(2) Noirmoutier is reported (9th September) to be clear of the enemy with all batteries destroyed.

(D) Unloading figures. Not yet received.

(Adm. Ramsay 102353B to Adty.)

Bombardments

Bombardment of Le Havre (D) WARSPITE, EREBUS (sailed for Portsmouth at 1830).

(E) Nil. (F) Nil.

(G) WARSPITE and EREBUS bombarded casemated guns on perimeter defences of Havre. Coastal battery returned fire at intervals without securing a hit.

Army were very pleased with result EREBUS was particularly successful being awarded 30 hits out of about 130 rounds by the spotting A/C. M.L's from Portsmouth provided R.C.M. Albacores and M.L's provided smoke cover.

(F.O.B.A.A. 102135B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Mining

One mine Swept.

No report of minelaying. 1 magnetic swept in 49 degs. 34' 36" N. 00 degs. 21' W. Summary A(2) -1.

(Capt. M/S Seine 102230 to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary

10.9.1944
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 96)

Casualties

EREBUS EREBUS reports damage by shell hit on 8th Sept. in B.18 bulge compartment port which is now open to sea. Controllable seepage into B.16 divers report triangular hole 15 inches by 18 inches 18 feet forward of port side main injection. Base of hole on bulge keel with apex extending to first plate landing above. Butt rivets above hole sheared for approx. 4 feet and bulge keel below injury badly buckled.
(2) Ship can still be used operationally but should be docked for repairs as soon as she can be spared.
(F.O.B.A.A. 101004B to Adty.)

Organisation and Administration

Requirements of L.C.T. in B.A.A. and W.A.A. Latest requirements of L.C.T. in B.A.A. is total of 44 with 12 more standing by in U.K. F.O.B.A.A.'s 091233B refers.
(2) Of this 44, 42 are U.S. manned as it is desired to transfer up to 24 U.S. manned L.C.T.(5) or (6) to W.A.A. Request you will signal probable dates by which (A) 12 and (B) 12 more L.C.T. (5) in addition to those referred to in para. 1 can be expected to be fit again and ready to relieve U.S. Craft in B.A.A.
(A.N.C.X.F. 101511B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

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SundayHOME COMMANDSGeneralDefence of United Kingdom

Bombardment from Gris Nez and Sangatte. At 2334 Gris Nez batteries fired 8 rounds which fell in Dover Town and St. Margarets Area. Sangatte fired as follows:-
At 0217 six rounds which fell in sea off South Foreland. Between 0824 and 1119 8 rounds in Dover to Deal Area. Between 1515 and 1550 ten rounds at E.T.C. 94 off Dover. No damage to convoy.
Considerable damage to civilian property in Folkestone and Dover, and slight damage to M.T.B. 353. Naval casualties, 4 ratings slightly injured. Civilian casualties, Folkestone 2 killed, 11 injured; Dover 1 killed, 5 injured.
(A.C. Dover 102100B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements

RODNEY Intend to sail RODNEY at 1600B 12th September to Scapa escorted by SALADIN (S.O.), SCIMITAR and SKATE to pass Longships at 2115B 12th thence proceeding at 18 knots by standard route via Minches E.T.A. Hoxa 1500B 14th September.
(2) C. in C. Western Approaches 091911 not to all para. (2) R/V for relief escort H.M.S. FITZROY (S.O.), DEANE and REDMILL position.
(a) 052 degs. 10' N. 005 degs. 28' W. at 0730B/13. On relief Plymouth destroyers return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 101659B to A.C.O.S.)

RAJAH and ACTIVITY My 091928 sailed H.M.S. RAJAH (S.O.) and H.M.S. ACTIVITY escorted by H.M.S. LOCHY, H.M.S. SWALE, H.M.S. DEVERON and H.M.S. PELICAN.
(F.O. Northern Ireland 102211B to F.O.G.M.A. and C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Channel Allied forces clearing the Channel coast area have made considerable progress around Bergues southeast of Dunkirk further east units are approaching Bruges Gains have been made north of Antwerp. Development of the bridgeheads over the Albert Canal is continuing to meet stiff resistance.
Allied forces continue to close in on the port of Brest where the enemy is maintaining a stubborn defence.
Gun positions and strong points at Brest were again attacked by fighter bombers and similar objectives at Boulogne were targets for medium bombers.
(S.H.A.E.F. 101107B to War Office)
A.N.C.X.F. 081222. Consider EMPIRE FLAMINIAN and Cable Ships should not be sailed for Dover before threat of enemy shelling is finally removed.
(A.C. Dover 101305B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/My ...

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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Channel (Contd.) My 071835B (not to all).
Patrols tonight 10th/11th.
LA COMBATTANTE Patrol between positions 127 degs. Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200 degs. Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2150 tomorrow Monday.

KRAKOWIAK Anchor Dungeness east roads at immediate notice until 0615/11 thence Portsmouth.
(2) Communications: C.N. and 1570 kc/s from sunset shifting to C.N. and 1700 kc/s when ordered on completion of interception exercise.
(A.C. Dover 101310B to C. in C. Portsmouth, KRAKOWIAK, LA COMBATTANTE.)

Western Approaches Reference Admiralty signal 080010B to C. in C. Rosyth and this H.Q. letter 18G/S1515 dated 30 August no mention has been made with regard to fishing restrictions in Shetlands Faroes area request further investigation with a view to introduction restricted area bounded by suggested points 59. 40 N. 03.00 W. 60. 45 N. 00. 00 W. 61. 00 N. 06. 00 W. 62. 40 N. 04. 00 W. in addition to area proposed in C. in C. H.F. letter 1255/HFO1335/9 21 August 43 and approved in Admiralty letter H 094 84/43 dated 4 Nov. 43.
(H.Q. 18 Group 101215B to H.Q.C.C., Adty.)
Your 092018 paras. 1 and 2. This will be arranged. Para 4. this is most convenient.
(C. in C. W.A. 101219B to C. in C. Plymouth)
O.N. 1 Para. 52B. Plymouth Command night Channel report.
E.G. 9 - North of Z. 236. E.G. 11 - Z. 236. BLYSKAWICA, Z. 226 Z. 231, Z. 235.
(C. in C. Plymouth 101421 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Plymouth patrol night 10th/11th September. 9th Escort Group - North Z. 236 11th E.G. - Z. 236 P.S. BLYSKAWICA - Z. 226, Z. 231, Z. 235.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 101524B to Adty, C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.'s I.C., Portland, Milford Haven, Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts H.D. and C.N. in Area C., F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
Cancel my 241443B August.
(C. in C. Plymouth 101814 to MAURITIUS, BELLONA, 10th D.F. URANIA, URSA, KELVIN, ALBRIGHTON, All A/S Support Groups at sea in M.E. Plymouth Command. Plymouth covering forces at sea. H.Q.C.C., 19 Group)
From 1200 tomorrow Monday maintain same patrol between all positions North West 051 degs. 30' 008 degs. 15' and 051 degs. 44' 007 degs. 30'.
(2) Attention is called to W.A. GM.982 N.
(C. in C. W.A. 102344B to S.O. E.G.14)
Unless in contact patrol as follows from 0800B 11th Sept. Escort Group B.4 inspect B.1 and B.3. Escort Group C.5 in A.4. 5th E.G. in B.4. 3rd E.G. in B.2. INMAN, BRAITHWAITE and LAUNCESTON CASTLE sweep southward along 009 degs. W. to join 3rd E.G. p.m. B.4 establish north south Gamma patrol. Remainder search areas independently.
(S.O. Force 33 102355B to C. in C. W.A.)

/Biscay ...

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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

- Biscay Two French Trawlers from Arcachon encountered South Gironde fishing and showing light.
(2) Intend to remain South of Belle Ile until midnight and pass close to Penmarch at 0400/11.
- (3) OPAS 17 (A) Vicinity Ile d'Yeu.
(4) Fuel stocks remaining 0800 HAIDA 73%, H.M.S. URANIA 77%.
(5) Weather report 7280 1314.
(S.O. Force 26 101130B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Pins Cover. Night 10th/11th September.
- A. G.H. 1 - Burdock - Z. 102. G.H. 2 - Port Arthur - Z. 109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 101206B to Adty, C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts "H.D." and "C.N." in area "C". Capt. D.17 Port Arthur, Burdock.etc.)
LONDONDERRY pass to Force G.P.
After re-fuelling Force G.P. is to leave L'Abervach today to pass through position U.U. 270 degs. Creach Point 3 miles thence to position V.V. 338 degs. Tevenec light 12 miles, arriving by 2130B/10.
(2) From V.V. Patrol at S.O.'s discretion to cover Approaches to Brest.
(3) Force is to keep south of 48 degs. 25' N. North of 48 degs.N. and East of 5 degs. W. during darkness, and leave area at first light 11th, at S.O.'s discretion, returning by reciprocal route to L'Abervach to refuel and await orders.
(4) BLYSKAWICA will patrol close North East Ushant during dark hours tonight.
(C. in C. Plymouth 101228B to LONDONDERRY)
Further to my 081312B.
- Force 26 is to sweep to North and West tonight 10th/11th September examining Audierne Bay early on 11th.
(2) Pass through (B.B.) at first light thence close Ushant and communicate with Signal Station and then return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plym. 101331B to Force 26)
Closed Sables d'Olonne, St. Gilles, and Ile d'Yeu. No important change.
(2) There are at port Breton Officers and men of F.F.I. from St. Gilles under training and in need of arms. Recommend they be contacted by F.F.I. Officers of Force 28 before ships arms are landed at Sables d'Olonne.
(3) Embarked 7 remaining German prisoners from Ile d'Yeu.
(4) Night intentions as in my 1130B and my 1331B.
(5) Weather report 9190 5424.
(S.O. Force 26. 102110B to C. in C. Plymouth)
O.P. as paragraph 17 (B) 046 degs. 51' N. 002 degs. 50' W.
(C) Sables d'Olonne. My position now is 048 degs. 32' N. 005 degs 27' W. Weather report 9070 2214.
(S.O. Force 28. 102133B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Norway

A. 843/10th September.

- (1) Present orders in this Command regarding the attack of shipping on the Norwegian Coast preclude the attack on unescorted ships of or below 1500 tons unless ship opens fire on aircraft. These orders were imposed by this Command in October 1943 because small unescorted ships were at that time believed to be used chiefly for carriage of Norwegian passengers, whereas ships carrying German passengers and cargo were believed to be usually armed and escorted.

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SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Norway
(Contd.)

(2) It is now intended to lift this restriction in view of the high probability that the enemy will make use of every available ship, however small the tonnage, to meet his increasingly serious shipping problem in these waters occasioned by the need to operate U-Boats from Norwegian bases and the virtual withdrawal by Sweden of 360,000 G.R.T. now trading with Germany.

(3) Although this Command is free to lift above restrictions on its own authority it is considered that Norwegian Authorities should be informed and asked to issue warning that Norwegian Nationals travelling by sea along the Norwegian Coast will in future do so at their own risk. This action is particularly recommended as it is understood that Admiral Rieser Larsen was informed verbally of the terms of the restriction at the time it was imposed.

(H.Q.C.C. 101830B to Adty.)

Operation
"Victual"

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail STRIKER and CAMPANIA routed via Sounds of Islay and Mull to arrive Scapa a.m. 14th Sept. reporting E.T.A. 058 degs. North.

My 072251 not to all addressees refers.

(2) C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to provide escort to Scapa from 058 degs. North.

(C. in C. W.A. 102144B to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity

Jettisoning
of bombs on
friendly
forces.

A754 10/9/44.

Complaints have recently been received from naval authorities that H.M. ships in the channel have been endangered by bombers testing their guns when outward bound and occasionally jettisoning bombs on return flight. Request the attention of all air crews be drawn to the provision of S.D. 158(1), para. 13, and be warned to take great care to ensure that friendly forces are not endangered by jettisoning bombs or fire practice rounds from guns.

(Air Ministry 101246B to H.Q. Bomber Coastal Transport Flying Trng. Cnds. H.Q. A.D.G.B.)

A757 10.9.44.

Reference C. in C. Plymouth's signal 261400. Home Command have been requested to warn all air crews to ensure that friendly forces are not endangered by the jettisoning of bombs or the firing of practice rounds from guns. Air Ministry signal A754 10th Sept. refers.

(2) Consider allocation of area for testing guns and jettisoning bombs impracticable. A/C not normally able to divert from their route when outward bound to enable gun testing to be carried out, and A/C normally only jettison bombs in emergency when imposition of limited area obviously impracticable. Do you concur?

(Air Ministry 101252B to Adty.)

/Air ...

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SundayHOME COMMANDSAllied Air Activity

Air route, U.K. to Med.theatre. Following from H.Q., Allied Expeditionary Air Force, has been received. Begins: (Repeats H.Q.A.E.A.F. Stanmore 091300B (see Mediterranean)) (Head of Air Branch 101524B to Cs in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, Nore., V.A. Dover)

Passage of A/C over Channel. A.E.A.F. Stanmore 091300 proposal to use Corridors 7 and 8 by night concurred in but consider that A/C should fly at heights not less than 6000 feet when over the sea for their own safety and in view of the ship rules for A.A. fire by night laid down in S.H.A.E.F. memo No. 7.

(2) Do not consider Corridors 3 and 4 should be used at night until the situation between Le Havre and Cap Gris Nez is stabilised.

(3) Request 48 hours notice before introduction of these new regulations.
(A.N.C.X.F. 101945B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Mining

Minesweeping in Flushing approach. Flushing Approach Channel from South Falls being swept by Fleet Minesweepers to Longitude 2 degs. 45' East ground mines have been found.

(2) Starting tomorrow Monday British Yacht Minesweepers will continue sweeping this Channel to longitude 3 degs. 00' E. if Coastal Batteries allow.

(3) From available information estimate 3 weeks absolute minimum required to reach Antwerp from 3 degs. East. This will be considerably increased if blockships hold up sweeping or Channel has shifted observing also that buoys in river will most probably have been sunk. Sweeping from 3 degs. East cannot start while enemy control entrance to Scheldt.

(4) Request 21st Army Group be informed accordingly.
(C. in C. Nore 101424 to A.N.C.X.F.)

My 091917 completed as far as 002 degs. 39' E. One British M (H.Q?) one mine swept in approx. pos. 051 degs. 22' 36" N. 002 degs. 34' 00" East whilst extending northern edge of Channel in G formation by one cable.

(2) Three ships of flotilla require more gear owing to partings. H.M.S. LYME REGIS can only sweep to Port. Refer to Som/S Flot. 6's 101619.

(3) My Q.H.Z. giving unsatisfactory result.
(LYME REGIS 101826B to C. in C. Nore)

Proceed with 7 B.Y.M.S. of 165 M.S.F. M.M.S. 92 and 173 and M.L. 221 from Margate Roads A.M. tomorrow Monday 11th September and proceed by route from South Falls Buoy to Eastward to N.F. 6 Buoy which is being laid tomorrow Monday weather permitting in amended position 51 degs. 22' 18" N. 02 degs. 35' 30" E.

(2) Commence sweeping a channel one mile wide of which the centre line passes through the following positions.

(A) N.F. 6 Buoy. (B) Position 51 degs. 22' 51" N. 02 degs. 43' 24" E. (C) Position 51 degs. 21' 42" N. 03 degs. 00' 00" E.

/(3) ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining - Contd.

Minesweeping
in Flushing
approach.
(Contd.)

- (3) Sweeping of Western part of this channel to 02 degs. 50' E. should be done first if fired at by shore batteries force is to retire to westward.
- (4) Fighter protection arranged as far as distance allows. Codeword "Southfleet".
- (5) Coastal Forces will accompany the force by day for smoke laying if required. By night a C/F

unit will patrol in vicinity N.F. 5 Buoy.

(6) Force should anchor for the night in vicinity of N.F.4 buoy but may proceed to small downs or Margate Roads for shelter if necessary, routine time of sweeping in channel 0900B to 1800B.

(8) Report progress daily by sending a vessel West of this Meridian or by passing message through coastal forces in company by day.

(C. in C. Nore 101910B to Capt. M/S Sheerness)

Enemy Intelligence

Ferrying
activity
in Flushing
area.

Ferrying activity possibly from Breskens suggested by presence of four vehicle ferries of which, three newly arrived since 5 Sept. Also by movements amongst T.L.C. and Ferries in port and presence of M/T waiting to cross swing bridge over (Aalcheren) Canal. Convoy of one M class tender, four T.L.C. type III, one loaded vehicle ferry and four armed auxiliaries manoeuvring off port. Shipping in port includes five T.L.C. III, five T.L.C. type II, five auxiliaries, three Swinemunde drifters and four Ferries, one of which disembarking vehicles at railway landing stage.

Breskens. (3159).

Two ferry stagings active each with queue of vehicles waiting to embark. Full sized vehicles Ferry at one stage and adapted vessel at second.

(34 Wing 101635B to Adty.)

U-Boats

EMPIRE
HERITAGE and
PINTO sunk
in H.X.F.
305 off
Inishtrahull.

Following is a preliminary report on the attack on H.X.F. 305 based mainly on interviews with the Commodore and Vice Commodore, the Chief Officers of EMPIRE HERITAGE and PINTO and the Commanding Officer of NORTHERN WAVE. Cdre. (D)'s 090105 refers.

(A) Convoy was in fifteen columns on broad front. Escorts in night diagram with Senior Officer escort and two trawlers astern. EMPIRE HERITAGE was 5th ship in Commodore's column of eight ships and was therefore almost the centre ship of the convoy.

(B) No pyrotechnic signals were made but alarm was given at once by JAMAICA PLANTER on 2410 R/T and 500 Kc/s. Senior Officer escort ordered "Pineapple" at 0602B.

/ (C) ...

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SundayHOME COMMANDSU-Boats - Contd.

EMPIRE
HERITAGE and
PINTO sunk
in H.X.F.
305 off
Inishtrahull.
(Contd.)

- (C) PINTO and NORTHERN WAVE proceeded direct to spot where EMPIRE HERITAGE had sunk and commenced rescue operations at about 0615B. EMPIRE HERITAGE sank in about two minutes, not ten minutes as previously reported, which explains the heavy loss of life. She was carrying seventy-three D.B.S. in addition to her crew of eighty and had two thousand tons of deck cargo tanks and M.T. Ship was struck forward of bridge, immediately flooding forward holds which were empty.
- (D) Periscope sighted by survivors on raft also seen by men on PINTO's forecastle. It passed close ahead of the stopped PINTO from starboard to port at high speed. About eight minutes later survivors in a boat off PINTO's starboard quarter saw track of torpedo which struck PINTO on starboard side under bridge. Possible this was a Curly fired from port side of PINTO by same U-Boat which had crossed ahead.
- (E) Estimate of speed of periscope made from raft at very close range is considered unreliable. Witness also affirmed that it was in sight for two or three minutes which is not consistent with a speed of twelve knots in the dawn light.
- (F) Doubtful if object struck by NORTHERN WAVE was a U-Boat. Ship is being docked a.m. 11th September for examination of bottom for more conclusive evidence.
- (G) Light conditions with moon at 0600B were such that a ship could be seen at three miles with naked eye. By 0630 dawn was breaking.
- (2) A board of inquiry is being held.
(C. in C. W.A. 102113B to Adty.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Dieppe Your 081637B September addressed C. in C. Portsmouth. Does 21 A-G concur as local military authorities have no information on proposal object to loss of unloading facilities.

(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 101115 to F.O.B.A.A.)

My 091222B September. Informed by army that Lock gate repairs will not be completed until p.m. 14th September.

(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 101120B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Request Oropesa sweepers may be made available to sweep proposed amended anchorage by following position 316 degs. 1 mile 325 degs. 2 miles 293 degs. 2.7 miles 274 degs. 2 miles. All bearing and distance from Easterly Breakwater light. Dieppe. Anchorage necessary owing to limitation (corrupt group) of shore batteries.

(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 101247B to Capt. M/S Seine)

Shipping

RATHLIN

RATHLIN under repairs by Russians. Agreed completion date Sept. 18th. She will then do trials. There is reasonable prospects of her

/catching ...

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Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping - Contd.

RATHLIN
(Contd.)

catching R.A. 60. A.M. 081547B refers.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 100952Z to Adty.)

Convoy
Assembly
Port shifted
from Belfast
to Milford.

Request you will arrange to shift the convoy
assembly port from Belfast to Milford Haven as
soon as convenient, and report intended date.
Your 090940B not to all refers.
(D.T.D. 101302B to C. in C. W.A.)

10.9.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

RAMILLIES

M.K.F.34 sailed RAMILLIES, REAPER, NAIRANA,
PRINCE BAUDOUIN, PRINCE ROBERT.
(F.O.G.M.A. 100151B)

M.V.
ALEXANDRE
SILVA.

Portuguese M.V. ALEXANDRE SILVA reported by A/C
in 36. 36 N. 19. 03 W. course 265 degs. at 1430Z
today 10th Sept. No information of this ship
held here.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 102118Z)

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Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

- U-Boat in Cyclades. Following is a repetition of my 100654 addressed A.I.G.264. All ships and S/M's operating in Aegean from F.O.L.E.M. German U-Boat in approx. 036 degs. 30' N. 023 degs. 30' E. at 0224 G.M.T. by D/F ends.
(F.O.L.E.M. 100656C)
- French Admirals. Admiral Missoffe flew to Paris yesterday where he will remain with Jacquinot.
(2) Admiral Sol stays at Algiers in charge of French Admiralty.
(F.O.W.M. 100936 to C. in C. Med.)
- Force 120. Intend surface force enter Aegean at 2100 to-day Sunday.
(F.O.E.C.101121Z to F.O.L.E.M.)
Your 10210 and my 101121, operation postponed.
(F.O.E.C.101646C to F.O.L.E.M.)
- Proposed support groups. It is under consideration to reduce the escorts of through Mediterranean slow convoys to two ships and operate two support groups in the Eastern Mediterranean.
(2) Groups would be constituted as follows:
(a) DART and GLOXINIA. (b) SHIEL, PRIMULA.
(c) PHEASANT, ALISMA. (d) BARLE, BERGAMOT, (e) USK, CONVOLVULUS. (f) EVENLODE, DELPHINIUM.
Groups (A) would escort M.K.S.62 and remaining groups escort succeeding westbound convoys in the above order.
(3) The support groups would be. 37th E.G. STORK, AMETHYST, DEPTFORD, CAMPION. 46th E.G. FLEETWOOD, COLTSFOOT, HYDERABAD, BRYONY.
(4) HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER are due to be released to U.K. during September and WOLBOROUGH and SOUTHERN SEA are required for escort of A.F.D.17. Separate signals regarding these moves will be made at a later date.
(5) Request your remarks and any suggestions you may have for any change round of ships concerned.
(6) Two of the corvettes released would be required to replace APOSTOLIS and SAKTOURIS in the 51st Escort Group.
(C. in C. Med. 101156B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- ACTIVITY. A.M.092110B and A.M. 031702B. Intend ACTIVITY to proceed direct Alexandria where A/C should be lightered to carriers.
(2) ACTIVITY has no crane for hoisting ballast.
(3) C. in C. Med. 071826B is cancelled.
(C. in C. Med. 101234B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- VORACIOUS. Enter Aegean through Scarpanto Strait pass East of Sirina and through Kinaros Channel to patrol on Mitylene - Salonika routes in an area bounded by lat. 039 degs. 59' and 038 degs. 48' and long. 024 degs. 50" and 026 degs. 13".

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

VORACIOUS
(Contd.)

(2) At your discretion you may proceed on the surface by day whilst on passage.
(Capt. (S) 1, 101246B to P.78)

Minesweeping
in Danube.

Following are my comments on para. 4 A.M. 291329 August. S.A.C. Med. has been consulted and concurs.

(2) From information available here it appears Russian minesweeping will be ineffective.

The British (?) mine sweeping commitments will extend as far Vienna. Consider therefore that total of 22 ZZ craft will be necessary to make reasonable progress with minesweeping. to keep these craft operating some 8 R.C.L as stores and accommodation craft will be necessary and 2 tugs and 5 Danube fuel barges will also be required to form part of force. The efficiency of Force would be considerably increased by addition of 2 L.C.T. and 4 L.C.I. if progress of operation in Italy permits their release and of one extra H.D.M.L. for use of Commander M/S.

(3) Planning is now proceeding on lines of para. 2 above. The first 5 ZZ craft should be ready by mid October the remainder being completed at rate of about 2 a week. It is emphasized engine trials have not yet been completed. Signal will be made as soon as trials are satisfactory.

(4) The only practical way of shipping ZZ craft quickly to Mouth of Danube appears to be by L.S.D. One of 2 now in use at "Dragoon" could possibly be released for this purpose by time first ZZ craft are ready and it is hoped one of them may be retained in Mediterranean for the purpose a.m. 301533 August not to all addressees refers.

(5) Shore based staffs will be limited to present Danarm staff who will act as link between Riparian authorities and S.B.N.O. The S.B.N.O. and staff will be accommodated in gun boats until or unless some form of river commission is formed of which he may be required to be a full time member. Preparations are being initiated for special fitting of COCKCHAFER for the purpose.

(6) Ref. para. 8 A.M. 291329. Subject to satisfactory arrangements being made by Danarm when they arrive on river for manning of tugs and fuel barges by local personnel all essential personnel required for above plan can be met from present Med. resources Detailed (corrupt grp.) of personnel requirements will be signalled later but not counting crews of gun boats H.D.M.L., L.C.T. and L.C.S. total would amount to about 55 officers and 315 ratings.

(7) Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer.
(C. in C. Med. 101255B as amended 121858B)

Ships
from C.U.
Convoys.

Your Q.M. 553 of 8th Sept. para. 3.
Agree British ships other than Reefers allocated C.U. convoys can be diverted to Marseilles in accordance with plan arranged between S.H.A.E.F. and U.S.W.D.
(War Office, 101600B to B.A.S. Washington)

/ Situation ...

War Diary

10.9.1944
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No.430. French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN and LUDLOW U.S. Destroyer engaged batteries and troop concentration in Mentone area on 6th and 7th September. French Light Cruiser LE MALIN also bombarded on 6th.

French Light Cruiser DUGUAY-TROUIN and U.S. Destroyer HILARY P. JONES obtained good results against machine guns North of Mentone on 8th.

(2) Minesweeping of Marseilles Harbour continued. Total 24 mines swept by 7th. Nice Harbour cleared mines and ready to receive shipping.

(3) URCHIN and APHIS bombarding ammunition dump battery and road junction in Rimini area on 9th. Direct hits obtained. URCHIN was near missed, but no damage resulting.

(C. in C. Med. 102240B)

EASTON,
VAMPIRE.

Following is correct version of my 101810 begins:
"EASTON, Capt. (S) One, R.A. Alexandria (R)
(?VAMPIRE) - from F.O.L.E.M.
Having parted company from VORACIOUS, EASTON
return Alexandria best speed. Fuel with utmost

despatch on arrival.

(2) R.A. Alexandria sailing EASTON soon as ready 20 knots toward 034 degs. 52' N. 021 degs. E.

(3) Intention escort VAMPIRE through Force A area.

(4) Capt. (S) One signal R/V and route orders to EASTON.

(5) Dependent on Force A movements further signal will be made re EASTON parting company and whether VAMPIRE may use Kaso".

Ends.

(F.O.L.E.M.102358C to address of 101810)

G.2 Summary
No.29.

(Extract).

(3) Greece and Aegean: Strong indications increasing employment smaller craft in addition K.T. ships for Thin-out Crete. Regular shuttle service operating Piraeus/Salonika.

(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/10)

10.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

All areas no fresh information. Scales unchange-
able.
(C. in C. E.F. 100314Z.)

TROILUS
(sunk 31st
August.)

(A) TROILUS forwarded in accordance with E.F.
716H/71/27. (B) 14° N. 60° E. 2230Z/31/8/44.
(C) U-Boat. (D) Torpedo, sunk. (E) 3.
(F) 95 6 missing presumed drowned. (G) No.
(H) Yes. SSSS. (I) No sighting of submarine
master with survivors ships paper saved.
(J) and (K) Confidential books in chest and
presumed sank in ship. (N) Master.
(S.O.(I) Aden 100955Z.)

Convoy
Tamatave -
Dar es Salaam
one.

Convoy Tamative - Dar es Salaam one left Tamatave
0600Z/10th E.T.A. Dar es Salaam 13th. N.C.S.O.
Kilindini's 301515 August and my 051421
September refers.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 101615.)

10.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-boat report Enemy U-boat fixed within 100 miles 36 north 19 west by D/F on B Bar signal at 0006Z and repeat at 0018Z both on 3795 kc/s. (Cominch, 100110Z to not given.)

S.O.S. Did you hear S.O.S. at 0240 G.M.T. think it south atmospherics fierce think 11.57 N. 78.55 W. in collision. (Cape Race Radio, No T.O.O./10 to Amagansett Radio.) Cf. Compaseafron 101354)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. B. (1) T.G. 22.3 makes series of disappearing Radar contacts until 1140/9th in vicinity of 43.33 N. 52.01 W. (2) T.G. 22.3 A/C regains contact 2300/9th in 44.08 N. 51.39 W. All times Z. (N.S.H.Q., 100905Z.)

SS. HINDOO, AUSTRALIA STAR - collision. In Lat. 11.00, Long. 77.57 at about 0300Z/10 SS. HINDOO (Pan.) was sunk as result collision with M.V. AUSTRALIA STAR (Br.) en route Cristobal from Mersey. HINDOO escorted by P.C.616 en route Cartagena Colombia from G.X.89. P.C. now escorting AUSTRALIA STAR to Cristobal speed 10 E.T.A. 2000/10th. Damage unknown but drawing 35 feet forward. 3 members armed guard crew HINDOO reported killed. Full report later. (Compaseafron, 101354.)

U-boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 101405Z, Cominch, 101520Z.)

O.24 COQUETTE From position 042° 32' N. 060° 04' W. at 2000Z/10 pass through new (E) 046° 10' N. 052° 18' W. at 0530Z/12th thence to (D) total attack and bombing restriction 30 miles ahead and 60 miles behind and 15 miles each side of estimated position acknowledge. COQUETTE pass P/L to O.24. (C. in C. C.N.W.At. 101450Z to O.24, COQUETTE)

U-boat incidents. All times Z. My 092031*Para. D. Time of UNALGA contact was 091338. Para. B. BOGUE Group had a series of Radar Contacts about 091140. Area 43.33 N. 52.01 W. and at 092300 regained contact 44.08 N. 51.39 W. Para. D. 091900 U-boat reported sighted 21.06 N. 75.58 W. (Cominch, 101950Z.) *Passing action taken by W.R.

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SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

ARIADNE Carried out mine operation off Wewak 1st September. No more mines required at present in consequence of H.M.A.S. BUNGAREE being employed as store carrier ARIADNE about to have minor modifications made to fit her as troop carrier for which service she is required in October and November to carry assault troops principal modifications consist fitting large ventilation exhaust fan on both forward mine embarking hatches and joist slinging billet on mine deck. Top weight negligible as mines will not be carried concurrently. Ship will be available still as minelayer at few days' notice.
(ARIADNE, 100001.)

Digest (Extract)
963 (20) Following night (8/9 Sept.) P.T. boats strafed coastal targets northeastern coast New Ireland and barge near Buka Passage.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 100640)

O.19 Am 6 hours late at A. S. of A. approx. 11 knots.
(2) Sunk by gunfire 1845FG/10 400 tons coaster position 005° 59' S. 101° 15' E.
(S/M O.19 101321Z to C.T.F.71.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine attack and sighting summary. (1) H.M.S. HELMSDALE hunted U-boat and H.M.S. PORCHESTER CASTLE attacked U-boat at 0845Z/9 in 55° 46' 11° 41' W.
Para. B. (1) A/C J/407 obtained radar contact at 2350Z/8th September in 58° 57' N. 06° 09' W.
X U-4814 Sunk (2) DUNVER, HESPELIER, and HUMTSVILLE attacked U-boat contact at 2034Z/9 in 55° 50' N. 07° 20' W.
(3) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2135Z/9 in 55° 27' N. 07° 09' W. (4) A/C had disappearing radar contact at 0550Z/10 in 55° 32' N. 08° 18' W.
(5) A/C dropped 2 depth charges on suspicious object at 1900Z/9 in 51° 20' N. 07° 30' W.
(6) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2130Z/9 in 51° 11' N. 08° 11' W.
(D.D.I.C. 100930Z.)

U-boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 101401B & 101408B.)

X or 11 Sep. by RCAF at D/423 (Sun) (land)

11.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+96)

General.

1. (a). U.S.N. Havre Advance Port Party have taken over from British Port Party in anticipation of early fall of fortress and its transfer from British to American sphere of influence. Bomber Command dropped 857 tons on enemy defences in Havre today.

(b). The Cherbourg disembarkations have proved very satisfactory, with no draught restrictions.

(c). Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	856,667	212,977	1,558,915
American	<u>1,317,284</u>	<u>238,584</u>	<u>2,163,715</u>
Total	<u>2,173,951</u>	<u>451,561</u>	<u>3,722,630</u>

General.

2. Main Expeditionary Force Forward Head Quarters moved to Brussels Palace.

Recaptured ports.

3. (a). Ostend Harbour is blocked by 14 sunk vessels but the Principal Salvage Officer estimates that by mass demolition of these he could clear a channel for coasters in 7 working days. Twelve coasters could then be accommodated at a time.

(b). The channel to the Schelde is being steadily swept of mines, and telegraph cable laying will follow.

(c). Safe channels for Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk are also being proceeded with, and the intention is to use these ports as far as their limited facilities will allow until Antwerp is in operation.

4. Batteries at Gris Nez and Sangatte fired 25 rounds at Folkestone, Dover and convoy E.T.C. 95. Civilians and property were damaged in Dover, but the convoy was untouched.

West coast of France.

5. (a). Fierce fighting is reported in the outskirts of Brest.

(b). 15,000 Germans are reported in La Rochelle, with strong defences, which are also reported in Ile de Re, but the defences between La Tranche and Noirmoutier have been destroyed.

(c). 9,000 Russians are pillaging for food in the Presqu'île de Paimboeuf, but Belle Ile and Ile de Groix are believed free of the enemy.

(d). Nantes, St. Nazaire, Lorient and Quiberon Bay will not be required by the U.S. now that Havre is virtually theirs, and it is not intended to develop them.

11.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

General - Contd.

N.W. Approaches 6. A prohibited fishing area has been established in the North West Approaches from 54° 20' N. to 57° N. between 6° 30' W. and 10° W. in order to prevent interference with the A/S offensive in this area.

Plymouth/
W.A. boundary 7. As from 1200B today the boundary between the Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands will be temporarily amended (see A.M. 081941B). C. in C. Western Approaches will continue to control the ocean convoys when these pass through the Plymouth Command, and will maintain the necessary support groups (at present two) in Plymouth Command. The Milford Haven and Cardiff sub-commands revert to the administration of C. in C. Western Approaches.

Western Approaches. 8. The boundary between Western Approaches and West coast of France areas will be the 50th parallel.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Future employment of French Fleet. 9. C. in C. Med. asked the Admiralty today whether any policy has been formulated for the future employment of the French Fleet. Subject to the proviso that for welfare reasons French ships should be allowed to visit their own harbours as soon as circumstances permit and that many of the important units have worn out their guns and stocks of ammunition are low, he intends as a short term policy to continue to operate the ships as at present. - French ships are working in the Support Forces of Operation "Dragoon", trooping, and as convoy escorts.

Operation "Dragoon". 10.(a). The U.S. destroyers MADISON and LUDLOW broke up an enemy counter attack at Mt. Bellenda on the right flank today. WOOLSEY, LUDLOW and LE MALIN shelled troops, batteries, strong points and a human torpedo launching base at Ventimiglia. LORRAINE fired 58 rounds in an hour on fortifications at Castillon and made 4 direct hits.

11.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Operation "Dragoon". (Contd.) 10.(b). Minesweeping in the inner harbours continued. Aerial mine spotting is being employed. (c). Unloading. Beaches. Personnel 6,992, vehicles 476, stores 7,218 tons. Marseilles, vehicles 262, stores 2,380 tons. Toulon stores 850 tons.
- Gulf of Genoa. 11. Coastal forces operating off Savona last night sank an F-Lighter and one or probably two barges.
- Adriatic. 12.(a). URCHIN and SCARAB continued bombardment in the Rimini area today. Gun positions, field batteries and troop concentrations were effectively engaged. Enemy return fire was on a reduced scale. (b). M.T.Bs. last night sank a loaded coal barge off Rovigno (45.05.N. 13.38 E.) and captured 7 Germans.
- Aegean. 13. Mityleni was reported this afternoon to be in Allied hands (as the result of evacuation by the Germans.)
- Danube. 14. Aircraft of the Strategic Air Force laid 81 x 1,000 lb. mines in the Danube last night.
- Black Sea. 15. N.L.O. Black Sea sends today a list of enemy vessels reported captured by the Russians in Varna, comprising apparently about 39 minesweeping, coastal and other small craft, one 17,000 ton tanker and a few small merchant vessels.

East Indies.

16. It is reported that a Greek steamship, subsequently reported as SS. IOANNIS FAFALIOS Durban for Aden, was torpedoed about 250 miles east of Mombasa on 5th September. The majority of the survivors landed at Kismayu on 10th.

11.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Celebes.

17. A Naval Catalina last night off Menado sank a small freighter transport and drove a medium freighter transport ashore after making a direct hit and a near miss on the latter. Off Ambon another Navy Catalina operated successfully against a small merchant ship and some sea trucks.

Palau.

18. 249 carrier based aircraft attacked Palau Island today.

War Diary

11.9.1944
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 97)

Casualties

ORCHIS
(mined
21 Aug.)

Bad weather and heavy salvage commitments elsewhere have prevented salvage operations on ORCHIS during last spring tides. August refers. A detailed report of damage follows by letter. Request early decision whether vessel can now be written off.
(F.O.B.A.A. 111518. to Adty.)

Port Facilities

Cherbourg

Considering progress of Military operations infrequent need for Air/Sea Rescue Craft in W.A.A. repeat W.A.A. past six weeks.
Congestion in Port of Cherbourg. Very limited space for administrative and maintenance facilities. Request that no more than 4 sea rescue craft be based at Cherbourg and that all maintenance personnel and equipment in excess of that absolutely necessary for maintaining the 4 craft now based here be removed from this area. A.E.A.F./S22524/Air dated 7th July refers.
(C.T.F. 125 111435B to A.N.C.X.F.)

We have now heard that the disembarkation etc. of C.U.37 was carried out very satisfactorily. There are no draft restrictions and the 500 tons of equipment etc. per ship which is the U.S. Army requirement can be handled without undue difficulty. Apparently it is discharged overside by using the ship's own gear.

(D. of S.T. 112312B to Sparks N.Y.)

Shipping

Dutch
Schuyts
for
St. Brieuc.

Your 091501B not to all. It is intended shortly to sail a number of Dutch Schuyts for St. Brieuc in E.B.C. convoys to Cherbourg. Request you arrange onward routing.
(A.N.C.X.F. 110147B to C.T.F. 125)

Administration

U.S.
responsibility
for Le
Havre

On 1 para. 52 F.O.B.A.A. Navisitrep No.75 11th Sept.
(D) Nil. (E) Nil. (F) Nil.
U.S.N. Advance Port party arrived outside Havre yesterday and have taken over from British party.
(F.O.B.A.A. 112255B to A.N.C.X.F.)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

General

Policy

Forward H.Q. in Brussel. G.O.152A. Secret. Cancel this H.Q. G.O.137A of 091140B Sept. Exfor Main closes present location and re-opens residence Palace Brussels 141200B Sept. All infm. (Exfor Main, 111115B to Admty.)

Reactions to re-allocation of Man power. The announcement referred to in para. 1 of my 062251 has been postponed. Further signal will be made. (A.C.N.P., 112226B to F.Os. Home and Abroad.)

Western Approaches Situation Reports to conform to Boundary Areas. Promulgation of Western Approaches situation report Section Home and South East will be extended to the Boundaries given in A.G.M. 398 AZ (D.T.G. 081941).
(2) The Boundary between Home and South East will be parallel of 50° N.
(3) Sections N.E., Central and Western remain unchanged, A.F.O. S2/44 refers.
(C. in C. Western Approaches, 111304B to Ships and Authorities in W.A. Command, etc.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Dartmouth Controlled Minefield. Ref. Admty. letter T.09100/44 of 2nd September 1944 (not to all addressees). Controlled minefield at Dartmouth (Map ref. 145/320714 approx.) will be fired at 1830 hours on 16th September 1944. Safe height for aircraft 1000 feet. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 111614B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Bombardment from Griz Nez and Sangatte. Between 0210 and 0541 enemy shore batteries fired 15 rounds of which 6 fell in Dover, injuring 4 civilians and causing considerable damage to property, and one in Folkestone. E.T.C.95 was shelled off South Foreland from 1517 to 1527 with 10 rounds. No damage. (A.C. Dover, 112100B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements

KENT To avoid suspected U-boats alter course forthwith for new position D.48° N. 11° W. thence to C. Northbound Independent ship may be met in vicinity of D. (D.O.D(H), 110835B to KENT.)

/FORMIDABLE...

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- FORMIDABLE Intend sailing H.M.S. WHIRLWIND S.O. and H.M.S. WRANGLER in company at 1200B/14th September to proceed to join with H.M.S. FORMIDABLE off May Island at 1900B/15th C. in C.H.F. 061117 not to addressees refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 111046B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Intend to sail H.M.S. FORMIDABLE p.m. Friday 15th by searched channels to Scapa expected time of arrival 0700B/16th.
(2) Avenger A/C of 848 Squadron will be landed on between 1900B and 2020B/15th and destroyer escort will rendezvous off May Island.
(3) Intention is to commence embarking 4500 gallons aviation spirit and 1600 tons O.F. on arrival. Scapa.
(4) 1841 and 1842 Squadrons fly to Hatston a.m. 15th and will be landed on after departure from Scapa p.m. 16th. H.M.S. FORMIDABLE 101345B not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 111810 to Admty.)
- SPEAKER Reference Admiralty Letter ACRD 1854/44 of 1st September. Propose SPEAKER carry out trials in the Firth of Forth on completion of programme given in her No. 66/010 of 18th August.
(2) If the dead load cannot be made available at Rosyth accelerator trials could be deferred until a later date as the accelerator will not be required while ship is employed on D.L.T. duties.
(3) On completion of trials propose ship remain in the Forth area to carry out D.L.T. and D.L.C.O. training with Easthaven. My 071127 to Admiralty only refers.
(F.O.I.C. 111146 to Admty.)
- SMITER SMITER 101135 not to Admiralty and A.M. 021812 to F.O.C.T. and further to my 111020 not to all addressees.
(2) De-ammunitioning will take place after arrival in dock at Newport (Mon.) and will be discharged into railway wagons.
(3) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail SMITER to arrive Barry Roads A.M. 15th Sept.
(4) SMITER will dock Newport (Mon.) first opportunity after p.m. tide 16th September.
N.O.I.C. Greenock pass to SMITER.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 111159B to F.O.I.C. Greenock, SMITER.)
- DUKE OF Admiralty Message 071607 as amended by 090156.
YORK. Request DUKE OF YORK arrive Bar Light vessel not later than 0900Z/19.
(2) If arriving 20th not later than 0945Z.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 111905B to C. in C.H.F.)
A.M. 071607, for Birkenhead read Liverpool.
(D.O.D.(H), 111906B to C. in C.H.F.)

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West Coast Pins cover - night 11/12th September.
of France. AM GH 1 - GENTIAN - Z.102. GH 2 - PORT ARTHUR - Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111236B to Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on b'casts 'HD' and 'CN' in area 'C', Portsmouth Night Patrol, PORT ARTHUR, GENTIAN.)

Following is a repetition of part of message 071400 Sept. from S.H.A.E.F. not addressed to you. Begins the South Coast Brittany ports of Nantes, St. Nazaire, Lorient and the area of Quiberon Bay are no longer required for maintenance of U.S. Forces and it is not intended to develop them. Ends.

(2) Materials and equipment at present held for operation "Chastity" can, therefore, be released for other requirements. (A.N.C.X.F. 111416B to Admty.)

S.O. Force 26's 102110B. Landed at Port Brery. 150 Maquis under training mostly from St. Gilles Sur Vie, short of arms. Landed a few Bren guns and ammunition.
(2) Closed Sables D'Olonne. All cargo landed. Landed party and interviewed Colonel Helias and Major Montgomery, American Liaison Officer. Following intelligence received: 15000 Germans concentrated in la Rochelle which is strongly defended. German Naval Chief reported as wishing to fight while army chief desires to surrender. Ile de Re strongly defended. Defences destroyed between la Tranche and Noirmoutier and partially destroyed between la Tranche and River Marans.
(3) About 9000 Russians in Presqu'ile de Paimboeuf, pillaging for food. Will probably surrender to Americans but not to F.F.I.
(4) Belle Ile and Ile de Groix thought to be cleared of Germans but information not reliable.
(5) Above information received from Captain Devailly F.F.I. and Major Montgomery U.S.A. of Jedburg Team Tony now in Sables d'Olonne.

(6) Landed at St. Gilles Sur Vie and interviewed local F.F.I. Cmdr. who also commands Ile d'Yeu. He suggests information could be passed by W/T from Ile d'Yeu. Meeting arranged 1600 Tuesday 12th to arrange frequencies.

(7) Signal Station keeping continuous watch established in tower at St. Gilles Sur Vie.

(8) Intend sweeping south to Arcachon tonight turning north at daylight toward Ile d'Yeu.

(9) Opas paragraph 17(a) 046° 20' N. 001° 45' W.

(10) Fuel remaining at 0800/11 ASHANTI 77% KELVIN 79%.

(S.O. Force 28, 111730B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Carry out operation "Assault".

(a) Force 26, BELLONA, (S.O.) H.M.C.S. HAIDA.

(b) 1800B/12th Sept.

(c) Pass through (CC) 048° 30' N. 005° 28' W. (FF) 048° 00' N. 005° 35' W.

(d) After passing (FF) patrol between - 048° 00' N. and BAYONNE keeping W. of Force 28 who will approach (BB) 048° 00' N. 005° 21' W. at first light 13th from Audierne Bay.

(e) In accordance with O.N.C.O. Plymouth I organization "Heat" call sign Force 26 R/T QUL W/T CHUCKSTER S.O. Force 26 R/T HPM W/T SPINELESS, H.M.C.S. HAIDA TZW HAILSTONE, BLYSKAWICA P.S. KDZ BACK (corrupt group).

/(f)...

War Diary

11.9.1944
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast
of France.
(Contd.)

(f) CHUCKSTER.
(h) See Admiralty message 301808 August and my
01048 (copy to Addressee)
ROSTOCK is to be brought to Plymouth if
interrupted.

(k) Anticipate BLYSKAWICA P.S. will be sailing
on 13th Sept. to join Force 26.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 111832B to BELLONA, HAIDA, BLYSKAWICA.)
Pass Spithead Gate at 2000B today 11th September and
patrol in accordance with Pins in Z.8 West. Unit call sign
'George How 3'. GENTIAN is on patrol in Z.102.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, to BLANKNEY.)

Fierce enemy action encountered in outskirts of Brest,
some fighting reported from inside city.

(S.H.A.E.F. Fwd., 112133B to Agwar.)

At 1907 Force was straddled by battery on Ile de Re at
ranges (up to?) 35,000 yards. Thought to be Radar controlled.
(Battery?) ceased fire when R.C.M. was switched on. Op.as
paragraph 17(a) 45° 13' N. 01° 34' W. (b) 45° 55' N. 02° 00' W.
Weather.

(S.O. Force 28, 112215B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Western
Approaches.

My 102335. B.4 joined by BRAITHWAITE and INNAN?
sweeping vicinity of 057° N. (? 012°) (?05') W.
(S.O. Force 33, 110815B to C. in C.W.A.)
GARDINER rejoined.

(S.O. Force 32, 111225B to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 091852B (not to all). Admiralty concur that all
fishing be prohibited forthwith until further notice in the area
bounded by 54° 20' N. and 57° N 6° 30' W. and 10° W.

(2) Passage to and from permitted areas west of Ireland must be
made through Irish territorial waters.

(3) You are requested to promulgate above to all N.C.S.Os. con-
cerned. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Scottish
Home Department are taking parallel action through Port Fishery
Captains.

(4) H.M. Ships should close all fishing vessels sighted in this
area and inform them of para. 1, and that they should forthwith
either proceed home through Irish territorial waters or to
grounds outside the prohibited area.

(5) Sink at sight area is not being instituted at present.
(Admty., 111344B and 111955B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 041135 para. 3. In 17th E.G. for ANGUILLA read
ASCENSION.

My 111151 para. B. In 19th E.G. for ASCENSION read ANGUILLA.

(C. in C.W.A. 112229B to Com. D.W.A., Capts. D. Liverpool,
Greenock, Belfast.)

All fishing is prohibited forthwith until further notice in
area bounded by 054° 20' N. and 057° 00' 006° 30' W. and 010°
00' W.

(2) Passage to and from permitted area west of Ireland (R)
must be made through Irish Territorial Waters.

(3) H.M. Ships should close all fishing vessels sighted in
this area and inform them of para. one and that they should
forthwith either proceed homewards through Irish Territorial
Waters or to ground outside prohibited area.

(C. in C.W.A. 112251B to Weston Command.)

/Operation...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation
'S.C.'

Ramose Tramp (My 091109B and 091112B) sailed HITRA at 0915B today 11th September.
(2) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired.
(A.C.O.S. 110934B to Admty.)

North
Sea

It is my intention that F.O. Holland and Cdre.- in- Charge Belgium should assume responsibility for their areas as soon as their H.Q. are set up on the continent. F.O. Holland and Cdre.-in-Charge Belgium are to report when they are ready to assume control.

(2) A.N.C.X.F. (Ph) pass to Vice Admiral Dickens and Cdre. Hutton.

(A.N.C.X.F. 111132B to Admty.)

Am awaiting your report on Ostend (My 091044 not to all addressees).

(2) It will be necessary to open Ostend and other small Belgian ports, you should, therefore, prepare to reconnoitre and open these ports providing personnel from Party No. 1501.

(3) Your 101450 not to all addressees replacement of personnel must await stabilisation of situation.

(A.N.C.X.F. 111313B to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Channel
Area.

Your 081222B September.

Arrangements made to sweep these channels immediately on completion of Pluto (Dumbo) channel.

(A.C. Dover, 111129B to A.N.C.X.F.)

My 071835B not to all.

Patrols tonight 11th/12th. STEVENSTONE patrol between positions 127° Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200° Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2150 tomorrow Tuesday.

LA COMBATTANTE anchor Dungeness East Roads at immediate notice until 0615/12 thence Portsmouth.

(2) Communications:- As in my 071835B.

(A.C. Dover, 111150B to C. in C. Portsmouth, LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE.)

Add to my 111150B. Unit F.N.1 M.T.Bs. 361, 362, patrolling in position 106° South Foreland 10 miles from 2300.

(A.C. Dover, 111815B and 111918B to STEVENSTONE.)

Operation
"Victual"

Intend sailing STRIKER passing Gate at 0700B/13th Sept. to R/V with CAMPANIA in position 180° Mull of Kintyre 3 miles at 1115B/13th Sept. thence proceeding via Sound of Islay and Mull in company to Scapa expected time of arrival 0800B/14th

Sept. to comply with C. in C. W.A. 102144 not to all addressees. E.T.A. 058° N. 0030B/14th Sept.

(2) N.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail CAMPANIA to comply. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 111224 to N.O.I.C. Belfast, C. in C.H.F.)

It is confirmed that speeds above 13 knots will not be required. Your 100012 refers.

(2) Request you will sail S.C.1489 to Loch Ewe as convenient for onward passage in J.W.60.

(D.O.D.(H), 111350B to Com. D.W.A.)

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Norway. Have attacked enemy with torpedoes.
P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers 57° 57' N. 7° 05' E.
270° 15 knots.
(A/C C/S RURF 111406 to 16 Group.)

North Chief Soviet Naval Staff has made urgent request
Russia. for loan either NACELLA or BRITISH PROMISE to
make three trips by November 1st from Archangel to
Kola with oil fuel for Northern Fleet.
(2) S.B.N.O. Archangel 291700 August which is
being passed to Admiralty refers.
(3) As an alternative suggest consideration might be given to
loan of black tanker ex J.W. 60.
(4) Either course would be beneficial to relations here.
(5) Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.
(Adm. Archer 111546 to Admty.)
Russians will comply. Your 090109 refers.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 111631B to Admty.)

Mining.

Support for 3 motor torpedo boats are to R/V 7th M.S.F. in
7th M.S.F. vicinity of N.F. 3 at 1030B on arrival of Capt.
M/S Sheerness they are to join him and accompany
in accordance with Sheerness's 101910B remaining
in company until relieved by another unit about
2000B.

Communication constant 2333 k/cs shifting to constant 1780 k/cs
on joining Capt. M/S Sheerness.
(C. in C. Nore 110008B to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.)

Sweeping (1) M/S Flotilla 7 weigh at 0530 today Monday and
operations proceed to carry out Oropesa clearance of area
for Cross enclosed by lines joining A. 051° 22' 00" N. 002°
Chanel 29' 48" E. B. 051° 22' 00" N. 002° 32' 12" E. C.
Cable. 051° 24' 00" N. 002° 37' 12" E. D. 051° 24' 00" N.
002° 29' 48" E. starting at southern limit.
(2) M/S Flotilla (165th) weigh at 0900 and proceed
in execution of my 101910 not to all addressees keeping clear of
7th M/S Flotilla.
(3) T.H.V. DISCOVERY II escorted by 3 ships of 6th M.S. Flotilla
of which 2 are to sweep ahead with Oropesa sailing at 0700.
To lay N.F. 4, N.F. 5 and N.F. 6 buoys in position 051° 20' 39"
N. 002° 20' 30" E. 051° 22' 00" N. 002° 28' 00" E. and 051° 22'
18" N. 002° 35' 30" E. respectively. GOZO pass this para. to
DISCOVERY II.
(C. in C. Nore 110022B, 110930B to S.Os. 7th, 6th M/S Flots.
Capt. M/S Sheerness.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

LEIPZIG. A.M. 111802 September. Later B.2 report states LEIPZIG is at Bornholm today 11th September. (D.D.I.C. 112249B to A.I.G. 21.)

U-Boats.

Suspected U-Boat. Reliable D/F on 4420 k/cs at 0215Z of U-Boat making enigma message gives position within 30 miles of 57° 00' N. 12° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 110635B to E.G.3, E.G.C.5, Force 33.) HESPELER in contact following sighting of Schnorkel in position 090° AA 32. (S.O. Force 33 111355B to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 112011. Attack carried out and lost contact. Have been sweeping area ever since. No wreckage observed. HESPELER carried out two promising attacks but no visible damage other than large patches of air bubbles. Schnorkel was sighted by C.O. at 1000 yards. (S.O.C. 5 112313B to C. in C. W.A.)

Navigational.

Channels to A.C. Dover 101145 September.
Pas de Calais ports. (1) It will now be necessary to open more than one Calais ports. Pas de Calais port.
(2) Following are my intentions for minesweeping in that area (a) F.O.B.A.A. to select and sweep approach channels from following positions.
(i) For Boulogne from junction of approach channel with "Pluto" route.
(ii) For Calais and Dunkirk from 325° Sangatte Church 3.8 miles. Details of these channels should be finally decided in the light of intelligence available after capture of ports.
(b) Forces allocated by F.O.B.A.A. for this purpose to accompany Dover forces in initial sweeps of cross channel routes and to be detached to F.O.B.A.A.'s operational control at positions given in para. 2(a) above.
(3) Admiral Commanding Dover is requested to signal details of intended "Pluto" route which will also be initial cross channel route for Boulogne.
(4) Sweeping channels A and B in A.C. Dover's 101145 is lower priority than opening Pas de Calais and small Belgian Ports sweeping "Pluto" route and routes for telegraph cables in my 081222. (A.N.C.X.F. 111816B to Adnty., A.C. Dover, F.O.B.A.A., Capt. M/S Seine.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Ostend. Have made preliminary R/C of harbour and harbour installations at Ostend. Harbour approaches reported mined. Harbour entrance blocked by approx. twenty ships and craft. Reliable reports indicate

/magnetic...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Ostend. magnetic contact and Katie mines laid in Voorhaven, Sluie de May blocked by damaged bridge and two large sunken mud hoppers. Berths for eight coasters of no more than sixteen feet draft and several drying out berths for similar vessels are available when entrance has been cleared of mines and obstructions harbour installations approx. 50% damaged. None can be operated owing to failure of electric power. Owing to sniping and land mines in the vicinity of the harbour entrance unable to give reliable estimate of time necessary to clear the harbour further report will be made on completion of survey P.S.O. and S.T.O. concur.

(Comdr. Richman 111459B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Ostend. Complete survey at low water today shows harbour entrance blocked by fourteen vessels. Complete removal of vessels to clear a channel for even coasters is a long term job. Consider mass demolition of wrecks only quick method of clearing a channel for coasters. Estimate can clear a channel 120 feet wide in seven working days or less. Minesweeping to permit entrance of wreck dispersal vessels is an urgent necessity. P.S.V.O. leaving for F.O.B.A.A. daylight tomorrow Tuesday.

(P.S.V.O. 111840B to F.O.B.A.A.)

(1) Your 091538 and further to my 102357.

(2) After complete survey consider channel can be cleared by mass demolition in 7 days.

(3) Reliable reports indicate (?graduated) minefield off harbour entrance and heavy mining in Voorhaven. P. party is urgently required.

(4) Confirm berths for 12 coasters available when entrance clear of mines and wrecks.

(5) Large quantity coal present in port.

(6) Serious shortage drinking water.

(7) No electric power or light available.

(8) Commander Richman intends remaining Ostend with small R/C party until directive is received F.O.B.A.A.

(9) S.T.O. concurs A.N.C.X.F. pass to 21st Army Group.

(Comdr. Richman 111900 to F.O.B.A.A.)

Ostend now reported captured and is likely to be required by army at higher priority than Antwerp. Request therefore that you will sweep approaches to Ostend as far as enemy action allows and clear port when possible.

(A.N.C.X.F. 111919B to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 111313 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp. Since Rotterdam may not fall for some considerable time and opening up of Belgian ports is urgent to army propose N.O.I.C. 1732 should be instructed to R/C and open up Ostend and if practicable other small Belgian ports.

Once Antwerp is in operation the small ports would no longer be required and party 1732 would become available for Rotterdam. If you concur with above proposal arrangements can be made with army for early transport of repair party 1531 to join N.O.I.C. party 1732. N.O.I.C. party 1532's 102201 refers.

(F.O.B.A.A. 111947B to A.N.C.X.F., etc.)

/Boulogne...

11.9.1944.

Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities - Contd.

Boulogne,
Calais or
Dunkerque.

Your responsibility is to enable the army to make the max. use of Boulogne Calais and Dunkirk as soon as possible.

(2) You should therefore R/C the first of these to fall and open it up if at all possible.

(3) Subsequently you should be prepared to open up the others and make use of the limited facilities which are likely to be available in all three.

(4) Belgian ports do not concern you.

(5) Major Marshall is being detailed by 21 Army Group to work with you.

(6) 21 Army Group concur.

(F.O.B.A.A. 111935B to N.O.I.C. Naval Party 1503.)

Shipping & Convoys.

M.A.C. ships
position in
convoys.

Recent reports of proceedings from M.A.C. ships show that stations allocated in H.X. convoys, when more than one M.A.C. ship is present, are far from satisfactory for the conduct of flying operations. It is requested that Port Director New York, be asked to station M.A.C. ships in

convoy in accordance with W.A.G.M. 997, N. of the 10th June (passed to B.A.D. Washington by A.M. 121429B July.)

(C. in C. W.A. 111129B to Admty.)

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MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticA/S
protection
for S.S.
HORACE
BINNEY.S.B.N.O. Azores comply with Cominch's 082012
which is being repeated to N.A. Lisbon.
(2) N.A. Lisbon is requested to expedite action
on A.M. 081528.
(D.O.D.(H) 111310B to S.B.N.O. Azores, N.A.Lisbon)Ferrying
escort
carriers
(from U.K)As ships will be onward routed direct Alexandria
intend sailing 2 destroyers to R/V in vicinity
of Cape St. Vincent to relieve present escort.
(2) On relief escort to proceed ahead to fuel
at Gibraltar rejoining on completion.
(3) On next occasion of breaking W/T silence or on
crossing 043 degs. N. request you will report fuel
requirements.
(F.O.G.M.A. 111622B to RAJAH)South AtlanticU-Boat
report.By D/F on 9040 kc/s at 0529Z U-Boat estimated
within 100 miles of 23 degs. 00' N. 21 degs. 00' W.
A.M. 110815B not to S.B.N.O. Azores or C. in C. S.A.
refers.
(D.D.I.C. 110915B to F.O.C. W.Af., F.O.G.M.A.,
S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. C. in C. S.A.)

11.9.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Navsitintrep "Dragoon." Period ending 2400/9th.
26. Right flank G.S. HILARY P. JONES aided in successfully breaking up counter attack by enemy troops and tanks in Castillon area firing 124 rds. Troops were dispersed some tanks destroyed.

Second counter attack occurred in Mt. Beslenda area with HILARY P. JONES firing 330 rds, MADISON 64 rds. S.F.C.P. reported many troops killed others dispersed. Throughout remainder day harassing fire delivered against flak wagons, machine gun nests and mortars as follows: Castillon HILARY P. JONES 227 rds. Mt. Bellenda HILARY P. JONES 109 rds., MADISON 64 rds. Crasci MADISON 73 rds. Covering mine sweeping unit DUGUAY TROUIN 85 rds. at 8 batteries at Bordighera.

Minesweeping. Marseilles. 4 contact mines were cut vicinity of north end of Mole magnetic sweeping Vieux port continued with negative results. In basin Marechal Petain shallow sweeping commenced. Detonated 12 contact. 9 more believed present. Opening of 1 North Block is now 200 feet wide and least depth 23 feet. Within this opening is 120 foot channel with 26 foot depth. Toulon. 2 additional mines destroyed La Neyne area. Nice. Remaining ground mine detonated. Both harbour and channel declared safe. Menton. Channel swept for G.S. ships from 1 mile south of Menton extending 5 miles to Eastward. Unloading. 6 M/V partially unloaded at beaches. D plus 25 convoys arrived. 52 cargo vessels. 47 L.S.T., 28 L.C.I. Cargo ship diversion. 10 Marseilles. 3 Toulon. 5 Port de Bouc. Estimated totals beaches. Personnel 311000. Vehicles 52280. Tons 264500.

N.C.W.T.F. in CATOCTIN proceeded to Toulon. Moored in inner harbour. At 0000 task forces 87 dissolved. Absorbed by T.F.85 with exception BAYFIELD which departed Naples with staff embarked. At 0001 beach control group operations were taken over by coastal base section. At 1300 unloading over Alpha beaches was completed. T.F. 84 being reassigned other forces. N.A.D.F.R. beach liaison group continues assigned duties under C.T.F. 85. (N.C.W.T.F. 110003 to S.A.C. Med., C. in C. Med. Info: Cominch, Comnavu, Comnavnaw, Adty, 7th Army, 6th Corps, 12th Tac. C.T.F.'s 84, 85, 86., C.T.G. 80., 6 C.T.U. 80.6.7.)

VIVID Proceed on surface at discretion to Gulf of Skala Nuova thence proceed diving by day through Samos Straits and Turkish territorial waters to Cape Krio thence east of Piskopi to Scarpanto Straits.

(2) Endeavour to be south of Samos Straits by dusk 12th.
(3) When clear of Cape Krio report your E.T.A. in 036 degs. 01'. 027 degs. 24'. Further routeing instructions will be then signalled.
(4) Cancel my 110151/
(Capt. (S) 1 110856 to VIVID (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M.)
/ Not identified.

Force 120 Unless otherwise ordered do not intend to leave area tomorrow Tuesday. By fuelling from carriers can remain here until 20th.
(2) If desired ATTACKER, STALKER and EMPEROR can then relieve HUNTER, SEARCHER and KHEDIVE, PURSUER being retained

/for ...

War Diary

11.9.1944
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Force 120 for bombardment spotting. C.S. 15-091111 not
(Contd.) to all addressees refers.
(F.O.E.C. 111047Z to F.O.L.E.M.,(R) C. in C. Med.,
C.S.15., A.H.Q.E.M., U.S. A/C Carrier TALAHASSEE.)

VAMPIRE, (P.72) VAMPIRE and EASTON R/V in 034 degs. 46'.
EASTON. 021 degs. 36'. at 12 (202B) 12th.
(2) EASTON escort VAMPIRE through 034 degs. 22'.
024 degs. 01'. to 034 degs. 23'. 027 degs. 20'. at
1701B 13th.
(3) From 034 degs. 23'. 027 degs. 20'. VAMPIRE proceed independent-
ly to 035 degs. 03'. 027 degs. 29'. thence through Scarpanto
Strait, EASTON proceed as ordered by F.O.L.E.M.
(4) VAMPIRE may be proceeding on the surface from 1003B 12th
while awaiting R/V.
(Capt.(S) 1 111235 to VAMPIRE, EASTON (R) A.H.Q.E.M., F.O.L.E.M.,
R.A.E.C. Capt. F., R.A. Alexandria.)
Amend time and position of R/V in my 111235 to read 034 degs.
38'. 021 degs. 030 degs. at 0930B 12th.
(2) All other times 2½ hours early.
(Capt.(S) 1. 111539 to as former)

Joint Naval, (Extract).
Army,R.A.F., 24 hrs. to 0900/11 Sept. 1944. All times G.M.T.
Intelligence Three. Aegean Shipping Summary. Photographic
Appreciation. R/C 10 Sept. revealed. Leros.Portolago. Departed
captured British M.T.B. not since relocated.
Mitylene. Departed further 9 caiques and 4
launches leaving only 10 small caiques present.
Comment: Presumably final clear-out. Island now
reported in Allied hands.
(C. in C. M.E. 111315C.)

Future C.C.S. 358*revised refers. Has any policy been
employment formulated with regard to future employment of
of French French Fleet.
Fleet. (2) French Authorities in Algiers have frequently
stated that they wish their ships to take part in
war against Japan. On the other hand I have reason
to suppose that I will shortly receive comprehensive
proposals regarding the refitting of French ships including a
request that these refits or some of them should be carried out in
British or U.S.A. Dockyards. Furthermore the French are desirous
of making extensive changes in the personnel of the French ships
in order to absorb and bring under discipline a large number of
French sailors which they have found in the vicinity of Toulon.
This will of course necessitate the ships being worked up again.
(3) It is clear that for welfare reasons French ships should be
allowed to visit their own harbours as soon as circumstances permit.
Many of the important units have worn out guns and stocks of
ammunition are low, visits to home yards might assist in these
respects.
(4) As a short term policy it is intended to continue operating
French ships as at present subject to proviso in para. 3.
Confirmation is requested that action on long term policy will
be originated in London or Washington.
(C. in C. Med. 111350 to Adty.) * Not identified in W.R.

War Diary

11.9.1944
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

U-Boats - Schnorkel. U-Boats in Eastern Basin are believed fitted with Schnorkel A.G.M. (7483) A refers and will probably use by night to avoid surface charging.
(2) In calm waters Schnorkel should be capable of detection by W.S. Radar at about 3000 yards.
(3) U-Boats charging submerged should produce loud H.E. with diesel characteristics which will also deaden reception on U-Boats own hydrophones.
(4) Factor in para (3) (? should be) exploited particularly by diving S/MS.
(5) 57 B. was B.G.R.M.
(C. in C. Med. 111552B to Med. Station 58 B.)

Black Sea. From intelligence reports September 7th to September 10th.
(1) Following vessels captured in Varna:
4 patrol vessels STROGY class, 2 x 700 ton torpedo boats, 7 minesweeping M.L's, 7 E-boats, one 17,000 ton tanker, 2 700 ton merchant vessels, one small tanker, 6 minesweepers and 4 landing craft.
(2) Following vessels observed in Bourgas p.m. September 8th: one small merchant vessel, 2 minesweeping M.L's, 10 M.L's and 3 unidentified vessels.
(3) Enemy S/M sighted near Sukhum September 9th.
(4) 3 contact mines swept off Sulina September 4th. Enemy A/C according to unconfirmed reports laid mines in Danube 90 to 96 kilometres and 565 to 570 kilometres from mouth September 10th. (I am still awaiting move to Crimea).
(N.L.O. Black Sea 111635) See Amendment 141230.

Aegean thinning out. (Extract).
(2) G.A.F. activity. 10th September. Air transport. Night 8/9. 11 Ju.52's landed Athens early a.m. from Rhodes. 9 September. 4 or more Ju.52's landed Kalamati from Salonika. Night 9/10. Indications activity from Athens continues.
(C. in C. M.E. No. T.O.O. Recd. 1815)
M.E. Balkan Sitrep No. 301. (Extract)
(B) Greece. Zante. C.X. reports 450 Germans remain. Unconfirmed report 9 Sept. Germans surrendered island to Andartes. Cephallonia Force 133 reports Maj. Nennstiel has not left but is negotiating for surrender. Athens. C.X. reports rail traffic north small owing to Andarto and R.A.F. (rpt.R.A.F.) activity. Comment: Photo Recce shows only medium rail activity, evacuation to Salonika by sea from Piraeus continues. Aegean. Rhodes. C.X. reports 1000 Tps. left by air 1500/5.
(C. in C. M.E. 112145C.)
Ready to leave evening 6 Sep. Chios. Greek Ambassador Ankara reports evacuated by 0700 hours 10 Sep. Mitylene. R.F. report evacuation completed 10 Sept. Lemnos. 16 Fortress Bn. 999 less one Coy awaiting Transport to Salonika. All Tps. now concentrated Mudros except 70 Bn. West. Cos. P.W. reports one and two Coys 10 Fortress Bn. 999 by Air to Greece night 5-6 Sept. Nisiro. C.R. reports 7 Sept. Germans left sailing east except "old age group" left behind. Comment photo R/C reports two landing craft one I boat left for Rhodes.
(C. in C. M.E. 112145C)

/Formation ...

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Formation of support Groups. Agree proposal in para. 1 your 101120 (N.T. in W.D.) (2) Para. 2(A) and (B) GLOXINIA has defects and prefer sailing her with G.U.S. 53. Intend sailing PRIMULA in lieu.

(3) Para. 2(C). Propose BIDEFORD in lieu of PHEASANT. see para. 4 (C) below.

(4) Support Groups. (A) 37th Escort Group. As DEPTFORD is overdue, intend she refits as in my 272207 August (not to all) temporarily substituting SOUTHERN MAID. Intend AMETHYST's refit be suspended for present and so send BRECON to (?Haifa) to refit instead.

(B) 46th Escort Group. Agree but this group cannot be operational as support group until early October as FLEETWOOD is refitting.

(C) Propose formation of reserve support group as 50th Escort Group comprises initially PHEASANT, SPIREA, PROTEA, MYOSOTIS. This group could be operational before 46th and consider desirable to utilise experience of Senior officer 50th Group.

(F.O.L.E.M. 112009 to C. in C. Med.)

Red X. You should see W.O. telegram to A.F.H.Q. 71100 S.C.vessels. Cypher of 24th August and their reply.

(2) Request early signal stating:-

(a) How soon Red Cross Safe-Conduct Vessels may resume voyages to Marseilles.

(b) What route should be followed from Gibraltar to Marseilles.

(c) Your requirements regarding broadcasting of P.C.S.

(d) Whether you still require 4 days notice of all sailings.

(Admiralty. - 112253B to C. in C. Med.)

Navsitintrep 27. "Dragoon." W.D.Note. This message is given as received, no attempt has been made to correct it: Period ending 2400/10. Minesweeping. Marseilles. Sweeping to a depth of 120 feet 2 contact mines were destroyed off North end of Eole. Shallow sweepers in Marechal Petain Basin detonated 4 contact. Intelligence now reports that 4 additional remain. Final magnetic check made of Avant Port Sud. 1 magnetic detonated in lower basin Jolhette. Toulon. Additional contact destroyed La Seyne area. Rade D'Hyeres. Began sweeping in order to provide anchorage. SEER in Grande Pass damaged where mine exploded on port bow. Towed to Toulon. 1 dead. 20 casualties transferred to USAH. SIMENTON. Sweeper G.S. area encountered human torpedoes during a.m. expended 478 rds. 3 inch and 23 86 rds. CLXTF Range A.A. 2 tails lost damage to 3 tails. p.m. sweeping considerable fire 88 mm. and below from Ventimiglia area. Smoke employed. Right flank. MADISON 643 rds. WOOLSEY 144 rds. HILARY P. JONES 32 rds. Bellenda to Capo Ampeglio. Targets of opportunity using air spot and S.F.C.P. Covered M/S. Supporting ships including D.D. P.T. M/S plus S.O.C. and A/S planes engaged human torpedoes. 10 reported destroyed 07. 18. to 12. 47. in area from 5 miles XXFTH Cap Martin to vicinity Capo Mektola. MADISON 1 survivor P.T.S. 2. 3 survivors reported taken by Army after torpedoes beached. Human torpedoes staged from Ventimiglia. No damage reported our ships. Plane and P.T.S. co-ordinating with ships main factors contributing to success.

/At ...

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11.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Navsitintrep
27.
(Contd.)

At 0030 P.T. PANATL encountered 1 control and 2 explosive boats off Ventimiglia. 1 drome exploded other lost when control boat was driven to beach.
Port Clearance. Marseilles. Work suspended in opening North Block due to minesweeping. 21 LOW and 18 L.C.T. arrived from Alpha. 42 L.C.T. now working. Alpha beaches closed. C.T.F. 84 in DUANE departed for Naples. (N.C.W.T.F. 112358.) / As Recd.

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-Boat Dispositions. All areas. No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 110408Z)

SS. WAY-FARER (sunk 19th Aug.) Reference E.F.71614/71/27 para.12.
(A) WAYFARER (B) 14 degs. 30' S. 42 degs. 20' E. approx.
August 19th 2130. (C) Large S/M nationality unknown. (D) Torpedo in number 4 and 5 bulkheads. Ship sunk in two minutes. (E) One.
(F) 10 surveyors on raft no information of others.
(G) No. (H) Not known. (I) No boats got away.
(F.O.E.A.110654Z)

S/M made no effort to communicate with survivors and lay on scene until 0400 then she disappeared at about 2030 on August 19th Third Officer reported red flare bursting in the sky. A similar occurrence was reported on August 4th when south of Madagascar. (J) Not known but presumed sunk in ship.
(K) As for J. (L) Not known. (M) Rapid sinking of ship makes risk of compromise unlikely. (N) R.E.B. Jones Purser. No information. (O) No information.
(F.O.E.A.110700Z)

Daily Opsum No.911. (Extract) 11th Sept. Tactical. 10th Sept. 20 Hurricanes - 8 A/C Onzang - Tiddim areas. 4 M/T damaged 3 Bashes fired. 6 A/C S.E. Fort White, 2 M/T destroyed 2 damaged. 6 A/C Kalewa Area, 6 M/T fired, (?2 or 6) Sampans damaged.

14 Beaufighters R/P and Cannon attacks shipping off Tenasserim Coast (Area Kalegawk Island - Double Island) Following vessels left beached and burning 1 x 500 Tonuo making 400? ton 1 x 350 ton 2 x 300 ton 1 x 250 ton Cargosnats also 1 x 75 Gunboat. Further Gunboat and (?1 or 2) x 300 ton M/V damaged.

(A.C.S.E.A., 110920Z)

Part 3. 8/9th Sept. 3 Liberators (B.24) sank 1 x 400 ft. destroyer damaged 1 x 100 ft sailing vessel S.E. of Hong Kong.
(A.C.S.E.A. 111020Z)

SS. IOANNIS FAFALIOS (Sunk 5th Sept.) H.Q.B.M.A. Somalia report that a Greek steamship from Durban name unknown was torpedoed in approx. 4 degs. 20' S. 43 degs. 57' E. at 0715 on 5th Sept. 25 survivors including Master landed Kismayu on September 10th eight of crew may still be on raft.

(2) Consider this may have been Greek SS. OLYMPOS sailed from Durban 26th August for Aden. (ho)
(3) Air search for a raft arranged from dawn 12th.
(F.O.E.A.111236Z)

Rocket Support Craft and L.C.G's. S.A.C.S.E.A. 070601 not to C. in C. E.F. It is hoped that the following numbers of rocket support craft for Force "W" will have arrived on the Station by the dates shown.
(A) By 1st April, 1945...12 L.C.T.(R).
(B) By 1st Oct., 1945... 8 L.C.S.(R).

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Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Rocket
Support
Craft and
L.C.G.'s.
(Contd.)

(2) Lack of equipment to convert rocket projectors for tropical service prevents any more L.C.T.(R) being made available and production makes it unlikely that the number of L.C.S.(R) available by 1st October, 1945, can be increased. For the same reason, it is not the intention that L.C.I. should be converted to rocket craft.

(3) It is hoped that 14 L.C.G.(L) and 6 L.C.G.(M) for Force "W" will have arrived on the Station by 1st April, 1945 with an additional 30 L.C.G.(M) by 1st October, 1945. (A.C.N.S.(W), 112057B to C. in C. E.F.). (See amendment 122035B)

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat report. H/F D/F Ground Wave on 9040 K/cs at 110 327 O places S/M 39.37 N. 45.30 W. P.C.S. 0800 O 40. 08 N. 46.38 W. 268 13.5. Com. 10th Fleet requested pass to C.E.S.F., C. in C. W.A., and Admiralty for info. Weather 28680955. (C.T.G.21.5, 111131Z to Cominch, Com. 10th Fleet, C. & R.)

Position D/F your 111131 fixed within 150 miles of 23 N. 20.45 W. at 110523Z. (Cominch, 111509Z to C.T.G.21.5, (R) C.E.S.F., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. T.G. 22.3 Asdic contact 18532/10th in 44.12 N. 51.20 W. (N.S.H.Q. 111420Z)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 111425Z, Cominch, 111620Z, 112101Z)

U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON. A.T.149. A U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON steer immediately for new position (M) 41.25 N. 51.05 W. Omit (G) rejoin route at (H). (Com.10th Flt. C. & R. 111838Z to U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON)

Casualties and U-Boat incidents. 0300/10 Panamanian cargo HINDOO sank 11.00 N. 77.57 W. due to collision. (A) 1441/10 Ascension based A/C sighted U-Boat course 350 which crash dived on course 045 at 02.00 S. 07.53 W. (B) 1853/10 BOGUE group reports holding down U-Boat 44.12 N. 51.20 W. All times Z. (C) BOGUE A/C Radar and Sonobuoy contacts 0642/11 44.02 N. 52.02 W. and 1150/11 in 45.01 N. 52.19 W. (Cominch, 112127Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 964. (Extract). (10) Night 9th, two Beauforts co-operating with P.T. boats attacked three barges off Wewak Coast forcing all three aground. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 110530Z)

11.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) RADBURY overdue at Kilindini
since 20th August presumed U-Boat casualty by
C. in C. E.F.

(2) NAIRUNG overdue at Dar-es-Salaam since 21st
August presumed U-Boat casualty by C. in C. E.F.

Para. B. (1) A/C E/162 obtained good A.S.V.
contact at 0200Z/10th in 61 degs. 33' N. 14 degs. 41' W.
(2) A/C O/103 obtained disappearing radar contact at 0735Z/10th
in 56 degs. 43' N. 08 degs. 48' W.
(3) A/C Z/422 sighted U-Boat at 1326Z/10th in 56 degs. 18' N.
07 degs. 06' W.
(D.D.I.C.111056B)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 111359B, 111428B)

War Diary

12.9.1944
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 98)

General.

1(a) Le Havre surrendered at 1100, bringing to a conclusion "a phase of the war in which the Royal and Merchant Navies shared the Bay of the Seine with the Germans". Between the end of the Assault phase on 24th June and to-day approx. 350,000 men, 150,000 vehicles and 1½ million tons of stores have been landed over the beaches and through the small ports of the British Assault Area, with the loss of only 8,260 tons of stores due to enemy action.

(b) F.O.B.A.A.'s H.Q. will transfer to the ex-German Naval H.Q. of Rouen on the 15th.

(c) One acoustic mine was swept off Arromanches.

(d) Cumulative total landings to this afternoon were:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	858,132	213,867	1,567,323
American	1,321,682	239,578	2,184,145
Total:	2,179,814	453,445	3,751,468

General

Norway.

OP. Begonia

2(a) FURIOUS with DEVONSHIRE and TRUMPETER, carried out a sweep of Aara Sund and fell in with a 4,500 ton merchantman escorted by 3 M Class minesweepers. One of these was blown up, all were plastered with cannonfire from the A/C, and the convoy was left stopped and ringed with mines.

(b) H.Q.C.C. has been asked not to bomb Norwegian shipping indiscriminately yet awhile.

North Sea.

3(a) Blankenberghe was captured.

(b) One enemy mine was detonated in the approaches to Ostend.

Channel.

4. Le Treport was reconnoitred for use as satellite port to Dieppe. Little damage was found to quays or port installations, and as soon as the channel from Dieppe can be swept 12 small coaster berths (up to 12 ft. draught) will be available with direct discharge to rail facilities.

Baltic.

5. A/C of Bomber Command laid 317 mines last night in Swinemunde, the Kattegat, Kiel Harbour, Cadet Channel, Fehmarn Channel and Aalborg.

War Diary.

12.9.1944
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Support
Groups

6. Commencing with M.K.S.62 and U.G.S.53 C. in C. Med. has decided to reduce the British escorts of through Mediterranean slow convoys to two ships and operate two support groups (E.G.37 and E.G.50) in the Eastern Mediterranean, formed from the sloops and corvettes thus released.

Adriatic.

7(a) Bombardment of batteries in the Rimini area was continued to-day by LOYAL with good results. Increased enemy fire was encountered, but no damage was caused.
(b) M.G.B.657 had her stem blown off by a mine near Rimini last night. There were 4 casualties.
(c) A coastal force sank two schooners off the Istrian coast last night and captured the crews of 17 Italians.

Yugoslav
Navy.

8. The Yugoslav Government has decided that the Yugoslav Navy may be employed in the Adriatic with the object of assisting the operations of the National Army of Liberation.

East Indies

9. 11/14 Liberators of the Strategic Air Force laid 44 mines to-day in the mouth of the Pakchan River (southernmost boundary between Burma and Siam).

America and West Indies

U-Boat
East of
Charleston.

10. SS. GEORGE ADE reported being torpedoed in 33.30 N. 75.40 W. (about 210 miles East of Charleston Va.) at 0632B to-day. The ship is afloat but crippled and requires a tug.

12.9.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 98)

Situation Reports

Naval

(A) Intelligence.

Naval Party landed on Ushant A.M. 9th September found that the Germans left on 29th August but returned on 31st for demolition purposes, 12 of these are now P.O.W. The French Garrison of 40 sailors and 60 Civilian Volunteers fire on all ships approaching at night.

(B) Assault Areas. Nothing to Report.

(C) Unloading Figures.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	853,676	212,095	1,549,096
U.S.	1,315,052	237,381	2,120,106
Total D + 96	<u>2,168,728</u>	<u>449,476</u>	<u>3,669,202</u>

(Adm. Ramsay 120015 to Adty.)

(A) Assault Area. Weather conditions seriously delayed unloading of U.S. Troop convoy.

(B) General (1) Survey of Ostend shows entrance blocked by 14 wrecks. Estimated that by mass demolition passage 40 yards wide can be cleared in 7 working days. Outer harbour and approach are mined. Harbour installations 50 per cent. damaged but all in-operative due to destruction of electric power supply.

(2) 10949 tons of stores have now been unloaded at Dieppe.

(3) H.M. Ships operating off Ile de Re report being fired on at range of 35000 yards.

(C) Unloading figures.

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	856,667	212,977	1,558,915
U.S.	1,317,284	238,584	2,163,715
Total D + 97	<u>2,173,951</u>	<u>451,561</u>	<u>3,722,630</u>

(Adm. Ramsay 122250B to Adty.)

Military

The ports of Le Havre and Blankenberghe were reduced and in the South troops of Third and Seventh Allied Armies joined up.

(S.H.A.E.F. Forward 122230B to Agwar.)

Resume of
81 days on
final evict-
ion of
Germans from
Bay of the
Seine.

The Fall of Havre.

The fall of Havre at approximately 1100 today, 12th September, brings to a conclusion a phase in which the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy shared the Bay of the Seine with the Germans.

(2) Between the end of the assault phase, when control was transferred ashore on June 24th and the fall of Le Havre today, 1,410,600 tons of stores, (including Pol) 152,000 vehicles and 352,570 men have been landed through the beaches and small ports of the British Assault Area. In spite of a main enemy naval port and fortress less than 20 miles from the beaches, only 8,260 tons of stores have been lost to the army due to enemy action.

(3) During these 81 days, Naval forces in the Bay have fought 28 engagements with enemy surface forces, destroying a coaster and auxiliary and 5 E/R boats, and seriously damaging 1 minesweeper, 2 trawlers and 25 E/R boats.

(4) Concentrated attacks by E.M.B's and human torpedoes on the B.A.A. have been driven off with losses to the enemy of at least 64 E.M.B's and 42 human torpedoes, and many more probables.

/(5) ...

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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 98)Situation Reports - Contd.

Resume of
81 days on
final evict-
ion of
Germans from
Bay of the
Seine.
(Contd.)

(5) Heavy minelaying has been countered by intensive sweeping and other measures, resulting in the explosion of 609 mines.
(6) Approximately 240 targets have been engaged and 6,300 rounds, varying in calibre from 16" to 4.7" expended by H.M. Ships and L.C.G. in support of military operations.
(7) 8 enemy A/C have been claimed to have been destroyed by H.M. Ships and craft, 2 more shared with the army and a number deterred by the harbour barrage.
(F.O.B.A.A. 122248B to A.N.C.X.F)

Mining

Clearance
of Havre
approach.

Reference C. in C. (P) 101426B and minesweeping operation "Broom" for entrance to Le Havre, request A/C depth charge attack may be carried out on or before D minus one day and before 1700. It is to be understood that D minus one day must be determined after the capture of Le Havre and when the coastal batteries have been put out of action.
(Capt. M/S Seine 121115B to F.O.B.A.A.)

My 121115B. It is considered that Channels should be depth charged at less than a quarter of a mile intervals if possible and commencing from latitude 49 degs. 29' 42" N. longitude 000 degs. 07' 24" W. and that one charge should be dropped in the Avant Port. Line of depth charges should run on the centre line of the channels as accurately as possible and it is suggested with some shore Topography should be carried out during depth charge attack.
(Capt. M/S Seine 121241B to F.O.B.A.A.)

One mine
swept off
Arromanches.

No reports of minelaying. Negative results from routine sweeping 163 M.S.F. completed 16 runs L.L./S.A. of new approach channel to Le Havre between "Juno" L/V and position 49 degs. 29' 9" N. 0 degs. 14' 12" W. 1 Acoustic mine swept in position 49 degs. 28' 12" N. 0 degs. 26' 12" W. Sea and swell slight to moderate. Summary A (3) - 1.
(Capt. M/S Seine 122230 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties

L.C.M.
263.

L.C.M. 263 of 600 Flotilla is wrecked on beach and considered beyond economical repair.
(2) Request this craft may be formally removed from the unit equipment of 600 Flotilla.
Arrow's 111847 not to all refers.
(F.O.B.A.A. 121131 to Adty.)

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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D + 98)Port FacilitiesLe Havre
available
shortly.Havre captured.
(N.L.O. 21st A.G. 121109 to A.N.C.X.F.)ShippingShipping at
Solent
awaiting
despatch to
Western
Task Force
Area.

T.C.-451 12/Sept./44.
 Procedure for maintaining cargo vessels at Solent pending departure to far shore developed with Admiralty here follows C.L.N. Mod. forward to nominate each week vessels to be brought to Solent. Number should approximate those forecast to complete far shore delivery succeeding week. Anchorage capacity approximately 25 hence half those at that anchorage should be those to go forward at once, the remaining half to go forward the next week. Purpose is to maintain backlog at Solent to meet requirements far shore with stay at Solent not to exceed two weeks. Forecast your requirements should be not over one week in advance and position corrected weekly to fit current requirements as they arise. Request this office be given specific names of vessels to be brought to Solent and that procedure above be established as soon as possible in order to ensure proper flow to meet requirements as well as permitting granting liberty to crews of vessels standing by Northern anchorages. McConaughy by Leonard signed Vaughan.
 (H.Q. U.K. Base London 121442B to H.Q. Com.Z. E.T.O.U.S.A. (Forward) Paris. (Attn.Col.Traub), H.Q.Com Z. Mod. E.T.O.U.S.A.(Forward) Paris (Attn.Col.Bartlett).)

AdministrationRemoval east
of F.O.B.A.A.
H.Q.

At 0800 15th September my headquarters at Courseulles will close and re-open in ex German Naval Headquarters at Clinque Tombereau Mont St. Aignan Rouen. Map reference M.172176.
 (2) No change in present despatch route from U.K. Official correspondence from British Assault area to be sent to new H.Q. as from 0800 14th September.
 (F.O.B.A.A. 121230 to A.N.C.X.F., S.H.A.E.F., Adty., C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, A.C. Dover, C. in C. Plym, Comdre. Southend, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, C.T.F.125, Capt. M/S Seine, N.O.I.C. Arromanches, N.O.I.C. Dieppe, N.O.I.C. Party 1501, N.O.I.C. Party 1503, N.O.I.C. Party 1732, R.N.O. Port en Bessin, R.N.O. Canoe Exfor Main, Exfor Rear 2nd Br.Army, 1st Canadian Army H.Q. L. of C., 2nd T.A.F. Main, 84 Group R.A.F. 85 Group R.A.F., 8 Base Sub Area.)

War Diary.

12.9.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Movements.

E.G.7,
WHITEHALL,
KEPPEL.

Intend to sail S.O. E.G.7 in CYGNET with BULLDOG and BANBOROUGH CASTLE at 1100B tomorrow 13th Sept. to Loch Ewe E.T.A. 0900B/14th Sept. C. in C. H.F.'s 081507B and C. in C. W.A.'s 081307B and 091057B not to all addressees refer.

(2) WHITEHALL proceeds to Belfast p.m. today Tuesday for short docking F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail WHITEHALL to Loch Ewe as soon as possible after undocking.

(3) KEPPEL will be sailing to Loch Ewe p.m. tomorrow Wednesday on completion of ammunitioning.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 121158B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea, Cdre. (D) H.F. F.O.I.C. N.I., Capt. (D) Greenock, C. in C. H.F., C.S.1, Admty., S.O.E.G.7.)

FORMIDABLE.

FORMIDABLE A.M. 020010 not to all refers.

Route by standard coastal route and Q.Z.S. 565 to F. 50° N. 11° W. G. 47° 13°. H. 39° 13°. J. 36° 10°. thence to Gibraltar.

(D.O.D.(H) 121239B to Cs. in C.H.F., Rosyth.)

In view of C. in C. H.F. 121141B to R.A.N.A.S. (N) not to all my 111810B is cancelled. Intend (i) to sail FORMIDABLE a.m.

Saturday 16th by searched channel to Scapa, (ii) ship to fly on all squadrons at daylight 16th. (iii) Ship to embark 45,000 gallons aviation spirit on arrival Scapa sailing as soon as completed C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange destroyer escort as necessary.

(C. in C. Rosyth 122010 to Admty.)

Admiralty
Floating
Dock No. 17.

Towing arrangements satisfactory para. 1 A.M. 201259 August refers.

(2) Anticipate A.F.D. 17 ready for tow on or about 14th September.

(3) Warrant Shipwright W.J. Trist arrived by air without any instructions para. two A.M. 042244

refers. Is he to return to U.K. from Gibraltar or proceed on with dock. He has only minimum home service kit. (A.C.I.C. 121350B to Admty.)

RODNEY.

Sailed codeword "Ferguson" as in my 101659B. (C. in C. Plymouth 121603B to A.C.O.S.)

DESPATCH.

Concur in F.O.C.R.F. 091105. DESPATCH being destored at Devonport and laid up at Falmouth, berths for 4 L.S.T. at Falmouth being surrendered. (C. in C. Plymouth 121907 to Admty.)

/LORD...

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12.9.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

LORD ESSENDEN, Request A/S trawlers LORD ESSENDEN and OLVINA be transferred to Plymouth Command and sailed as soon as practicable for Plymouth. A.N.C.X.F.'s 091136 not to C. in C. Portsmouth refers. (D.O.D.(H) 121908B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

JEANNE D'ARC. Minister of French Navy has urgently requested through and with endorsement of General Koenig that JEANNE D'ARC be allowed to sail for Cherbourg with personnel belonging to Administrative Department of French Admiralty. It is emphasized that non-official civilians are to be included. S.H.A.E.F. approves journey. Comm. Zone will handle arrangements for onward transportation from Cherbourg to Paris. Please advise departure and number of persons transported. (S.H.A.E.F. 122040B to A.F.H.Q.)

JAMAICA. C.S.10 is requested to sail in JAMAICA, p.m. 14th September by searched channel route to Scapa estimated time departure May Island 0130/15th S.O.A. 20 knots, E.T.A. 0945B/15th Hoxa Gate 1030B/15th. Following lights will be arranged. Group 1 and 2 Rosyth and Buchan Ness. Admty. is requested divert mails to Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 122320B to C.S.10.)

Operations.

Norway. Your 101830. This matter is under discussion. Such attacks should not be made pending instructions (A.C.N.S.(H) 120013B to H.Q.C.C.) A.M. 031241 and A.M. 071619.

Intend M.T.B. Flotilla 54 shall operate from Lerwick against shipping on the Norwegian coast until military situation permits force (including BACHAQUERO with C.F.M.U.2 embarked) to be transferred to Norway.

(2) In these circumstances intend to make utmost use of C.F.M.U. 2 in Lerwick until moment for transfer arrives. It will be necessary however to maintain a repair organization in Lerwick to deal with any M.T.B. which may have to be sent back from Norway for slipping and repair beyond capacity of C.F.M.U.2.

(3) After discussion with C.O. of C.F.M.U. 2, the original requirement for personnel detailed in my number 964/O.S 161/22 of 13th August can be considerably reduced and my 121315 which follows gives minimum requirements of personnel to implement policy set forth in para. 1 and 2 above. It is requested that immediate action be taken to meet these. (A.C.O.S 121302B to Admty.)

/West...

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12.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

West coast of France. Heavily shelled by shore batteries midway between Pte. ~~Butoulinguet~~ (?Toulgoet) and Letas de Pole. 4 batteries probably 6 inch (?no) damage sustained. (Force G.P. 120815B to C. in C. Plymouth.) Pins cover. Night 12/13th September. Q.A. G.D.1

VIMY Z.9 south. G.D.2 LA DECOUVERTE Z.109. (C. in C. Portsmouth 121155B to Admty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, VERNON, Portsmouth, AGGRESSIVE, ATTACK, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, VIMY, LA DECOUVERTE.)

Force 28 is to sweep to north and west tonight 12/13th September, and is to examine Auderne Bay during dark hours and then proceed to pass BB 48° 00' N. 5° 21' W. at first light. From BB proceed to Plymouth communicating with Ushant signal station on passing.

(C. in C. Plymouth 121344B to Force 28.)

Ref. BLYSKAWICA's 091840B to C. in C. Plymouth which has been passed to other addressees.

(1) S.O.E. Organisation is arranging to supply arms ammunition and food to Ushant Islanders at the end of this week or beginning of next week.

(2) Provision of recognition signals is considered unnecessary and undesirable as British ships will approach only in daylight flying white ensign.

(3) Ref. last para. of 091840B. Do you wish any action taken? If so, propose call sign F.F.U. and frequency 438 k/cs for use by W/T station when operating. This is frequency of Lands End Radio through which traffic should be passed. Request your remarks on desirability of using code and if so, of what code to supply.

(C. in C. Plymouth 121651B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Carry out operation "Assault".

(A) Force 27 BLYSKAWICA (S.O.), URANIA. (B) 0830B/13th Sept. (C) By most direct route and keeping out of sight of Belle Ile to reach GG 47° 09' N. 3° 00' W. from southwestward at 2200B/13. (D) Patrol between GG and HH 47° 01' N. 2° 50' W. until 0500B/14 at which time if no enemy information proceed to patrol between 47° N. and Gironde.

(K) S.O. Force 27 is to report percentage of fuel remaining in each ship at 0800 daily.

(C. in C. Plymouth 121755B to BLYSKAWICA, URANIA.)

Closed les Sables d'Olonne, St. Gilles and Ile d'Yeu. No change. Landed Ile but W/T is damaged beyond repair. Night intentions as in your 121344B.

Fuel remaining at 0800/12th ASHANTI 64 O/O KELVIN 61 O/O. O.P. as para. 17. (A) 046° 52' N. 002° 55' W. (B) 048° 00' N. 005° 21' W. (C) 046° ? 41' N. 002° 28' W. Weather report.

(S.O. Force 28 121801B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Force G.P. S.O. 704, 713 leaving l'Abervrach 2000 hours tonight passing through position 270° Creach Point 3 thence to position 338° Trevenec Light 12 to patrol approach to Brest keeping north of 048° N. and east of 005° W. during darkness. Force leaves area after first light 13th at S.O. discretion to return l'Abervrach.

(2) Force G.P. has been warned of your movement.

(C. in C. Plymouth 122311B to Forces, 26, 28.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Victual". This is repetition of my 120628. Sailed ALINGTON CASTLE escorting Clyde portion J.W. 60 C. in C. H.F. 081507 not to all addressees refers T.O.O. 120628 ends. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 120958B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)

Operation "Pluto". Your 111816B September para. 3 "Pluto" route. From position on east side Dungeness 6 and 18 cables from Dungeness Light then through the following position bearing and distance Dungeness Light. (1) 177° 2.5 miles. (2) 119° 13.2 miles (3) 115° 17.1 miles. (4) 108° 22.8 miles. (5) Ambleteus Beach in approx. position 050° 48' 24" N. 001° 36' 00" E. above positions are northern limit of route and Channel will be swept up to 2 miles south of this:- (2) Following is intended programme of sweep by Dover Force my 101145 and 111129 and your 081222 Sept. refer. (1) "Pluto" route. (2) St. Margarets Bay - Sangatte telegraph route. (3) Abbots Cliff - Gris Nez Telegraph route. (4) Sandhead - Boulogne. (5) Dover - Calais. (6) C.1 Buoy - Boulogne. (V.A. Dover 121159B to A.N.C.K.F.)

Western Approaches. With reference to W.A.G.O. 225, the following procedure is recommended for obtaining the echo sounding trace of a bottomed submarine. (A) Find the direction of the tidal stream as accurately as possible. It is usually easiest to do this by dropping a dan buoy (without flag) and noting the direction in which it lies relative to its buoys. (B) Approach the submarine at right angles to the tidal stream and endeavour to make the ship's track across the uptide end of the submarine. Drop one dan buoy 75 yards short and a second dan buoy, by plot, 150 yards from the first. (C) Open out on to the beam of the submarine and as soon as the dan buoys are riding to their moorings ascertain by asdics the position of the submarine relative to the dan buoys, up or down tide. (D) Carry out runs up or down tide through the "Gate" working over from one buoy to the other as in mowing a lawn. Note: It is usually difficult to hold asdic contact on an end-on submarine under these conditions, but, if asdic conditions are very good the "Gate" can probably be dispensed with and a trace obtained with comparative ease making use of S.T.U. and "Q" attachment to guide the ship. (C. in C. W.A. 121202B, W.A.G.M. 048 N.)

/Following...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. (Contd.)

Following is a forecast of support group movements subject to revision for operational or other reasons.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Lay over date</u>	<u>Employment and date</u>	<u>Fuelling port</u>
1	Now until 18/9	Plymouth area 19/9 to 15/10	Plymouth
2	16/9 to 28/9	Minches 15/9	Scapa
3	26/9 to 8/10	N.W. Approaches until 25/9	Moville
5	17/9 to 29/9	N.W. Approaches until 16/9	Moville
6	11/9 to 23/9	Plymouth area 24/9 to 18/10	Plymouth.
9	25/9 to 7/10	Plymouth area until 24/9	Plymouth
10	25/9 to 5/10	N.W. Approaches until 22/9	Moville
11	20/9 to 2/10	Plymouth area until 19/9	Plymouth
14	28/9 to 10/10	S.W. Approaches until 27/9	Milford Haven
15	8/10 to 20/10	Minches 13/9 to 7/10	Scapa
17	14/9 to 26/9	Minches until 13/9 and S.W. Approaches 27/9 to 21/10	Scapa and Milford Haven
18	11/10 to 25/10	N.W. Approaches 16/9 to 10/10	Moville
30	23/9 to 5/10	N.W. Approaches until 22/9	Moville
31		N.W. Approaches 22/9 to 16/10	Moville

(2) Lay over period will normally include 2 to 3 days training at Larne.

(3) Detached groups 7, 8 and 16 not shown.

(4) New groups 19, 20 and 21 expected to be ready about 28/9 5/10 and 8/10 respectively.

(C. in C. W.A. 121604B, 131445B, 132154B to Admty.)

S.O. Force 32's 121145 para. 2.

Confirmed that Commander Moore and Staff are to proceed to Greenock in CRANSTOUN. CRANSTOUN, LOCH KILLIN, MOORSOM, BURGESS and ASCENSION will then form E.G. 17, S.O. Commander Moore.

(2) My 071159 para. 2 directed S.O. E.G.2 to assume command of Force 32 as long as E.G. 2 was operating in the C.X. area. Was this received and understood.

(3) Mails have been diverted.

(C. in C. W.A. 121639B to CRANSTOUN, S.O.E.G.2.)

Night intentions 12th September.

(2) 3rd E.G. between Barrahead and Skerryvore. E.G.C.S. in B.4 until corvettes rejoin then B.4 and C.2 north.

(3) 5th E.G. in D.2 and B.2. E.G.B.4 in the vicinity 056° 30' N. 012° W.

(S.O. Force 33 121735B to Force 33.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Channel. My 071835B (not to all). Patrols tonight 12/13th. BLANKNEY patrol between positions 127° Dungeness 7.3' and 200° Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2130 tomorrow Wednesday. STEVENSTONE anchor Dungeness east roads at 2130 at immediate notice until 0615/13 thence Portsmouth. Communications: C.N. and 1570 k/cs from 2000 shifting to C.N. and 1700 k/cs when ordered on completion of interception exercise.
(A.C. Dover 121220B to C. in C. Portsmouth, STEVENSTONE, BLANKNEY.)

Operation "Nestegg". Your 071745 September. Request I may be supplied with terms of surrender.
(2) No information about this matter has yet been received.
(C. in C. Plymouth 121311B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Operation "Begonia". Operation "Begonia" completed according to plan effective and no G.A.F.
Enemy M.V. of 4,500 tons escorted by 3 M-class M/S obligingly shared the Channel simultaneously with strike. All ships well plastered with cannon fire one escort vessel blew up and sank. Convoy left stopped ringed with mines. One Seafire shot down. My position course and speed 005° T.F. H.Q. 33 230° 16 knots. Weather report.
(FURIOUS 121801B to C. in C. H.F.)

North Sea. Request early consideration may be given to bombing of E-Boats now at Rotterdam and IJmuiden.
(2) The E-Boats are likely to be a serious hindrance to minesweeping operations and entry to Dutch and Belgian ports.
(C. in C. Nore 122010 to Admty.)

Have attacked 4 enemy small craft with bombs dive result of attack - hits observed. My position 52° 20' N. 3° 55' E.
(A/C C/S PCSQ 122250 to 16 Group, H.Q.)

Allied Air Activity.

Boat-carrying aircraft. Ops. 0.26/119. With reference to your message 011543B September on the subject of employment of Boom Patrol Boats to attack U-Boats. It is anticipated that six sets of modification equipment to carry the boats will be available by 15th Sept. for modification of six Lancasters in Bomber Command.
(2) C. in C. Bomber Command is investigating the possibilities of this operation as a matter of urgency and you will be informed of progress. Your reasons for completing this operation as early as possible are fully appreciated.
(Air Ministry 121755 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

157th M.S.F. My 121649 157th M.S.F. has been temporarily allocated to Nore for opening Ostend. It is intended that flotilla shall be available to you for Pas de Calais operations.
(A.N.C.X.F. 121915B to F.O.B.A.A., Capt. M/3 Seine)

Two mines swept. My 111746. Clearance completed as ordered by your 110022 and check swept.
(2) Today one mine detonated in sweep in position 051° 23' 15" N. 002° 30' 30" E. One mine cut in position 052° 24' 00" N. 002° 34' 24" E. and sunk by rifle fire. Second mine British M Mark I.
(3) Northern limit H for How. Dans left.
(4) Am returning to Small Downs for night.
(S.O. M.L. Flot. 7 121930B to C. in C. Nore.)

Le Treport channel. Reference N.O.I.C. Dieppe's 121914B two B.Y.M.S. and 6 M.M.S. are now at Dieppe. If proposal to open Le Treport is agreed intend the 2 B.Y.M.S. should carry and Oropesa search and 3 M.M.S. be detailed for L.L/S.A. sweep S.

Channel to be 6 cables wide and to run from D.P.I. Buoy to positions 50° 04' 51" N. 01° 21' 24" E. thence to breakwater entrance.
(Capt. M/3 Seine 122351 to F.O.B.A.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Transport activity between Denmark and Norway. German Military (immigration) to Norway and Denmark. My 231621 and 301747 of August.
(1) Transport activity between Denmark and Norway continues to be slight. In addition of usual small leave troopships only one medium transport is now operating.

(a) LEVANTE which recently completed repairs at Ankers has been operating between Oslo and Aarhus and Copenhagen.. She completed one round trip leaving Oslo August 25th and disembarked infantry cars and field guns at Copenhagen August 26th. She left Aarhus August 31st with 1200 young infantry recruits and motor transport arriving Oslo left September 3rd possibly via Copenhagen. Following day LEVANTE left Oslo with 600 fully equipped infantry and 200 G.A.F. troops and arrived Aarhus September 6th leaving same day with about 2,000 infantry recruits.

(b) MARS and BRETAGNE both continued plying regularly between Fredrikstad and Fredrikshavn in late August. Each was observed in Oslo early September and MARS was reported to have left there September 4th with 600 Marines infantry and G.A.F. not leave troops.

(c) MAR DEL PLATA was observed in Copenhagen September 5th.
(d) An infantry regiment of 3,000 men arrived Copenhagen September 9th but method of transport is not known. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 121841.)

O.I.C. Comment. As far as shipping movements are concerned this is believed to be a good report.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Suspected Your 112220 not to all addressees.
U-Boats. HESPELER is remaining in vicinity of his contact. As I have remained here all day think it advisable to remain till dawn. On arrival at Datum Point picked up one contact and dropped a depth charge pattern, nil wreckage and no other contact. Have had two doubtful small disappearing Radar contacts since dusk but consider them ghost on set.
(S.O.C. 5 120051B to S.O. Force 33.)
E.G.B.4 investigating vicinity 057° 00' N. 012° 30' W. for U-Boat fixed by H/F D/F at 0233Z. Suitable.
(S.O. Force 33 120430B to C. in C. W.A.)
5 attacks completed object broken up, am proceeding in accordance with your 121139B.
(KINCARDINE 122358B to C. in C. W.A.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Le Treport. Proposal to open Le Treport as satellite introduced for small coastal traffic is being brought up at P.E.C. Meeting tomorrow Wednesday 13th Sept.
If proposal agreed would M/S ships be available for sweeping channel from Dieppe anchorage to Le Treport and approaches.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 121914B to F.O.B.A.A.)
Have today reconnoitred Le Treport. Findings as follows.
(1) Damage to port quays and installations not of great consequence.
(2) Consider ideal communication port.
(3) 12 small coaster berths immediately available for discharge direct to quay with rail facilities.
(4) Maximum draft acceptable 12 feet and ships will lie aground low water.
(5) Channel will have to be swept from Dieppe to Le Treport after which port will be available for discharging military cargo.
(S.S.T.O. 122124B to D. of S.T.)
Your 121914B M.S. can be arranged. At present no P Parties available state your requirements for these and I will request from A.N.C.X.F. Inform me of P.E.L. decision.
(F.O.B.A.A. 122346 to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)

Ostend. My 111313 and Ostend 111840 neither to all addressees. Party should be sent to open Ostend as soon as possible. If P Party is necessary 1572 must be used.
(A.N.C.X.F. 121925B to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)
P.S.V.O. 111840 para. 5. Army situation urgently demands opening of Ostend.
(2) Everything now depends on sweeping entrance. Hope you will take every endeavour to accomplish this as early as possible.
(A.N.C.X.F. 121927B to C. in C. Nore.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Flashless A.M. 112042B L.C.T. (R) 331 selected.
Rocket flare (R.A.M. L.C. 121446B to Admty.)
trials.

Shipping & Convoys.

Shipping Reference A.N.C.X.F's 061806 and N.O.I.C. Newhaven's
for Dieppe. 091515. Intend to route Dieppe ships to desti-
nation to R/V at C.2A Buoy with W.D.C. convoys at
C.2A Buoy when times are approx. the same.
(2) This will occur with E.T.C. 98, 99 and 100
and W.D.C. 9, 10 and 11 respectively.
(3) E.T.C. ships would be ordered to proceed towards Newhaven
from C.2A Buoy burning dimmed navigation lights until W.D.C.
convoy is met.
(4) This will often save about 24 hours delay to E.T.C. ships
which would otherwise be spent in the exposed anchorage off
Newhaven.
(Cdre. in C. Southend 121102B to C. in C. Nore.)

Convoys be- In view of the present limited width of the swept
tween Trevoze channel between Trevoze Head and Hartland Point,
and Hartland. Q.Z.S. 546, convoys should be formed into three
columns, if over twenty ships and two columns if
under twenty ships, before reaching this passage,
C. in C. W.A. is requested to implement.
(2) As far as possible arrangements will be made to ensure that
convoys do not pass each other between these points.
(D.T.D. 121859B to Cs. in C. W.A. Plymouth.)

Southern F.Os. i/c pass to N.C.S.Os.
Irish Eire ships. A.M. 211859 October 1943. Cancel
Vessels. para. 2 and substitute:-
"Eire ships are to be routed by Great Circle from
Fastnet to 41° N. 40° W. thence along parallel
of 41° N. to cut into the port approach routes
given below. Note in addition to reporting as in para. 4 Eire
ships bound for Canadian and Newfoundland ports are to report
by W/T their 1200 G.M.T. position daily when west of 47° W. to
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa."
This change comes into force on 1st October, 1944.
(D.T.D. 121921B to N.A. Lisbon, N.A. Madrid, N.A. Dublin,
U.K. S.A. Dublin, F.Os. i/c Cardiff, Milford Haven, Greenock,
Liverpool, Glasgow, Northern Ireland.)

Convoy C.U. 38 keep 20 miles to port of your route between
C.U. 38. long. 010° 30' W. and 008° 30' W.
From KV proceed through KX 270° Bishop Rock 10
miles KY 000° Round Island 10 miles KZ 293° Trevoze
Head 5 miles thence via Q.Z.S. 546 and Q.Z.S.
452 stragglers route same as convoy route lettered J, K and L.
(2) Convoy is to split in position KV Cherbourg and Southend
sections proceeding through KA. Course 180° Bishop Rock 10

/miles...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys

Convoy
C.U.38.
(Contd.)

miles KB 180° Lizard Head 5 miles escorted by 3 escorts of T.G. 21.7 and 2 escorts of T.U. 21.7.1. (3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to assume control of Cherbourg and Southend sections after crossing 007° W. and allocate radio distinguishing groups.

(4) Bristol Channel section is to proceed unescorted from vicinity of Helwick light vessel, one escort to remain with Mersey and Clyde ships detaching Wallsend ships unescorted from vicinity of Skerries and Clyde ships unescorted from Fastnet Rock.

(5) Cherbourg escort to Portsmouth to lay over on completion. Irish Sea escort to Londonderry. Escort subsequently sail in accordance with C. in C. Lant 102027 not to all addressees. (C. in C. W.A. 122120Z to C. in C. Plymouth, S.E. C.U. 38.)

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Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ESKBANK

Your 120855B/
ESKBANK was not at R/V between 0200 and 0330.
Subsequent search between R/V position and
position B.X. unsuccessful. Returning to R/V
position.
(CONVOLVULUS 121020B to F.O.G.M.A.)
/ No trace in W.R.

A/S
protection
for S.S.
HORACE
BINNEY.

Request name of Portuguese vessel providing petrol
and details of their anti-submarine equipment.
(2) S.S. WILLIAM FEW will arrive Santa Maria about
1500Z/14.
(3) Suggest that arrangements for co-ordinating the
patrol with subsequent arrivals of store ships be
made by me with Commander Maritime Defences at
Ponta Delgada through British Maritime Delegate

there.

(4) Your 111859A and Admiralty's 111310B. refers.
(S.N.O. Azores 121112Z to N.A. Lisbon, Info: Adty., H.M. Consul
Ponta Delgada.)

Your 121112 (not to S.B.N.O. Horta).

(2) These details should be obtained from Cmdr. Maritime Defence
Horta repeat Horta.

(3) Captain Penteado is being instructed to cooperate with you
regarding co-ordination of any necessary future patrols.

(N.A. Lisbon 121840A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Adty, S.B.N.O.
Horta, Consul Ponta Delgada.)

South Atlantic

Radar
contact.

My 121315Z / Sept. Com.Fourth Fleet reports
further firm Radar contact at 1730 11th in 00.
30 S. 10. 25 W. Contact lost as plane dived
below cloud to investigate. Swirl seen.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 121531Z to Adty.)
/ Not yet identified.

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12.9.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- VORACIOUS Patrol on Salonika - off shore route North of latitude 039 degs. 35'.
(2) Cancel patrol ordered in my 101246.
(Capt. (S) 1. 120952 to (P.78) VORACIOUS (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M.)
- S.S. (Extract) Summary of Operations ending 1800/11.
REX Coastal Details:
A Marauder sighted the liner REX lying on her side, decks awash and still smoking.
(H.Q. M.A.A.F. 121030B)
- Yugoslav Navy. Yugoslav Govt have decided that Royal Yugoslav Navy may be employed in Adriatic with object of assisting operations of National Army of Liberation.
(2) In consequence of above arrangements set out in Med. 00160/1 of 26th August may be explained to responsible Yugoslav officers. They are however to be told that in accordance with orders from Yugoslav Govt, R.Y.N. ships operating in Adriatic are to fly the blue-white-red ensign without crest. Similarly ships manned by partisans will not wear the red star.
(3) No news of a proclamation by The King has yet been received. In consequence great care must be exercised as to whom text of this signal is imparted.
(4) V.A. Malta and F.O.T.A.L.I. are requested to investigate question of immediate employment of as many R.Y.N. ships as possible (including NADA) in Adriatic and Approaches thereto and report findings to C. in C. Med. by signal.
(5) Re-armament of any ships referred to in V.A.M. 031001 July (not to all) which are selected in accordance with paragraph four above may be put in hand at Malta if still considered necessary.
(6) M.T.B's, M.C.C., M.C.G. and M.C.K. now at Malta may be placed under R.Y.N. control. My 261622 December not to all refers.
(7) DURMITOR and NEBOJSCA may proceed to Malta as arranged by V.A.M. and F.O.L.E.M.
(8) Questions of ex-Yugoslav ships now flying Italian flag and possible transfer of British ships to Yugoslav flag will be dealt with separately.
(9) R.Y.N. personnel reservists and recruits in Egypt and Italy may move to Malta as arranged between V.A.M., F.O.L.E.M. and F.O.T.A.L.I. F.O.L.E.M's 021928 and 101120 June and V.A.M. 051135 July none to Admiralty refer.
(10) Name of Yugoslavs C. in C. not yet known, but Commander Sostaric R.Y.N. will shortly assume appointment of Liaison Officer to C. in C. Med. at A.F.H.Q.
(11) Inform Commander Saksida that Prime Minister of Yugoslavia directs that he is to report to Marshal Tito on arrival of first ships in Adriatic and place himself at Marshal's disposal.
(C. in C. Med. 121255B to V.A. Malta.)

/14 U.S. ...

12.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

14 U.S. manned L.C.T.(R) to be transferred to R.N.

L.C.T. (R). This message reports on the condition of these L.C.T.(R) and states that the contemplated trip will at best be hazardous considering season and many probable breakdowns. Suggest tugs accompany. (Com. L.C.T.(R) Group 121344 to Com. 8th Fleet). See further message. C. in C. Med. 131250 to Atdy.

Formation of support Groups.

Concur in proposals in your 112009.
(2) Decision as to disposal of 46th E.G. will be made at a later date.
(3) Ships will be sailed to U.K. as follows:
(A) JONQUIL and HYDERBAD with M.K.S.61.
(B) HAZARD and VETCH from Gibraltar about 22nd Sept.
(C) SHARPSHOOTER with M.K.S.62.
(C. in C. Med. 121910 to F.O.L.E.M.)

Convoy Escorts reduced: Support groups formed.

Commencing with M.K.S. 62 and U.G.S. 53 the British escorts of K.M.S./M.K.S and G.S./U.G.S. (? G.U.S./U.G.S. intended) convoys will be reduced to 2 ships. Support groups will operate in the Eastern Med. under the orders of F.O.L.E.M.
(2) Escort groups will be organized as follows:-
(A) DART, PRIMULA. (B) SHIEL, GLOXINIA.
(C) BIDEFORD, ALISMA. (D) BARLE, BERGAMOT.
(E) USK, CONVULVULUS. (F) EVENLODE, DELPHINIUM.
(3) Support Groups will be constituted as follows:-
E.G.37. STORK, AMETHYST, DEPTFORD, CAMPION. E.G.50. PHEASANT, SPIREA, PROTEA, MYOSITIS; SOUTHERN MAID will take place of DEPTFORD whilst latter refits.
(4) The disposal of ships in the present (?5) Med. groups not mentioned in para. 2 and 3 will be signalled separately.
(C. in C. Med. 121912B)

German 80 day clock.

Your 091602B addressed Mediterranean Station is not understood.
Last sentence as received reads "This clock may be used as an S.M.D. or P.D.M. and may be encountered in German mines types G, N, R, S, and Y."
Request corroboration, especially whether 80 day clock has been found with G.G. mine or for period delay mechanism.
(D.T.M. 121937B to C. in C. Med.)

Greek Relief Ships.

Action will require to be taken to ensure the safety of Greek Relief Ships and to prevent their movements interfering with operations in the event of (a) Germans withdrawing safe conduct or (b) operations against Greece commencing.
(2) Should safe conduct be withdrawn you will immediately be notified and you should arrange to divert these vessels to a British-controlled port.
(3) In the event of operations against Greece commencing you should likewise arrange to divert these vessels to a British-

/controlled ...

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Greek Relief Ships. (Contd.) controlled port. Thereafter you should consult with S.A.C. Med. to ascertain whether the vessels should be sailed in Allied convoys to Greece, informing him also of any conditions which you require to lay down for the inclusion of these vessels in Allied convoys. (A.C.N.S.(F) 121955B to C. in C. Med.)

M.E. Balkan Sitrep No. 302. (Extract)
Two Int.Greece Peloponnese. H.Q. 117 Div. still at Periyiali Cephalonia.. All Germans except few on Cape Mounda left 9th September Island now controlled by local Greek authorities. Aegean. Rhodes. Force 133 report 2,800 tps. evacuated by air 3 to 5 September. Comment. This figure appears exaggerated. 30 Ju.52's leave each night with troops. Lemnos. R.F. report 16 Fortress Bn.999 left by 11 September. Kos. Force 133 report 15 Ju.52's arrive and take off each night. Andros. 8 September German garrison of 51 boarded caique for mainland but were unable sail owing weather. 10 Sept. Andartes attacked caique which sailed for Tinos. Five. Sea Ops. N.T.R. (C. in C. M.E. 122010C)

Navsitintrep 28. "Dragoon." Period ending 112400. Right flank G.S. MADISON 30 rds. LUDLOW 261 rds. broke up enemy counter attack Mt. Bellenda. WOOLSEY 419 rds. LUDLOW 407 rds. MALIN 34 rds. at troops, batteries, strong points and human torpedo launching base at Ventimiglia. LORRAINE fired 58 rds. for 1 hour on fortifications at Castillon with 4 direct hits reported by air spot. Minesweeping. Maintenance continued. Sweeping inner harbours resulted cutting two contacts La Seyne in Toulon. Aerial mine spotting reported 2 mines Great Rupy (?Grande Rade intended)Toulon. Unloading: Beaches personnel 6992, vehicles 476, tons 7218. Marseilles vehicles 263, tons 2380. Toulon tons 850. (N.C.W.T.F. 122118B)

Cositintrep No. 432. Part two. Cositintrep No. 431 not issued. Gunfire support forces in Mentone area were attacked by human torpedoes A.M./10. No damage to ships resulted. 10 torpedoes reported sunk and one possibly sunk.
(2) Coastal forces operating off Savona night 10/11 Sept. sunk F Lighter and a barge and probably sunk a second barge.
(3) Destroyers and gunboats continued bombardment in Rimini area on 10 Sept. and 11 Sept. Gun positions Field Batteries and troop concentrations were effectively engaged. Enemy return fire was on a reduced scale.
(C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O./12)

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Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat Area A.D. A.D. 1 Scale W.5. A.D.2, A.D.3 position
dispositions. uncertain remaining X.4. Area K.D. K.D. 1 K.D.
2 Greek ships probably OLYMPOS sunk in 004 degs.
20' S. 043 degs. 57' E. 5th September. Scale X.4.
K.D. 3, K.D. 4 Scale W.5. Area B.B. B.B.1, B.B.
2, B.B.3 no change W.5. Area C.B. C.B. 1 position uncertain
scale remaining Y.2. C.B. 2 position uncertain scale Y.4 P.
C.B. 3, C.B. 4 no change W.5. Area V.P. V.P. 1, V.P. 2 no
change remaining W.5.
(C. in C. E.F. 120409Z)

S.S. Para. 2 of my 111236 R.A.F. Mogadiscio. Now
FAFALIOS report ship was Greek S.S. IOANNIS FAFALIOS.
(sunk (F.O.E.A. 121357Z)
5 Sept.)

Force W. A.M. 112057. Cancel para. 3 and substitute.
(3) It is hoped that 6 L.C.G. (L) and 6 L.C.G. (M)
for Force "W" will have arrived on the Station by
1st April, 1945, with an additional 8 L.C.G. (L)
and 18 L.C.G. (M) by 1st October, 1945.
(D.C.O.D. 122035B to C. in C. E.F.)

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TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat report. At 120031 U-boat transmitted enigma type D.F. on 8080 kcs 50 groups within 100 miles lat 38-00 N. long. 19-00 W. (Cominch 120125Z to C. in C. Lant. Comnavzor, F.O.G.M.A. Adty.)

S.S. GULF MARACAIBO (U. S. Tanker). Teeth completely gone on forward main gear and pinions. No repair possible. Am stopped 295 miles 315 degs. from 0 latitude 007 degs. 12'. Drifting in direction 080 degs. true at 1 knot speed. Send tug. If broken teeth are cut away in Panama we may be able proceed to shipyard on after gears. Master. (GULF MARACAIBO 120615Z to Compaseafon)

S.S. GEORGE ADE torpedoed. Intercept 0429Z 500 kcs. Type A.2. SSSS D.E. W.S.S.N. (GEORGE ADE). Torpedoed position 33. 30 N. 75. 40 W. (Lands End Radio 120632B) Afloat but crippled need assistance in Gulf stream drifting eastward. Master. (GEORGE ADE No. T.O.O./12th to Amangansett Radio)

S.S. HINDOO, AUSTRALIA STAR - collision. AUSTRALIA STAR (Br.) in collision with (?HINDOO) in 110 N. 77. 57 W. at 0230 G.M.T./10. Latter ship sank, former arrived Cristobal with damage to stern and forepeak and is to drydock at Balboa. (S.O. (I) Jamaica 121100A)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. C. T.G. 22.3. A/C Radar contacts at 1150Z 11th and 0642Z 11th in 45. 01 N. 52. 19 W. and 44. 04 N. 52. 02 W. respectively. All times Z. (N.S.H.Q. 121350Z)

U-Boat dispositions Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 121426Z, Cominch 121559Z)

U-Boat incidents (A) 0420/12 U.S. Liberty ship GEORGE ADE reported being torpedoed 33. 30 N. 75. 40 W. and firing on the U-Boat which she sighted at 0430/12. All times Z. (B) 1730/11 Ascension based A/C Radar contact and swirl 00. 30 S. 10. 08 W. (Cominch 122046Z)

Escort oilers for C.U./U.C. convoys. Comnavcu give to Com. Usbas France beginning with Convoy C.U. 40, Escort Oilers will not be provided for C.U./U.C. Convoys N.Y. your 101654 not to all refers. (Cominch X 122118Z to C. in C. Lant.)

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Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C D/423 attacked U-boat with depth charges at 0805Z/11. in 56 degs. 51' N. 08 degs. 04' W.
(2) E.G. C.5. attacked U-boat at 1034Z/11 in 56. degs. 52' N. 08 degs. 04' W.
(3) H.M.C.S. HESPELER made two attacks on U-boat at 1155Z/11. in 56 degs. 30' N. 07 degs. 40' W.
Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0341Z/12. in 53 degs. 05' N. 15 degs. 02' W.
Para. C. (1) A/C T/59 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2006Z/11. in 57 degs. 38' N. 10 degs. 58' W.
(D.D.I.C. 121102B)

Attacks
on U-Boats.

My 221059 July 1942.
(1) At 0228/5th ship of E.G.11 attacked good contact in 50 degs. 45' N. 06 degs. 02' W. Part of German torpedo picked up about 15' to N.E. the next day.
(2) At 0845/9 PORCHESTER CASTLE with Force 33 detected and attacked U-Boat in position 55 degs. 46' N. 11 degs. 41' W. Human flesh, wood panelling and metal compressed air bottle recovered.
(D.A.U.D. 121730Z)

U-Boat
dispositions

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 121140B, 121358B)

13.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+99)

General.

- 1.(a). A.N.C.X.F. suggests to Admiralty that the Assault area (i.e. "Neptune") should now be cancelled. (see 20th September.)
- (b). The Americans should take over every thing west of Cape d'Antifer and Quilleboeuf on the Seine, except for the coast and ports between St. Honorine (0° 48' W.) and the East bank of the Orne. The British to take over this and the French coast east of Cape d'Antifer.
- (c). Aircraft of Coastal Command depth charged Havre approach to counter mine enemy depth charges and mines. (p. 285)
- (d). Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores
British	860,653	214,885	1,580,308
American	<u>1,326,271</u>	<u>240,667</u>	<u>2,208,307</u>
	<u>2,186,924</u>	<u>455,552</u>	<u>3,788,615</u>

General.

2. Admiralty floating dock No. 17 is to be sailed from Iceland tomorrow for Gibraltar.

3. ~~CR~~DANAE is to be lent to the Polish Navy and will be renamed CONRAD.

Channel.

- 4.(a). The approaches to Ostend should be swept clear by tomorrow p.m. (blockships remain outstanding for another 7 days).
- (b). Le Treport is to be opened up as soon as possible.
- (c). The cross Channel towage situation is becoming difficult, with 45 tugs only available for 260 tows expected in September and October.
- (d). Blanc and Gris Nez batteries fired 54 rounds into the Folkestone - Dover - Deal area, causing civilian casualties and damage.

Western Approaches.

5. The supply position of anti U-Boat ammunition is causing C. in C. Western Approaches anxiety. He has asked Admiralty for very early renewals of stocks.

West coast of France.

- 6.(a). 10,000 mixed German troops are reported now in La Rochelle, under Adm. Nerdeek, and 5 submarines to have been in the serviceable pens there at the end of August. But St. Nazaire is emphatically declared to have been empty of U-Boats on Sept. 4th.
- (b). French naval forces have cleared Concarneau of mines, and 800 ft. of quay space is available for ships up to 3,000 tons.

/(c)...

13. 9. 1944.
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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

General - Contd.

West coast
of France.

6. (c). C. in C. Plymouth is requested by S.H.A.E.F. to communicate direct with Etat Major F.F.I. with regard to F.F.I. forces in Brittany and the Bay contacted by our patrols.

Norway.
OP. "HECKLE."

7. H.M. submarine SCEPTRE returned from a successful operation in which her X type S/M 24 attached charges ~~to~~ ^{under} Laksevaag Dock, timed to fire at 1440 on the 11th without being detected.

W. W. Murray

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

8. Coastal forces last night engaged 4 F-Lighters off Savona (Gulf of Genoa), destroyed three of them and set the fourth on fire, without damage to themselves.

Operation
"Dragoon"

9. (a). The French cruiser GLOIRE and U.S. destroyers LUDLOW and WOOLSEY gave fire support on the Franco - Italian frontier yesterday and today with good results.

(b). At Marseilles, 14 Liberty ships off loaded 360 troops, 362 vehicles, 3267 tons of cargo via L.C.Ts, L.C.Ms., and Dukws. The first coaster entered the Vieux Port.

(c). At Toulon and Port de Bouc respectively the unloading of the first Liberty ship is completed.

Entry of
French Fleet
into Toulon.

10. The French battleship LORRAINE, 5 cruisers and 5 destroyers made a ceremonial entry into Toulon today. C. in C. Med. in SIRIUS and C.T.F. 86 in PHILADELPHIA took part.

Operations
in Aegean.

11. (a). Two M.Ls. covered by WHADDON made a R/C of Kithera (Cerigo) Island last night and found the enemy had evacuated the island after destroying the installations. Two prisoners were brought away.
(b). TROUBRIDGE and TUSCAN of Force 120, covered by fighters from the escort carriers under R.A.E.C. in ROYALIST last night attacked an enemy convoy between

/Santorin...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operations
in Aegean.
(Contd.)

Santorin and Crete, and report that they sank the entire convoy, consisting of one merchant ship, (?coaster TONI or a K/T ship), 2 trawler escort vessels and 3 caiques.

(c). The submarine VIRTUE, operating in the approaches to the Gulf of Salonika this morning made a possible hit on a small merchant ship in 39.27 N. 23.21 E.

(d). The 5th Minesweeping Flotilla sailed from Malta today to carry out sweeping operations in Kithera Channel (c.f. 18th September.)

China.

12. Liberators from China on a sweep of the Formosa Strait sighted a convoy of 14 ships in two sections today, and sank two freighters of 200 to 300 ft.

Australia & New Zealand.

Palau.

13. 166 carrier based aircraft attacked Palau Island today.

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13.9.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Covering OperationsCherbourg
patrols.

Cherbourg patrol night 13th, 14th September.
 (1) (?BORUM) Z.209, MALOY Z.201.
 (2) One P.C. Z.207, Z.208, one P.C. Z.210,
 2 P.C. Z.221, S 6 P.T. Z.203.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131908B to Admty., C. in C.
 Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth,
 F.O.I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth,
 Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T on B'cast "HD" and
 "CN" in Area "C".)

Movements

ENTERPRISE

ENTERPRISE can now be released from "Neptune".
 (A.N.C.X.F. 131119B to Admty.)
 A.N.C.X.F. 131119 September, releasing ENTERPRISE
 from operation "Neptune".

- (2) Ship is at peak efficiency after 11 months commission and service and excellent team spirit prevails.
 (3) Ship is also structurally and mechanically sound although armament by modern standards is obsolescent. Guns of main armament are, however, newly changed. Above statement pre-supposes no excessive demands in heavy weather, also attention to five items enumerated under paragraph one B of my 041021 August.
 (4) It is accordingly submitted that ENTERPRISE would be considered adequate for ensuing years Mediterranean or similar operations if manning situation admits and if thereby releasing a more modern unit for other service.
 (ENTERPRISE, 132313B to Admty.)

Mining

Le Havre

No reports of minelaying.
 1 ground mine swept in 49° 40' 45" N. 00° 30' 15"
 W. deleted (? delayed) reports received of 2
 magnetic swept in 50° 5.1' N. 00° 57.4' E. on

8th September.

4 Spontaneous explosions reported today 4 miles south of Digue Nord le Havre Oropesa and LL/SA clearance of Le Havre Approaches and Harbour commences at dawn tomorrow. Summary A(2) 3B (4) 4. (Capt. M/S Seine 132230.)

A/C of coastal command carried out operation "Hoover".
 Object to detonate depth charges mines laid in approaches and Avant Port at Le Havre.

(F.O.B.A.A. 132330B to A.N.C.X.F.) (See Capt. M/S Seine's
 121115B and 121241B to F.O.B.A.A.) (page 263)

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune"Organisation and Administration

Departments of A.N.C.X.F. Following supersedes A.G.M.397AZ of 8th September which is now cancelled.

(2) A.N.C.X.F. (Bucu) is concerned with present and prospective movements of shipping and landing craft, both in and out of convoy between U.K. and

continent.

(3) A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug) is concerned with cross channel and coastwise towage generally. Movements of all tugs and M.W.T. and military floating equipment.

(4) A.N.C.X.F. (Ph) is concerned with naval post hostilities planning and signals concerning Naval port parties. All other matters will be dealt with by A.N.C.X.F. Main H.Q. which should be included as an info. addressee in all signals of importance addressed to A.N.C.X.F. (Bucu) A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug.) or A.N.C.X.F. (Ph.)

(D.S.D., 130441B, A.G.M.409 AZ.)

Sailings to East Calvados Area.

Consequent upon the closing of Juno beaches the following instructions take effect forthwith.
a. General instructions. (1) That part of the French Coast extending from Port En Bessin to Dives (approximately covering the original British Assault Area Anchorage) will be known as the East Calvados Area.

(2) A ship anchored off Arromanches at the junction of Q.Z.S. 538 and 541 will combine the duties of East Calvados Shipping Control Vessel and Examination Vessel. Until relieved at the end of September this ship will be H.M.S. DACRES.

(3) N.O.I.C. Arromanches is the sailing authority for the East Calvados Area and will make all northbound convoy sailing signals.

(b) Procedure for Escorts. All convoys for East Calvados will be routed to Arromanches and escorts including M.Ls. are to report on arrival to N.O.I.C. Arromanches in accordance with Section C below.

(c) Reporting on Arrival etc. (1) Major War Vessels and all convoy escorts arriving shifting berth or leaving the area are to establish their identity with the P.W.S.S. at Arromanches, (Lat. 49° 20.5' N., Long. 00° 37'.)

(2) If V/S is impracticable reports are to be made by W/T using call signs from S.P. 2573.

(3) When there is more than one ship the Senior Officer is responsible for reporting names of all ships in company.

(4) Passing instructions need not be included.

(5) All tugs whether rescue or otherwise and salvage and wreck disposal vessels are to report through Arromanches Examination vessel to N.O.I.C.

(Admty., 132123B 'A' Message Home 41OAZ.)

Proposed cessation of "Neptune". Allocation of British and American areas.

My 012311 Sept. Para. 2. Propose that the assault areas should now be cancelled and revert to the control of C. in C. Portsmouth.

(2) Minesweeping. If this is approved it is proposed that all channels in existing assault area shall for the time being be considered as approach or coastal channels and C.T.F.125 and F.O.B.A.A. shall continue to maintain them as at present.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune"

Organisation and Administration

Proposed
cessation
of
"Neptune"
Allocation
of British
and American
areas.
(Contd.)

- (3) Consequent on decision of open up Havre by U.S. following are my intentions for division of responsibility between F.O.B.A.A. and C.T.F.125.
- (4) C.T.F.125 to be responsible for all coast and ports westward from exclusive St. Honorine and in addition from east bank of River Orne to Cap D'Antifer including estuary of Seine as far as Quille Beuf.
- (5) F.O.B.A.A. to be responsible for all coast and ports from Cap D'Antifer eastwards to Franco - Belgian frontier and also between inclusive St. Honorine and east banks of River Orne. (A.N.C.X.F. 132145B to Admty.)

War Diary

13.9.1944
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

General

Policy

Proposed termination of Corep Organisation. The Corep organisation instituted by A.L. 23rd March 1944, M.056339/44, having been under review, it appears to Admiralty that these special control arrangements might be terminated in the near future and the former procedure for direct Admiralty control of ship repairs reverted to. Request your views.

(2) If concurred in, it is suggested that Command Coreps should be disbanded on 1st October, 1944.

(Admty, 132315B to C's. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, The Nore, Rosyth, Western Approaches, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, A.N.C.X.F.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Shelling of Folkestone and Dover. Intermittent shelling by Blanc Nez and Gris Nez batteries commenced at 1754/12 until 0311/13 firing 30 rounds of which 10 in Dover, 2 each in Folkestone and Deal, remainder in sea. Considerable damage to civilian property in Dover, 7 civilians killed and 16 seriously injured.

No service casualties.

Shelling recommenced at 1605/13 and by 2100 approx. 24 rounds had been fired in the Dover-Folkestone Area.

Casualties 7 killed and 18 civilians seriously injured.

(A.C. Dover, 132300B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements

Admiralty Floating Dock No.17. Weather permitting intend sailing A.F.D.17 in tow of H.M.R.T. SAUCY and LARIAT escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY (S.O), NORTHERN REWARD and COLDSTREAMER a.m. 14th September routed by Q.Z.S. 438 and 407 and in accordance with A.M.051704 (not to all addressees thence Gibraltar.

(2) W/T communications escorts in accordance with A.C.I. article 313. Tugs Loudspeaker watch on 2410 k/cs as ordered by Senior Officer of escorts. Escorts hold Naval Code XA table tugs LOXO and COFOX.

(4) C. in C. W.A's 051703 (not to all addressees) refers.

(A.C.I.C. 131248B to F.O.G.M.A. C. in C. W.A.)

DESPATCH. Your 091105 approved.
(D.O.D(H),131531B to F.O.C.R.F.)

DANAE. Cruiser DANAE on being lent to Polish Navy is to be named O.R.P. CONRAD.
(Admty, Bath, 131605B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Victual". C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to provide escort for STRIKER and CAMPANIA from North of Sound of Mull in position 056 degs. 44' N. 006 degs. 19' W. My 102144 not to all addressees and N.O.I.C. Greenock, 111224 refer.

N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report E.T.A. in position 056 degs. 44' N. 006 degs. 19' W. to C. in C. Home Fleet and R.A.(D) H.F.
(C. in C. W.A. 130020B to C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
C. in C. W.A.'s 130020B E.T.A. 056 degs. 44' N. 006 degs. 19 W. 1830B/13th September.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 130134B to C. in C. H.F. R.A.D. H.F.)
My 121604 not to all addressees proceed in KEMPENFELT with OBEDIENT pass Switha at 0730B/13th September to R/V STRIKER and CAMPANIA at 1830B/13 Sept. (?in) positions 056 degs. 44' N. 006 degs. 19' W. and escort them to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F.130337B to Capt. D.27th D.F.)
J.W.60. 10 knots convoy Rigmarole. (A) 1445/15.
(B) Escorted. (C) 31 E.T.A. 280 degs. 18 miles from Cape Wrath 2300B/15th.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 131732B as amended 140020B)

Channel. My 071835B (not to all).
Patrols tonight 13th/14th.
BRISSENDEN Patrol between positions 127 degs. Dungeness, 7.3 miles and 200 degs. Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2130 tomorrow, Thursday.
BLANKNEY Anchor Dungeness East Roads at immediate notice until 0615/14, thence Portsmouth.
(A.C. Dover, 131116B to C. in C. Portsmouth, BLANKNEY, BRISSENDEN)

North Russia. My 111631. Russians request approx. duration of these restrictions and that when they are relaxed they may operate as requested in my 070837.
(S.B.NO. North Russia, 130953B to Admty.)

Norway. If no defect SCEPTRE is required to proceed on patrol in Skudesnes-Lister area from Lerwick p.m. 14th.
O.P. HECKLE - (2) ALECTO take S/M X 24 in tow for Kames Bay.
(3) On arrival Balta Sound SCEPTRE proceed unescorted to Lerwick. Total bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.S.131016B to S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, ALECTO.)
Following received from "Heckle" SCEPTRE: Operation "Heckle" completed. All times B. At 2200/10th September shipped X type S/M 24. C.O. reports satisfactory attack Laksevaag dock charges timed to fire at 1440/11th. X type S/M 24 recovered at 0011/12th. My P.C.S. at 2130 060 degs. 55' N. 002 Degs. 48' E. 282 degs. 9 E.T.A. Balta Sound 1030/13th Sept. T.O.O.122132.
(F.O.S. 130158B to Admty, C. in C. H.F.)
(P.68) VENTURER is to leave patrol so as to pass through S.D. 059 degs. 05' N. 004 degs. 03' E. at 1200B/14th thence by reverse of outward route to Lerwick on the surface at discretion after passing S.C.061 degs. 01' N. 002 degs. 53' E. Attack restriction follows.
(Capt. (S) 9, 131207B to S/Ms operating North of 51 degs. N.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway (Contd.) Request you will sail (SCEPTRE) at 2000B/14 September through S.A. 090° Muckle Flugga 20 S.O. 061° 15' N. 003° 01' E., SN 060° 30' N. 004° 03' E. S.O. 059° 05' N. 004° 03' E. on surface at discretion to S.O. thence diving by day to patrol in area between 059° 15' N. 004° 00' E. 059° 50' N. and Norwegian coast. F.O.S. 131039 refers. (Capt. S.9, 131227B to S.O.(S) Lerwick.)

Request you sail THRASHER and P.333 TRUMP for working up patrol 17th September, TRUMP to relieve P.225 SEA SCOUT. THRASHER to patrol line mid point 058° 30' N. 000° 50' E. length 40 miles direction 045° - 225°. S/Ms to be escorted to 059° 00' N. 001° 00' W. (F.O.S. 131422B to Capt. S.3.)

- I.S.O.H. 30 Operation "Heckle". SCEPTRE reports
- (1) X.24 shipped (?slipped intended) 24 hours late on programme on account of loss of one officer overboard and subsequent difficulty in transferring relief in prevailing weather. My 132201 not to all addressees refers.
 - (2) No opposition encountered by X.24. Operation carried out apparently unseen and undetected. C.O. states charges were (?definitely) placed under primary target. Your 131916 not to all refers.
 - (3) Unidentified marks on photographs supplied prove to be a notice board on mast of merchant ship BARENFELS purport of which was read but not understood.
 - (4) SCEPTRE sighted no shipping except Swedish GRIPSHOLM. (S.O.(S) Lerwick, 132210B to F.O.S.)

North Sea. Unit of 3 M.T.Bs. to carry out a patrol between 051° 24' N. 002° 45' E. and a position 5 miles S. east of it, unit is not to go west of 002° 45' E. unless in action with the enemy. Object protection of fleet sweepers anchored in North Channel. Unit to relieve M.T.B.438, 439 at 1900B unit call sign B.7. (C. in C. Nore, 131048B to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.)

Cmdre. Belgium. Cmdre. F.E.P. ? Hutton, R.N. has assumed duty as Cmdre. Belgium. H.Q. with Military Mission, 24 Boulevard Duregent, Brussels. Signal via (N.O.I.C.) Antwerp. (Commodore Belgium 131725B to A.N.C.X.F., Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, F.O.B.A.A.)

Nore and Dover patrols. Nore and Dover (?patrols) night 13th/14th Sept. SHELDRAKE - E. "Tongue" to "Elbow," GARTH S. "Fall" to 53C buoy, VICACIOUS 53C buoy to 53A buoy, BRISSENDEN northern boundaries of Z.3 and Z.5 BLANKNEY E. Roads. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131755B to Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

West Coast
of France.

Pins cover night 13th/14th September.
A. G.D.1 - VIMY - Z.9 South.
G.D.2 - LA DECOUVERTE - Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131136B to Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts 'HD' and 'CN' in Area 'C' Portsmouth Night Patrol, VIMY, LA DECOUVERTE.)

Biscay
area.

Following from Force G.P. Patrol completed. Resistance encountered Audiernes area. Details will follow.
(LONDONDERRY, 131715B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
LONDONDERRY pass to Force GN.

Force GN, M.T.Bs. 94, 90, is to carry out patrol ordered for Force GP. on night of 13th, my 122311 not to Force 27 refers.
(2) On completion Force GN is to return to Dartmouth calling at L'Abervrach if necessary.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131808B to LONDONDERRY, Forces 26 and 27.)
Force GU M.T.Bs. 96, 98 is to leave Dartmouth at 0900B/14 and proceed to L'Abervrach to arrive 1500B/14 to relieve force GN.

(C. in C. Plymouth, to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

F.F.I. reports French Naval Force swept mines from port of Concarneau which is intact. 250 meters of Quay usable for ships up to 3000 tons. 5 meters serviceable at high water. There is a Pilot available.

(LONDONDERRY 131825B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Ref. 051908B/September not to Etat Major French Forces of the Interior or 12th Army Group.

(1) Following information on condition at Les Sables-d'Olonne obtained on 4th September by Naval Office in interview with Commandant of French Forces of the Interior.
French Forces of the Interior Control Sables d'Olonne but are not in contact with French Forces of the Interior East of Town of La Roche Sur Yon, since Germans control communications between Pornic to the North and La Rochelle to the South. French Forces of the Interior fear these enemy forces may converge on and occupy les Sables d'Olonne. French forces of the Interior report that they could muster 1500 men but have arms for 81 only, some arms supplied by a Naval Force, but more arms and equipment are urgently required. French Forces of the Interior Commandant asked for detachments of French troops to be sent to reinforce him, and stated that if this were done, enemy communications between St. Nazaire and La Rochelle could be cut. He is not in contact with U.S. Forces in Nantes Area.

(2) Etat Major French Forces of the Interior will inform 12th Army Group and 9th Army of this situation through special force channels.

(3) Will Plymouth kindly give Etat Major French Forces of the Interior any further information on this matter.
(S.H.A.E.F. Fwd., 132000B to Etat Major F.F.I., C. in C. Plymouth)

/Further...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay area (Contd.) Further to (?my) 131654B (?No) ship resembling hospital ship seen St. Nazaire up to 4th September.
 (2) Closed St. Giles no answer to signals.
 (3) Sables d'Olonne no new local information. Small quantity of S.A. and ammunition given here and at Ile d'Yeu for Noirmoutier.
 (4) OP as 17.
 (a) 44° 00' N. 01° 40' W. intend to operate in St. Jean de Luz-Arcachon area tomorrow Thursday.
 (5) F.F.I. at Sables d'Olonne have following information of la Rochelle obtained from source they consider reliable (about) 1000 mixed enemy troops around la Rochelle commanded by Admiral Nerdeek U-boat pens partly pierced but intact. 5 U-boats there at end of August.
 (6) F.F.I. at Sables d'Olonne ask for still more arms, boots, uniforms and helmets.
 (S.O. Force 26, 132222B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shortage of A/U ammunition in Western Approaches. I am seriously concerned at the supply position of anti-U-boat ammunition in W.A. All natures are in short supply, reserves are depleted and in general demands can only be met by hand-to-mouth expedients. At the present rate of expenditure the position can no longer be maintained and in a very short time it may be impossible to meet demands for operational requirements.

Reserve of "Hedgehog" projectiles is already practically exhausted
 (2) The following was the position at noon 12th September.

Base	Depth charges	Squid	Hedgehog
Liverpool	450/175	100/75	400/125
Londonderry	1200/275	150/125	Nil/750
Belfast	300/225	-	600/250
Greenock	200/150	100/75	Nil/125.

Under each heading the first figure shows the existing stock and the second the estimated weekly expenditure.

(3) Expenditure, which is evidently dependent on the degree of activity, is very variable and the importance of building up reserve stocks is, therefore, stressed. The figures given above are a forecast of the average expected weekly requirements but heavy demands occasionally have to be met (1500 H/H and 160 "Squid" were required in one recent week at Londonderry).

(4) To meet all expected demands and to raise stocks to a prudent level the following total supplies of ammunition are required in W.A. during the coming four weeks, depth charges 5,700, "Hedgehog" 10,000 "Squid" 2,000

(C. in C. W.A. 131535B to Admty, London, Admty. Bath.)

A/S operations in N.W. Your 131005B concur. Believe U-boats approaching North Channel from South West consider areas B2 and B4 are most vulnerable. Submarines appear to be in a patrol line S.W. from Skerryvore.
 (S.O.C.5, 131627B to S.O. Force 33.)

Intend to search with BRAITHWAITE in position 56° 30' N. 11° 53' W. until, 0100 . Unsuitable.
 (S.O.10 E.R. 132106B to C. in C.W.A.)

/Operation...

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Operation "Pluto". Sailed 1530 Conun in tow of MARAUDER, BUSTLER, DANUBE VI. Shore-end fast at Wacqueville Beach. Probable arrival of Bambi during dark hours. E.T.A. Dunnose will be signalled by S.N.O. Pluto. Request C. in C. advise addressees in A.N.C.X.F. 291421 July. My 092305 refers. (S.N.O. "Pluto", 131545B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operation "Nestegg". Request information whether you will be represented at the meeting to accept formal surrender or whether you wish that the Naval Force Commander should attend as representative of S.H.A.E.F. (2). S.H.A.F.'s 071745 Sept. refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 131654B to A.N.C.X.F.)

F.W.D.14771. Para. 1 Draft terms of surrender were co-ordinated with Soutco who presumably consulted you and A.O.C.10 Group as Joint Force Commanders. Para. 2 These Draft terms await final approval here and will be issued in English and German. (S.H.A.E.F. Forward, 132245B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Mining

Channel. Your 121159. First two routes swept should be Dungeness-Ambleside "Pluto" route (for Boulogne) and Dover-Calais Route. Priority between these two routes will depend on which port falls first. (A.N.C.X.F.130832B to A.C. Dover)

Clearance of Enemy Mines. To deal with enemy mines which do not respond to normal sweeping methods, accurate location is an essential preliminary. (2) The following sequence of operations is suggested for depths over 24 feet and channels of one cable or more width, current not exceeding half a knot. (i) VERNON Mine Recovery Flotilla or specially equipped H.D.M.Ls using Asdic or Echo Sounding, followed by (ii) Snag locator sweep with danlayer marking contacts followed by (iii) (a) Granton Sweep of buoyed areas, or (b) Investigation of buoyed areas by diver followed by (iv) Disposal by hand placed charges or depth charge clearance. (3) If (ii) is not available Asdic and Echo Sounding contacts to be buoyed. (4) If (iii) (a) and (b) are not available depth charge clearance to be carried out around buoyed areas. (5) In restricted waters or depths of less than 24 feet where ships would be endangered, diving search by P. Party should replace para. 2 (i) (ii) and (iii). (6) If possible, area should first be cleared Oropesa LL and SA. (7) Where current exceeds half a knot, diving can only be carried out at slack water. (8) It will not be practical to carry out diving operations after depth charges have been dropped owing to disturbance caused to sea-bed by force of explosions. (9) P Party divers cannot operate in over 40 feet of water. (D.M.S. 131222B to C's in C. H.F. Rosyth, Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth A.N.C.X.F., F.O.B.A.A. Comusbas France, A.C. Dover.)

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

U-Boats. F.F.I. representative from Noirmoutier reports that Frenchman with intimate knowledge of U-Boat base is emphatic that no U-Boats were at St. Nazaire on 4th September.
(S.O. Force 26, 131654B to C. in C. Plymouth)

U-Boats

Suspected U-Boat. Obtained small radar contact at 8000 yards at 2214B, course of contact East altering to South and disappearing at 5700 yards.
In position 132 BB 26.
Observant now being carried out around Datum Point by DUNVER and HUNTSVILLE but as yet no asdic contact.
Consider this radar contact S/M. Weather report 9070 2734 suitable (S.O C.5, 130020B to C. in C. W.A.)

Navigation

Withdrawal and amended Position of Buoys. H.6, B.3 and A.5 Buoys have been removed. A 4 buoy has been repositioned in 50.27.00 N. 01.23.30 W. My 022108B refers.
Request promulgation by QZH Message.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 132327B to Hydrographer)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Calais and Dunkirk. A.N.C.X.F.'s 111816 intend establishing approach channels for Calais and Dunkirk from position 325 degs. Sangatte Church 3.8 miles.
(1) Calais Approach.
(A) 50 degs. 58' 00" N. 01 degs. 46' 00" E.
(B) 000 degs. Calais E. Breakwater light 4 cables.
(2) Dunkirk Approach. (A) 51 degs. 02' 00" N. 1 deg. 49' 24" E.
(B) 51 degs. 02' 24" N. 1 degs. 59' 12" to Dunkirk.
(Capt. M/S Seine, 130027B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Ostend. Your 121927 not to all. If weather holds Approaches to Ostend Harbour Entrance is expected to be swept by p.m. Thursday 14th September.
(2) Request information when wreck dispersal vessels will be available and if stores are required. COLCHESTER now at Harwich is the only one in this Command. Any vessels ready to operate should proceed to the Downs for onward routing.
(C. in C. Nore, 131102B to A.N.C.X.F.)
At Ostend. Minesweepers, P Party and salvage vessels urgently required. E-Boat pens suitable for coastal forces base are intact. Oil storage tanks for approx. 300 tons intact. Water situation improved. Piped water being supplied to town. Request Port Party be allocated to Ostend immediately. S.T. Concurr.

(Comdr. Richman, 131800 to F.O.B.A.A.)

/Request...

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Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

- Ostend.
(Contd.) Request wreck dispersal vessel ARY and CLYNE CASTLE and store carrier MADDEN be sailed to Downs for onward routing to Ostend for wreck dispersal working highest priority. C. in C. Nore's 131102 refers.
(F.O.B.A.A.132206B to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- Dieppe. Call forward for tomorrow Thursday 14th September 12 ships 5 of which to be small coasters maximum draught 10 feet and 6 L.C.T's call forward for Friday 15th Sept. 12 ships including hospital carrier 5 of which to be small coasters maximum draught 10 feet and 3 L.C.Ts. P.E.C. Agreed.
(N.O.I.C.Dieppe, 131310B to N.O.I.C.Newhaven.)
- Le Treport. My 121914 and your 122346. P.E.C. agreed (that?) proposal to open Le Treport as Satellite Port for petrol should be put forward. 14 berths for small coasters with maximum draught of 10 feet are available. If approved open Le Treport "P" party of 1 officer and 22 men would be required for about 2 days. M/S proposals are 3 cables channel from D.P.2 buoy to a position 302 degs. 1.1 miles from east breakwater light Le Treport thence to harbour V.J. Request B.Y.M.S. (?and) M.Ls be made available sweep channel and for Bottom and Snag line sweep.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 131325B to F.O.B.A.A.)
Your 131325 approved to open Le Treport as soon as possible this is agreed with 21st Army Group.
(2) Carry out minesweeping as laid down in Capt. M.S. Seine's 122351B with the two B.Y.M.S. and 6 M.S. now at Dieppe.
(3) Capt. M.S. Seine is requested to provide M.Ls if considered necessary in accordance with last paragraph of your signal.
(4) Further signal will be made about "P" parties.
(F.O.B.A.A.132012B to N.O.I.C.Dieppe.)
- Dieppe. Your 101115. 21 A.G. concur and are giving approval, as has been done for other ports in the B.A.A. for army to unload naval stores from Blue Ensign ships as well as from army lift, and transport to Naval transit Depot.
(2) This will entail no loss of army unloading facilities as it is merely a substitution of naval lift for army lift.
(F.O.B.A.A. 131827B to N.O.I.C.Dieppe.)
Through L.C.T(3)s and L.C.T.(5)s are preferred L.C.T.(4)s can be accepted if cargo is on track or wheels.
(N.O.I.C.Dieppe, 132010B to N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

Casualties and Defects

- L.B.W.11. Following received from N.O.I.C. Arrow begins. L.B.W.11 foundered whilst in tow tug DEXTEROUS near Nab Tower at about 120030 six survivors from crew of eight are known to be on board M.L.346 due Portsmouth 121900 Sub. Lt. Pattenden in L.B.E.1 now at Southampton has details of crew. Request you take casualties

/reporting ...

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L.B.W.11. reporting action if necessary. T.O.O. 121232
(Contd.) Ends.
Sub. Lt. Pattenden now at DRAGONFLY is making
report forthwith.
(Com. L.C.B.131526 to Admty.)

SS. ISABEL. Particulars of a fire which occurred in SS. ISABEL
lying at Jetty Western Dock, London Dock, (K).
Time of call 1943 Time of stop 2001. Details -
Vessel of 850 tons gross laden with cotton about
10 bales of cotton (raw) slightly damaged by fire in No.2 Hold 1
Hydrant in use.
(Home Security, London, 132039)

Shipping and Convoys

Fishing My 111344B. Fishing vessels may be routed direct
passages. from Ardnamurchan Point to within 3 miles South
of Barra Head thence up west coast of Islands
keeping within 3 miles from Shore to lat. 57 degs.
N. The passage between 57 degs. N. and Ardnamur-
chan Point in either direction is to be made in
daylight only.
(D.O.D.(H), 131522B to C. in C. W.A.)

Tug Reference A.N.C.X.F's 221812B August, S.H.A.E.F's
Situation 281645B August and A.N.C.X.F.(Cotug)'s 122110B
Serious. Sept. (not to all.)
Bids for towage have now been received from 21
Army Group, Com.Z. (through Etousa) and War Office
Tn.5. but owing to the changing situation decisions
and phasing necessarily remain fluid. Including Phoenix units,
the number of tows required during September and October approx.
260. The number of tugs available after deducting rescue tugs,
tugs refitting and boiler cleaning and the increasing requirements
for harbour service overseas, will by the end of September total
45, of which 11 are U.S. Army L.T's not formally included in
"Overlord" pool. S.T's and T.I.D's being normally unsuitable
for cross-channel tows are excluded.
(2) Tows are mainly from areas Thames, Southampton, Plymouth and
Bristol Channel, but 9 Phoenix units have to come from west coast
and east coast ports farther north.
(3) Preliminary review shows urgent necessity for the utmost
economy in tugs, for rapid turn round and for narrower assessment
of priorities. Demands still appear to be more closely related
to availability of plant rather than to operational requirements,
and I respectfully suggest co-ordination in S.H.A.E.F. co-
operating with Etousa and War Office.
(4) The situation at Boshafn, where an extensive programme of
pontoon causeways is under way, is unsatisfactory. No practical
arrangements have been made for the towage of this equipment out
to deep water and no military personnel have been supplied for
tending it. The movement of these pontoons, amounting to a
gross total of nearly 200 units, will require constant supervision
and exact timing if tugs are not to be wasted. Negotiations

/ are ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Tug
Situation
Serious.

are proceeding locally between C. in C. Portsmouth and No.2 I.W.T. Group, Royal Engineers, but military working party is essential. Moorings to enable a pool of this equipment to be formed are available in Osborne Bay.

(5) To sum up, it is hoped that given the necessary co-operation, the towage of U.S. Army equipment should be accomplished as required, since it is understood that most future construction will be done on the far shore. The programme for British equipment considerably exceeds the tug power available and it will not be possible to complete this programme by the dates required, but every endeavour will be made to compete with priority and emergency items. It is clear, however, that every available tug will be fully employed, when weather permits, for the next 4 months and that no releases can be recommended.

(A.N.C.X.F.(Cotug) 131631 to A.N.C.X.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ESKBANK

My 091144B. ESKBANK returned Lisbon did not meet escort.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131013B to Adty.)

RAJAH *
ACTIVITY *
LOCHY /
DEVERON /
SWALE /
PELICAN /

VANOC (S.O.) ANTHONY and BRILLIANT will R/V (? in) (Z) 037 degs. 03'. 010 degs. 10' (? at) 0900B 14th. (2) Present escorts are then to be detached to proceed independently at best speed direct to Gibraltar to fuel and rejoin on completion. Destroyers then return to Gibraltar. (3) Onward route from Q.B.A. 87 for RAJAH and ships in company will be signalled.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131124B to RAJAH)
* Ferrying A/C. / On passage to Eastern Fleet.

Oilers
with
M.K.S./K.M.S.
Convoys.

Escort Oiler MARPESSA sailed in M.K.S. 59 and was not transferred for return in K.M.S. 62.
(2) BENEDICT sailed in M.K.S. 60.
(3) In view of Adty.Msg. 081454 is it intended that these oilers should be withdrawn from M.K.S./K.M.S. convoys.
(4) A.M. 062152, your 071304 and my 080921, also refer.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131508B to C. in C. W.A.)

Swedish
Greek
relief
vessels.

N.A. Stockholm's 022026 and earlier signals (not to all addressees) requesting facilities for wiping at Gibraltar Swedish Greek Relief Vessels bound for Salonica. In order to avoid breakdown in deliveries of Relief supplies to Salonica we are prepared to consent to Relief Vessels bound for that port being wiped at Gibraltar, provided F.O.G.M.A. can institute following precautions:
(a) Harbour Launch patrol to keep shore boats clear.
(b) Spanish workmen to be searched before boarding and leaving vessel.
(c) Ships' crews to be allowed no communication with shore except through official channels.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 132005B to N.A. Stockholm, F.O.G.M.A. Info. C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic

U-Boat
report.

U-Boat on 7885 kc/s at 2040Z/12 estimated by D/F within 150 miles of 03. 30 N. 57. 30 E.
(D.D.I.C. 130228B)

U-Boat
hunt.

Opsum. 397 period ended 121800Z. (2) U-Boat hunt three Well.19 hrs. 10 mins. two Sund 23 hrs. 8 mins. A/S Sweep one Sund 6 hrs.
(A.H.Q.W.Af. 131415).

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13.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B in
Aegean.

German U-Boat by D/F bearings at 2140C/12th.
Possibly within about 30 miles of Kithera but lat.
very doubtful.
(F.O.L.E.M. 130013 to VAMPIRE, (R) Capt. (S) 1,
1st S/M F.)

Mine clear-
ance in
Danube.

Request you will furnish reply to para. 3 of
Admiral Archer's 061116.
(Admty. 130128B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Situation
report 431.

Human torpedo attacks were made between 100715
and 101230 against gunfire support force in Men-
tone area. No ships were damaged. (?10) torpedoes
reported sunk and one possibly sunk, (?3)
survivors recovered.

(2) On 10th September LOYAL and UNDINE engaged gun position field
battery and enemy movements near Rimini. All targets reported
well covered. Only 2 salvos fired in return both straddled
UNDINE but caused no damage.

(3) Night 10/11 Sept. coastal forces attacked with torpedoes
(?convoy) entering Largo Bay. One F-Lighter and one barge sunk
and one small barge probably sunk.

(4) On 11th Sept. URCHIN and SCARAB had successful bombardment in
Rimini area during which URCHIN destroyed gun position and a
battery and SCARAB had (?good) coverage of field guns. Enemy
return fire was less accurate than usual.
(C. in C. Med. 130252B.)

?Operation
at B.

Your 121929. Enemy evacuated B 5th September.
All (?munitions) (?destroyed). (?All) recco
parties returning also (2 corrupt groups). E.T.A.
Brindisi will be signalled after I have fuelled
M.Ls. at (group missing).

Please pass to N.L.O. B.A.F., 9th Commando and advanced H.Q. L.R.
P.G.

(WHADDON 130320B to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) N.L.O. B.A.F., C. in C.
Med., N.O.I.C. Brindisi.)

Force 120.

TYRIAN and TEASER drew blank in Pegadi area.
(F.O.E.C. 130505Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

VAMPIRE.

From 035° 03' 027° 29' pass through 035° 53' 027°
23' thence 6 miles east of Sirena through Kinaros
Strait to patrol on Salonika - Piraeus route as
subsequently ordered.

(2) At your discretion you may proceed on the
surface by day while on passage.
(Capt. (S) 1 131000B to VAMPIRE.)

/Lemnos...

War Diary.

13.9.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Lemnos,
?evacuation.

Following from R.F. Patrol in Lemnos.
Enemy ordered to leave by 16th and now concentrating
Mudros. 3 ships average thousand tons loaded
troops and war material.
(F.O.L.E.M. 131111 to Capt. (S) 1st S.F. Info.
1st S.F.)

14 U.S.
manned L.C.
T.(R) to be
transferred
to R.N.

14 U.S. manned L.C.T. (R) referred to in your
072123 and my 030848 neither to all are unfit
for voyage to U.K. until repaired. Five craft
require docking and seven new engines require to
be fitted. It will also be necessary to provide
from British sources certain spare parts stocks
of which are already inadequate for the stations
requirements.

(2) It appears improbable that these repairs can be completed in
time for passage to the U.K. to be effected under suitable
weather conditions.

(3) Propose that these craft shall be placed in C. and M. at
Messina for the present and passage to U.K. or other station
arranged when British crews can be made available and when
suitable weather conditions prevail.

(C. in C. Med. 131250.)

See Com. L.C.T. (R) group 121344.

Joint Naval
Army R.A.F.
Intell. ap-
preciation.

472705 (extract.) (3) Convoy attacked by our
naval forces night 12/13 September south of
Santorin may have been TONI or K.T. convoy from
Piraeus. 1 M/V, 2 trawler escort vessels and 2
caiques claimed sunk.
(C. in C. M.E. 131330C.)

JEANNE D'ARC's
party.

JEANNE D'ARC may leave for Cherbourg. My 081932
not to F.O.G.M.A. as soon as liaison gear has
received instructions now being prepared in A.F.
H.Q. re personnel authorised to travel. My 091650
not to all refers.
(C. in C. Med. 131500B to F.O.W.M.)

Fast motor
boats.

Cominch 291314. Understand from Commander Brookman
that you propose to turn over 16 Higgins Boats of
Mtbron 15 for purpose in N.A.F. 735, and that in
view of the length of their service and shortage of
spares it will soon be necessary to cannibalise
some of them to keep the remainder running.

(2) All possible fast boats are still required in the Eastern Med.,
particularly in view of growing requirement for coastal force
craft in Aegean. Will therefore be most grateful for boats in
para. 1 though in view of shortage of personnel it may not be
possible to man all of them with full crews. Even if it is not
possible to provide full crews for all of them, they will serve
their purpose as fast supply boats in the Adriatic for which they
are wanted. Some of them would eventually be manned by Yugoslav
Navy crews.

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War Diary.

13.9.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean, (contd.)

Fast motor
boats.
(Contd.)

(3) Presume you would wish turnover, if it is agreed to take place at Bizerta Rd. Request you will inform me and other authorities in address of this signal when boltas will be available there.
(4) Sacmed agrees.
(C. in C. Med. 131703 to Com. 8th Fleet.)

Sabotage
at Alex.

(Extract.) Sime security review for week ending 11th (or 13th) September.
(1) Egypt. (c) Cable connecting gun ops. room with Alexandria harbour defences cut 1st Sept. and similar cable cut 4th September. Sabotage suspecte.
(C. in C. M.E. 131805C.)

Employment
of Yugoslav
Navy.

In view of proclamation broadcast p.m. 12th by H.M. King Peter restriction in para. 3 of my 121255 is withdrawn and Yugoslav personnel as a whole may be informed of the recent arrangement and its implications.
(C. in C. Med. 131808B to V.A. Malta.)

Danarm.

(1) Intend proceed Sofia first to establish touch with Russians and ascertain if possible situation on river.
(2) Will also endeavour to obtain intelligence referring to any material Russia or Bulgaria may have secured at German naval (?H.Q.) Gornya, Banya and Bulgarian ports (Admty. 031121 refers.)
(3) Thereafter and if practicable may go to Rustchuck.
(4) (?Propose) taking Commander Fryer and (?Lieut.) Worswick latter for cypher duties. Party will consist of 2 cars with R.M. Drivers and one Wireless Operator.
(5) Intend taking our own river mine plot.
(6) Submit that until we debar access to material at German management Centre at Bucharest which controlled at low water river below Belgrade our information will remain most incomplete.
(7) 1st batch of Danarm vehicles only arrived Istanbul and clearing today. Estimated time departure from Istanbul 15th Sept.
(8) Your 13141 refers. (9) F.O.L.E.M. please pass to Cairo.
(Danarm 131845C to F.O.L.E.M.)

VIRTUE,
patrol report.

Unsuccessful attack carried out on eastbound U/J boat at 1110/12th in 039° 33' 024° 02'.
(2) Attacked and possibly hit northbound K.T. ship at 0900/13th in 039° 28' 023° 18'.
(3) Torpedoes expended. Am retiring to south.
(VIRTUE 131905B to Capt. (S) 1.)

/Cositintrep...

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13.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Cositintrep
No. 433.

Targets in Ventimiglia area were successfully bombarded on 10 September and 11 covering mine-sweepers operations and in support of army.
(2) U.S. minesweeper was damaged by mine whilst sweeping on 10 Sept. and towed to Toulon. Mine-sweeping in Marseilles port continued and 6 mines detonated.
(3) Bombardment of batteries in Rimini area was continued 12 Sept. with good results. Increased enemy fire was encountered but no damage was caused.
(4) Night 12/13 Sept. destroyers sank convoy of a coaster 2 small escorts and 3 caiques north of Crete P.S. escort carriers provided fighter cover for this operation.
(C. in C. Med. 131940B.)

Situation
report No.
432.

(1) On 10th Sept. and 11th Sept. destroyer bombarded target in Ventimiglia area in support of army and mine-sweeping operation. F.B. LORRAINE also bombarded on 11th Sept.
(2) On 10th Sept. U.S.S. SEER was damaged by mine while sweeping near Hyeres and was towed to Toulon. 6 mines were detonated in Marseilles Harbour.
(3) LOYAL continued to engage batteries near Rimini on 12th Sept. with good result. Enemy return fire was on an increased scale but no damage caused.
(4) During the night 12/13th Sept. TROUBRIDGE and TUSCAN encountered convoy consisting of a K.T. ship 2 small escorts and 3 caiques. All the enemy were sunk. Destroyers sustained superficial damage. The escort carrier force under R.A.E.C. in ROYALIST supported this operation and provided fighters during the withdrawal.
(C. in C. Med. 131950B.) * between Santorin and Crete (p. 330)

Return of
escorts to
U.K.

First escorts are required in U.K. as soon as practicable for A/S operations.
(2) UNDINE, URCHIN and UNDAUNTED, BLACK SWAN, AMETHYST, PHEASANT and 4 destroyers of 13th D.F. names to be decided by F.O.G.M.A. are detailed for this purpose.
(3) Authorities addressed are requested to sail ships as para. 2 to U.K. independently at best speed. Matter is urgent.
(4) My 121910 and 121912 not to all will be amended.
(5) Destroyers of 13 D.F. and BLACK SWAN will be replaced as soon as practicable by corvettes withdrawn from the through Med. Escort Group.
(6) Admiralty is requested to divert mail.
(C. in C. Med. 132234B to F.O.G.M.A., F.O.T.A.L.I., F.O.L.E.M.)

Escorts of
K.M.S/M.K.S.
& G.U.S/U.G.S.
convoys.

Amend Med. 065B as follows: - para. 2 for CONVULVULUS read COLTSFOOT in group E para. 3 for AMETHYST read LA MALOUINE, for PHEASANT read FLEETWOOD.
(C. in C. Med. 132236B.)

/Formation...

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13.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Formation
of support
groups.

CONVOLVULUS is transferred to Gib. escort force forthwith.

(2) On arrival of M.K.S. 61 at Gib. JONQUIL and HYDERABAD join Gib. escort force.. SOUTHERN SEA is to be held as escort for A.F.D. 17.

(3) Escort K.M.S. 63 will be EVENLODE and DELPHINIUM.

(4) This amends my 121910.

(C. in C. Med. 132242 to F.O.G.M.A.)

303^A

13.9.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat report. By D/F on 7885 kc/s at 12 (?20) 40Z. A U-Boat was within 200 miles of 004 degs. (?48') 057 degs. 30'E. (2) Aden (pass to) A.H.Q. Aden. (3) N.O. i/c E.Af. pass to A.H.Q. E. Af. (C. in C. E.F. 130009Z to S. and A.E.I. Station and etc.)

U-Boat dispositions. Area K.D. 2 and A.D. 3. German U-Boats indicated by D/F at 2039Z/12. within 200 miles of 004 degs. N. 057 degs. 30' E. scale Y.4. Other area. No fresh (information). Scale remaining unchanged. (C. in C. E.F. 130426)

RAJPUTANA H.M.S. RAJPUTANA will not sail with P.B. 84 A. defects require further 24 hours in harbour for repairs. My 121421. (N.O.I.C. Hormuz 130624Z)

R.F.A. BROOMDALE (damaged 28 Aug.) Damage to R.F.A. BROOMDALE. Paras. 3 and 4 of my 311221 August and D.G.S.R. 060403 neither to all refer. Temporary repairs at Trincomalee are in hand.

(2) Details of damage.
(3) Estimated time in dry dock for permanent repairs is 8 to 10 weeks which is not considered to

be desirable on this station whilst the docking facilities are so limited.

(4) It is considered that ship will be seaworthy for passage to U.K. if she can be repaired there. Alternative employment would be to employ her as base oiler at Bombay which would release OLCADES. This alternative from operational oiling at sea point of view would not prove a good exchange owing to OLCADES low speed.

(C. in C. E.F. 130827 to Adty.)

Daily Opsum No. 913. (Extract). Strategic. 12 September. 14 Liberators, 2 abortive, 1 crashed on take off crew killed. Laid mines in mouth Pakchan River (N.E. of Victoria Pt.) 34 x M.K. 13 U.S. type 10 x M.K. 5 British type. 3 enemy float planes believed Rufe type strafed at anchor, claim 2 damaged. (A.C.S.E.A. 130923)

Air raid on Cocos Is. (1) Brown was attacked by one type 97 T/E Bomber (Sally) between 0315Z and 0400Z 8th. September. (2) Direction Island bombed and machine gunned. 2-500 pound and 2-200 pound bombs fell near cable and wireless property and a further 2 bombs in sea. No casualties and damage practically nil. (3) Home Island and Fortress Command machine gunned. No casualties or damage.

/(4) ...

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Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air raid
on Cocos
Is.
(Contd.)

(4) Plane approached at low altitude and was undetected until attack owing to surf breaking on barrier together with lack of any detection gear. No return gunfire from ground defences.
(C. in C. E.F. 131147Z)

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Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

S.S. BORDEAUX. A.M. 011756. BORDEAUX arrived Portland under British guard 3rd September. She had no sick and wounded on board.
(2) Early decision is necessary regarding disposal of vessel and crew. Since H.M.G. do not recognise vessel as hospital ship and she is in British custody, it is proposed to treat her as normal capture in accordance with policy in previous case of unrecognised ship KONSTANZ in Mediterranean.
(3) BORDEAUX is ex-French and should therefore be returned to French Committee subject to requirements of S.C.A.E.F. It is proposed to inform A.N.C.X.F. that she should be turned over to the French for manning on condition that:-
(a) if S.C.A.E.F. requires her for service within his theatre she is to be made available:
(b) if he does not require her and, in any event, after his requirements have been met, she is to be chartered to M.W.T. until end of Far Eastern War.
(4) If employed as hospital carrier in European waters, BORDEAUX will not of course be notified to Germans.
(5) Crew will be detained in P.O.W. camp and sick berth attendants treated as protected personnel.
(6) You should explain position to Navy Dept. saying that H.M.G. take full responsibility and request their urgent concurrence in order that best use may be made of BORDEAUX.
(Adty. 130803B to B.A.D.)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(Cominch 131452Z, N.S.H.Q. 131501Z)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and Sighting Summary. Para.C. Liberator B/10 Radar contact 2223 12th. in 42.10 N. 49.50 W.
Para.D. Shore Radar Station unidentified contact about 2100 12th. to about 0200 13th. estimated vicinity 47.55 N. 61.42 W.
All times Z.
(N.S.H.Q. 131457Z)

Employment of Escort Carriers in war against Japan. Your 281501 and 082031.
Reply to para. 4 of first signal quoted is:
(A) None.
(B) Provided the U-Boat situation in the Indian Ocean and S.W. Pacific allows, we should be able to transfer 3 C.V.E's in July 1945 and a further two in October. Prior to this we expect to be able to loan a carrier or carriers from time to time but can make no firm promises at present.

We should expect the U.S. to man the ships transferred.
(2) With regard to (A) our major commitments are as follows:-
Assault Carriers - Operations in Mediterranean, preparation for operations in Indian Ocean.
Trade Carriers - Anti-U-Boat operations.
Others - Ferrying, training and refits.
(3) Our own ferrying commitments are extensive and are likely to increase as we redeploy to the Far East. Relative to the

/Americans ...

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Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Employment
of Escort
Carriers
in war
against
Japan.
(Contd.)

Americans we shall probably have to employ a higher proportion of our C.V.E's on this task. (4) Pending the formulation of a detailed Far Eastern Strategy it is difficult to foresee our exact requirements. It seems certain, however, that we shall require all the Assault C.V.E's that we can man and equip. The need for Trade C.V.E's is less certain and we should be able to spare the ships in 1 (B). We do not, however, wish to be committed too definitely as we may

need them:-

- (a) To replace casualties.
- (b) To back up the Assaults.
- (c) To help transport Tactical Air Forces to newly captured areas.
- (5) The damaged carriers NABOB and BITER have not been considered as no decision has yet been made whether to repair them. BITER is the least damaged and might be worth repairing sufficiently to cross the Atlantic if Cominch is then prepared to take her over.
(V.C.N.S. 131356B to B.A.D.)

T.G.62.7. K.S. Escort convoy U.G.S. 55 B. departing Hampton Roads 27th September for Southern France. Task Group 62.7 hereby constituted. COWIE, CARROLL, COONER, ELDRIGE join Task Force 62 in Med. at R/V designated by C. in C. Med. and return as part of that Task Force when directed by C. in C. Med. Upon joining Task Group 62.7 dissolved.
(C. in C. Lant. 131658Z to Comdesdiv 30.)

H.X.F. Average speed 9 knots. Off Oversay at 0600Z/8.
305. All arrived except EMPIRE HERITAGE and Rescue ship PINTO, both torpedoed and sunk.
(D.T.D. 131959B)

U-Boat Para.A. 130427 BOGUE A/C sighted periscope or
incidents. schnorkel and wake following radar contact 42. 27 N.
52. 08 W. Sonobuoy indications until 130630 and
again at 130930. All times Z.
Para.C. 122308 P.B.M. radar contact 32. 45 N.
75. 32 W.
Para.D. 121545 U.S.S. WALTER S. BROWN attacked sound contact
36. 47 N. 74. 00 W. 122223 R.C.A.F. A/C Radar contact 42. 10 N.
49. 50 W.
(Cominch 132029Z)

Employment Cominch, as executive agent of C.C.S. at the
of 344 request of the French Naval Mission Washington has
(French) asked me to reopen the question raised in my
Air Sqn. 150215 July and disapproved in A.M.221607 July.
The French ask for reconsideration in view of
developments in the Military situation. Admiralty
pass to Air Ministry.
(B.A.D. Washington 132153Z to Adty.)
/ Passing action being taken by W.R.

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War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para.A. (1) O/330 sighted Schnorkel 63 degs. 23' N. 05 degs. 20' W. 1900Z 12th September.
(2) Survivors probably from S.S. OLYMPOS / report their ship was torpedoed approx. 04 degs. 20' S. 43 degs. 57' E. 0715Z/5.
Para.B. (1) C.5 group obtained Radar contact 2014Z/12. 55 degs. 27' N. 08 degs. 38' W.
(2) A/C obtained Radar contact 0739Z/12. 53 degs. 02' N. 16 degs. 16' W.
(3) A/C obtained Radar contact 0954Z/12. 52 degs. 45' N. 16 degs. 08' W.
Para.C. KINCARDINE attacked asdic contact 0954Z/12. 55 degs. 29' N. 06 degs. 58' W.
(D.D.I.C. 130908Z)
/ Subsequently reported as S.S. IOANNIS FAFALIOS.

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 131401B, 131422)

14.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+100)

General.

1.(a). At Le Havre the Avant Port is blocked by at least 3 ships and 1 barge, but it may be possible to avoid these obstructions at high water. All buildings in the docks area and in a large area of the city north of both Avant and Arriere Ports are totally destroyed; all quays and docks are extensively damaged. Cropesa and L.L/S.A. clearance of the approaches to the harbour began this morning.

(b).M.M.S. 278 stranded on rocks in La Rance River (St. Malo) and sank during salvage attempts, but without casualties.

(c). Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores
British	863,117	215,925	1,591,533
American	1,354,994	244,598	2,265,678
	<u>2,218,111</u>	<u>460,523</u>	<u>3,857,211</u>

General.

K.M.F/
M.K.F.
convoys.

2. The new route for K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys beginning with convoy K.M.F. 35 passing south of Ireland shortens the passage between the U.K. and Gibraltar by approx. 48 hours. It is proposed to adhere to the present sailing dates from U.K. and Bombay, and this will give an extra 48 hours for the turn-round in India, which has been reported as insufficient. Escort carriers and oilers will no longer be sailed with these convoys.

North Sea.

3. Aircraft of 16 Group bombed a group of 10 unknown enemy vessels off Terschelling at 0100 today, and another of 6 vessels off Ymuiden at 0255. The results were unobserved. Four mines were detonated off the West Schelde.

Channel.

4. Another 52 rounds were fired onto Dover and Folkestone by cross channel batteries. They caused 14 civilian casualties, but only slight damage to civilian property.

Western
Approaches.

5.(a). Aircraft claim one contact in the Iceland - Faroes Passage and another near the Shetlands; a U-Boat was also sighted in 53° N. 27° W. but no attacks are reported.

(b). Destroyers UNDAUNTED, URCHIN and UNDAUNTED, and 4 more of the 13th Flotilla, together with sloops AMETHYST, BLACK SWAN and PHEASANT, are to return from the Mediterranean urgently to help in the hunt for U-Boats.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

General.

Naval bases.

6. The status and defences of Naval bases abroad are under consideration, with the object of saving man power.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Dragoon".

7.(a). LUDLOW fired 238 rounds in repelling a counter attack on the right flank today. She reports 12 hits on two small naval ships in Oneglia harbour after dark. EDISON reports several hits on a 300 ft. merchant ship off Capo Cervo this evening. Minesweepers clearing the fire support area cut 13 deep land mines 2 miles south of Cape Mortola.

(b). Delta beaches are being closed to ships. The estimated unloading to date over beaches

(D+30) is as follows:-

Personnel 337,505. Vehicles 57,509.

Stores 281,365.

(c). At Marseilles the four northern basins and Avant Port Nord have been swept. Bassins Petain and Mirabeau are reported reasonably safe and minesweeping is discontinued.

(d). At Toulon 4½ Liberty berths are available with several others at piers.

Enemy
destroyer
sunk.

8. Coastal forces operating in the Gulf of Genoa between Portofino and Sestri Levante last night fired torpedoes at a convoy of F-Lighters and saw one explosion. Subsequently two destroyers were encountered; one was hit aft, the magazine blew up and the enemy was left sinking. Our forces were heavily engaged throughout these actions but, withdrew without damage or casualties.

Adriatic.

9. APHIS engaged an enemy field battery near Rimini today. The target was well covered.

Air
operations.

10. Aircraft of Coastal Air Force today started fires in harbour installations at Porto Garibaldi and bombed Preveza and scattered small shipping in the Gulf of Genoa. Balkan Air Force attacked the harbour area at Omis (Brac Channel, Yugoslavia).

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

Force 120

11.(a). Destroyers escorted by escort carriers of Force 120 carried out a sweep north of Crete last night but had a blank report.
(b). 8 R.P. Beaufighters despatched today to attack shipping reported by Baltimores in Paroekia Harbour, Paros damaged a coaster and a 500 ton vessel apparently beached, and set fire to an E.M.S. lighter.

East Indies.

Operation
"Light".

12. INDOMITABLE, VICTORIOUS, HOWE, CUMBERLAND and KENYA sailed from Trincomalee today under the command of R.A. Clement Moody, to attack the railway repair and maintenance centre at Sigli in Sumatra.

China.

Formosa
Strait.

13. Liberators last night sank 3 freighters near the Pescadores Islands; other Liberators sank five 200/250 ft. freighters southeast and southwest of Hong Kong.

Australia & New Zealand.

Landing on
Palau Is.

14. American forces landed on Pelelieu Island in the Palau group today with carrier borne air cover and support. Slow advance was made against strongly prepared defences.

15. M.T.Bs. last night shelled the northeast coast of New Ireland and Kieta Airfield. The latter objective was shelled again tonight and also Ragan Harbour on the east coast of Gazelle Peninsula.

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 100)

Situation Reports

Navsitintrep O.N. 1 (one) paragraph 52 211227 Navsitintrep No.
78. 78. 14th Sept. Nil.
(F.O.B.A.A. 142219B)

Mining

French Following conclusions drawn after conference with
minesweepers. S.F. N.O. and C.O's French sweepers on return from
France.

(1) To assure operational efficiency the following
points should be submitted to Admiralty for
consideration and necessary action before this group returns to
France:-

(A) Group should work from port where easier coaling facilities
exist than at Arromanches - e.g. Le Havre where S.F. N.O. was
equivalent of Capt. M/S in 1940.

(B) Adequate means must be assured for intercommunication between
ships at anchor out of V/S touch and authorities at base. French
tug PILOTE 3 already asked for by Capt. M/S Seine. Hastening
action requested re sailing.

(C) Orders should be passed from British M/S authority to flotilla
through S.F.N.O. and Liaison Officer.

(D) Three French sweepers at present Northshields should join
this flotilla now.

(E) Accommodation and office should be provided ashore for S.F.
N.O., B.N.L.O. and staffs, once means is provided for their
getting in touch with ships.

(2) S.F.N.O. visits French Admiralty this week to make these
proposals.

(3) Report follows from B.N.L.O.

(B.N.L.O. 139 French M/S F. 140955 to Adty.)

Seine (A) Operation Broom Approach Channel position A.
to commencement of Pas du Nord Ouest swept for
moored mines and for groups mines up to 2
actuations. 1 magnetic mine detonated 085 degs.
1 cable from position A (from eastward and westward). Pas du
Nord Ouest and part of Avantport swept for Snagline.
(Capt. M/S Seine in B.Y.M.S.2002 142210)

Movements

5 U.S. Request you sail 5 U.S. Coastguard Cutters to
C.G. B.A.A. joining E.T.C. 98 W. 0545B 15th at Z Buoy
cutters. reporting to STATICE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141545B to N.O.I.C. Poole)

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 100)

Port Facilities

Pipe line. My 131545 / pipe parted in 43 fathoms 22 miles from French coast unit now in Sandown Bay securing end prior to proceeding to Southampton M.L. 291 remaining until Unit sails CAMANULA proceeding Southampton 1130.
PLUTO
Written report follows.
(S.N.O. PLUTO 141125B to C. in C. Portsmouth)
/ Sailed CONUN in tow of MARAUDER, BUSTLER, DANUBE VI. ^{SEE P.293.}
~~R.T. in~~
W.D.

Casualties and Defects

M.M.S.278 lost. M.M.S.278 stranded on rocks at noon today Sept. 14th in La Rance River, St. Malo, subsequently (?sank) 6 fathoms in 089 degs. 7 cables from Moulin de la Roche during attempt to salvage. Negative casualties. S.Ds. movable gear and guns recovered. Officers and men being accommodated in ships of Flotilla.
(S.O. 205 M.M./S.F. 141921)

Organisation and Administration

ALBRIGHTON No further requirements can be foreseen for ALBRIGHTON in "Neptune."
(A.N.C.X.F. 141935B to Adty.)

14.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

"Overlord" Situation Reports

Cositintrep
162.

Part 2, Naval.

(A) Assault area.

Clearance of approaches to Le Havre was begun with attempt to explode mines by depth charges dropped from aircraft. Sweepers start at dawn today.

(B) Intelligence.

(1) Reported from F.F.I. at Sables d'Olonne that 15,000 Germans are concentrated at La Rochelle which is strongly defended as is the Ile de Re. German Naval Chiefs reported as wishing to fight while Army Chiefs desire surrender.

(2) About 9,000 Russians pillaging Presqu' ile de Paimbouef would probably surrender to American but not to F.F.I.

(C) Unloading Figures.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores
British	858,132	213,867	1,567,323
U.S.	<u>1,321,682</u>	<u>239,578</u>	<u>2,184,145</u>
Total (D + 98)	<u>2,179,814</u>	<u>453,445</u>	<u>3,751,468</u>

(Ramsay, Sgd. Eisenhower, 140035B.)

Cositintrep
163.

(A) Intelligence.

- Report from Free French sources dated 4th Sept., believed reliable, states no U-Boats were left at St. Nazaire. Harbour Master Zeebrugge states dock walls and dock gates damaged but controlled minefield is intact. Local sources report considerable mining both sides canal entrance. Slips south side Fish Docks believed not mined.

(B) Captured Ports. Le Havre. Entrance Avant Port blocked by at least 3 ships and 1 barge. May be possible to avoid obstructions at H.W. Large area of city north of Avant Port and Arriere Port totally destroyed, also all buildings in dock areas. All quays and docks extensively damaged, but detailed survey of installations not yet possible owing to enemy sniping. Le Treport. Most mines in approaches and land mines in harbour area have been cleared. Western gate of lock between Arriere Port and Bassin a Flot has been damaged and is half open. Eastern gate undamaged. All cranes damaged, 1 repairable. Electric power station blown up. Few fishing vessels sunk in S.W. side of Bassin a Flot are being raised.

(C) Unloading figures.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores
British	860,653	214,885	1,580,308
U.S.	<u>1,326,271</u>	<u>240,667</u>	<u>2,208,307</u>
Total (D + 99)	<u>2,186,924</u>	<u>455,552</u>	<u>3,788,615</u>

(Ramsay, Sgd. Eisenhower, 142237B.)

G.2 Summary
No. 101.

(4) Miscellaneous.

(a) Total prisoners of war taken at Le Havre: 7,000.

(S.H.A.E.F. Fwd., 142050B.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

General

Policy

Use of
I.F.F. in
Channel.

Guidance on the present policy for use of I.F.F. in the Channel is requested. The instructions laid down in C.B. 04092/44 have been in abeyance in the Channel area since "Neptune" and as all ships do not hold Onco's or Xsfor's it is clearly desirable to issue covering instructions to ships operating in the Channel under the changed operational conditions and information is requested whether Xsfor's Section III with certain amendments should be promulgated to ships in the Channel area.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141034B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Coreps.

A.M. 132315B.

Consider Corep Nore has served its purpose and concur in disbanding organisation on October 1st, 1944.

(C. in C. Nore, 141252B to Admty.)

A.M. 132315B*

Concur that Cardiff Corep can lapse from 1st October, 1944 but consider it essential that the additional surveyors should be retained for the present.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 141707B to Admty.)

* Corep organisation has been under review.

Leave.

(Extract)

As from Monday 2nd October all restrictions on leave imposed in connection with operations in France by A.G.M. 944 AZ of 5th April and subsequent messages, are cancelled.

(2nd S.L., 141811B.)

Defence of the United Kingdom

Stranraer.

A.M. 011735* and your 031708, para, (1).

(2) After careful consideration from all points of view the conclusion has been reached that the risks quoted are insufficient to justify

retention of the Stranraer battery in an operational role.

(3) It has therefore been agreed to reduce the guns to care and maintenance.

(D. of L.D., 141116B to C. in C. W.A.)

* Likelihood of attack on U.K.

Shelling
from French
coast.

Navisitrep. No.68, 14th September.

Hostile batteries fired 22 rounds into Dover and Folkestone between 2100/13 and 0015/14. 2 civilians killed and 12 injured.

Shelling recommenced at 1203 with single rounds at about 15 minute intervals, continuing up to 2100, about 30 rounds falling in Dover and Folkestone and several to seaward. Slight damage to civilian property. No casualties reported.
(A.C. Dover, 142100B.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Destroyers My 151050 August*. MONTGOMERY, RIPLEY, CALDWELL, to be ST. MARYS and KELLETT are now in category (C). broken up. DOUGLAS, WISHART, VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON, WINCHELSEA, ELGIN and MONTROSE will shortly be reduced to Category (C).

It is understood that ship breaking facilities are available in Tyne and Rosyth Area. Request decision whether these ships are to be broken up in the near future and if so to which ports they will be allocated. (F.O.C.R.F., 140910 to Admt.)

* Requesting list of ports at which ship breaking facilities are likely to be available.

MALAYA. (Extract). A.M. 120047 and 130143. On completion of reduction of complement C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail MALAYA for Invergordon.

(2) On arrival MALAYA is to come under the orders of C. in C. Rosyth.

(3) MALAYA is first required to carry out gunnery trials duration one day to investigate suitability of Naval Calibration range, Dornoch.

(5) On completion of these trials 15" turrets crew and Type 284 crew are to be discharged to their depot.

(6) Details of further special trials will be communicated to C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Invergordon, and C.O. MALAYA by letter. (D.O.D.(H), 141819B.)

A.M. 120047.

MALAYA is to be reduced on arrival at Devonport to complement necessary for passage to Invergordon and for gunnery and special trials. A speed of 14 knots only will be required on passage.

(2) Any further personnel who can be spared should be discharged on arrival at Invergordon.

(3) One 15" turret's crew and type 284 radar crew will be required for gunnery trials but personnel not needed for special trials should be discharged on completion of these.

(4) Complement required for special trials will be the minimum necessary to steam at 12 knots for approximately eight hours a day when weather and flying conditions are suitable for trials.

(5) It is desirable on security grounds that officers and ratings to be retained should so far as practicable be those who were present at recent trials in Loch Striven, but the attention of the personnel should not be drawn to this method of selection. Fighter direction officer should be retained.

(6) Particulars of proposed complements for each stage should be reported to Admiralty, copy to Combrax Chatham.

(D.P.S., 142337B to MALAYA.)

333 No.333 Support Flotilla consisting of L.C.G.(L) Support (4) 680, 681, 939 and 1007 is hereby withdrawn Flotilla. from "Overlord" Forces and reverts to the command of R.A.M.L.C.

(2) Subject to the concurrence of F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland these craft are to be placed under care and maintenance at Belfast pending

/refit ...

14.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

333 Support Flotilla. (Contd.) refit and tropicalisation at that port. F.O.I.C. N.I's 121516 not to all refers. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail craft accordingly as soon as convenient.
(3) If accommodation is not available at Belfast, craft are to be sailed to Lamlash.
(4) On arrival at either Belfast or Lamlash R.A.M.L.C. is to disband number 333 Flotilla and arrange for craft to pay off. Disposal of officers and crews will be made the subject of a separate signal.
(D.C.O.D., 141946B.)

Operations

Coastal patrols. My 131048B. M.T.B. 445, 444 will relieve M.T.B. 442, 440 at 140900B. Communication. Constant watch on 2333 k/cs from time of sailing.
(C. in C. Nore, 140006B.)
Pins cover night 14th/15th September.
(A) G.H.1 (SEYMOUR) - Z.9 south. G.H.2 (RETALICK) - Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141049B.)
My 071835B* (not to all).
Patrols tonight 14th/15th.
BLEASDALE patrol between positions 127° Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200° Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2130 tomorrow Friday.
BRISSENDEN anchor Dungeness East Roads at immediate notice until 0615/15 thence Portsmouth.
(2) Communications as in my 071835B.
(A.C. Dover, 141056B.)
* Not yet identified in War Registry.
It will be appreciated if two Dover M.T.Bs. could take Ostend patrol tonight Thursday owing to breakdown in 3rd Flotilla from dark until 1000B tomorrow Friday.
(2) Patrol required between 051° 22' N. 003° 00' E. and position 5 miles north-west of it. Unit not to go west of 002° 50' E. unless in action with enemy.
(3) Object: Protection of M/S anchored north-west of Ostend.
(4) Unit call sign FB7.
(5) Call sign of patrol 15 FG123, Patrol 16 FH123.
(C. in C. Nore, 141532B to V.A. Dover.)

Operation "Victual". Request you will sail as many Russian M.Ls. as can be made seaworthy by a.m. tomorrow, 15th Sept. to overtake J.W.60 (MOON's 132001 not to all refers).
(2) Anticipate convoy will clear harbour by 1700/15th September.
(D.O.D.(H), 141103B to Com. (D) W.A.)
It is intended to sail MOON, SEABEAR and 6 Russian submarine chasers 1517, 1485, 1502, 1504, 1510, 1477 from Lough Foyle as soon as they can be fuelled and stored and defects repaired to Loch Ewe to arrive as soon after 1700/15 as possible. LOCH ACHANALT with S/M chaser 1489 will arrive Loch Ewe 0600/15 and S/M chaser 1489 will sail in convoy. LOCH ACHANALT will wait arrival of 6 S/M chasers and request you sail them with LOCH ACHANALT as escort at best speed to overtake convoy. Ships can make good 14 knots. Request you onward route MOON and SEABEAR to Granton as convenient.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 141224 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
/Amend ...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Victual". (Contd.) Amend H.F. 01325/208 of 12th September as follows: Para. 11 add "7th Escort Group is to close convoy and act as close screen under order S.O. E.G. 7 (N)". Appendix 2, para. 4(B) exchange sectors of striking group 3 and 4. (C. in C. H.F., 141644B.)

Rigmarole. Russians will provide fighter cover and Catalina patrols in approaches. Request types of aircraft being flown from carrier may be signalled.

(2) Pilots arranged for cruiser and above programme and VOLAGE, ALGONQUIN and 2 corvettes.

(3) Serial berths after fuelling where applicable: 1 destroyer 23. CAMPANIA 24. STRIKER 24A in 069° 05'32" N., 033° 25'48" E. RODNEY 25, DIADEM 26. 1 destroyer 28. 9 destroyers alongside Polyarnoe. 3 destroyers alongside Vaenga. SAUMAREZ on RODNEY. One destroyer on DIADEM. Remainder including tankers as convenient in Vaenga Bay.

(4) It is requested that if possible, ships with stores or mail may occupy Polyarnoe berth.

(5) Fuelling (? all ships). DIADEM and destroyers alongside her by Russian tankers. Remainder including RODNEY by tankers ex J.W. 60.

(6) A fixed blue light will be shown at Vaenga signal station in 069° 05'00" N., 033° 25'18" E. as necessary. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 142215B to C.S.1.)

A/S operations in N.W. Approaches. 052N. At this particular stage in the anti-U-Boat warfare when it is more important than ever before to make certain the unimpaired arrival of our convoys, I wish to make one general observation. When the presence of a U-Boat is revealed by any means the greatest chance of killing it is in the first few hours. During this time ships should be at their most alert at action stations and with their best operators on duty. Every second lost in closing the datum point reduces the chances of a kill and to do this involves rapidity and clarity of communication as well as the efficiency of weapon instruments and their operators. (C. in C. W.A., 140143B to S. & A. in W.A. Command.)

N.053. As temporary measure owing to shortage of A/S ammunition and particularly H/H projectiles discretion should be used in the expenditure of ammunition in endeavouring to produce surface evidence of a kill or to (identify?) a target on the bottom.

(2) It should be borne in mind that depth charges or squids are more likely to produce surface evidence of the nature of a target on bottom than is hedgehog. Preference should therefore be given to use of depth charges or squid for this purpose.

(3) During the attack on confirmed submarine contacts whether under-way or bottomed all weapons must be used to full effect to ensure destruction.

(4) If destruction of the U-Boat is reasonably certain further attack carried out solely to collect yet more evidence should be eschewed.

(5) As soon as supply position is again stabilised the order given above will be rescinded. (C. in C. W.A., 140936B to as last.)

/It ...

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14.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

A/S
operations
in N.W.
Approaches.
(Contd.)

It is presumed that the intention of A.M. 111344B is not to preclude inshore fishing off the coast of Northern Ireland. Permits to fish south of a line Inishowen Head - Benbane Head have been issued to 16 small fishing craft based at Portrush and Portstewart. These permits are not being withdrawn in the meantime. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 141814B to C. in C. W.A. as amended by 142358B.)

A/S
ammunition
supply.

Your 131535 - re Hedgehogs. 1300 in transit to Londonderry, 200 to Belfast and 500 to Greenock. Further quantities being sent in immediate future. 300 depth charges in transit to Belfast and further 500 being sent first opportunity of freight. Additional freight being arrange to

N.I. and anticipated depth charge position will be easier in about 2 weeks although total output for all services is only 7000 a month at present. Major part of this production is being sent to Broughton Moor for Western Approaches Ports. Daily shipments of squids being made to Londonderry from Clyde. 250 should be available by Monday 18th September. Further 200 being sent from Broughton Moor when freight available. Supplies of depth charges and squids to meet Liverpool requirements can be obtained from Broughton Moor and those at Greenock from Crombie or Broughton Moor within a few hours. (D.A.S., 142016B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation
S.C.

Ramose Tramp my 110934B HITRA returned at 0715B today Thursday.

(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S., 140734.)
(1) a.m./16th September.

- (2) Two days, intend to sail S.C. operation from Scalloway.
- (3) 085° Sumburgh Head.
- (4) Air escort not especially required on return journey.
- (5) My 141344 gives codeword and area.
(A.C.O.S., 141343B.)

Biscay
area.

During the night 13th/14th nothing sighted and no traffic of any kind observed. Patrolling in accordance with your 121755B. Fuel remaining at 0800 - URANIA 81%, BLYSKAWICA 65%, weather. (BLYSKAWICA, 140951B to C. in C. Plymouth, Info. Force 26.)

LONDONDERRY pass to Force G.U.

After refuelling. Force G.U. is to leave l'Abervrach today to pass through (UU) 270 Creach Pt. 3 thence to (VV) 338 Trevenec Lt. 12 to arrive 2130/14.

(2) From (VV) patrol at S.O's discretion to cover approaches to Brest.

(3) Force to leave area after first light 15th at S.O's discretion and return by reverse route to l'Abervrach to refuel and await orders.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141035B to LONDONDERRY, Info. Forces 26 and 27, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admty., A.N.C.X.F., 10, 19 Groups, C.T.F. 123, 125.) (Repeated 141935B).

/Tonight ...

14.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay area. (Contd.)
Tonight 14th/15th September Force 27 is to repeat patrol ordered in my 121755B (copy to TARTAR and ASHANTI).
(2) At 0500/15 BLYSKAWICA is to return to Plymouth and URANIA is to proceed to join Force 26 a.m./15th at a R/V south of 46° 30' N. as ordered by S.O. Force 26.
(3) Fuel permitting Force 26 is to continue patrol to southward of 46° 30' N. during daylight 15th sweeping north and west and examining Audierne Bay during night 15th/16th. Force 26 is then to pass (BB) 48° 00' N., 5° 21' W. at first light 16th and return to Plymouth.
(4) Intend TARTAR and ASHANTI to leave Plymouth a.m./15th for Bay patrol.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141148B to Force 26, Force 27, Info. TARTAR, ASHANTI, A.N.C.X.F., Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C., 19 Group, C.T.F. 125, C.T.F. 123.)
Carry out Operation "Assault".
(A) TARTAR (S.O.), ASHANTI forming Force 28.
(B) 0830B/15.
(C) By most direct route and keeping out of sight of Belle Ile to reach position (G.G.) 47° 09' N. 3° 00' W. from Southwestward at 2200B/15.
(D) Patrol between (G.G.) and (H.H.) 47° 01' N. 2° 50' W. until 0500B/16 at which time if no enemy information proceed to patrol between 47° N. and Gironde.
(E, F) (Communications)
(H) German hospital ships ROSTOCK and MUENCHEN are to be brought into Plymouth if intercepted.
(C. in C. Plymouth 141350B and 141525B to TARTAR, ASHANTI, Info. Force 26, Force 27, A.N.C.X.F., Adty, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, H.Q.C.C., 19 Group, C.T.F. 125, C.T.F. 123)

Russian S/M operations
S.B.N.O. N. Russia 130953. No objection to Russians operating S/Ms to westward of 020° E. from time J.W.60 is 150 miles from Kola which is expected to be 23rd September.
(2) Request northern limit of extended area be signalled.
(C. in C. H.F. 141107B to Adty.)

RUBIS, Operations off Norway.
Request you will sail RUBIS from Lerwick p.m./19. to carry out F.D.49 routed as follows.
S.A. 090° Muckle Flugga 20.
S.B. 061° 01' N. 000° 50' E.
S.C. 061° 01' N. 002° 53' E.
S.D. 059° 05' N. 004° 03' E.
to area bounded by 059° 15' N. 058° 30' N. 004° 00' E. and Norwegian coast.
(2) Passage to be made on surface at discretion west of S.B. otherwise dive by day.
(3) On completion of F.D.49 about 23rd September RUBIS is to carry out anti shipping patrol in her area. No attacks are to be carried out until completion of F.D.49 except on cruisers and above.
(4) RUBIS is to return by reverse of outward route to arrive Lerwick 0800A/30. S. of A. diving by day estimated as 90 miles per 24 hours.

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

RUBIS, (5) Detail of F.D.49 given in my 141204 not to
Operations H.Q.C.C.
off Norway. (6) Attention is called to A.M. Q.Z.O.93.
(Contd.) RUBIS is not to bottom in that area.
(F.O.S. 141114B to Capt (S) 9.)
(Extract) IS. OH. 280 (3) F.D.49.
(A) RUBIS.
(B) About 23rd September.
(C) 3 Groups each distant 0.5 miles from 058° 45.6' N. 005°
25' E. on leaving 344° 164' 216°.
(D) - (K) Technical details.
(F.O.S. 141204B)

Operation Your 131654/. A.N.C.X.F. will not be represented.
"Nestegg" You should be represented as desired in
accordance with S.H.A.E.F. F.W.D.14040 T.O.O.
062215 addressed C. in C. Plymouth, Soutco,
and A.O.C. 10 Group.
(A.N.C.X.F. 141512B to C. in C. Plymouth)
/ Meeting to accept formal surrender of Channel
Islands Garrison.

Spitzbergen It is intended to send stores and reliefs in
JAMAICA, escorted by 2 destroyers, sailing from
Greenock on 30th September.
(2) Request following information:
(A) Proposed landing place.
(B) Ice situation.
(C) Time of High Water from 3rd to 5th October.
(D.O.D.(H) 142058B to "Ploughshare")

Allied Air Activity

Attack on At 2345 P.C.S. of 10 unknown enemy vessels, 53°24'N,
10 vessels 5°00'E, 250°. 10 knots.
off (A/C C/S JAYC. 140024)
Terschelling. Have attacked enemy with bombs level result of
attack unobserved.
(A/C C/S JAYC. T.O.R. 140100)

Attack on Position course and speed of 6 unknown enemy
6 vessels vessels 52° 18' N, 4° 18' E. 030°, 10 knots.
off Ijmuiden. position based on a Gee fix obtained within
half an hour of 0100.
(A/C C/S JAYR No.T.O.O./14 Recd.0200)
My 0115. Have attacked enemy with bombs level -
result of attack unobserved.
(A/C C/S JAYR No.T.O.O. Rec. 0255)

Codeword From now onwards several mine sweeping Groups and
"Lunch" other traffic will operate off Ostend, the Schelde
and on the route from North Foreland to the
Schelde. To save signalling suggest the

/permanent ...

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

Codeword "Lunch" (Contd.) permanent codeword "Lunch" be instituted for Fighter Protection in area within 20 miles of coast from Franco/Belgian Frontier to Breskens and in channel running 090° from S. 0289.
(2) If you concur propose this be started tomorrow Friday.
(3) Any ship making a Help Message will include her position.
(4) If you require it a signal can be made daily by this H.Q. indicating briefly the forces in the area each day.
(C. in C. Nore, 14115B to 11 Group.)
A.O.409 14/9. Secret.
Your 14115B agreed by this Headquarters. Request signals be made each day in accordance with your paragraph.
(H.Q. 11 Group. 141345B to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining

Minesweeping, St. George's Channel. Ships addressed are to pass the Gate at 1500B/14 and proceed by standard route to Milford Haven.
(2) S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. 0900B/15.
(3) Constant watch on 2300 kc/s.
(4) On arrival at Milford Haven you are to place yourselves under the orders of M/S 16.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141259B to M.L. 208, 233.)
C. in C. Plymouth's 141259/. On arrival request M.L.'s 208 and 233 may be fuelled and provisioned and then sailed at about 1500 tomorrow Friday to join me at anchor on the new ground north of the Tuskar Rock before dusk.
(M/S 16. 141832B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
/ Sailing M.L. 208 and 233.

Mine off W. Schelde. (Extracts) Particulars of four ground mines detonated as follows:-
(A) 1333/12.
(D) M.M.S. 92 51° 23' 0" N. 02° 44' 10" E. Co.087.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 141340B)
(A) 1408B/12.
(D) B.Y.M.S. 2035 51° 22. 9' N. 2° 45. 8'E. Course 095°.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 141350B)
(A) 1410B/12.
(D) B.Y.M.S. 2041 51° 22. 8'N. 2.46.3' E. Course 095°.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 141400B)
(A) 1524B/12.
(D) B.Y.M.S. 2205 51° 22' .45" N. 2° 44' E. Course 270 degs.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 141410B)

Enemy Intelligence

Speer transport fleet. Transport Flotte Speer Norway early September. Majority of Dutch motor coasters, motor tugs and motor barges belonging to Speer organisation and operating in Norway have been ordered to leave

/for ...

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14.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Speer
transport
fleet.
(Contd.)

for lay up at Rendsburg and Hamburg owing to shortage of fuel oil. 18 identified coasters have already left for German and a number of motor tugs and lighters are reported laid up at Bergen.

(2) It is reported no fuel oil has been issued to above four weeks except for a few fast coasters and barges employed carrying munitions in north Norway.
(3) Several coal burning Dutch tugs formerly employed in German ports have received orders to proceed to Norway to replace motor tugs and to tow motor lighters south to Germany.
Please repeat M.E.W.

C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm. 141753)

U-Boats

Norway

1530Z 15th. U-Boat (German) with no escort passed Feje Fiord 060° 46' N. 004° 43' E. course north west 9 knots. B.2 report.
(F.O.S. 142029B to S/M's operating N. of 51°N.)

Post "Neptune"- Port Facilities

L.C.H.
for
Calais.

Request you will sail 1 (one) L.C.H. tomorrow Friday morning to Dover to act as Headquarter ship to S.O. M/S under F.O.B.A.A. for opening Pas de Calais Ports. My 111816/ not to all addressees refers.
(A.N.C.X.F. 141723 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
/ Top Secret Circulation.

Dieppe

Future daily requirements forward (?transport) shipping as follows until further notice.
12 Coasters including 5 not exceeding 10 feet draught. Remainder not to exceed 17 feet draught. Dutch Schuyts without derricks can be accepted. 9 L.C.T. and 5 L.C.I.(L). Guards for prisoners of war should be included in L.C.T. and L.C.I.(L).
L.S.I's are not acceptable.
Hospital Carrier is not included in total but can be taken in addition. Agreed. P.E.C.
((?N.O.I.C.) Dieppe. 141745B to N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

Le Treport

Your 132018B. Anticipate Le Tre(?port) open for shipping 20th Sept. 14 berths available maximum draught 10 feet. Agreed P.E.C.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 141755B to F.O.B.A.A.)

/Antwerp ...

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14.9.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPost "Neptune" - Port Facilities

Antwerp N.O.I.C. Dartmouth's 111415/. Existing armament J. BLANCHE MARGUERITE is considered satisfactory.
(2) Request crew may be drafted. My 111243/ refers.

(3) Stores should be transferred N.O.I.C. Antwerp (Naval party 1501), and N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to arrange for as many as possible to be embarked in ship before she sails.

(4) Request BLANCHE MARGUERITE and other ships being provided in accordance with my 051639/ may be allocated to N.O.I.C. Antwerp (Naval Party 1501) and not to A.N.C.X.F.

(A.N.C.X.F. 141929B to Adty.)

/ BLANCHE MARGUERITE armed with 6 6 pdr. and 2 Hotchkiss.

/ Requesting provision of Belgian personnel.

/ Requesting Plot ship KERNOT and 12 armed drifters be concentrated at Ports convenient to C. in C. Nore.

Present dispositions of Naval Party 1501 and attached communications parties is understood to be as follows.

Approx. numbers of personnel are shown in brackets.

(A) Landward R/C party with heavy mobile signal section is at Antwerp with detachments at Ostend and Zeebrugge.

(B) Seaward R/C (70), phases 1 and 2 of main party (84 and 89), light mobile and main communications (84) and radar (36) are in marshalling area in Portsmouth Command awaiting first convoy to Antwerp.

(C) Phase 3 of main party (80) together with certain Belgium personnel are at Hampstead.

(2) N.O.I.C. Antwerp is anxious for sea R/C party which is self contained in transport to be landed in France and join him in Antwerp. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange move accordingly.

(3) All Belgian officers now at Hampstead or H.M.C. Cockfosters are required by N.O.I.C. Antwerp as soon as possible. C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange.

(4) N.O.I.C. Antwerp has proposed certain adjustments to personnel of his party. Notably replacement of male by W.R.N.S. personnel and replacement of British by Belgian personnel. Decisions and remarks are as follows.

(A) In general no British personnel are to be released until all personnel mentioned in para. 1 above have arrived in Antwerp and have been disposed there and in small ports as necessary.

(B) Subject to (A) above replacement by Belgian personnel is most desirable.

(C) Large scale replacement by W.R.N.S. personnel is impracticable as shortage of W.R.N.S. personnel is as serious as that of male personnel, and in any case W.R.N.S. cannot be considered until direct sea passage is possible.

(5) When disposition of party between ports under N.O.I.C. Antwerp has taken place and after any additional personnel required by Comic Belgium have been provided, following action should be taken by him.

(A) Scheme of complement for each port giving names of officers and numbers of ratings in each category should be forwarded to A.N.C.X.F. This should show clearly which personnel have been or will be relieved by Belgians.

(B) British officers thus surplus to complement should be discharged to leave to await further appointment. Admiralty

/being ...

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Antwerp.
(Contd.)

being informed and furnished with addresses on leave. Ratings should be discharged to their depots.
(6) This message is intended to co-ordinate facts and requirements in all previous messages on this subject received to date. Reference are omitted for sake of brevity.
(A.N.C.X.F., 142043B to Comic. Belgium.)

Ostend.

Make every effort to sweep and dan approach channel to Ostend from O.D.2 buoy before arrival of THV at O.D.2 about 1030 tomorrow Friday. Wreck dispersal ships due about 1700. Meet and lead in. LOCUST pass to Capt. M/S Harwich (C. in C. Nore, 142221B to Capt. M/S Harwich in M.L. 216.)

Shipping and Convoys

Fishing
vessels in
Hebrides.

O55N, O47N*, para. (2).
Fishing ships may be routed direct from Ardnamurchan Point to within 3 miles of Barrahead thence up west coast of Island keeping 3 miles from shore to latitude O57° N. The passage between Ardnamurchan Point and O57° N. in either direction is to be made in daylight only.
(C. in C. W.A., 141251B to S. & A. W.A. Command.)
* T.O.O. 112251 September.

Dieppe -
Newhaven
shuttle
service.

An L.C.I.(L) shuttle service of about 5 craft daily is being started between Dieppe and Newhaven although until arrangements are complete at latter, convoys will proceed to Southampton to discharge P.O.W.. On completion of discharge convoy will proceed Newhaven by inshore route. Convoys from Dieppe until return to Newhaven will be referred to as Greyback 1-20. Convoy from Newhaven to Dieppe will be referred to as Silvertip 1 to 20. Times of sailing will be dependent on tides. Convoy Silvertip 1 will leave Newhaven at 2359/14. E.T.A. Dieppe 0615/15.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 141306B to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)

Milford
Haven
convoy
assembly
port.

From 0001/15 Milford Haven will become the convoy assembly port for all Bristol Channel ships for ocean convoys in lieu of Belfast whether routed via N. Channel or South of Ireland (R).
(2) Milford Haven will also be the convoy assembly port for ships from the English Channel for O.S./K.M.S. convoys and O.N.S. convoys.
(3) Request N.C.S.Os. may be informed.
(C. in C. W.A., 141625B.)
Your 101302B.
Intend 0001/15 my 141625B refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 141628B to Admty.)

/Vessels ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Vessels
for U.C.
Convoys.

Pass to F.Os. 1/c and N.C.S.Os.
For the present vessels of 14 knots or over
bound overseas should be routed to Southend
for U.C. Convoy.

(2) These convoys will include ships for North
and South America and West Indies and sail from
Southend on 18th September and then at approximately four day
intervals.
(D.T.D., 141905B to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)

SILAS W.
MITCHEL,
EDWARD H.
CROCKETT.

Your 122101 arrived Molotovsk.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 141959B to S.B.N.O. North
Russia.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH
- suspicious
ship.

Tanker giving name ULVIGSON consistently
endeavoured to close us in 43.53 N., 38.17 W.
(SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH, 141335Z to Admty.)

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

SWIFTSURE. Intend to sail SWIFTSURE at 1600B/14 for Plymouth (2) - (5) Route and Arrangements. (F.O.G.M.A.141041B to C. in C. Plymouth, Admiralty)

SS. EDWARD P. SALVONIA sailing from Horta 1003Z/14th escorted by ST. NECTAN to comply with A.M.140455/ S. of A. ALEXANDER. 10 proceeding direct toward position (X) 045 degs. (Ex. O.N.F. 38' N. 028 degs. 42' W. E.T.A. (X) 0345Z/16th. 252, drifting S.W.) (2) A/C will assist in locating E.P.ALEXANDER p.m.15th expect SALVONIA to make contact day 16th. (3) ST. NECTAN and SALVONIA maintain continuous watch Azores port wave.

(4) Unless otherwise ordered PAPAKURA has been instructed to tow straggler to Horta. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 141124Z to Admty.)
/ Requesting SALVONIA be sailed to assistance of EDWARD P. ALEXANDER (N.T. in W.D.)

COLUMBINE, Your 141007* part 1, para. (3).
AUBRETIA. My position course and speed at 2000B/14th 040° 38' N., 011° 26' W., 000°, 13 knots, AUBRETIA in company. Weather report 4380 1204. (COLUMBINE, 141451B to F.O.G.M.A.)
* Not received by W.R.

South Atlantic

Shortening of route for K.M.F/M.K.F. Convoys. If proposals in A.M. 141048* not to D.S.T.O.W.Af. are confirmed it will be necessary for S.R.17 to arrive Gibraltar by 4th October and for RUYS ex Mediterranean for West Africa to arrive Gibraltar by 5th October. (D.O.D.(H), 141105B to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.)
* Shortening of route for K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys (ss Mediterranean).

PHILOCTETES. Your 261411 August and A.M. 052225 July. PHILOCTETES will remain at Freetown until termination of the war with Germany. She will then return to U.K. and be based at Scapa. (V.C.N.S., 142113B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanS/M Opera-
tion's in
Aegean.

Leave patrol forthwith to pass close to east of Cape Doro Andros Tinos and Mykoni thence through Kifnaros Channel and Scarpanto Straits to arrive in position 035 degs. 03' 027 degs. 30' at 1702B/16th.

(2) You may proceed on surface by day at your discretion.

(Capt. (S) 1, 140910B to VIRTUE, (R) 1st S/M. Flot. F.O.L.E.M.)

VORACIOUS shift patrol forthwith to North of Skiathos and and Skopelos Channels South of latitude 039 degs. 29'.

(2) VAMPIRE pass close west of Cape Papas and Anti-Psara to patrol on Salonika - Mudros route North of lat. 039 degs. 39'. (Capt. (S) 1, 140915B to VORACIOUS, VAMPIRE, (R) 1st S/M. F. F.O.L.E.M.)

From 034 degs. 30' 023 degs. 01' at 1602B/15th proceed through 035 degs. 48' 016 degs. 27' at 2205B/17th to R/V escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 0515B/18th.

(2) You are to dive by day east of longitude 020 degs. making 101 miles per day. You are to proceed on surface west of long. 020 degs. speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

(3) You may encounter MATROZOS (G.S.) about 0450B/16th and (P.76) VISIGOTH about 2215B/16th.

(Capt. (S) 1, 141115B to VIVID)

Shortening
route for
K.M.F./M.K.F.
Convoys.

The route for K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys between U.K. and Gibraltar can be shortened by approx. 48 hours, commencing with K.M.F.35.

(2) It is proposed to adhere to the present sailing dates from U.K. and Bombay respectively. Thus the K.M.F. will pass Straits of Gibraltar and all positions further East about two days ahead

of present schedule, while dates for M.K.F. will remain unchanged other than for arrival in U.K. Turn-round in India which has been reported insufficient will be increased by 48 hours.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 251134 August not to all refers.

(3) Request you will confirm that escort and other arrangements on your station can be adjusted accordingly.

(4) D. of S.T. and War Office agree.

(D.O.D.(F), 141048B to C. in C.Med., C. in C. E.F.)

JEANNE
D'ARC.

Orders to sail 2000/14 to position 16 off Gibraltar for onward routing to Cherbourg by Admiralty. (F.O.W.M. 141126B)

C. in C. Med. 131500B. Instructions received.

(2) JEANNE D'ARC sails unescorted with French

Admiralty officials 2000/14th E.T.A. position 16 off Gibraltar 1900/15th. My 141126 refers.

(3) Admiralty requested to onward route to Cherbourg and arrange escort as necessary.

(F.O.W.M.141210 to Admty.)

Yugoslav
ships at
Malta.

Following Yugoslav ships at Malta your 121255 para.(4).

KUMANOVO troop carrier capacity 700 on short passage. Speed 12 knots.

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Mediterranean

Yugoslav
ships at
Malta.
(Contd.)

ORAU ex minelayer useful operationally speed 16 knots.
T.1 torpedo boat operational range 500 miles 15 knots torpedo tubes to be removed.
MLJET and MELJINE small minelayers operational.
VILA and ANTE SPARCEVIC small store carriers operational. Other small harbour craft of no operational value. WHITE EAGLE at Taranto.

Para. 5 Ships require armament as in my 031001 July. Further signal will be made.

Para. 6. M.L's referred to in my 231126 and C. in C. Med. 261622 December are harbour craft of no operational value.

Para. 9 (A) Particularly request that no RYM personnel be sent to Malta until accommodation can be made available.

(B) Probable sphere of activity and the numbers involved that a base in Italy would be more suitable for accommodation training and operations.

(V.A.Malta, 141127 to C. in C. Med.)

German
Vessels
captured and/
or sunk at
Varna.

My 111635. Further details in Intelligence report for September 12th delete last 5 items in para. 1 and add: Tankers CELENO and HAMBURG(400 tons)? Merchant vessels TRISTAN and GAULEITER HAMS (corrupt group) 860 tons each and Schooner RILO 200 tons (all damaged): 14 F lighters three tugs ten barges and 20 M.L. (mostly damaged or under construction): two damaged floating docks 800 to

3000 tons.

Following were sunk in the Varna Bay: (?one gunboat) 400 tons 26 (F) lighters four E-Boats 32 minesweeper M.Ls and 6 other M.Ls.

(N.L.O. Black Sea, 141230)

Italian
S/Ms.

B.A.D. 021943 para. 2.

CAGNI incapable of Ocean crossing owing to lack of diesel spares. These may, however, be available Bordeaux which was investiaged by B.N.A. Madrid on recent visit to that Port. His

report not yet received but expected shortly. S/M. now employed training U.S. ships at Palermo.

(2) DIASPRO now employed on important operational duties in place of NICHELIO refitting. My 091832 April not to all.

(3) OTARIA refitting date uncertain will never be reliable or capable of ocean passage.

(4) SETTIMO waiting refit will never be reliable or capable of ocean passage.

(5) ATROPO leaves Taranto to connect with M.K.S.62 to Gibraltar. Request arrangements for onward routeing escort and liaison party be made accordingly.

(C. in C. Med. 141250 to Admty.)

Greek
relief
ships.

Present intention is to divert safe conduct ships under conditions specified in A.M. 121955 as follows (A) ships West of 20 degs. E. to Augusta. (B) Ships East of 20 degs. E. to Haifa. (C. in C. Med. 141704B to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Force 120. R/V with me in vicinity 035 degs. 00' N. 026 degs. 30' E. at 1000C tomorrow Friday.
 (F.O.E.C.141925C to ATTACKER, (R) F.O.I.E.M. PURSUER, EMPEROR.)

SEARCHER will be in 035 degs. 40' N. 022 degs. 20' E. at 1000 Friday to provide fighter protection for Catalinas.

(2) Catalinas should orbit SEARCHER on way in.

(3) Your 140937 not to all addresses refers.

(F.O.E.C.142051C to V.A.M. (R) F.O.W.I.T. S.O.M/S.P.5. SEARCHER, N.L.O., B.A.F., F.O.L.E.M., A.H.Q. Malta. C. in C. Med. F.O.C.S.15.)

HUNTER (?with) TROUBRIDGE in company is to proceed (?from) approx. position (?034 degs.) 30' N. 024 degs. 30' E. at (?20)00 to-day Thursday, S.of A. 16 knots to Alexandria.

(2) TROUBRIDGE has 1 (?German) officer and 23 naval ratings ex SCARPANTO.

(F.O.E.C.142127 to F.O.L.E.M. Info: R.A. Alex, HUNTER, TROUBRIDGE, Ships West of Alex.)

M.E. Balkan (2) (Extract). Force 133 reports Andartes at Sitrep Kalandritsa C.6970/10. ZANTE. All remaining No.304. Germans left 12th Sept. Island under Greek control. Athens. CX reports No German Garrisons Islands Aegina Eleves Poros, Agrinion. Force 133 Believe enemy evacuation of Area complete 12th Sept.

Crete. Force 133 report 11th Sept. most of 22 P.G. Div. now moved West to Areas Rethimnon and Canea. Samos. Germans moving to Vathy where all rowing boats and Caiques concentrating 12th Sept.

(C.in C. M.E.142000C)

Support In view of C. in C. Med's 132234 propose support Groups. groups in my 112009 be reconstituted as follows:
 (A) 37 Escort Group STORK (S.O) CAMPION, LA MALOUINE and SOUTHERN MAID latter to be replaced subsequently by DEPTFORD.

(B) 46 Escort Group. FLEETWOOD (S.O) ANEMONE, COLTSFOOT and MYOSOTIS.

(2) Intend BERGAMOT change over with CONVULVULUS Para. 2 D. and E. of my 112009 and Capt. F. 131137 refer.

(3) Intend sailing AMETHYST p.m. tomorrow 15th and PHEASANT p.m. 17th.

(F.O.L.E.M.142052C to C. in C. Med.)

Operation G.R. No.1403. "Dragoon" Period ending 132400. "Dragoon". Right flank G.S. WOOLSEY 238 RDS LUDLOW 90 RDS on call fire using plane spot and S.F.C.P. at troops, vehicles and mortars in Capo Mortola area.

Marseilles. Inner harbour sweeping continued in 5 Northern basins. No mines reported. 14 Liberty ships off loaded 360 troops 362 vehicles 3267 tons cargo via L.C.T. L.C.M. Dukws using Mole St. Jean and Vieux Port. Coaster 14 foot draft entered Vieux Port Toulon and Port De Bouc each completed unloading first Liberty. French ships LORRAINE, 5 C.L. and 5 D.D. participated in a ceremonial entry into Toulon. C. in C. Mediterranean in SIRIUS and C.T.F.86 in PHILADELPHIA joined the formation.

(N.C.W.T.F.142147)

/Situation...

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Situation Report No.433.
- (1) My 131950 para. 4., action took place between Santorin and Crete.
 - (2) Night 10th/11th September M.T.B. sank loaded coal barge off Rovigno 045 degs. 05' N. 013 degs. 38' E. and captured 7 Germans.
 - (3) Night 11th/12th September M.G.B. 657 had stern blown off by mine in 044 degs. 10' N. 012 degs. 38' E. O.R 4 casualties.
 - (4) Coastal forces night 11th/12th September, encountered 2 F lighters off Sapgliano/ hit by torpedoes and left burning. Others forces sank 2 barges between Spezia and Sestri Levante. Enemy returned fire in both these engagements but caused no damage.
 - (5) Night 12th/13th September, coastal forces engaged 4 F lighters off Savona, 3 blew up and 4th was left on fire, slight opposition caused no damage.
 - (6) 2 M.Ls covered by H.M.S. WHADDON made R/C of Kithera Island night 12th/13th September and found enemy had evacuated island after destroying installations the force withdrew bringing 2 prisoners.
 - (7) Night 13th/14th September destroyers escorted by escort carriers carried out sweep North of Crete but had blank report.
 - (8) A/C laid mines in Khlkis Channel on 9th and 10th Sept.
- (C. in C. Med. 142236B) / Not identified by W.D.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CLYDE - repairs Capt. (S) 8 090712. Your 121251. Request information whether repairs to pressure hull of CLYDE can be carried out at Sydney.
(2) Capt. (S) 8 is requested to report full extent of repairs required to A.C.N.B. and date CLYDE would be available to sail from Fremantle.
(C. in C. E.F. 140359Z to A.C.N.B.)

U-Boat dispositions. All Areas. No fresh information. Scales assured.
(C. in C. E.F. 140436Z.)

RORQUAL Request date that RORQUAL is expected to join E.F.
(2) RORQUAL is required as early as practicable:-
(A) to enable the minelaying effort in the Eastern Theatre to be increased.
(B) to assist in carrying out special operations for which no large S/M is now available.
(C. in C. E.F. 141012Z to Adty.)

RICHELIEU Sailed RICHELIEU at 0700Z/14. escorted by QUICKMATCH and PATHFINDER as far as Perim by standard Red Sea Route to Suez to comply with C. in C. E.F. 110927.
(2) E.T.A. Suez 1200Z/17. S.of A. 18 knots.
(3) Request arrangements for transit of canal. Ship has no requirements and should arrive at correct draught.
(Com. Aden. 141025Z to N.O.I.C. Suez, Folem.)

FORMIDABLE, ACHILLES. Request confirmation that FORMIDABLE has recently been docked in U.K. or (?that) ship will be docked in the Mediterranean on passage out. My 011351 August refers.
(2) ACHILLES now arrived on station reports docking due at end of October.
(C. in C. E.F. 141201Z to Adty.)

STRONGBOW, Patrol report. STRONGBOW First Far East Patrol.
(2) 30th August 0830 commenced attack on 800 ton Coaster off Goh Pipidorn which passed inside out of range. 1315 South of Goh Lantar Hai attacked same target with gunfire obtaining two hits before being forced to dive by M.T.B. who counter attacked ineffectively with two depth charges.
(3) 2nd September between 0445 and 1900 off Goh Yao Hai. Sank five Junks totalling at least 100 tons. 3 prisoners taken. 1924 fired one torpedo at 800 ton Coaster anchored off Gohdarmhork. Coaster disintegrated. Drove 50 ton motor lighter ashore by Oerlikon fire.
(4) 3rd September between 2004 and 2015 north east of Pulau Tertua sank 3 Junks with demolition charges and gunfire.
(5) 4th September 1303 sighted and chased vessel mentioned in

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

STRONGBOW,
Patrol
Report.
(Contd.)

para. 2. west of Goh Lantar Hai but was forced to
dive by A/C which dropped two depth charges. No
damage.

(6) 5th September 0747 off Lemharnark scored
four hits with gun on tug towing lighter before
being forced to dive by A/C. Target seen to beach.
At 1330 sank 20 ton Junk by gunfire and at 1859
fired star shell to annoy Puket Garrison. Ends.
(C. in C. E.F. 141223)

Naval A/C
for E.F.

Your 300923 August not to F.O.N.A.S.
Despatch of Avenger Squadrons.

848 (allocated FORMIDABLE), 21 aircraft, 21 Flying
crews, takes passage in FORMIDABLE.

849 (allocated VICTORIOUS), 12 A/C, 12 Flying crews,
takes passage in RAJAH. Remaining A/C and flying personnel
provided as in A.M. 242006 August.

854 (allocated ILLUSTRIOUS), 21 Flying crews, and maintenance
personnel takes passage in ACTIVITY. A/C provided from South
Africa (AM. 020454 refers).

857 (allocated INDOMITABLE), 21 A/C and 21 flying crews takes
passage in RAJAH.

FORMIDABLE, RAJAH and ACTIVITY should arrive Ceylon about 7th
October.

(2) Disposal of Barracuda Squadrons.

(a) A/C of these squadrons should be retained as reserves in
Ceylon and S.M.E. returned to S.N.S.O. Ceylon.

(b) Flying and maintenance personnel are required in U.K.
to meet commitments in C.V.L.s and C.V.E.s. Squadrons should
be released as soon as relieved by Avenger squadrons, personnel
of 822 and next available squadron taking passage in ACTIVITY
who may be held for this purpose.

(3) RAJAH should return to U.K. as soon as practicable after
unloading.

(D.N.A.O. 141403B to C. in C. E.F.)

MONTCLARE

A.M. 290519 August.

MONTCLARE will join Eastern Fleet on completion.
(V.C.N.S. 141842B)

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ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U/B dispositions Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 141335Z, Cominch, 141545Z.)

SS.MARIPOSA Diversion order.
(Connav, 141405Z to MARIPOSA)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary.
(1) A/C sights submerged U/boat 1558/13th in 48.20 N. 62.40 W.
(2) T.G. 22.3 A/C Radar contact and periscope or Schnorkel sighting 04.27 13th in 42.27 N. 52.08 W. followed by Sono contact and attack. All times Z.
(N.S.H.Q. 141424Z.)

E.G. W.13 - attack a U-boat. H.M.C.S. STETTLER in contact estimated course of submarine 240 explosion in Wake of STETTLER suspected to be torpedo. My position 49.29 N. 65.24 W.
(W.13, 141430Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
My 141425* STETTLER attacking contact at 700 yards when explosion of suspected acoustic torpedo occurred 40 yards astern in wake. MAGOG, SAINTE THERESE, THETFORD mines carried out depth charge attacks on contacts now lost. Carried out observant.
(E.G.W.13, 141632Z to N.O.I.C. Gaspé) *Not received by either Admty. or C. in C.W.A.
My 141425 and 141632. Further unconfirmed contact attacked by mines and lost. Am carrying box search around 049° 29' 065° 25'.
(E.G.W.13, 142010Z.)

B.X.125 Refer my 131333 B.X.125 will be delayed 24 hours due to weather conditions.
(Boston 141527) *N.T. in W.D.

Weather security in S.W. Pacific. Following reply from C. in C. S.W.P.A.
My 090117* refers "Relaxation" of west of 125° E. deferred as requested. Concur in retention of weather security west of 125° E. if it is decision of combined Meteorological Committee that broadcast of weather reports from that area will jeopardise shipping and operations of Eastern Fleet to West of Australia. It is considered desirable however to place entire Australian continent in clear at earliest practicable time in view of communication difficulties caused by arbitrary division of Australia into clear and secure regions.
2. Suggest further direct representation of views of C. in C. Eastern Fleet to C. in C. S.W.P.A. and resolution by A.M.C.O.S.E.A. supporting these views would be valuable support in combined Meteorological Committee discussion of this matter.
(B.A.D. Washington, 141541Z to Admty.) *Requesting defer relaxation of weather security.

/Disposal...

War Diary14.9.1944
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

Disposal of Allied, Italian and enemy ships captured in ~~Allied~~ ports. **FRENCH**

IZ 6881 ZO 207. 14th September 1944.
Ref. COS(W)313*

After discussion with B.M.S.M. we propose submitting draft directive based on para. 5 of COS(W) 313 to C.C.S. in following form and shall be glad to have your concurrence.

Begins.
"C.C.S. have agreed on the following policies:-
(a) S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C.M.E.D. should have first call for the purpose of their command as they have on ex-allied ships.

(b) Subject to (a) above.

(1) S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C.M.E.D. should have discretion for turning over enemy Merchant Ships captured in Allied ports to the Ally concerned for manning and operating with the United Nations Shipping Pool under the C.S.A.B. and without prejudice to the ultimate disposal of the ships. The Ally would be called upon to account for the vessel in the ultimate shipping settlement and the vessel would be taken over subject to all claims including salvage claims.

(2) Enemy Merchant Ships captured in German ports before surrender should be placed and operated in the United Nations Shipping Pool under the C.S.A.B.

(c) Captured enemy Warships other than ex-Allied ships should be at the disposal of S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C.M.E.D. who should refer to the C.C.S. for direction concerning their assignment." Ends.

(2) You will note from the above that we are assuming that para. 5(c) of C.O.S.(W) 313 is governed by 5(a) and that it is your intention that Merchant Ships after the Supreme Commanders requirements have been met revert to the C.S.A.B. for allocation to any Theatre as is provided by para. 2(e) of C.C.S.200/4/D. The wording of para. 5(c) of COS(W) 313 suggests that enemy Merchant Ships captured in German ports before surrender remain at the disposal of S.C.A.E.F. under the direction of C.C.S.

(3) Your should see Washington Bilge 4155 of 9th September and reply Bilge 4841 of 13th Sept. Latter suggests addition of words "C.S.A.B. as agents for" before "C.C.S." in para. 5(c). In view of the attempts made by the Americans to make us admit that the C.S.A.B. should operate under the C.C.S. we think there may be danger in putting on record that the C.S.A.B. are agents of the C.C.S. even with this addition para. 5(c) would still suggest that the C.S.A.B. are merely concerned with the manning and operation of the ships which will be used as required by S.C.A.E.F.

(4) In view of the difficulty which we have had on the whole question of captured enemy equipment culminating with our paper C.C.S.458/7 in which we believe the Americans are going to acquiesce we think it desirable to use when possible; e.g. in para. 1(b)(ii) of this signal the wording of C.C.S.200/4/B.

(5) Above agreed with B.M.S.M.
(J.S.M. Washington, 141635Z.) *061555.

U.S.S. Delay departure A.T. 150A 24 hours.
WAKEFIELD. (Comeastsefron, 141635 to P.D. Boston.)

/U.S.S. ...

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14.9.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.U.S.S.
STURTEVANT.
T-E ~~SS~~ BRAZIL.

Cancel present route and R/V ~~SS~~^{TEV} BRAZIL. New instructions alter immediately to avoid submarine area for new (E) 039° 30' 062° 01'. (F) 039° 30' 052° 02'. (G) 043° 20' 040° 01'. (H) 045° 30' 028° 50' R/V C.439 in H. at 190215Z. E.T.A. 17 kts (Com. 10th Fleet, 141644Z to U.S.S. STURTEVANT.)

Hedgehog
ammunition
for U.K.

Information received acute shortage in Hedgehog ammunition exists in U.K. it is requested that the maximum quantity possible be transferred to Londonderry at earliest opportunity. Small quantities acceptable by service passage. Replacements will be arranged. Request action proposed be signalled.
(C.N.M.O. 141742B to N.S.H.Q., C. in C.C.N.A.)

Reduction
of Naval
Base
defences.

Status and defences of Naval Bases abroad are under consideration, with the object of saving manpower.
Request you will forward your proposals for reducing British bases in your area in order to release British personnel for other services.
(a) now
(b) when Germany is defeated.

(2) For your preliminary guidance following policy for underwater defences at West-Indian bases on defeat of Germany has been adopted in principle:-

- (a) Bermuda and Trinidad. Retain existing Defences but progressively reduce maintenance work. Later store defences which can be economically maintained.
(b) Elsewhere. Remove defences and store those which can be economically maintained.
(A.C.N.X.(F) 141944B to S.B.N.O. W.At., Info.B.A.D. Washington.)

SS. QUEEN
MARY

T.A.146 QUEEN MARY recommend forthwith diversion through 38.01 N. 48.01 W. 38.01 N. 59.30 W. 38.02 N. 69.01 W.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 142101Z to Admty.)

EVERGREEN

By this EVERGREEN directed report to C.T.U. 24.8.5 (in EASTWIND) for temporary duty. In view C.T.F. 24 dispatch 141631 (not to all) C.T.U.24.8.5 use EVERGREEN as requisite as foodship or Northland support returning EVERGREEN to orig. as soon as no longer needed.
(Comgopat, 142355 to C.T.U.24.8.5, EVERGREEN.)

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14.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C X/407 had A.S.V. contacts at
2000Z/13 in 64° 05' N. 04° 10' W. and at 2020Z/13
in 64° 00' N. 04° 50' W.
(2) A/C obtained disappearing contact at 0650Z/13
in 56° 40' N. 11° 30' W.
(3) A/C N/59 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1800Z/13
in 56° 30' N. 11° 53' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C X/407 obtained radar contact
at 0029Z/13 in 62° 30' N. 03° 46' W.
(2) A/C N/59 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1650Z/13 in 55° 30' N
11° 35' W.

Ref. A.M. 130908Z para. A.(2) ship torpedoed now reported to be
IOANNIS FAFALIOS not OLYMPOS as previously supposed.
(D.D.I.C. 141138B.)

U/Boat Estimates
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 141339B, 141443B.)

15.9.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+101)

General

1. (a) Initial mine clearance at Le Havre has been completed and Capt. M/S Seine considers that coastal ships up to 2,500 tons can enter the port provided they observe certain speed restrictions. (b). Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores
British	864,597	216,673	1,606,826
American	<u>1,376,565</u>	<u>246,924</u>	<u>2,302,937</u>
Total	<u>2,241,162</u>	<u>463,597</u>	<u>3,909,763</u>

General.

FURIOUS.

2. FURIOUS reduced to Reserve today after almost continuous service for over a quarter of a century.

Repatriates.

3. The liners ARUNDEL CASTLE, DROTTNINGHOLM and GRIPSHOLM, arrived at Liverpool from Sweden with repatriated personnel.

North Sea.

4. Six M.T.Bs. of 21st Flotilla attacked a north-bound convoy of 2 escorted merchantmen off Vlieland and sank one of them, of 2000 tons. Our force suffered no damage and only 1 slight casualty.

Channel.

5. 140 rounds were fired into Dover, Folkestone and Dymchurch by cross Channel batteries, causing civilian damage and casualties.

Western Approaches.

6. (a). Milford Haven was inaugurated as convoy assembly port for all Bristol Channel ships for ocean convoys instead of Belfast, whether routed north or south of Ireland, and also for English Channel ships for O.S/K.M.S. and O.N.S. convoys. (b). Aircraft obtained 2 A.S.V. contacts in the approaches to the Bristol and St. George's Channels, and RENONCULE attacked a contact in Mount's Bay, but no results are reported.

Air attack on TIRPITZ.

7. A force of Lancasters from a Russian airfield bombed TIRPITZ in Kaafjord at 1100. Surprise was achieved, and it is believed, subject to confirmation, that a hit was obtained with a 12,000 lb. bomb.

N. Russia.

8. Convoy J.W. 60 comprising 33 ships, sailed from Loch Ewe for North Russia, (~~Operation~~ "Rigmarole".) The Russian destroyer LINCOLN (ex British), and one M.L. accompanied the convoy. Six more Russian M.Ls. sailed a little later to overtake it.

' VICTUAL ' "

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15.9.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Independent sailings.

9. Independent sailings have been introduced on a limited scale in the central, western and Mediterranean approaches areas.

Operation "Dragoon".

10. (a). Several craft were located at Imperia at daybreak today but accurate fire at over 20000 yards range from a shore battery of several guns prevented effective bombardment by fire support ships. The U.S. destroyer JONES (no indication which of the two destroyers of this name is intended) shelled troops and vehicles in the Mt. Bellenda area, with air spotting, and destroyed an ammunition dump.
(b). Minesweeping continued south of Cape Mortola and 19 contact mines were destroyed.
(c). At Marseilles, Basins Petain and Mirabeau were opened at noon today. 2 Liberty ships berthed alongside and 9 at holding berths in the basin; and 22 merchant ships off loaded via landing craft. In other parts of the port mines continue to be detonated.

Gulf of Genoa.

11. Coastal forces blew up an F-Lighter between Portofino and Spezia last night.

Adriatic.

12. (a). The destroyers LOYAL and KIMBERLEY today continued the bombardment of gun positions and road junctions near Rimini. All targets were well covered.
(b). Two Wellingtons on R/C in the northern Adriatic today destroyed a 1,500 to 2,000 ton merchant ship and left another on fire.
(c). Beaufighters left on fire and sinking a small merchant vessel west of Cephalonia and a schooner northeast of Corfu.

Force 120.

13. ROYALIST and TEAZER sank two coasters north of Crete last night.

Air attack on Salamis S/M base.

14. 51/56 B.17s dropped 15 tons on Salamis submarine base today. Photos show good concentration with direct hits on target and much smoke. C. in C. M.E. subsequently reported the results as follows:-
Italian Destroyer TURBINE sunk and another damaged. Small floating dock sunk and large floating dock damaged. One submarine sunk, one missing. Two floating cranes destroyed, several small craft sunk or damaged.

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Landing on
Morotai Is.

15. Substantial U.S. army forces landed at two points on Morotai Island, Halmahera (Moluccas) at early daylight today, supported by surface forces including aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers. The landing was unopposed, and within 2 hours Pitoe airfield was in Allied hands.

(Operation "Intrepid")

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15.9.44.
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 101)

Port Facilities

Le Havre Report from Capt. M/S Seine indicates that initial clearance of mines from Havre approaches and parts of port may be completed by p.m. tomorrow Saturday 16th.

(2) On completion of this clearance risk to shipping will still exist from (A) delayed release moored mine, (B) Oyster mines.
(3) The clearance of these types will take considerable time but need not prevent entry of shipping if following precautions are taken.

(A) Oropesa search whenever possible before movements of shipping.
(B) Strict observance of following speed limits vide A.G.M. 274 A.

<u>Displacement</u>	<u>Depth 5 fathoms</u>	<u>Depth 8 fathoms</u>	<u>Depth 10 fathoms</u>
500 to 1000 tons	6	9	12
1000 to 1500	4	6	8
1500 to 2000	-	5	7
(?2)000 to 2500	-	4	(?6)
2500 to 4000 (corrupt group)	-	-	4

larger ships should not approach port until clearance Oysters has been completed.

(A.N.C.X.F. 151150B to C.T.F.125, (R) F.O.B.A.A., Capt M/S Seine, N.O.I.C. Le Havre, Adty.)

Minesweeping operations completed subject to salvage reports consider Coastal ships up to 2500 tons can enter Havre in accordance with my letter 2/65 of 29th August.

(Capt. M/S Seien 152130B to F.O.B.A.A.)

(G) (1) Reports Operation P.S.V.O. on return from Havre. Broom completed. Channel swept making 80 ft. passage available for Coasters.

(11) At 0800 today H.Q's of F.O.B.A.A. were established at ex German Naval H.Q's Clinique Tombreau at Rouen. Depth charges found in the cellar were rendered safe.

(111) In future Sitreps will not be issued in accordance with C.O.H, Para. 52 but will be made when any matters of general interest are available.

(F.O.B.A.A. 152316 to Adty, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., Exfor Main.)

Shipping

Troopships Your 141117 not to Admiralty. Everyone being now of like mind, troopships of over 12,000 tons will continue to discharge personnel at Cherbourg.
(2) It is at your discretion to direct trans-atlantic cargo ships to discharge wherever you think best.
(A.N.C.X.F. 151341B to C.T.F. 125)

15.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

"Overlord" Situation Reports

Cositintrep
No. 164.

Part 2 Naval.

(A) Intelligence. (I) A report from an unspecified source at Arcachon received by H.M. ships states that about 10000 Germans at Verdon would probably surrender to Anglo-U.S. troops but not to F.F.I.

(II) Locally reported at St. Jean de Luz that there are mines up to 5 miles off the coast in that area.

(B) Captured Ports.

Le Treport expected to be open for shipping on 20th September. 14 berths available, maximum draught 14 feet.

(C) Unloading Figures. Not yet received.

(Ramsay sgd. Eisenhower, 152342B)

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15.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

General

Policy

Corep organisation. A.M. 132315B. Concur that Plymouth Corep organisation can lapse from October 1st, 1944. U.S.N. agree.
(C. in C. Plymouth (Corep) 151133)
A.M. 132315B. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 151845B)

Flag of C. in C. H.F. The flag of the Commander-in-Chief Home Fleet will be transferred from DUKE OF YORK to FURIOUS at 0900/18.
(2) Signals and correspondence for the C. in C. are to be sent to FURIOUS from 1600/17.
(C. in C. H.F. 151320B)

333 Support Flotilla. Your 141946 para. 2 concur.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 151705 to Adty.)

Movements

TOMPAZIS, KRIEZIS. A.M. 141758/.
C. in C. Portsmouth and C. in C. Nore are requested to signal intended dates of sailing of TOMPAZIS and KRIEZIS as soon as known. On receipt of this information destination will be given.
(C. in C. W.A. 151836B)
/ TOMPAZIS and KRIEZIS to join C. in C. Med.

RORQUAL C. in C. E.F. 141012. Anticipate RORQUAL will be ready to leave U.K. end of October. Estimated time for passage to Trincomalee 2 months.
(F.O.S. 152034B to Adty.)

Operations

Russian S/M Operations. 72 degs. 30' N. Para. 2 your 141107/ refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 150946B to C. in C. H.F.)
/ No objection to Russians operating S/M from time J.W. 50 is 150 miles from Kola Inlet.

Biscay area. Your 150530. R/V in 046 degs. 28' N. 002 degs. 00' W. as soon as possible after 0930B.
(BELLONA 150711B to URANIA)
My 141940. Para (2).
As Force 27 visited Sables d'Olonne yesterday 14th am proceeding south without calling there.
(2) Percentage of fuel remaining BELLONA 58, HAIDA 57, URANIA 71.
Weather report: Surface wind S.E. 5 m.p.h. (Force 2).
Pressure 1020 M.B.S. Cloud 1/10 3,000 ft. Visibility 12 miles.
(S.O. Force 26 150845B to C. in C. Plymouth)

/No ...

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Biscay area. (Contd.) No (?movement) during night 14th/15th although guards and activity observed around Saint Nazaire.
(2) 43 per cent fuel stocks remain at 0800.
(3) E.T.A. 1500. 4571. 2564.
(BLYSKAWICA 151046B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Intend sailing 1800B keeping 8 miles west of Ushant thence through position 260 degs. Point de Penmarch 32 miles to Benodet arriving 0700B 16th for important conference with F.F.I. concerning enemy resistance at Audierne.
M.T.B's 696 and 713 will proceed from patrol direct to Benodet arriving 1000B 16th. My 151540B refers.
M.T.B's 704 and 718 will sail L'Abervrach 0630B 16th arriving Benodet 1200B 16th.
M.L. 179 remains L'Abervrach keeping continuous watch on 2300 kc/s who will keep guard for Force G.U.
(LONDONDERRY 151710B to C. in C. Plymouth)
Penmarch signal station reports situation at (?Lorient) on 12th September as follows.
(1) Passenger ship ROSTOCK painted with red cross apparently de gunned moored at number 1(one) buoy. Swung her compasses on 9th and 12th September. Seemed ready to come out.
(2) 1 (one) medium sized cargo ship in Lorient Harbour between Penman and Kergroise.
(3) Small Tanker in Lorient at Keroman.
(4) No S/M movements since 10th August.
(5) No other ships in port bigger than armed smacks.
(S.O. Force 28 152013B to C. in C. Plymouth) as amended 152100.
Force (?G.P) M.T.B's 696 and 713 are patrolling North of Tevenec 18 tonight returning L'Abervrach daylight 16th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151845B to Force 26, (R) LONDONDERRY.)
Your 152033B/.

Proposed conference is to discuss German resistance and possible assistance at Audierne with Capt. Lucas of F.F.N. and Lieut.Cdr. Levasseur F.F.N. in order to report situation.
It is understood there are 400 Germans with S.A. and possibly 2 3 inch guns.
Lieut. Cdr. Levasseur is on board. Request permission to proceed to Benodet as soon as possible.
(LONDONDERRY 152145B to C. in C. Plymouth).
/ Not received.

Operation "Victual" Following destroyer movements are to take place
(a) Capt. D.3 in MILNE with MUSKETEER, MARNE, METEOR passing Switha 2100B/15. to arrive Skaalefiord 0900B/16. Fuel and join C.S.1 at 0600B/17.
(b) Capt. D.26 in MYNGS with VERULAM, ALGONQUIN, STORD, ZAMBESI, SAVAGE leaving Scapa as ordered by C.S.1 A.M./16.
(c) MYNGS, SAVAGE, STORD, ZAMBESI (?return to) (?Scapa) when relieved by MILNE, MUSKETEER, MARNE, METEOR.
(V.A.(D) H.F. 151018B to Capt. D.3, D.26.)
(a) 1445 15th (1st ship)
(b) CYGNET, KEPPEL, BULLDOG, WHITEHALL, ALINGTON CASTLE, BAMBOROUGH CASTLE, SAUMAREZ, VIRAGO, VOLAGE, VENUS, SCORPION, SIOUX.
(c) 33.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 151850B)

/Coastal ...

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsCoastal
patrols.

My 071835B (not to all).
Patrols tonight 15th/16th.
KRAKOWIAK patrol between 127 degs. Dungeness 7.3
miles and 200 degs. Dungeness 12.5 miles until
2130 tomorrow, Saturday.

BLEASDALE anchor Dungeness East Roads at immediate notice until
0615/16 thence Portsmouth.

Communications as in my 071835B.

(A.C. Dover 151130B)

It will be appreciated if 3 Dover M.T.B's could take over
Ostend patrol from dark until 1000B tomorrow Saturday.

(2) Patrol required in vicinity of 051 degs. 22' N. 002 degs.
58' E. unit not to go west of 002 degs. 55' E.

(3) Object protection Ostend Roads.

(4) Unit call sign F.B. one.

(5) W/T watch 2333 kc/s.

For information.

(6) Call signs patrol 15 F.G. one 2 3 patrol 16 F.H. one 2 3.

(7) H.M.S. LOCUST pass to Capt. M/S Harwich.

(C. in C. Nore 151210B to V.A. Dover)

Pins Cover night 15th/16th September.

A. G.H. 1 SEYMOUR Z. 9 South.

G.H. 2 RETALICK Z. 109.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 151215B)

(1) Unit F.T. 1 M.T.B's 486, 464, 462, 465 is to sail to
assumed patrol between Dunkirk No. 8E. and No. 6E. buoys at 2359
today 15th.

(2) Route via No. 3 buoy - Ridens de Calais No. 6 buoy - and the
Dunkirk Channel. E.T.D. to be reported.

(3) Object to intercept E.Boats or T.L.C. Mark II which may be
attempting to supply Dunkirk from Eastwards.

(4) Unless in close contact with the enemy leave patrol to pass
No. 3 buoy by 0630 and return to harbour.

(5) Communications:- 1700 kc/s.

(A.C. Dover 151300B to S.O. 29th M.T.B.F. in M.T.B. 486.)

Unit of 2 M.T.B's to carry out patrol in the vicinity of a
position 015 degs. Ostend light 3 miles Unit to be on patrol at
2100B.

(2) M.T.B's to be armed with 21 inch torpedoes fitted C.C.R.pistol.

(3) Object protection of Ostend Road.

(4) Unit call sign F.B. 2.

(5) W/T watch 2333 kc/s.

(6) LOCUST pass to Capt. M/S Harwich.

(C. in C. Nore 151311B)

Dispositions for night September 15/16th.

Humber Force

Group II. Harbour:- HOLDERNESS, CAMPBELL.

Harwich Force.

Group III. With F.S. 75: WINDSOR.

Patrol 5:- SOUTHDOWN. Patrol 6:- HAMBLEDON. Patrol 7:- MALLARD.

Patrol 8A:- STAYNER. Patrol 10:- WIDGEON. Patrol 14A:-

GUILLEMOT. Patrol 15:- RICU. Patrol 16:- TORRINGTON.

Group IV. Harbour:- TALLYBONT, DUFF, THORNBORO, SHELDRAKE.

Sheerness Force.

Group V. Patrol 4:- EKINS. Patrol 9A:- WENSLEYDALE.

Patrol G:- VIVACIOUS. Patrol H:- GARTH.

/Group VI...

15.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Coastal patrols (Contd.) Group VI. Harbour:- FERNIE, COTTESMORE, PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, COSBY, DAKINS, CLEMATIS, SUNFLOWER, HEATHER, BADDECK.
 At Southend:- GODETIA.
 (C. in C. Nore. 151600B)

A/S operations in N.W. Approaches. On completion of exercises E.G.18 comprising TOWY, MERMAID, PEACOCK, BALFOUR, HOSTE are to fuel at Merville and be sailed so as to join Force 33 in vicinity of Oversay A.M./17th.
 (2) S.O. Force 33 in DUCKWORTH to signal R/V.
 (3) On arrival Commander H.V. King in TOWY is to assumed duties of S.O. Force 33.
 (4) Unless in contact E.G.5 are to be detached to Belfast for lay-over on arrival of E.G.18.
 (C. in C. W.A. 151153B to Cdre. D.W.A., PHILANTE, S.O. E.G.3., S.O. E.G.18.)

Approved for permits referred to in your 141814/ to remain in force, it is not the intention that inshore fishing within three miles of the coast should be prohibited.
 (C. in C. W.A. 151814B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
 / Former Top Secret Distribution.

S.C. operation. Intend to sail S/M chaser operation from Scalloway.
 (1) A.m./18th.
 (2) 2 days.
 (3) 052 degs. Muckle Flugga.
 (4) Air Escort not especially required on return journey.
 (5) My 151627 gives codeword and area.
 (A.C.O.S. 151626B)

Operation "Nestegg" Unless it is intended that L.S.T.(2) allocated to operation "Nestegg" should return to Plymouth after initial landing, request ships boats may be held at Portsmouth on their sailing for Plymouth (your 242121 August). Davist are required to hoist ferry operational craft L.C.V. (P) and Dukws.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 151755B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Bombardment from French Coast. Navsitrep No.69.
 Shelling by enemy batteries continued from 2100 until 0630/15, some 48 rounds falling in Dover and Folkestone. Serious damage to Civilian property. 4 killed, 20 injured Folkestone. 1 slight casualty Dover. Firing recommenced 1110. Up to 2100 about 92 rounds in Kingsdown, Dover, Folkestone, Dymchurch area. Damage and casualties not yet ascertained. Bombardment continues.
 (A.C. Dover 152100B)

FURIOUS On the occasion of FURIOUS reducing to reserve T.L. recall the great services she has performed almost continuously for more than a quarter of a century.

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15.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

FURIOUS (Contd.) (2) In this war she has played a glorious part in many operations, notably in the relief of Malta and operation "Tungsten," but her chief triumph is the way she has been kept operational despite her age. The ship's companies of the past and present deserve great credit for her unsurpassed performance, and her record will long be remembered in the Navy. (V.C.N.S. 152153 to C. in C. H.F., Info: FURIOUS.)

Attack on Convoy off Vlieland. Operations by 21st M.T.B. Flotilla last night 14th/15th. (1) M.T.B's 234 (Lt. G.J. MacDonald D.S.C., R.N. Z.V.R.) 83, 233, 232, 223, 244 located northbound convoy of two escorted merchant ships off Vlieland about 2321B. Approach made from astern at 0144 2nd div. made unobserved attack target being illuminated by 1st Div. two torpedo hits seen on 2000 ton merchant ship. (2) 1st Div. then attacked large trawler whose avoiding action caused torpedoes to miss. (3) Result of operation one 200 ton merchant ship sunk. (4) One slight casualty no damage. (C. in C. Nore 152312B)

Allied Air Activity

Flying Training Areas. Two areas are being established which will be reserved permanently for Naval Flying Training and will be bounded as follows:
(A) Inner Flying Training Area.
North - The North shore of the Firth between Kinraig Point and Fifeness.
East - A line from Fifeness to May Island and thence to Bass Rock.
South - The 20 fathom line from Bass Rock to a point 338 degs. from Redhouse Point.
West - A line from a point on the 20 fathom line 338 degs. from Redhouse Point to Largo Buoy and thence to Kinraig Point.
(B) Outer Flying Training Area.
North - A line from a position 56 - 28.0 N.; 02 - 34.5 W., in a direction 090 degs. to the Western limit of the Declared Mined Area.
East - The western limit of the Declared Mined Area between 56 - 28.0 N.; and 56 - 11.0 N.
South - The parallel of 56 - 11.0 N.
West - A line from May Island to Fifeness, thence along the coast to Babbet Ness, thence in a direction 360 degs. for 3.5 miles and finally in a direction 030 degs. to a position 56 - 28.0 N. 02 - 34.5 W.
(2) These Flying Training Areas will be subdivided and allocated as necessary by R.A.N.A.S. (North) subject to the following general restriction:-
(a) During Night Training in the Outer Area Flares are not to be dropped and Target Vessels are not to operate within 2 miles of the centre line of Q.Z.S. 322.
(b) During Night Training in the Inner Area Flares are not to be dropped and Target Vessels are not to operate when an Inward

/bound ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

Flying
Training
Areas.
(Contd.)

bound Convoy is between Rath Grounds North Buoy and Largo Buoy.

(c) If Night Training in the Inner Area, involving dropping Flares or the use of a Target Vessel, is arranged for a period when an Outward bound Convoy is due to pass through the Area the Naval Officer in Charge, Methil, is to arrange that Merchant

Ships are warned.

(d) No vessel is to enter Area S/M (1) or S/M (2) unless the consent of Captain (S) has first been obtained.

(3) The Lettered Areas described in R.S.C.M. 0201 will remain in force subject to the following amendments to their boundaries and use:-

(a) The Southern boundary of Area "J" will be latitude 56 - 11.0 N. i.e. Coincident with the Southern boundary of the Outer Flying Training Area.

(b) The Northern Boundary of Area "K", will be latitude 56 - 05.5 N., i.e. An extension Eastward of the Southern boundary of Area "F".

(c) A new Area to be known as Area "L" will be established bounded as follows:-

North - Latitude 56 - 11.0 N. East - Western limit of the Declared Mined Areas. South - Latitude 56 - 05.5 N.

West - Longitude 02 - 19.0 W.

(d) Area "E" "H" and "J" will not be available for Firing Practices or other Exercises unless specially allocated by Commander-in-Chief, Rosyth, and this will only be done in exceptional circumstances.

(e) Area "C" and "D" are only to be used for exercise involving Silent Co-operation by A/C.

(4) The above arrangements will be brought into force as from Wednesday, 20th September 1944.

(5) Rosyth Secret and Confidential Memoranda will be amended in due course.

(C. in C. Rosyth 151601 to N.O.I.C's Leith, Dundee, Methil, Capt. (D) Rosyth, Capt. (S) 9., Capt. LOCHINVAR, C.O's DAUNTLESS, DIOMEDE, CORINTHIAN, Capt. VERNON M/S.)

Cross
Channel
corridors.

A.89 15th September. With effect from 1200/16. Corridor No. 2 Eastbourne to Le Treport will be brought into use for southbound traffic only and corridor No. 1 Le Touquet to Dungeness for northbound traffic only. A/C will fly at a height not less than 3000 feet if cloud ceiling permits.

If weather conditions force A/C to cross the coast below 1500 feet para. 11 of Air Ministry Publication S.D.533 will be complied with.

Corridors will be five miles wide and will be in use from sunrise to sunset only. No notification or clearance will be required for flights which keep strictly to these corridors. Request Air Ministry D. of Ops. A.D. promulgate necessary amendments to Neugrip.

(H.Q. A.E.A.F. 151700B)

A.92 15th September. Secret. With effect night 17/18th September Corridor 7 southbound and corridor 8 northbound may be used by night as well as by day. A/C must keep above 6,000 feet by night when weather conditions permit. Notification to the appropriate movement section is required for all flights between

/sunset ...

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSAllied Air Activity

Cross Channel corridors. (Contd.) sunset and sunrise. Request Air Ministry D. of Ops. A.D. will promulgate necessary amendment to Neugrip. (H.Q.A.E.A.F., 151915B.)

Air attack on TIRPITZ.

Attack took place today at 1100 G.M.T./15 weather was excellent with 2/10th strato cumulus over Kaa Fiord which unfortunately hindered bombing to a small extent. Surprise was definitely achieved and smoke screen was put into operation some 8 to 10 minutes before first bombing. Aircraft which bombed early saw the TIRPITZ in the usual position on the east side of the Fiord and crews were reasonably (? sure of) identification. Smoke screen became effective quickly and later crews saw (? only) about 1/3rd of the ship or saw the superstructure only. 3 Force A aircraft did not bomb because target was obscured and 2 aircraft had bombs hung up. Generally crews report that Tallboy bombing was accurate and it is considered by several that 1 hit was obtained but this cannot be confirmed. Some bombs fell on the ? shore. No Johnny Walker were seen to fall in the water near the target but some fell on the land to the east of the target. Flak was moderate but very inaccurate. 3 aircraft received minor damage. No fighter opposition. Reconnaissance was made by Mosquito 2 hours 20 minutes after attack but 9/10th low cloud obscured target. Pilot saw the TIRPITZ through a small gap. He identified it from 9000 feet and saw it was floating but could not determine whether any damage had been done. Propose to make a photographic R/C on 16th September if weather permits. Russians are also making R/C with aircraft from Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 152030 to 5 Group.)

Mining

St. George's Channel.

(1) Progress. Area swept to a depth of 5 miles from northern edge. Negative result.
(2) Flotilla anchored on new ground bank north of Tuskar Rock.
(3) Intend proceed at first light tomorrow Saturday to continue.
(S.O. M/S.F.4, 152040B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence

Attempted capture of Hogland.

Gulf of Finland. During night September 14th/15th Germans made attempt occupy Hogland. Finnish garrison resisted and sank several landing craft. Fighting continues. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 151259 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

U.299, Minor German warships.
VAAGE. On August 31st U.299 of 11th Flotilla was repairing damage forward in Horten. Damage was due to marine causes.
(2) Whaler VAAGE stationed Narvik has been sunk, date unknown. Casualties due to marine causes. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 151759 to Admty.)
O.I.C. Comment: This report is very probably true with respect to the U/B as there is corroboration that the number mentioned has recently been in South Norway.

EMDEN. B.2 report states EMDEN passed up Oslo Fiord at 12 knots on northerly course at 1905/15.
(D.D.I.C., 152320B to all authorities concerned Home, Russia, U.S.A.)

U-Boats

U/B off D/F bearings on 3795 k/cs at 0115Z indicate
Haugesund. U-Boat within 10 miles either side of line joining 59° 30' N., 3° 50' E. to 60° N., 4° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C., 150359B to S/Ms. N. of 51° N., Info. F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C.)

Port Facilities - Post "Neptune"

Ostend. A.N.C.X.F. 121808* and N.O.I.C. Antwerp 131240, not to all addressees. Naval port repairs party (corrupt group) 31 will leave Blainville for Ostend on Sat. 16th Sept.
(F.O.B.A.A., 150947B.)
* Party should be sent to open Ostend as soon as possible. 121925 intended?

St. Nazaire. Port Director St. Briec advises arrival 1800B/15th from F.O. OCISS PACIFIC, ROYAL, AMAZON.*
(St. Nazaire R/C Party, 151930 to C.T.G. 125.2.)
* As received.

Fecamp. D.M.S. and myself have visited Fecamp and consider that good conditions exist for (? maintenance) of (? about) 8 L.C.T.(I) on beach inside harbour at a very early date after simple sea mine clearance. Salvage conditions necessary for berthing coasters, do not appear difficult.
(Capt. M/S. Seine, 152220B to F.O.B.A.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F./M.K.F. It is not intended to sail a carrier with the
convoys. K.M.F./M.K.F. convoys for the present.
(C. in C. W.A., 150007B to Admty.)

/SS. QUEEN ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Alter course immediately and steer for new positions (B) 38.01 N., 48.01 W. (C) 38.01 N., 59.30 W. (D) 38.02 N., 69.01 W. Thence to X. (D.O.D.(H), 150228B to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

Loan of tankers to Russians. Your 111546 and S.B.N.O. Archangel's 291700C August (neither to C. in C. H.F.) As NACELLA and BRITISH PROMISE are both clean oil tankers they may not be used.
(2) Tanker LUCERNA may be used subject to:
(a) Tanker NOREG being available as escort oiler in R.A. 60.
(b) LUCERNA being ready to return with R.A.61 in early November. M. of W.T. concur.
(3) The above tankers will be included in J.W.60 with following cargoes:
NOREG - 10,315 tons furnace oil. 504 tons diesel oil.
LUCERNA - 8,098 tons furnace oil. 521 tons diesel oil.
In addition each vessel has on board following quantities of lubricating oils in 40 gallon drums:
200 gallons S.M.L.O. 120 gallons I.C.E. 80 gallons A.C.O.
(4) Request report of balance of furnace oil and diesel now outstanding between Admiralty and Russians.
(4th S.L., 151332B to Admiral Archer.)

Repatriates. Arrived ARUNDEL CASTLE, DROTNINGHOLM, GRIPSHOLM. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 151850B.)

Convoy J.W. 60 - EMPIRE CELIA, ADOLPH S. OCHS, SAMARITAN, J.W. 60. (Richard) LUCERNA, BRITISH PATIENCE, NERITINA, ZAMALEK, NOREG, DEXTER W. FELLOWS, RAYMOND B. STEVENS, "VICTUAL" JOHN WOLLMAN, LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR, DAVID STONE, JOHN VINING, FREDERICK W. TAYLOR, CARDINAL GIBBONS, FREDERICK A. KUMMER, FRANCIS SCOTTKEY, NATHANIEL ALEXNDER, THOMAS U. WALTER, DANIEL WILLARD, JOHN J. ABEL, JULIUS OLSEN, RICHARD M. JOHNSON, EDWARD A. SLAVOY, GEORGE T. ANGELL, EDWARD E. SPAFFORD, ARUNAH S. ABELL, HAWKINS FUDSKE, JOSUAH THOMAS, HENRY LOMB. Russian destroyer LINCOLN. Russian S.C. 1489. Sailing to overtake Russian S.C. 1477, 1485, 1502, 1504, 1510 and 1517.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 151852B.)

M.A.C. ships. The following is a temporary amendment to A.G.Is. delete first sentence of article 146 para. 22 and substitute M.A.C. ships returning to the U.K. are to retain their aircraft as long as practicable for operational purposes and are to obtain the permission of the S.O. escort before flying them to R.N.A.S. Maydown.
The S.O. escort should consider ordering M.A.C. ship aircraft to carry out a final patrol before they proceed ashore.
(C. in C. W.A., 152236B to S. & A. W.A. Command.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. COSME-
SOLER.

My 151947/July owners request to be informed if decision can be reconsidered in view of changed circumstances.

(2) Same applies to vessel mentioned in my 071940 August. Owners have received signal from firm in Malta who wish to take vessel on time charter.

(B.N.A.Madrid, 151330B to C. in C. Med.)

Spanish owners request permission to sail motor sailing vessel COSMESOLER. (N.T. in W.D.)

South Atlantic

SS. TOMBOUC-
TOU aground.

We are aground near Iguela.
((BCM.2) TOMBOUCTOU No.T.O.O. to Cdt. Marine, Pointe Noire)

344
(French)
Air Sqn.

Reference B.A.D. Washington 132153 not to F.O.G.M.A so far as naval situation is concerned the need for 344 squadron is greater now than at end of July, reference A.M.221607 there are more S/MS about now and F.O.G.M.A's escort for O.S. S.L. convoys has recently been reduced to two. A.O.C. West Africa concurs and requests Air Ministry be informed.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 151223Z to Admty.)

S.C. vessels
MONCABARRA,
BOOLONGENA.

Swedes intimate that safe conduct vessel MONGABARRA now in River Plate is to be taken off Greek Relief Service and will return to Gothenburg for overhaul and repairs showing normal Gothenburg traffic markings.

MONCABARRA will be replaced on Greek Relief service by safe conduct vessel BOOLONGENA which was expected in River Plate on September 7th particulars as follows: (omitted). On entering Greek relief service BOOLONGENA will be painted with the usual distinguishing markings of Greek Relief ships as described in para. 6 of A.M.041742 April 1943. Vessel will be fully illuminated at night.

(Hd. of M. 151500B)

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.Force
120.

Am delayed. Enter Aegean but do not fly off until ordered.
(F.O.E.C. 150517C to PURSUER)
Cancel my 0517*. P.C.S. at 0700 335° Cairn Gorm 20, course 100° 27 knots. Fly off fighter cover as previously ordered.
(F.O.E.C. 150557C to PURSUER) *Delay of force.

MATROZOS

From 034° 55' 020° 51' about 0005B/16th proceed through:-

- (a) 033° 50' 021° 59' about 2220B/16th
- (b) 033° 50' 027° 10' about 1430B/18th to arrive in 035° 03' 027° 29' at 2215B/18th.

(2) You are to dive by day between longitude 020° and 024° E. making good 105 miles per day surface speed E. 24° estimated at 9½ knots.

(3) You may encounter VIRTUE about 2030B/17th.

(4) Cancel previous routing instructions.

(Capt. (S)1, 151246B to MATROZOS.)

Amend my 151246 as follows pass through position:

(a) About 0903/16th.

(b) About 1155/17th to arrive in 035° 03' 027° 29' at 1937/17th.

(2) You are to proceed on surface throughout passage your speed is estimated at 9½ knots.

(3) You may encounter P.75 (VIRTUE) 0655/17th.

(4) All times Zone B.

(Capt. (S)1, 152205B to MATROZOS.)

Enemy
shipping
in Aegean.

Enciphered by T.M.E.

A.I. 131 15th September 1535C visual reports
THERA 0951C hours K.T. ship still present, Leros
Portolago 1135C hours destroyer still present,
Leros Partheni 1135C hours Minelayer still present.
(B Flight, 680 Sqn., 151437C to RANSOM & S.I.
Malta.)

Shipping Summery to a.m. 15th.

(2) Salonika present BOURGAS, ASSAK. ASSAB.

(3) Lemnos depart SALOMEA by a.m. 15th.

(4) Monemvasia departure 2 KT p.m. 14th.

(5) Santorin present PELIKAN.

(6) Leros present ZEUS 1 destroyer.

(7) Melos departed DRACHE p.m. 14th possibly for Crete.

(8) Piraeus departed ORION by a.m. 15th. 1 destroyer sunk in harbour by air attack. Reported PETER may shortly sail for Salonika.

(Capt. (S) 1, 152239 to P.78 (VORACIOUS), P.72 (VAMPIRE), MATROZOZ.)

U.S. S/M
HADDOCK
P.75
(VIRTUE)

From 035° 03' 027° 29' at 1701/16th proceed through

(a) 033° 13' 027° 10' about 0048/17th.

(b) 033° 50' 024° 01' about 1730/17th.

(c) 034° 55' 020° 51' about 0148/19th.

(d) 035° 48' 016° 27' about 0745/20th.

/to...

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U.S.S/M HADDOCK P.75 (VIRTUE) (Contd.) to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 1402/20 (2) You are to dive by day between longitudes 020° and 024° making good 110 miles per day your surface speed east of 024° E. and W. of 020° E. is estimated at 9½ knots. (3) All time zone B. (Capt. (S) 1, 151601B to HADDOCK, VIRTUE) My 151601 amend as follows:-
Pass through position (a) about 0018/17th. (b) about 1606/17th (c) about 0655/19th to R/V at 1240/19th. (2) You are to proceed on surface throughout passage speed 10 knots. (3) All times Zone B. (Capt. (S) 1, 152215B to VIRTUE.) Have mine or mine buoyancy float towing 30 ft. astern with mooring wire and chain round screw. (2) Mine encountered in 036° 55' 05" 026° 13' 20" in 160 fathoms at (?08)30/15th. (3) Am proceeding on the surface at 5½ knots to comply with your 140910B* will dive in emergency. Weather too rough to attempt (2 corrupt groups) (4) My position 036° (?29') 027° east. (VIRTUE 152101B to Capt. (S) 1.) *Not received.

Independent sailings. Independent sailings have been introduced on a limited scale in the Central, Western and Mediterranean Approaches Areas. (2) Sailing authorities have been issued separately with routes for ships sailing independantly. Positions of such ships will not be included in the Movement Summaries unless they are within 20 miles of a convoy route. (C. in C. Med., 151720B.)

FORMIDABLE C. in C. Eastern Fleet 141201. FORMIDABLE. Docking cannot be arranged in U.K. before vessel leaves on 16th September. (2) Request information as to whether docking can be carried out at Gibraltar on or shortly after arrival about 21st September. (Dir. of Dkyds. 151852 to C. in C. Med.)

Italian A/S training S/Ms. Request decision on distribution of Italian A/S training submarines between stations my. 301730 para. 4 may be given as soon as able. Agreement with Cominch is firm B.A.D. 021943 not to all para. one B. F.O.T.A.L.I. has reported on spare part situation. F.O.G.M.A. 121057 para. 5 and 051724 and C. in C. E.F. 091857 para. 2 none to all para. 2 SETBEMBRINI, BANDIERA and MENOTTI will be inferior to JALEA owing to age and shortage of spares. C. in C.E.F. 09 091851 para. 4 and 030641 para. 3 on 15th September JALEA due to leave Gibraltar for Taranto and BANDIERA should be ready. (C. in C. Med. 152110 to Admty.)

/German...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

German
80 day
clock. Your 121937 no direct evidence but 4 S Mines
found at Civitavecchia one detonating 89 days
after sweeping commenced.
(C. in C. Med. 152155B to Admty.)

Situation (1) APHIS engaged enemy field battery near Rimini
Report on 14th September. Target was well covered.
No.434. (2) Night 14th/15th September ROYALIST and TEAZER
sank 2 merchant ships probably K.T. ships North
of Suda Bay.
(3) VIRTUE reports at 1000/13th September scored
possible torpedo hit (?eastbound) small merchant ship in 039
degs. 27' N. 023 degs. 21' E.
(C. in C. Med. 152212B)

10th S/M.F. On the occasion of the dispersal of the 10th S/M.
F. request that you will convey to Captain S.10,
his officers and ratings, T.L's appreciation of
the fine record of the flotilla during the past
three years in the Mediterranean.
Your 061932 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 152256B to C. in C. Med.)

Navisitintrep "Dragoon". Period ending 2400/14.
31. Right flank. G.S. LUDLOW 238 Rds. stopped
counter attack Ft. Iellmnaa area. M/S clearing
fire support area cut 13 deep land mines 2 miles
South Capo Mortola. DD's report floating mines
off Capo Cervo. 1900 to 1945 EDISON obtained several hits on
300 M/V of Capo Cervo.. LUDLOW 113 Rds. 40 Rds. illuminating
12 Oivs 2 small ships Oneglia Harbour. No counter fire either
DD. S.O.C. spotted. M/V beaches partially unloaded 2 Delta 1
Camel. Delta Beaches being closed ships and craft as necessary
remain at Camel. D plus 30 convoys 45 M/V. 16 to Camel. 10
Marseilles plus 13 awaiting Great Road Toulon. 3 Toulon. 3
Port De Bouc. 3 L.S.T.Camel. 40 L.C.I. Marseilles. Estimated
unloading to date over Beaches. Personnel 337505 Vehicles
57509 tons 281364. Marseilles vehicles 1628 M tons 12403.
Marseilles M/S swept 4 northern basins and Avant Port Nord. 1
magnetic detonated near North end of Mole. Basins Petain and
Mirabeau reported reasonably safe and M/S discontinued. In
North entrance 30 Ft. depth attained width 100 Ft. Toulon.
Total 4 and $\frac{1}{2}$ Liberty berths available. Added Berths Arc Pier
2 West Pier 5 Vasyavnd 1/2 Pier 5 West. Pier 6 West available
but Qfer too narrow to handle more than 1 liberty.
(N.C.W.T.F.152256.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat
dispositions.

Area KD.2. A/C obtained disappearing A.S.V.
contact position 002 degs. 40' N. 063 degs. 49'
E. at 001Z/15th Sept. Scale remains Y.4.
Other areas. No fresh information scales remain
unchanged except A.D.2, A.D.3 which are reduced
to W.5.
(C. in C. E.F. 150415Z)

War Diary.

15.9.1944.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Rescue tug
for St.
Johns N.F.

Request consideration be given to allocation of a second rescue tug at St. Johns N.F. during winter months.
(N.S.H.Q. 150041Z to Admty.)

SS. MARIPOSA.

T.A. 147A MARIPOSA alter course forthwith for new G. 040° 42' N. 060° 30' W. H. 042° 20' 066° 05'. J. 042° 22' 070° 44' thence destination.
(Cominch C. & R. 150420Z to MARIPOSA.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 151336Z, Cominch 151552Z.)

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

H.M.C. ships asdic contact several attacks 1425/14th in 49.29 N. 65.24 W. Suspected torpedo explosion 1430. Further contact attacked before 2010 same area.
Para. C. (1) T.G. 22.3 asdic contact several attacks 1348/14th in 42.25 N. 50.48 W.
(2) T.G. 22.3 A/C radar contact 0058/15th same area. All times Z.
(N.S.H.Q. 151409.)

U/B reported
E. of C.
Farewell.

Following intercepted from (possible or unknown?) merchant ship on 2600 k/cs at 16(740)Z/15th. S/M sighted 061° 10' N. 036° 15' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 152012Z to GB ?(7)A)

U/B incidents.

(C) 1348/14 BOGUE group made several attacks on sound contact 42.25 N. 50.48 W. and at 150058 had radar contact same vicinity all times Z.
(D) 1305/15 R.A.F. Liberator sighted surfaced U-Boat on northerly course 34.53 N. 66.10 W.
(Cominch 152033Z.)

T.G. 21.9

Task Group 21.9 reconstituted KNIGHT, Comcortdiv 20 in MARCHAND Cortdiv 20 plus KRETCHMER OREILLY joiner ST. HELENA. Escort convoy C.U. 40 departing New York 20th September for U.K. and Continent.

C.T.G. 21.9 in KNIGHT with PETTIT, RICKETTS, KRETCHMER OREILLY joiner return escorting U.C. 40A section. Comcortdiv 20 in MARCHAND with HURST CAMP, H.D. CROW hereby designated Task Unit 21.9.7 return escorting U.C. 40B section when directed by Admiralty. Escort oilers not required either section.
(C. in C. Lant 152343Z.) See amendment 200122Z.

War Diary.

15.9.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest (Extract) September 14th.
968. (19) Substantial United States army forces landed on 2 beachfields north and south of southwest end Pitoe airfield on southwest coast Borotaip (sic) Island early daylight 15th September supported by surface forces including aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers initial landing unopposed and within 2 hours of original landing 1st phase line reached and Pitoe airfield in our hands. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 150855.)

CLYDE. C. in C. E.F. 140359Z*. Para. 2 with no naval constructor or hull drawings available, following is opinion of Flotilla Officers.
(2) Technical.
(3) Anticipate CLYDE will be available to sail forthwith 23rd September.
(Capt. (S) 8 151556Z to A.C.N.B.)
* Requesting information whether repairs to pressure hull of CLYDE can be carried out at Sydney.

R.N. Staff (Extract.)
Melbourne. (Extract.)
(Extract.)
The basing of Royal Navy Forces on Australia will necessitate the setting up on Royal Navy Staff in Melbourne alongside A.C.N.B. to represent the Admiralty and to deal with Royal Navy requirements and installations which cannot be adequately undertaken by A.C.N.B.
(B.N.L.P. Australia 151907Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C sighted U-Boat on surface course N.N.W. at 1308Z/14th in 53° 00' N. 27° 10' W.
Para. B. (1) A/C J/58, obtained A.S.V. contacts at 2228Z/13 in 63° 53' N. 04° 50' W. and at 0041Z/14th in 63° 36' N. 04° 40' W.
(2) A/C N/3112 obtained A.S.V. contact in 0315Z/14 in 64° 00' N. 02° 00' W.
(3) A/C H/502 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0120Z/14 in 61° 00' N. 02° 28' W.
(D.D.I.C. 151101B.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 151351B, 151352B.)

War Diary.

16.9.1944.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+102)

General.

1.(a). One magnetic mine was detonated in Cherbourg Harbour by sweepers. There is otherwise nothing to report in "Neptune" area.

(b) Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	Men	Vehicles	Stores
British	867,392	217,063	1,628,686
American	1,392,388	247,997	2,337,320
Total	<u>2,259,780</u>	<u>465,060</u>	<u>3,966,006</u>

General.

2. A.N.C.X.F. will shift his H.Q. from Granville to St. Germain on the 26th with an advance party on the 21st.

North Sea.

3. Aircraft of 16 Group attacked one force of 3 E-Boats and another of 5 minesweepers off the Dutch coast and report probable hits on the former. The Commodore in Charge, Belgium, hopes to open Ostend about the 24th. Coastal forces will be based on Ostend as soon as it is opened.

Channel.

4. Dieppe has now 10 berths available for ships up to 17 ft. draught. 113 rounds were fired into Dover and Folkestone, causing widespread civilian damage and 24 casualties. In addition two W.R.N.S. ratings were injured and oldstairs Boom Defence Depot was badly damaged. We replied with 12 rounds of 14" and 10 of 15" at A6 Battery.

Western Approaches.

5. The extra fishing restrictions in the N.W. approaches asked for by H.Q.C.C. are not considered necessary as yet by Cs. in C. Rosyth and Home Fleet.

West coast of France.

6.(a). M.T.B. 696 sighted the German (non-recognised) Hospital Ship ROSTOCK leaving Lorient for Spain, intercepted her, and took her into Benodet to the F.F.I. URANIA was then ordered by C. in C. Plymouth to take her over and bring her to Plymouth. She sailed with her at 2030 after giving the F.F.I. a receipt for her. ROSTOCK has 279 Germans on board, including 212 wounded, 11 nurses, and a child.
(b). LONDONDERRY reports the F.F.I. believe that the Germans at Audierne would surrender if shelled from the sea, and asks permission to do this.
(c). It appears to be the German intention to defend La Rochelle and St. Nazaire.

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Saturday.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

General - Contd.

Norway.

7. VENTURER, on return from a cruise off Norway, reports having torpedoed a laden 3000 ton merchantman on the 11th and compelled a 1300 ton ship in ballast to abandon ship on the 15th. VENTURER surfaced to shell her, but was compelled to dive by Hurr battery.

N. Russia.
of "Victuals"

8. The 6 Russian M.Ls. which set out to overtake convoy J.W. 60 returned owing to weather.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Attack on
German H.S.
BONN.

9. At 0810B today two Beaufighters attacked in error the German hospital ship BONN south of Pola. The ship was not painted in accordance with the Geneva Convention and her movements had not been rebroadcast. It is thought the vessel sank.

Operation
"Dragoon".

10. (a). The U.S. destroyers EDISON and HILARY P. JONES supported the Army and also minesweeping operations on the right flank today.
(b). Sweeping of the Rade d'Hyeres was completed and the anchorage area is considered safe to the 6 fathom line. The Rade de Porquerolles is reported safe to the 3 fathom line.
(c). Off Capo Mortola an explosive control boat escorted by two E-Boats was chased by P.T. patrol; hits were made on the escort, but contact was soon lost.
(d). Further berths were opened in Marseilles today.

Gulf of
Genoa.

11. P.T. boats on patrol last night between Savona and Genoa made two attacks on a convoy of F-Lighters one of which was blown up.

Adriatic.

12. (a). Coastal forces last night sank three boats and a large landing craft off Brac Island. M.L. 258 patrolling off Rimini was mined and had her bows blown off; there were 11 casualties.
(b). KIMBERLEY bombarded coast batteries and troop movements at Rimini today. There was considerable accurate return fire, but no damage or casualties were caused.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean
operations.

13. (a). Aircraft from the escort carrier force today attacked the M.T. bases at Candia and Suda Bay, destroying 23 and damaging 5. Five caiques were sunk off Milo. No aircraft were lost.
(b) AURORA bombarded a merchant ship in Port Milo and aircraft from the escort carrier force gunned the vessel which was reported subsequently to have been hit and beached. AURORA also sank three small ships and damaged two others and a landing craft. Some of these vessels had arrived from the Piraeus (presumably in connection with evacuation.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 102)

Mining

Minesweeping
in Cherbourg

One Red Magnetic detonated during routine searches of harbours in 000° one cable from west end of Jetee des Flamands.
(Comdr. M/S Cherbourg 161143B.)

Minesweeping
in le Havre.

Your (151?)210B not to Capt. M/S Seine and ADVENTURE. These M.T.Bs are for M/S operation of Le Havre. Call forward 100 octane fuel from Portsmouth as required to meet this commitment.
(F.O.B.A.A. 16132B to N.O.I.C. Arrow.)

Port Facilities

Le Havre.

My 151150. Initial clearance of Havre completed. Entry of small ships can now be permitted provided precautions in para. 3 above signal are observed.

(2) It is most important that I receive today if possible the report on condition in Havre made by your initial reconnaissance and salvage parties. Please include preliminary estimates of when unloading can start using lighters from ships anchored in harbour and when the first alongside berths will be available.
(A.N.C.X.F. 161217B to C.T.F.125.)

Shipping and Convoys

Daily
convoy
service
between
Cherbourg
and
Granville.

Commencing 16th September institute daily Coaster Convoy F.O.C. and O.F.C. in each direction between Cherbourg and Granville with breakers to and joiners from Brittany (Ports?) conform with Mydis 160927 normal S. of A. 7 knots. Escort to be obtained from 125.4.
(C.T.F. 161111B to C.T.F.125.2.)

Release of
tug for
salvage
work.

Your 151905 not to all. The tug situation does not at present admit of further "Overlord" Tugs being allocated solely for rescue or salvage duties, but F.O.B.A.A. is requested to state whether in view of the changed situation one salvage tug can be released from B.A.A. for salvage duties under C. in C. Portsmouth.
(A.N.C.X.F. 161135B to C, in C. Portsmouth.)

Administration and Organisation

U.S.
responsibility
for le Havre

FWD 15045 Secret.
Opening and development of the Port of Le Havre as an "Overlord" Port is a United States responsibility. Commaveu and Com Zone are charged with its development.
(S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. 161900B to 21st Army Group.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Overlord" Situation Reports

Naval.

Cositintrep No.165. Part 2 Naval.

A. Captured Ports.

Havre. Initial mine clearance of Approaches and part of ports have been completed. Entry of small ships at low speed can be accepted when state of port permits. Dieppe. Ten berths now available for ships of draft 17 feet.

B. Unloading figures.

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	863,117	215,925	1,591,533
U.S.	1,354,994	244,598	2,265,678
Total D Plus 100:	<u>2,218,771</u>	<u>460,523</u>	<u>3,857,211</u>
(Adm. Ramsey, 162120B to Admty)			

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A.N.C.X.F. Request following be made as A.Z. message at once.
(Adv.) to (1) At 0800Z/21st Sept. H.Q. of A.N.C.X.F. on
St. Germain the Continent will be split into (A) A.N.C.X.F.
21.9.44. (Main) at Granville. 395AZ/6 para. 1 refers and
A.N.C.X.F. (B) A.N.C.X.F. (Adv.) at St. Germain.
(Main) to (2) A.N.C.X.F. (Adv.) will keep watch on Brest
St. Germain Sn. Continental Command Circuits and fixed services
26.9.44. 46. There will be no teleprinters and only
telephone to S.H.A.E.F. (Fwd) initially.
(3) Only signals of urgent operational nature and
those requiring personal attention of A.N.C.X.F.
are to be passed to A.N.C.X.F. (Adv.)
(4) At 0001Z/26th Sept. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) will close and re-open
at A.N.C.X.F. (Adv.) at same time.
From that time signals are to be routed to A.N.C.X.F. (Main) only.
(5) From 0800Z/21st Sept. S.H.A. number 182 is re-allocated to
A.N.C.X.F. Main.
(A.N.C.X.F. 161510 (B) to Admty).

C.F.M.U.I. C. in C. Nore intends to base coastal forces at
to Ostend Ostend as soon as port is open and space for them
and later can be allocated. C.F.M.U.I. should be
to Rhine. transferred from Brussels to Ostend for their
maintenance. C.F.M.U.I. will be required later
for Rhine Flotilla. N.O.I.C. Antwerp pass to
C.F.M.U.I., N.O.I.C. Ostend and Com. i/c Belgium.
(A.N.C.X.F. 161521B to Com. i/c Belgium.)

Limits of Para. 5(M) (1) of part one of joint outline plan
Channel Is. dated 7th September for re-occupation of the
sub-command Channel Is. states that after control of the islands
(when taken). has been established they are to become a Naval
Sub-Command of Plymouth Command.
(2) It is proposed that the limits of the Sub-
Command should be defined and that they should

be as follows:-

- (a) East French coast below low water mark between lat. 049 degs.
00' N. and Cap de La Hague thence position 050 degs. 00' N.
002 degs. 00' W.
(b) North of parallel 050 degs. 00' N. (c) West of Meridian
003 degs. 00' W. (d) South of parallel 049 degs. 00' N.
(3) If these limits are approved Admiralty is requested to promul-
gate.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161529 to A.N.C.X.F.)

U.S. Civil Nav. 647 16th September, 1944.
airlines to Proposal under consideration to extend Civil Air-
terminate at line. Services of U.S. Companies Pan American
Poole in- Air-ways and American Export Airlines now
stead of operating North America to Eire to Poole.
Southern These aircraft will be additional to those of
Ireland. B.O.A.C. which terminate flights at Poole following
agreement between Admiralty, Air Ministry and
B.O.A.C. at recent meeting.
Anticipated movements are four to five per week

/ in ...

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U.S. Civil
airlines to
terminate at
Poole in-
stead of
Southern
Ireland.
(Contd.)

in addition to present B.O.A.C. Movements.
Request urgently Admiralty concurrence in proposal.
H.Q.A.D.G.B. to note proposal.
(Air Ministry, 161813 to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Shelling
of Kent
Coast.

My 152100. Bombardment continued until 2314.
Total of about 113 rounds being fired. Widespread
damage to civilian property in Dover. Civilian
casualties Dover 4 slight, Folkestone one killed,
19 injured. Boom Defence Depot Oldstairs badly
damaged. Two W.R.N.S. ratings slightly injured.

Between 1600 and 1945 R.M. Siege Regt. fired 12 rounds 14 inch
and Wanston Battery 10 rounds 15 inch ranging on A.6 battery with
air to ground spotting. No enemy re-action.
(A.C. Dover, 162100 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Movements

SWIFTSURE.

F.O.G.M.A. 141041 B September. E.T.A. 1½ hours
early.
(SWIFTSURE, 161155B to C. in C. Plymouth)

DUKE OF
YORK.

(1) On disembarkation of C. in C. Home Fleet
a.m./18th leave Scapa and proceed by Minch and
standard route to Liverpool arriving Bar L.V. at
0900Z/19.

(2) Admiralty 071607 and 090156 and F.O.I.C. Liver-
pool 111905, none to all refer.

(3) Com. (D) Home Fleet is requested to provide two destroyers
to escort DUKE OF YORK to Mull of Kintyre.
(C. in C. H.F. 161317B to DUKE OF YORK.)

FORMIDABLE.

My 122010B sailed.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 161401B to Admty)

On completion fuelling a.m. 17th September leave
Scapa escorted by KEMPENFELT, WRANGLER and

WHIRLWIND and proceed by route detailed in Admiralty 121239 to
Gibraltar.

(2) Weather permitting speed made good to be 20 knots.

(3) Fighter protection not arranged.

(C. in C. H.F. 161952B to Admty)

Positions of
Submarines.

Position of submarines 0800/17th and movements
for the following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
(A) SCEPTRE (P.215) on patrol in area bounded
by 59 degs. 15' N. 04 degs. E. 57 degs. 50' N.
and Norwegian Coast.

/ (B)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Positions of Submarines. (Contd.)

(B) SEASCOUT (P.253) as in my 081721.
(C) TRUCULENT (P.315) with convoy S.L.169/M.K.S.60 for Clyde.
(D) O.24 Escort COQUETTE 53 degs. 15' N. 35 degs. 30' W. through 54 degs. 20' N. 30 degs. W. towards 55 degs. 26' N. 20 degs. W. 11 knots.
(E) SERAPH (P.219) exercising in Plymouth Sanctuary between 1100/17th and 1800/17th.
(F.O.S.161733B to Admty.)

Operations

Channel Patrols. My 071835B (not to all).
Patrols tonight 16th/17th.
LA COMBATTANTE patrol between positions 127 degs. Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200 degs. Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2130 tomorrow Sunday.

KRAKOWIAK anchor Dungeness East Roads at immediate notice until 0615/17 thence to Portsmouth.

Communications as in my 071835B.

(A.C. Dover, 161000B to C. in C. Portsmouth, KRAKOWIAC, LA COMBATTANTE.)

Western Approaches. Admiralty's 080010. At present additional restrictions are not considered essential.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 161022B to Admty.)

My 160945. Add intend ESSINGTON (S.O) BERRY and DOMETT to Patrol Area D.2 Fifteen E.G. to

patrol B.2 and B.4. S.O. Force 33's 160925 Not to all addressees, refers.

(S.O. E.C!5, 161115B to C. in C. W.A.)

059N. The following instructions for the co-operation between W.A. escorts and 15 group A/C are in amplification of those already promulgated in W.A. GM.977N C.A.F.O.57? 40/44 and C.B.04050/44 (3). The former is to be cancelled on receipt of this message.

(2) The A/C tracking procedure is briefly as follows:-

(A) A Sonobuoy and 2 smoke markers are dropped over the estimated position of the U-Boat.

(B) 4 further buoys are dropped in positions approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile North South-East and West (true).

From the centre buoy and the positions marked by sea marker (Green Slick etc.).

(C) On receiving an indication of the point of emergence from the square further buoys are dropped to bracket the U-Boat's track.

(3) If a support group is homed to the position the following procedure will be established.

(A) On arrival at a position 5 miles from the A/C speed is to be decreased to 7 knots and P.N.M. Units or Cats if streamed are to be recovered.

/(B) /...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches (Contd.)

- (B) The Force will be vectored by A/C towards latest known position of U-Boat the true courses given being those which will effect an interception. True course to steer will be passed by R/T in P/L. Should A/C wish Force momentarily to reduce speed in order to listen better the Somean - buoys the word reduce will be passed by R/T. The Force should then reduce speed to 2 to 3 knots for period of 3 minutes subsequently increasing to 7 knots again.
- (C) The A/C will indicate when force has reached estimated position of the U-Boat by passing order "on top" by R/T. From this time onward the force will cease to be directed by A/C and will carry out sweep of area. Should Asdic contact not be obtained square search should be instituted by S.O. used as datum position in which A/C indicated "on top".
- (D) The Sono-buoy is to be referred to at all times by codeword "High Tea".
- (C. in C. W.A. 161303B to Western Approaches Command.)
Agree with C. in C. Royth's 161022 Admiralty's 080010 refers.
(C. in C. H.F. 161807 to Admty.)

Operation "Victual". J.W.60 Russian S/M Chaser 1477, 1485, 1502, 1504, 1510 and 1517 returned owing to weather conditions My 151852 refers.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 161040B to C. in C. W.A., Admiralty, C. in C. H.F.)

Following A/C will be flown. Swordfish, Wildcat and Fulmar. Your 142215 para. 1 refers.
(C.S.1, 161221B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

North Sea Patrols. Unit of 3 M.T.Bs of 58th Flotilla to carry out patrol in vicinity of a position 015 degs. Ostend light 3 miles. Unit to be on patrol position at 2030B. Unit to remain on patrol until 1000A.
(2) Object prevention of passage of E-Boats or

Tank Landing Craft to the Westward.
(3) A unit of 3 D M.T.Bs from Dover will be carrying out (?Eastbound) patrol in vicinity of 051 degs. 22' N. 002 degs. 58' E. Call sign F.B.1.
(C. in C. Nore, 161055B to BEEHIVE.)
B. Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs 486, 464, 462, 465 is to sail to assume patrol between Dunkirk No. 8E and 6E Buoys at 2359 today Saturday.
(2) Route via No. 3 buoy - Ridens de Calais No. 6 buoy - and the Dunkirk Channel. E.T.D. to be reported.
(3) Object to intercept E-boats or T.L.C. Mark II which may be attempting to supply Dunkirk from Eastwards.
(4) Unless in close contact with enemy leave patrol to pass No. 3 buoy by 0630/17 and return to harbour.
(5) Unit is not to proceed east of 02 degs. 35' E.
(A.C. Dover, 161145B to S.O. 29th M.T.B.)
The Nore and Dover patrol night 16th/17th Sept. H.M.S. MALLARD East Tongue to Elbow, H.M.S. WHITSHED South Fall to 53C buoy H.M.S. COTTESMORE 53C buoy to 53A buoy RIOU NF 1 to NF 3 buoy TORRINGTON NF 3 to NF 6 buoy LA COMBATANT Northern boundaries Z.3 and Z.5 P.S. KRAKOWIAK Dungeness Road M/S anchored off Ostend with M.T.B. to Northward.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161532B to Admty., C. in C. Nore, etc.)

/Interception...

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Interception of ROSTOCK from Lorient for Spain. Proceeding south to intercept German ship ROSTOCK leaving Lorient. (M.T.B.696, 16156B to C. in C. Plymouth) P.C.S. of 1 hospital ship, estimated 47.32' N. 3 degs. 43' W. 270 degs 5 knots. (A/C 54 of 19 Group 161115B to 19 Grp. H.Q.) Nr. 1. My 1115 ship (?signalled) (?enemy) hospital ship bound Spanish port. (A/C 54, 161145B to 19 Group.) Proceed immediately to intercept ROSTOCK reported in position 47 degs. 32' N. 03 degs. 43' W. at 1115B. Course 270 degs. speed unknown and escort to Plymouth. (2) A/C callsign W/T TT9 54 R/T TENPOLE is homing on 385 K/cs. (3) Attention is called to Admiralty 301808B August para.3. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161156B to Force 28) Nr.2. My 1115. Course 240 degs. speed 5 knots. (A/C.59 161210B to 19 Group.) My P.C.S. at 1330 046 degs. 39' N. 002 degs. 24' W. 294 degs. 28 knots proceeding in accordance with your 161156. Useable oil fuel remaining TARTAR 321 tons ASHANTI 344 tons. Weather report 7480 2972. (S.O.Force 28, 161316B to C. in C. Plymouth) My 161056B have intercepted ROSTOCK boarded put French Authorities aboard. Escorting to Benodet for examination. E.T.A. 1700. (M.T.B.696, 161325B to C. in C. Plymouth, LONDONDERRY) A/C report 2 M.T.Bs in company with ROSTOCK. Believed M.T.B.696, 713. (2) URANIA relieve M.T.B. and escort ROSTOCK to Plymouth. (3) On relief M.T.Bs return to L'Abervrach. (4) TARTAR and ASHANTI continue to close until URANIA reports having taken over escort. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161358B to M.T.B.696, URANIA, Force 28.) Your 161325 not to URANIA Escort to Plymouth. Acknowledge forthwith. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161452B to M.T.B.696) Divert ROSTOCK to R/V with Force 28 off Penmarch Point about 1730. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161532B to M.T.B.696) Take ROSTOCK to R/V with TARTAR off Penmarch forthwith for passage to Plymouth. C. in C. Plymouth's 161358B refers. (LONDONDERRY, 161732B to M.T.B.696) Proceed toward Benodet where M.T.Bs have taken ROSTOCK take charge of ship and escort to Plymouth. Report E.T.A. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161916B to URANIA) Your 161735. I am not aware of situation. Communicate direct with M.T.B.696 on 2300 K/cs. (LONDONDERRY 161930B to TARTAR.) Have sent in Boarding Party in M.T.B.696 to get ROSTOCK under way. ROSTOCK anchored off Benodet. (URANIA, 161937B to C. in C. Plymouth) When URANIA has taken over escort to ROSTOCK Force 28 is to patrol in Audierne Bay. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161956B to Force 28.) German ship ROSTOCK sailing now from Benodet under escort of H.M.S. URANIA for Plymouth. Force 28 is proceeding now to patrol Audierne as in your 161956B. Request Force G.P. and G.U. be informed. OPAS Para. 17. (B) 235 degs. Penmarch 8. (C) 046 degs. 55' N. 003 degs. 05' W. (S.O. Force 28, 162030B to C. in C. Plymouth)

/My ...

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Interception of ROSTOCK from Lorient for Spain. My P.C.S. 047 degs. 43' N. 004 degs. 14' W. (329 degs.) 7 knots. ROSTOCK in company. Oil fuel remaining (?220) tons. 9090/3072. (URANIA, 162125B to C. in C. Plymouth) My 162125. ROSTOCK was taken Benodet on request of Capt. Lucas F.F.I. N.O.I.C. Benodet. M.T.B.696 used by F.F.I. boarding party but French not on board now. Have given F.F.I. receipt for ROSTOCK and informed them Admiralty wishes ship to go to Plymouth for examination.

(2) Following personnel on board - 8 Officers, 204 Ratings, all wounded, 46 crew 20 medical staff, including 11 nurses, also one child. Germans deny presence of military unwounded but this is not certain.

(URANIA, 162159B to C. in C. Plymouth)

West coast of France. F.F.I. considers German Force at Audierne would capitulate (if?) shelled from sea. F.F.I. would provide spotters ashore owing to close proximity of French front line. Full details of enemy position and strength can be obtained at Benodet.

F.F.I. request LONDONDERRY be sent. If this is not approved request another force be sent.

(LONDONDERRY, 161220B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Pins cover night 16th/17th Sept. A. G.H.1 SPRAGGE Z.9 S. G.H.2 STOCKHAM Z.109.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161255B Admt, C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, AN.C.X.F, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts 'HD' and 'CN' in Area 'C' H.M.S. HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, H.M.S. VERNON, Portsmouth, H.M.S. AGGRESSIVE, H.M.S. ATTACK, F.O.I.C. Portland N.O.I.C. Newhaven, SPRAGGE, STOCKHAM.)

Pass to Force GU and GP. Weather permitting, Force GU is to carry out patrol in Brest Approaches as in my 141035B. Force GP is to patrol South of Raz de Sein in vicinity of position 223 degs. La Vieille Lt. 3 from 2130B/16th until after first light, returning to L'Abernach on completion.

(2) If Force GU is unable to patrol as ordered Force GP is to carry out patrol ordered for Force GU.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161316B to LONDONDERRY)

Force GU is to proceed forthwith to assist Sunderland P/10 ditched in 49 degs. 15' N. 04 degs. 35' W. 2 Warwicks co-operating. LONDONDERRY pass to Force GU.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161750B to LONDONDERRY)

My 161750B A/C still afloat. LONDONDERRY is to proceed forthwith to take in tow and tow to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161756B to LONDONDERRY)

Cancel my 161316B. (2) If rescue is effected by force GU one boat is to take the air crew to Plymouth the other boat is to return to L'Abervrach.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161827B to LONDONDERRY, Forces G.U. G.P.)

Opas. Para. 18 intelligence report.

A. Ile D'Yeu situation unchanged. B. Sables D'Olonne situation unchanged.

Written reports received from F.F.I. on situation and fortifications at La Rochelle and St. Nazaire will be forwarded by letter. It appears German intention is to defend both places.

Weather report.

(S.O. Force 28, 162100B to C. in C. Plymouth)

/Cancel ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

- West Coast of France. Cancel LONDONDERRY's 16(?)19)30B to Force GU. Force GU and Force GP return to L'Abervrach forthwith.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 162135B to Forces G.U. G.P.)
- Norwegian Operations. A.L. M/OD.03232/44. Intend all special weapons be based at Lunna Voe. Shetlands.
(2) Following immediate action required to avoid delay to operations; specialist officer mentioned in para. 5 of A.L. to be appointed forthwith to staff of N.O.I.C.Lerwick, to visit me at Lyness before going to Shetlands. They will be required to prepare plan, decide special weapons required and arrange for their maintenance I anticipate maintenance of special weapons can be undertaken by detachment from C.F.M.U.2.
(A.C.O.S.161317B to Admty.)
(1) Request you will sail SATYR from Lerwick p.m. 20th Sept. to patrol area bound by 058 degs. 30' N. 057 degs. 50' N. 004 degs. 00' E. and Norwegian Coast excluding QZX 1269 route as for F.S. RUBIS. My 141114 not to A.C.O.S. or Capt. S.3 refers.
(2) Request you will recall SCEPTRE to leave her patrol area p.m. 20th Sept.
(3) All passages diving by day east of S.B.
(F.O.S. 161327B to Capt. S.9)
I.S.O.H.30. VENTURER (P.68) reports:
(1) 7th September 1000 sighted Swedish ships expected.
(2) 11th 1227 P.C.S. of laden unescorted 3000 tons Merchant Ship general appearance as KIELHAVEN 058 degs. 006 degs. N. 006 degs. 31' E. 305 degs. 8½ knots.
Fired 4 torpedoes, first of which broke surface. 3 hits observed and explosions heard 53, 54 and 61 seconds after firing, range 1300 yards. Small ship possibly Fishing Boat heard to approach and probably picked up survivors.
1500 two A/S trawlers carrying out sweep to seaward of attack position. No counter attack developed.
(3) 13th 0615. 2 A/S Trawlers carrying out sweep on normal route North of Egerhund.
1509 P.C.S. of 1300 tons unescorted M/V similar to TALBOT BOOTH Number 536 in ballast 058 degs. 31' N. 005 degs. 39' E. 150 degs. 9½ knots range 1200 yards. Fired 4 torpedoes, 41 seconds after firing first torpedo premature explosion observed. Target turned away stopped and crew abandoned ship. VENTURER surfaced and commenced gun action but was forced to dive again by accurate fire from HERR shore battery. No hits claimed.
(4) No air patrol sighted.
(S.O. S/Ms, Lerwick, 161443B to F.O.S.)
- Operation S.C. Intend sailing S/C operation from Scalloway.
(1) A.M. 17th September. (2) 2 days.
(3) 058 degs. Sumburgh Head. (4) Air Escort not especially required on return journey.
(5) My 161607 gives codeword and area.
(A.C.O.S.161606B to Admty)

/ Operation ...

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Operation "Nestegg". Fwd.15055. Para. 1 to Southco from S.H.A.E.F. Forward signed Eisenhower cite S.H.G.C.T. secret. "Nestegg" terms of surrender were concurred in by Allied Naval Expeditionary Force and Allied Expeditionary Air Force.

Para. 2. Reference your G.O.5994 of 15th September (not to all) please consult other joint Commanders soonest C.M.A. and cable joint concurrence or suggested amendments to S.H.A.E.F. Forward and main.
(S.H.A.E.F.Fwd. 162135B to Southco.)

Allied Air Activity

Patrols by 16 Group A/C. ^{Nr. 1} Have A.S.V. contact in 51 degs. 40' N. 3 degs. 25' E. Probably a surface vessel.
(A/C CS USJM, 160033 to 16 Group)

ATTACK ON E/BS
MIA OFF DUTCH COAST
P.C.S. of 6 enemy E-Boats 53 degs. 05' N. 3 degs. 35' E. based on a pin-point fix obtained within half an hour of 2100 course 190 degs. 20 knots have attacked enemy with bombs dive result of attack unobserved.
(A/C WKRA, 162155 to 16 Group)
P.C.S. of 3 enemy E-Boats 52 degs. 40' N. 3 degs. 52' E. 320 35 knots.
(A/C NBDE 162159B to 16 Group)
P.C.S. of one unknown enemy vessel 52 degs. 27' N. 4 degs. 02' E. position based on a Gee Fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2300 270 degs. 25 knots.
(A/C NBDD, 162215 to 16 Group)
Position of 3 unknown enemy vessels 52 degs. 35' N. 4 degs. 32' E based on a pin-point fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2200.
(A/C WERA 162223 to 16 Group)
My 2159B have attacked enemy with bombs level. Result of attack hits probable.
(A/C NBDE, 162225B to 16 Group)
Have lost touch with enemy last observed position was 52 degs. 37' N. 4 degs. 02' E. based on a Gee Fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2130.
(A/C NBDD, 162225 to 16 Group)
My 2225 - 3 E-Boats 52 degs. 45' N. 3 degs. 32' E. position based on Gee Fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2200, course 090 degs. speed 20 knots.
(A/C NBDE, 162230 to 16 Group)
My 2225 have lost touch with enemy (type unknown).
Enemy's last observed position based on Gee Fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2300.
(A/C NBDE, 162237 to 16 Group)
/ 52 degs. 43' N. 3 degs. 48' E.
Have obtained A.S.V. contact with three unknown in 52 degs. 25' N. 3 degs. 48' E. position based on Gee fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2300.
(A/C NBDE, 162320B to 16 Group)

/ My ...

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Allied Air Activity.

Patrols by My 2320B have lost touch with enemy. Enemy's
16 Group A/C. last observed position was 52° 25' N., 3° 48' E.
(Contd.) position based on Gee fix obtained within half an
hour of 2300.
(A/C NBDE, 162327B to 16 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with bombs dive. P.C.S. of
five enemy M/S 52° 10' N., 4° 10' E., 030°, 10 knots.
(A/C WKRQ, 162345 to 16 Group.)

Air A.93, 16th September 1944. Reference your F.W.D.
Corridors 14882 dated 15th September there is a very urgent
to Europe. requirement for corridors 1 and 2 to be opened
by night. Admiralty agree subject to concurrence
by A.N.C.X.F. that all corridors now in use can
be used by night. Request your approval in
respect of corridors 1 and 2.
(H.Q.A.E.A.F., 161030B to S.H.A.E.F.)

Mining

Release of 157th M.S.F. is not required for Boulogne. My
157th M.S.F. 121915 refers. (A.N.C.X.F., 161209B to C. in C. Nore, Admty.,
from Boulogne. A.C. Dover.)

Sweeps Your 101145 and 121159. Reference my letter 1/69
in to of 6th September. Subject to your concurrence
Boulogne. S.O. 157 M/S. Flotilla should be instructed to
establish (corrupt group).
(1) Northern Boulogne approach along a line from
position (B) to (C) in channel A starting from
intersection of Pluto Channel.
(A) Navigational Pluto (? Channel) from position (3) 115°
Dungeness Light 17.1 miles to position outwards 108° Dungeness
Light 22.8 miles is considered dangerous unless buoys are laid.
(2) Proposed alternative to (1). Western Approaches Channel from
Pluto Channel to line from position (B) 115° Dungeness Light 17.1
miles to (E) 276° group flashing light Boulogne breakwater 4.2
miles, to be swept by Fleet Sweeper.
(A) S.O. M/S. Flotilla 157 to be instructed to sweep from position
(E) above direct to Boulogne entrance thus establishing approach
for your proposed Channel B.
(3) It is requested that I may be informed of which channel is
established.
F.O.B.A.A. pass to Ostend for S.O. M/S.F.157. V.A. Dover
pass to N.O.I.C. Boulogne.
(Capt. M/S. Seine, 161414B to A.C. Dover.)

Sweeps in Report any additional requirements of M/S ships or
Ostend. gear. Repeat all signals of progress made to
A.N.C.X.F. Report limits of anchorage swept and
when you consider that coastal forces can enter
Ostend.
(C. in C. Nore 161733B to S.O. M/S Flotilla Force B)

/St...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

St. George's Channel. (1) Q.Z.X. 293 Northern part progress from north limit have reached a line joining the following position all the following positions are N. and W. K 51° 48' 18" 06° 14' 48" L 51° 44' 39" 06° 41' 00". 1 drifting mine was sunk. Have anchored on new ground north of Tuskar Rock.

(3) Intend to continue at first light and cut through on southern limit of the area provided sea conditions allow M.Ls. to sweep ahead.

(M.S.F. 16 162145 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sweep out of Sheerness. Unit of 2 M.T.Bs. to be sailed to cover Sheerness sweepers operating between N.F. 6 and N.F. 10 unit to arrive in vicinity N.F. 10 at 1000A/17th leaving patrol at 1900A/17th.

(C. in C. Nore 162327B to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.)

Enemy Intelligence.

EMDEN. B.2 report states EMDEN passed down Oslo Fjord at 16 knots on southerly course at 1400/16.

(D.D.I.C. 161710B to A.I.G.)

Possible German escapes from Dunkirk. N.L.O. 21 Army Group reports indication that Germans may attempt escape by sea from Dunkirk.

(A.N.C.X.F. 162235B to C. in C. Nore, A.C. Dover.)

The Hogland landing. Following from M.A. for D.M.I. ref. my tel. 156 Sept. 15th.

Para. (1) Latest situation is that Germans hold precarious bridgehead on Hogland.

Para. (2) German assault was made with 35 assorted ships of which 10 were sunk or set on fire.

Para. (3) Finns appear to have situation under control and there is some doubt whether Germans intend exploit bridgehead or pull out. Finnish Diet is now in session to discuss Finland's reaction.

(N.A. Stockholm No T.O.O to War Office.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat in vicinity of convoys. D/F bearings on 5820 k/cs at 0150Z indicate U-Boat in area 49.30 N. to 51° N. 18° to 22° W.

(D.D.I.C. 161030B to O.N.F. 253, H.X.F. 307.)

Very indefinite D/F of transmission on 6290 k/cs at 1740Z indicates U-Boat off the S.W. Coast of Ireland (R).

(D.D.I.C. 162051B to SERAPIS, NUBIAN, E.G.10, COLUMBINE, AUBREITIA, Escorts of O.389/K.M.S.63).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Overlord" Port Facilities.

Kirkwall. My 1036/O.S. 82 dated 1st September. Examination vessels at Kirkwall have now been withdrawn.
(2) Request this may be promulgated.
(A.C.O.S. 161132B to Admty.)

Ostend. I have seen Captain's Minesweepers Harwich and Sheerness and Channel is reported clear up to harbour entrance. Commander MacPanvie is there and Salvage Vessels are anchored outside. Matters generally well in train and given fine weather there is good prospect of port being open about 24th September. Zeebrugge still in enemy hands. Have sent advance party at Blankenberge back to Ostend as former place not very secure in present fluid conditions.
(Com. i/c Belgium 162334 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Technical.

Flashless Rocket Trials. A.M.112118 not to all addressees. L.C.T.(R) 334 is no longer required for trials in the Thames Estuary by Commander Special Defence H.Q.R.A.
(2) L.C.T. (R) 334 is hereby temporarily allocated to No. 451 X & D. Flotilla and is to be employed for flashless rocket trials.
(D.C.O.D. 161850B to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, C.C.O.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. EMPIRE TOWNSMAN. Coaster EMPIRE TOWNSMAN sunk in collision 1200 ft. east of No. 1 buoy, Newport Approach Channel, wreck clear of channel.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 161008B.)

L.S.T.672. Regret to report that U.S.L.^ST. 672 grounded on Tuskar Rock off Porthcawl yesterday 15th Sept. and capsized. Full report will follow.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 161234B to Admty.)

PRESIDENT POTTER. Admty. 151354 and ODYSSEYS not to all addresses. Following is a repetition of my 122152 begins -
(1) Regret to report that while 2 small local (?tugs) were proceeding up stream to commence "A" sweep today Sept. 12th a mine exploded resulting in total loss of one tug caused death of Mr. Joseph Jonsen boatswain R.N.V.R., and 2 naval ratings. Separate casualty report being made
(2) Date of deaths 12th Sept. (?name of) tug PRESIDENT POTTER. (Belg)
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 162023 to Admty. ODDYSEY.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy O.N.S. 254 (E.G.B.1 CHELMER) leaving Oversay
O.N.S. 254. R/V 1300A/17th routed through 055° 40' N. 010°
30' W. and 053° 01' N. 013° 15' W. 7½
(2) Force 33 consisting of 18th E.G. (S.O. in
TOWY) E.G. 3 DUCKWORTH and E.G. 30 PEVENSEY CASTLE
is to support O.N.S. 254 from Oversay to long. 012° 45' W. in
accordance with W.A. G.M. 051 N.
(3) After crossing hundred fathom line one support group is to
sweep about 8 miles ahead of convoy (corrupt group) and if attack
develops is to drop back and form extended screen on convoy in
anticipation of further attack, whilst remaining groups hunt to
destruction.
(C. in C. W.A. 161256B to S.O. E.G.18.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. EDWARD
P. ALEXANDER
(broke down
14th Sept.)

ST. NECTAN reports at 0925Z/16th. Contact not made searching vicinity 44.41 N. 30.35 W. drift now probably N.E. Request Capt. ALEXANDER be asked to report present position of drift. (S.B.N.O. Azores 161216B to Admty.) E.P. ALEXANDER in tow of SALVONIA escorted by ST. NECTAN at 1700Z/16th proceeding from 044° 55' N. 030° 02' W. 170° 6 knots to Horta. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 161912Z.)

FORMIDABLE.

As required by Admiralty 151852B STEPHEN AUSTIN and L.S.T. 426 can be undocked and FORMIDABLE docked. (C.S. Gibraltar, 161431B.)

U.S.S.
STEPHEN
AUSTIN.

U.S.S. STEPHEN AUSTIN docked 13th instant and preliminary survey of action damage caused by aerial torpedo reveals ship holed in No. 2 hold starboard side from 42 to 63 (?stations) from keel to H. Strake and surrounding plating and framing buckled and distorted over large area. Keel and garboards split and remaining O.B. plates from keel to bilge port side buckled. Keel set up approx. 9 inches from 45 to 63, intend to effect temporary repairs to enable ship to proceed to another port for permanent repairs. Completion date approximately mid October. (C.S. Gibraltar, 161807B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CURIE. Intend sailing CURIE at 0930/17 to Malta.
(2) - (8) Arrangements.
(9) CURIE transferring to 1st S/M F.
(S.10 161043B.)

Aegean S/M operations. (1) From position (?034°) 54' N. 021° 01' E. about (00)40/17th proceed through position A 033° 50' N. (?024°) 06' E. about 1802/17th. B. 033° 50' N. 027° 09' E. about 0957/18th. C. 035° 03' N. 027° 29' E. about 1752/18th.
(2) You are to proceed on the surface throughout (?passage).
(3) All times Zone B.
(4) This amends my 141112 not to all addressees.
(Capt. (S) 1 161106B to VISIGOTH, (R) F.O.L.E.M. V.A.M., R.A. Alex. R.O.E.C., (?R.N.O.) Tobruk, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.H.Q. E.M., MATROZOS, VIRTUE, (Sub. Append. 40) (Sub. append. 205))

K.M.F/
M.K.F.
convoys. The proposed change in the K.M.F/M.K.F. convoys cycle is welcomed and the additional lay over at Naples will facilitate watering of ships.
(2) It is hoped that opportunity will now be taken to send more sea mail and stores to Naples in ships of K.M.F. convoys.
(C. in C. Med. 161152A to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE. A.M. 151852. Docking of FORMIDABLE will be undertaken at Gibraltar.
(2) It would be appreciated if more notice could be given of commitments of this nature which in this instance involves undocking a ship which has been waiting for a dock for over two months to repair action damage.
(C. in C. Med. 161154B to Admty.)

UNDINE. Onward route from 79, basic westbound to 89 omit 120 thence to 70 and 16 E.T.A. Gibraltar 1400A/18 for onward routeing to U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 161216B to UNDINE.)
T.O.O. also given as 161217B.

C.U. 41, 42, 43, diversion to Marseilles area. As requested in your W.X. 26901 of 7 September I replied on 10 September requesting diversion of convoy C.U. 41 with two infantry and one armoured divisions to Marseilles your W.29983 13 September makes (?no) reference to my cable of 10 September and it is not clear why the procedure proposed in para. 3 (a) of your W.X. 26901 cannot now be accomplished. This diversion is still desired.
However if conditions have arisen which make it impracticable to do so I request that C.U. 42 with 103 and 100 Infantry Divisions be diverted to the Marseilles area. It is further desired that the 14th Armoured Division from C.U. 43 be similarly diverted to the Marseilles area. There is no objection to sailing the 14th

/Armoured...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- C.U. 41, 42, 43, diversion to Marseilles area.
(Contd.)
- Armoured Division in C.U. 42 if that is practicable. Under the above proposal the 78 Infantry Division scheduled for convoy C.U. 43 will sail to Northern France. Also general purpose vehicles for 2 Infantry and 1 Armoured Divisions will be loaded to arrive in Southern France by 26 October. (S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. 161300B to Agwar Washington.)
- G.2 Summary No. 33.
- (Extract.) Greece and Aegean. C.X. reports no Germans Aegina, Fleves, Poros, Hydra, Spetsai. Remaining Germans 12 Sep. left Zante which now Greek controlled. Kythera reported by Ph. R. evacuated. Shuttle service within Dodecanese including Samos more active. Appears major movement starting with main object evacuation Dodecanese. Tatoi airfield A/A reinforced suggesting this aerodrome will be held to last moment for air evacuation from Islands. Peloponnese. German tps. still Patras where port remains active. C.X. states 9 Sep. enemy including one battalion 747 Regt. leaving from Rion and Aigion landing Itea. In Southern Greece area Agrinion evacuated indicating regroup units 104 Div. presumably northwards to Epirus. Colonel Ruff, O.C. 967 Fortress Regt. and staff have left Cos. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/16.)
- SS.
BRAMBLELEAF
(tanker.)
- Stern of BRAMBLELEAF sank suddenly approx. 152015 bows still afloat. Reasons unknown. Not available for oiling. Full report follows.
(A.S. Alexandria 161329C to Admt.)
- S.C. vessel
M.V. VIRGINIA.
- The Swedes wish to sail safe conduct vessel VIRGINIA from Piraeus to Samos at 0900/21 by "Red" route. They also intend that vessel should proceed later to Chios and Mytalene.
(2) Request early signal whether you accept notice for voyage to Samos. If you agree request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Hd. of M. 161352B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- S.C. vessel
M.V.
YARRAWONGA.
- Swedes intimate safe conduct vessel YARRAWONGA will sail from Piraeus to River Plate by "Blue" route at 0900/21st September.
(2) Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Hd. of M. 161353B to all concerned.)
- Travel.
- Cancel A.M. 291658 April and A.M. 031959 May. It has now been agreed that we shall revert to pre-"Overlord" conditions for the travel to and from the U.K. of Allied services personnel.
(Hd. of M. 161411B to C. in C. Med.)

/Sweeping...

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

Sweeping off Cerigo. (1) Have swept channel 11 cables wide, centre line joining positions 36° 00' N. 23° 01.2' E. 36° 04.8' N. 23° 08.6' E. depth of sweep 30 fathoms. One mine cut in 151° South Kupho Island 2.0 miles at end of day suggesting old line of mines S.S.E. of Kupho Island.

(2) No mines encountered while sweeping channel 4 cables wide for PRINCE DAVID north of Ovo and Kupho Islands.

(3) Sweeping delayed by strong northeast wind.

(4) 28th M.L. Flotilla AGIFO NIKOLO short of petrol.

(5) Intend to continue tomorrow Sunday. Message ends.

(M.S.5 162007B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Navsitintrep 32. "Dragoon". Period ending 152400. Right flank. Cruiser plane at daybreak located several craft at Imperia. Accurate fire at over 20000 yards from multiple gun shore battery prevented effective bombardment by fire support ships. G.S.D.H.P.

JONES 129 rds. with plane spot at troops and vehicles in Mt. Bellenda area. Ammo. dump destroyed. M/S continued F.S.A. south of Capo Mortola destroyed 19 contacts (probably full stop omitted) at Marseilles Basins Petain and Mirabeau opened 151200. 2 1/2 Liberty berths available and 2 Liberties berthed alongside Mole H. 9 Liberties moored at holding berths in basin. 22 M/V off loaded personnel 109 vehicles 49 tons 3241 via craft. Port Mourrepine Hards now used for craft. M/S continued Port Nord and Basins Wilson (1 magnetic blown) and Pinede (3 magnetic blown). Beaches LHVQK* M/V DELTA unloaded except 1 coaster. Unloading personnel 1867, vehicles 840, tons 4103.

(N.C.W.T.F. 162059.) *As received.

Force 120. Unless KHEDIVE is urgently required send her to join me where she can be usefully employed. Route her south of Crete. (F.O.E.C. 162147C to SEARCHER.)

Situation report No. 435. French cruiser GLOIRE and U.S. destroyer LUDLOW and WOOLSEY gave fire support on 12th September and 13th September on Franco-Italian Frontier. Good results reported.

(2) 3267 tons unloaded from Liberties at Marseilles on 13th Sept. using landing craft. First coaster entered Vieux Port.

(3) Night 13/14th Sept. Coastal Force on patrol between Portofino and Sestri Levante fired torpedoes at fore and aft lighter convoy, 1 heavy explosion seen. Subsequently 2 destroyers were encountered 1 was hit aft, the magazine blew up and enemy was left sinking. Our forces were heavily engaged throughout these actions but withdrew without damage or casualties.

(4) P.T. boats blew up a fore and aft lighter between Portofino and Spezia night 14/15th Sept. Enemy return fire caused superficial damage.

(5) On 15th Sept. LOYAL and KIMBERLEY bombarded gun positions and road junctions near Rimini. All targets well covered. (?1) casualty in LOYAL from near miss.

(C. in C. Med. 162218B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis- All areas. No fresh information no change in scale.
positions. (C. in C. E.F. 160424Z.)

Tropical S.E.A.C.O.S. 224 para. 7(a).
service. I consider max. period of service abroad for R.N.
personnel should be 2 years on account of arduous
nature of service in H.M.S. under tropical con-
ditions in war.

(2) This reduction for navy was appreciated in discussions with
S.A.C.S.E.A.

(3) It is recommended that this be announced at the same time as
other benefits otherwise the mention of 3 years will have dis-
heartening effect.

(C. in C. E.F. 160628Z to Admty.)

Reduction In view of A.M.S.S.O. 121655* addressed C. in C.
of Diego E.F. approving completion stage 2 of reduction
Suarez requests decision on weighing of
defences. C.M. field my 071011+ refers.
(2) It is desired to use MANCHESTER CITY for this
work before sailing her to Ceylon.
(C. in C. E.F. 160910Z to Admty.)

* The completion of stage two of the transfer to
the French of the control of Diego Suarez is
approved.

+ Requesting approval to proceed with weighing of
controlled minefield Diego Suarez.

RORQUAL. Your 141012. Anticipate RORQUAL will be ready to
leave U.K. end of October. Estimated time for
passage to Trincomalee 2 months.
(D.O.D.(F) 161015B to C. in C. E.F.)

Training of As future operations may entail the use of aircraft
Naval A/C. from ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE, VICTORIOUS and
INDOMITABLE in close or covering support of am-
phibious operations, it is considered that, without
prejudice to their primary training, fighter and

T.B.R. Squadrons in these ships should be given a grounding in
Army Support training so that they may be ready for intensive
training if required for specific operations.

(2) The training required would be similar to that now given to
fighter squadrons in assault carriers and would consist of:-

(a) For Fighter Squadrons 50% T.A.C/R Phot./R Arty/R and Bombard-
ment/R. 50% fighter bombing and R/P attack. All Squadrons
straffing.

(b) For T.B.R. Squadrons glide and low level attack of land targets
with bombs and with R/P when available.

(c) All air crews low level navigation, own and enemy recognition,
own and enemy camouflage and Army and Naval air support organisa-
tion.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Training of
Naval A/C.
(Contd.)

(3) It is requested that such training as is possible with your existing resources may be started pending the provision of specially qualified instructors, Army Liaison Sections and Staff Officers, which it is intended to provide when requirements are more definitely known.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 161345B to C. in C. E.F.)

Convoy
M.C.13.

It is confirmed that convoy M.L. (?M.C. intended) 13 due to leave Aden about 13th October may consist of up to 6 personnel ships my 230357 August and my 300927 August refer.
(C. in C. E.F. 161523Z to P.S.T.O. Delhi, N.O.I.C. Aden.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 161312Z, Cominch 161555Z.)

C.U. 38.

Request priority report arrival times C.U. 38
convoy in U.K. and Continental ports.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 161414Z to Admty.)

China.
Land
Operations.

(1) Following information taken from C.B.I. Chunking
cypher 14th September.
(Extract.) (5) After occupation Wenchow Jap. coln.
reported moving north and south along coast. Not
known whether any landings made from convoy reported
in Wenchow vicinity.
(B.A.S. Washington 161520Q.)

"Hedgehog"
ammunition
for U.K.

Your 141742. "Hedgehog" H.E. filled and fuzed 5000
in number being loaded in SS. INDOCHINOIS due to
sail about 24th September consigned to Armament
Supply Officer U.K. Further quantities could be
made available shortly if max. quantity required
and rate of shipment desired are forwarded.

These facts are necessary to increase rate of filling at manu-
facturers. In view of above arrangement are shipments by service
passage still necessary as considerable handling and transshipment
operations are involved which might delay eventual receipt in U.K.
(N.S.H.Q. 161750Z to C.N.M.O.)

C.U. 38.

At position 49° 45' N. 07° 35' W. where Channel
and east coast and west coast sections split, at
0700Z/14th September. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 161816B.)

Torpedoes
for aircraft.

(Extract.) Every effort will be made to obtain
the torpedoes but the fact must be realised that
the improved torpedoes and even shroud rings are
in short supply and our requirement conflicts
with that of the U.S.N., which is to re-equip
their operational fleet as soon as possible.

(4) Future plans cannot therefore be based on modified torpedoes
being available at the dates contemplated.
(B.A.D. Washington 162315Z to Admty.)

16.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 969.

(Extract.) September 15th.

(16) Probable submarine contact six miles N.E. of Kayuiru Island evening 14th.

(19) Night 13th P.T. boats shelled central N.E. coast New Ireland and Kieta airfield. Latter objective again (?shelled) by M.T.Bs. night 14th besides Rugan harbour on east coast Gazelle Peninsula.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160940Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. B. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2135Z/15 in 51° 00' N. 06° 07' W.

A/C obtained disappearing contact at 0213Z/16 in 50° 16' N. 06° 29' W.

A/C had disappearing radar contact at 0001Z/15 in 02° 40' N. 63° 49' E.

Para. C. F.S. RENONCULE attacked contact at 2228Z/15 in 49° 58' N. 05° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 160900Z.)

17.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune" (D + 103)

1(a) Over 4 million tons of stores have now been landed since D day.

The River Seine below Rouen is reported to be blocked in two places by sunken ships or barges, and will take a month to clear, after which berths will be available for 15 colliers up to 320 ft. and 20 ships up to 350.

(b) Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British :	873,801	219,476	1,661,020
American :	1,394,811	248,823	2,379,469
Total :	2,268,612	468,299	4,040,489

General

Atlantic
convoys.

2. Whenever practicable O.N. and H.X. convoys will be routed south of Ireland (R). In order to save voyage time ships for east coast destinations in the U.K. will whenever practicable be detached in a section from H.X. and S.C. convoys and be routed through the English Channel. No ocean going ships have proceeded through the English Channel since early July 1940.

3. The aircraft carrier FORMIDABLE sailed from Scapa for Gibraltar and the Far East.

North Sea.

4(a) 3 groups, each of 3 E-Boats, attempted to operate off our East Coast during the early hours. One turned back on being attacked by a Wellington of 16 Group off Ymuiden. The other two made for Haisborough Sand and there split. The northern group was intercepted by HAMBLEDON and retired east at 40 knots; the southern group, heading S.E., brushed one of our Coastal Force units but disengaged before being brought to action. C. in C. considers that the visitors' movements indicate inexperience.

(b) In the afternoon another aircraft of 16 Group attacked two minesweepers 5 miles inside Heligoland with cannon fire, and estimates 6 hits.

Channel.

5. 3,500 tons of H.E. were dropped on to Boulogne defences during a four-hour bombing this afternoon.

17.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

6. It is estimated that there are 30,000 Germans outstanding in each of the areas Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire and Schelde; 12,000 at La Rochelle; 10,000 in the Gironde area; 12,000 at Dunkirk, 10,000 at Boulogne, 8,000 at Calais, and 60,000 at large in S.W. and Central France.

West Coast
of France.

7(a) 100 magnetic mines have been laid in the Gironde river below Bordeaux, and the need for a minesweeping flotilla there is considered urgent.

(b) The Channel Islands are believed to be manned by 28,000 Germans.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dragoon".

8(a) The U.S. destroyers H.P. JONES and EDISON co-operated with the army today. The latter reported more counter fire than usual from shore batteries. Minesweeping in the fire support area was suspended.

(b) An R.A.F. aircraft attacked 8 barges off Imperia this evening and made several hits.

Gulf of
Genoa.

9. U.S. P.T. Boats operating last night in the Gulf of Genoa sank an F lighter off Cape Noli whilst a second group sank one off Porto Fino. In both engagements the enemy returned heavy fire which caused superficial damage to one boat, but no casualties.

Adriatic.

10. LOYAL and LOOKOUT gave fire support off Rimini today; the enemy return fire was negligible except for one battery which fired at the minesweepers until engaged by LOYAL.

Aegean.

11. Aircraft from the Assault Carrier Force attacked traffic in Crete today.

17.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies.

12. 12 Liberators today laid mines off Mergui and Tavoy, Lower Burma.

China

13. A Liberator attacked a convoy of four freighters and one small naval vessel 125 miles east of Hong Kong and it is believed sank two of the freighters.

America and West Indies

SS.
FJORDHEIM
(O.N.S.251)

14. Survivors landed at Halifax today from SS. FJORDHEIM which was sunk in the North-west Approaches in 55.58 N., 09.20 W. on 2nd September whilst in Convoy O.N.S. 251.

Australia and New Zealand

Morotai.

15. A further landing was made today on Morotai Island, on the west coast, and three unopposed landings on islands lying off the south-west coast. M.T.Bs. operated tonight off the south-west coast of Morotai Island and destroyed a Japanese barge. Enemy aircraft made ineffectual attacks on Allied shipping off the southern part of the island last night, and were driven off by naval aircraft and by Naval A/A fire which destroyed one raider.

17.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation "Neptune" (D+103)

Port Facilities.

Port en
Bessin.

Anxiety exists as to situation at Port en Bessin with approach of winter weather in view of its great importance as a port of entry of bulk petrol. Strong N.W. winds give rise to a swell inside harbour and the suggestion has been made to lay some Phoenix to protect the entrance.

(2) I should be glad of expert opinion on this subject as a matter of urgency. If favourably reported on, the diversion of Phoenix Units for this purpose would have to be weighed against the winterisation of Arromanches.

(A.N.C.X.F. 171832A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Organisation
of Cross
Channel
Normandy
Shipping.

Part I. To implement shipping plan outlined in A.N.C.X.F. Des. 090934B following to be placed in effect at 100001A.

(A) Shuttle control will be discontinued when this plan is placed in effect.

(B) Ships from Cherbourg and beaches and ports east thereof except personnel ships will be sailed independently and unescorted to Isle of Wight area.

(1) Coasters M/T ships store ships, L.S.Ts, and L.C.Ts. from Omaha and Utah by Channel 14.

(2) Coasters L.S.Ts. and L.C.Ts. from Cherbourg by H Channel and Needles.

(3) M/T and stores ships from Cherbourg by H Channel to A.3 buoy and thence by Q.Z.S. 552.

(4) Store ships bound for Thames and East coast ports sail independently as for M/T ships as far as St. Helens and thence in F.T.M. convoys.

(C) Coasters and stores ships for west coast ports or Southern ports west of Portland Bill will sail in F.B.C. convoys organized at Cherbourg.

(D) F.B.C. convoys will sail daily from Cherbourg at 0800A to pass Q.10 buoy at 0830A and R/V at N.1 buoy at 1700A.

(E) Personnel ships will be sailed from beaches when discharged to assembly anchorage near buoy L.3 escorts for personnel ships will be directed by Cousnabs to proceed to this anchorage and await return convoy.

(F) Ships from beaches for Brittany ports will be sailed independently to Cherbourg outer anchorage for joining F.O.C. convoy.

(G) F.O.C. convoys will sail from Cherbourg at 1730A daily for Granville and Brittany ports to pass H.10 buoy at 1800A and point A (360° Alderney Light 15 miles) at approx. 2300A arrive point C at 0530A where Morlaix section breaks off, arrive Point L (48° 57' 00" N. 02° 46' 00" W.) at 1130A.

(H) O.F.C. convoys will sail daily from Granville and Brittany ports to Cherbourg to pass point L at 1330A point C at 1930A to join there with the Morlaix section and Point B (315° Casquets Light 15 miles) at approx. 2300A.

Part II.

(J) The duties of the respective commands involved are as follows:

(1) C.T.F. 125 will:- (a) exercise overall control, (b) furnish escort to 125.2.

(2) C.T.G. 125.2 will:- (a) receive all reports of arrivals and

/sailings...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation "Neptune"

Shipping & Convoys.

Organisation
of Cross
Channel
Normandy
Shipping.
(Contd.)

sailings and make the necessary despatches.
(b) Put sailing orders and routes aboard all ships originating Cherbourg.
(c) Organize all convoys including assigning of pendants to ships originating from ports arranging Commodores and escorts and issuing necessary orders and standard route forms to other ports keeping them advised of stop press changes.
(d) Sail F.O.C. convoy daily weather permitting escorts to be sailed daily with or without a convoy.

- (3) Beaches and ports will - (a) Sail all vessels to be at specified R/V points at times indicated.
(b) Put sailing orders and routes to final destination aboard all ships including personnel.
(c) Direct escorts for personnel ships at beaches to return to convoy assembly anchorage near buoy L.3.
(d) Utah will sail personnel ships from convoy assembly anchorage with escort to return destination.
(e) Sail ships bound for ports west of Portland Bill to Cherbourg outer anchorage which is bounded by parallel 49.40.36 N. 49.42.00 N. and the meridian of Fort de l'Ouest and Fort Central.
(f) Advise 125.2 of all arrivals and sailings, the latter 4 hours in advance.
(4) C.T.G. 125.4 will - (a) Order one P.C. and one S.C. to report to C.T.G. 125.2 each day as escort for the F.O.C. convoy.
(b) Instruct P.C. and S.C. to escort jointly the F.O.C. convoy to Point C where convoy will split the P.C. to escort the Morlaix section the S.C. to escort the St. Briec/Granville section to Point L (48.57 N. 02.46 W.) arriving at 1130A, merchant vessels to proceed from there to destination without escort and to return to point L with-out escort, the S.C. to assemble ships at Point L and sail with them at 1330A for Point C and join the Morlaix section there at 1900A, the P.C. to remain at Morlaix one night and sail the next day with O.F.C. to Point C to be joined with the Granville section.
(K) Communications - (1) Communications will be the quickest available method, if possible by phone or V.H/F plain language.
(2) 3800 k/cs is now assigned for sailing despatches.
(3) Escorts guard 2068 k/cs.
(4) Arrivals will be reported by ship name number and time.
(5) Beaches and ports will send to 125.2 sailing despatch giving ships name number destination sailing time and E.T.A. 125.2 will collate all sailing despatches and transmit to interested authorities.
(6) St. Michel en Greve, Roscoff, Paimpol and St. Briec report to Morlaix to relay.
(C.T.F. 125 171925A to C.T.G. 125.2, 125.4, 125.11, 125.12, 125.13, 125.14.)

17.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

"Overlord" Situation Reports.

Naval.

Cosintrep No. 166 part 2 Naval.

(a) Captured ports. Rouen. River Seine blocked in 2 places, (i) at Tancarville by sunken barges and (ii) between Sahurs and Hautot by 4 sunken ships.

Four minefields have also been laid at different points estimated 1 month to clear channel after which Rouen could provide 20 berths for ships up to 350 feet and 15 berths for colliers 270/330 feet. Cranes are lacking at present.

(b) Intelligence. Brest. Escaped American P.O.Ws. report one U-Boat still in Pens under repair.

Audierne. F.P.I. sources report that there are 400 Germans with small arms and possibly two 3 inch guns in this area.

(c) Unloading figures.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores
British	864,597	216,673	1,606,826
U.S.	1,376,565	246,924	2,302,937
Total D+101	<u>2,241,162</u>	<u>463,597</u>	<u>3,909,763</u>

(Adm. Ramsay 172307A to Admty.)

Estimated enemy numbers outstanding in France.

Enemy troops still to be rounded up estimated as follows:-
Brest area 30,000. Lorient area 30,000. St. Nazaire area 30,000. La Rochelle 12,000. Gironde 10,000. Channel Islands 28,000. Dunkirk 12,000. Boulogne 10,000. Calais 8,000. Schelde 30,000. Groups in S.W. and Central France 60,000.
Total 260,000.

(S.G.A.E.F. Fwd. No T.O.O. to War Office.)

17.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

Policy.

Channel Is. Sub Command. Your 161529 concur, but it would seem preferable to include area to southward as far as French coast. (A.C.N.X.F. 171123B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Prevention of escape of wanted Germans by sea. Arrangements are being completed by S.H.A.E.F. to prevent escape to neutral territory of members of Nazi party and affiliated organisations, German intelligence personnel and other wanted persons. (2) Navy responsibility in this matter is to provide necessary patrols of possible routes of escape by sea. Memorandum X/0920/25 of 11th Sept. 1944 "Talisman" Naval plan para.15 refers. (3) I should be glad to be informed of the steps Admiralty propose to take so that I can inform S.H.A.E.F. (A.N.C.X.F. 171237A to Admt.)

Release of L.C.Ts. Fwd. 15125. Signal 161643B September refers, (signed S.C.A.E.F. Cite S.H.G.D.S.) Decision arrived at in S.H.A.E.F. conference of 12th Sept. was based on actual requirements. Figure of 208 L.C.T. was known by A.N.C.X.F. No L.C.T. can be released before October. Releases after 1st October will be discussed at conference to be held in about 10 days time. A.N.C.X.F. has agreed foregoing. (S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. 171730A to Com. 12th Fleet.)

Movements.

EURYALUS. My 160943B. Repairs to defective joints in main steam piping are taking longer than was anticipated. Ship will probably be delayed approx. 72 hours. Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 170940A to C. in C. H.F., Admt. C.S.10.)

Operations.

North Sea Patrol. Your 162327B M.T.B. 445 (?604) and 440 detailed. E.T.D. 0730. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 170004B to C. in C. Nore.) Unit of 3 M.T.Bs. of 35 Flotilla to carry out a patrol as in my 161055B. Amend time on patrol to

read 1930A off at 0900A.
(2) Unit call sign FB2.
(3) Communication. 2333 k/cs.
(C. in C. Nore 171055A to BEEHIVE.)

It will be appreciated if 3 Dover M.T.B. could continue Ostend patrol as in my 151210B. Amend time on patrol to read 1930A off at 0900A.

(C. in C. Nore 171056A to V.A. Dover.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea Patrol. (Contd.) (A) Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 359, 362 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.V. Buoy at 2030 today Sunday.
(2) Object interception of enemy small craft encountered.
(3) Unless in close contact with the enemy unit is to leave patrol at 0515 and return to harbour.
(4) Communications, 1700 k/cs and 8200 k/cs.
(A.C. Dover 171324A to S.O. M.T.Bs. S.O. 5 M.T.B.F.)
Your 171055A. (1) Unit F.B. 2 M.T.B. 478 (S.O. and type 253) 449, 451, 2 sailed at 1600A E.T.D. 1700C/T 1630A.
(BEEHIVE 171340A to C. in C. Nore.)

North Sea E-Boats action. Plot No. 2. Bearing 276° 55B Buoy 6 miles at 0050. Surface craft detected by radar probably E-Boats course 190°.
(C. in C. Nore 170050 to S.E.E.C.C.D., C.F.)
Plot No. 4. Bearing 244° 55B Buoy 6 miles at 0101. Surface craft detected by radar. Course 180°.
(C. in C. Nore 170102 to S.E.E.C.C.D., C.F.)

Plot No. 2 263° 55B Buoy 7 miles at 0101 surface craft detected by radar speed unknown.
(C. in C. Nore 170103 to S.E.E.C.C.D., C.F.)

Plot No. 4 bearing 210° 55B Buoy distance 6 miles at 0111 surface craft detected by radar course 135°.
(C. in C. Nore 170112 to PYTCHLEY.)

Plot No. 4 195° 55B Buoy 6 miles at 0115 surface craft detected by radar course 135°.

(C. in C. Nore 170118 to S.E.E.C.C.D., C.F.)

E-Boat operations last night 16/17th.

(1) 3 groups of three boats operated. 1 turned back on being attacked by 16 group Wellington 30 miles N.W. of Ymuiden.
(2) 2 groups crossed Lemnbank steering S.W. at 0030B being picked up by shore radar about 4 miles from Channel which they crossed close westward of 56 Buoy. Near Haisboro Sand groups separated.
(3) Northern group crossed Haisboro Sand and paused about 2 miles W.S.W. of North Haisboro Light Buoy. Apart from this pause both groups operated at about 35 knots throughout. At 0127 group moved off north at high speed and was intercepted by HAMBLEDON on patrol 3 moving S.E. having escorted F.N. 82 to Sheringham Buoy. E-Boats retired east towards C/F unit vectored south from Z.27. This unit got H.E. and radar contact but a sudden change of course by E-Boats to north and their speed of 40 knots took them clear.
(4) Meanwhile other group had moved S.E. at 30/35 knots and at 0102 should have stranded on southern part of Haisboro Sand. At 0114 it turned south for 7A Buoy on reaching which it went 3 miles down Swept Channel still at 35 knots and then turned N.E. At 0120 PYTCHLEY on patrol 4 between 55B and 56 Buoy turned south passing east of it. 0141 E-Boats crossed outer channel 2 miles east of 54D Buoy heading N.E. for C/F unit at Z.21 who made contact but could not bring enemy to action.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea E-Boats action. (Contd.) (5) E-Boats movements indicated inexperience. Mines possibly laid 1 to 2 miles W.S.W. of N. Haisboro and in Q.Z.S. 402 S.E. of 7A Buoy although speed was 30/35 knots. (6) Shore radar. Anaprop above average. K.65 got possible plot at 0021 at 51000 yards and held E-Boats from 0035 losing them at 0203 at 50500 yards. K.135 plotted southern group from 0120. (C. in C. Nore 171544A to Admty.)

North Russia. Request you will reply to para. 4 of Admty. 151332. According to North Russian figures agreed with Northern Fleet oil fuel debt to 1 May was 827732 tons. Soviet Naval staff however state this should be 883945 tons and argument proceeds. (2) Request early information when decision on LUCERNA is made. (Admiral Archer 171005B to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

Channel Patrols. My 071835B (not to all). Patrols tonight 17/18th. STEVENSTONE patrol between positions 127° Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200° Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2020 tomorrow Monday. LA COMBATTANTE anchor Dungeness East Roads at 2030 at immediate notice until 0530/18 thence to Portsmouth. (2) Communications as in my 071835B. (A.C. Dover 171009A to C. in C. Portsmouth, LA COMBATTANTE, STEVENSTONE.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Nursery (my 141343B and 141344B) and Ramose Quick (my 161606 and 161607B) delayed 24 hours by weather from today. Ramose Maxim (my 151626B and 151627B) delayed four days from today. (A.C.O.S. 171024A to Admty.)

Norway S/M Patrols. Request you will sail submarines as follows (A) F.S. RUBIS at 2300A/19th Sept. as in F.O.S. 141114 as amended by F.O.S. 161934. RUBIS is to pass through 3.C at 0100A/21. (B) SATYR (P.214) at 2300A/20 Sept. by same route to pass through 3.C at 0100A/22 thence through SD and SE 058° 25' N. 004° 10' E. to patrol as in F.O.S. 161327. (2) Submarine to be diving by day east SB S.O.A. from SC. to be 90 miles per 24 hours. (3) RUBIS should not withdraw to the westward of 004° 30' E. before 0100A/24. (Capt. S. 9 171117 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

West coast of France. M.L. 179 pass to M.T.B. 713. M.T.B. 704 is to pass the Gate at 1400A/17 Sept. and proceed to reach position AA 000 Vierge Light 10 at 1900A/17. (2) M.T.B. 713 to embark ships company of M.T.B. 704 and sail from 1'Abervrach to R/V with M.T.B. 704 in AA at 1900A/17. (3) M.T.B. 704 and 713 are to form force G.P. and are to proceed

/from...

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of France.
(Contd.)

from AA to patrol Brest approaches between Pointe St. Mathieu and Tevenec Light until first light 18th Sept. when force G.P. is to return to l'Abervrach.

- (4) Communications constant watch on 2300 k/cs.
- (5) M.T.B. 696 is to be sailed to Plymouth after arrival of Force G.P. at l'Abervrach a.m./18th.

(C. in C. Plymouth 171205A to M.T.B. 704, M.L. 179)

Pins cover night 17/18th Sept. A. G.H. 1 SPRAGGE Z.9 S.

G.H. 2 STOCKHAM Z.109. Constant watch on 2450 k/cs.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 171217A to Admt. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. i/c Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts H.D. and C.N. in Area C, Portsmouth night patrol, SPRAGGE, STOCKHAM.)

Sweep S.E. returning to resume patrol of Audierne Bay at dark tonight 17th Sept.

(2) M.L. 179 pass to M.T.Bs.

(C. in C. Plymouth 171223 to Force 28.)

LONDONDERRY is to pass Gate at 0700A/18 and proceed to l'Abervrach to arrive 1600A/18.

(2) LONDONDERRY is to act as communication link with coastal forces and F.F.I. in the neighbourhood of l'Abervrach, and to provide a coastal force base ship close to the scene of coastal force operations.

(3) Communications. Constant watch on broadcast C.N. and 2300 k/cs Loud speaker watch on 2410 k/cs.

(C. in C. Plymouth 171226B to LONDONDERRY.)

Opas 17. A. 47° 11' N. 03° 33' W. B. In Audierne Bay.

(1) No activity in Audierne Bay during the night 16/17th.

(2) Ile d'Yeu visited at 1100A/17th. On request for arms 16 Lanchesters and 4,000 rounds landed for use of local detachments who will assist in an attack Paimboeuf.

(A) Situation at Ile d'Yeu and Sables d'Olonne reported unchanged, except that Roche sur Yon has been occupied by F.F.I. F.F.I. at Sables d'Olonne expect to be able to provide detailed plan of defences of La Rochelle in a few days time. N.E. report suggests 3 submarines at La Rochelle capable of movements.

(Force?) 28 is proceeding from Ile d'Yeu to comply with your 171223 Weather report 9180, 2812.

(Force 28 171500A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Carry out operation "Assault". (A) Force 26 PIORUN (S.O.) KELVIN. (B) 0830A/18 September. (C) By most direct route keeping west of Ushant to reach vicinity of Penmarch Point by dark/18th.

(D) Patrol in Audierne Bay until first light 19th. Then sweep to south eastward returning to patrol in Audierne Bay on night 19/20.

(E) In accordance with O.N.C.O. Plymouth.

(G) Force 28 TARTAR, ASHANTI, leave Audierne Bay first light 18th for Plymouth. LONDONDERRY sails Plymouth 0700A/18 for l'Abervrach. 5 M.T.Bs., 1 M.L. in l'Abervrach.

(H) German hospital ship MUENCHEN is to be brought into Plymouth if intercepted.

(C. in C. Plymouth 171653A to PIORUN, KELVIN.)

Leave patrol at first light 18th September and return to Plymouth speaking Ushant signal station on passage.

(2) Force 26 PIORUN, KELVIN sail Plymouth 0830A/18th for Audierne Bay.

/(3)...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

West coast
of France.
(Contd.)

(3) LONDONDERRY sails Plymouth 0700A/18th for
1'Abervrach.
(4) M.T.B. 718 due to return 1'Abervrach from
Benedet before dark today may be late.
(C. in C. Plymouth 171709A to Force 28.)

Western
Approaches.

Further employment of Ocean Escort Trawlers on
the Transatlantic convoys is for the present to be
discontinued. All Ocean Trawlers are to be employed
on the R.U. U.R. convoys with the exception of
those detailed for special duties.

(C. in C. W.A. 171251A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Your 171746 support groups are in extended diagram position at 6
mile distance with E.G. 3 in the van, E.G. 18 in the rear and
E.G. 30 in the beam position.

(Force 33 172026A to C. in C. W.A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Patrols by
16 Group
Aircraft.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 52° 52' N. 3° 42'
E. position based on Gee Fix obtained within 1/2
hour of 0001.

(A/C CS NBDE 170029B to 16 Group.)

P.C. and S. of merchant vessel? 52° 30' N. 4° 30' E.
200° 10 knots.

(A/C CS WKRF 170145 to 16 Group.)

Have attacked enemy E-Boat with bombs dive result of attack un-
observed position 52° 40' N. 4° 32' E.

(A/C CS WKRF 170210 to 16 Group.)

Nr. 1. P.C. and 3. 2 minesweepers 54° 10' N. 08° 00' E. 090°
7 knots. Have attacked enemy with cannon or machine gunfire and
estimate 6 hits.

(A/C MFKN 171835 to 16 Group.)

Mining.

Mines in
R.Garonne.

"About 100 magnetic mines have been laid by the
Germans in Garonne down stream from Bassens. In
spite of the supply problems and the need to
transfer floating cranes from Bordeaux to repair
Libourne and St. Andre de Cubaac Bridges naviga-

tion has to be forbidden. Bordeaux has no means to clear the
mines. The need for a mine-sweeping flotilla between Bordeaux
Bec d'Ambes and Libourne is considered as urgent."

Comar Cherbourg.

(C.T.G. 125.2 171217 to Comnaveu.)

Mines in . No minelaying reports. Negative results from
Havre approach. routine sweeping. Negative result in Havre Harbour
and Approaches. Three magnetic mines swept in
channel between Juno L.V. and Havre Approach Channel
sea calm. Summary A (2) - 3.

(Capt, M/S Seine 172230A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Dieppe. My 221615 August and C. in C. Portsmouth's 311700 suggest hospital drifters with stores and medical staff be now called forward for Dieppe. (F.O.B.A.A. 171202 to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)

Fecamp. Your 152220 not understood. Presume L.C.T.(I) should read L.C.M.(I) or L.C.T.(III). Request clarification. (F.O.B.A.A. 171614A to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)

Technical.

Schnorkel training. Schnorkel Mock Ups. Following are my intentions regarding the provision and employment of Mock up Schnorkel tubes for A/S training and trials. (7) It is the intention, as soon as the first G.S.R fitted Mock up is ready, to arrange, in conjunction with H.Q.C.C. and F.O.C.T. trials and special exercises with aircraft to establish the most effective tactics and radar operating procedure against G.S.R. fitted Schnorkels. In the meantime the plain Schnorkel targets will be provided for aircraft practice as soon as they become available. (C. in C. W.A. 172317A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Newhaven/
Dieppe
convoys. Cancel my 141625B. Until 26th September all W.D.C. convoys will sail at fixed time leaving Newhaven 2345 C2A 0150. Arrive Dieppe 0900 times after 26th will be signalled later. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 171458A to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)

O.N. and
H.X. convoys. Whenever practicable O.N. and H.X. convoys will be routed south of Ireland (R). Ships from and for south and east coast ports will then proceed through the Channel in sections to be known as O.N.A. and H.X.A. respectively. (2) O.N.A. will leave Southend on D day passing Plymouth about D+1½ and joining the O.N. convoy about D+2½ in about 09° W. H.X.A. will break off in the same long. about D+3½ passing Plymouth about D+4½ and arriving Southend about D+6. O.N.A. will leave Southend every 5 days. (3) O.N.A. and H.X.A. are to be escorted by 2 escort vessels between Southend and Plymouth with a 3rd from Plymouth to the W. Escorts of O.N.A. are to bring back H.X.A. (4) 5 escorts are being transferred to C. in C. Nore and 3 to C. in C. Plymouth for these duties. A.M. 162215 refers. (A.C.N.S.(H) 171744A to Cs. in C. Nore, W.A. Plymouth.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Special
Tow
Convoy.

Escorting A.T.R. 54 U.S.S. BARKER proceeding from Horta 2000 17th 11 knots to 39. 45 N. thence convoy route to overtake special tow convoy C.T.G. 27.4. Q.J.H. 310 C.189.
(BARKER 171900)

South Atlantic

S.S.
CATHLAMET.

(1) CATHLAMET broken down in 310 degs. Cape Verde light 14 miles.
(2) Boiler and feed pump trouble.
(3) Unable to steam.
(4) KILMELFORD standing by.
(5) Request tug and relief for KILMELFORD.
(INVER 172124Z to Comar Dakar.)

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S/M
Operations.

(1) VORACIOUS leaves patrol forthwith pass close North Psathura West of Skyros close East of Cape Doro and Stapodia and through Kinaros Channel arriving position $035^{\circ} 50' 027^{\circ} 28' 088^{\circ} 2002A$ 19th.

(2) VORACIOUS may proceed on surface by day at her discretion.

(3) At dusk to-day VAMPIRE shifts patrol North of Skiathos and Skopelos Channels South of lat. $039^{\circ} 29'$.

(Capt (S) 1. 170649A to 1st S/M F. MATROZOS. (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

One K.T. ship reported in Rhodes a.m. today.

(2) Proceed with all despatch to patrol between Piskopi and Khalkia to intercept should she sail tonight.

(Capt (S) 1. 171004 to MATROZOS, (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M.)

G.S. MATROZOS leaves patrol ordered in my 171004 about 0402A 18th to pass through Kinaros Channel about dusk 18th - pass through position $037^{\circ} 25' 025^{\circ} 49'$. to patrol on Salonika - Mudros route north of latitude $039^{\circ} 39'$.

(2) You may proceed on the surface by day while on passage at your discretion.

(3) VORACIOUS pass west of Buey Rock and through Kinaros Channel at dawn 19th.

(Capt (S) 1. 171220 to G.S. MATROZOS, (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M., VORACIOUS)

PETER reported ready to sail for Salonika last night.

(Capt (S) 1. 171247A to 1st S/M F., MATROZOS.)

(1) From position $035^{\circ} 18' 028^{\circ} 02'$ at 2001 17th proceed through positions.

(A) $033^{\circ} 50' 027^{\circ} 09'$ at 0556 18th.

(B) $033^{\circ} 50' 024^{\circ} 06'$ at 2102 18th.

(C) $035^{\circ} 05' 020^{\circ} 01'$ at 1832 19th.

(D) $035^{\circ} 47' 016^{\circ} 28'$ at 1232 20th. to R/V with escort in $035^{\circ} 48' 015^{\circ} 08'$ at 1805 20th.

(2) Surface passage throughout your speed is estimated at 10 knots.

(3) You may encounter VISIGOTH about 0435 18th and VOX at 1840 19th.

(4) All time zone A.

(Capt (S) 1. 171534 to VIRTUE, (R) F.O.E.C., R.N.O. Tobruk, F.O.L.E.M., V.A.M., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.H.Q. E. Med., MATROZOS, VISIGOTH.)

Following is a repetition of my 171759 begins - Capt.(S) 1 R.A.E.C. repeated MATROZOS Force "A" from F.O.L.E.M. Onward orders for MATROZOS not yet received. She must not pass Scarpanto before daylight 18th. Force "A" probably operating against Rhodes K.T.

(2) Force "A" not to attack S/M's east of line Sirina Saria. T.O.O. 171759 ends.

(F.O.L.E.M. 171807C to MATROZOS)

Cancel my 171004 - paras. 1(one) and 2 of my 171220 neither to Force "A".

(2) You are not to cross North of a line joining Cape Prasonisi and Makria Pt. (Scarpanto) before daylight 18th.

(Capt (S) 1. 171912B to MATROZOS, Info: F.O.L.E.M., Force "A" 1st S/M F., F.O.E.C.)

This is a repetition my 172133 begins. Addressed: Capt. S. F.O.E.C. (R) MATROZOS, Force "A". Last light visual R/C Rhodes Nil sighting. Consider K.T. probably gone.

(2) / D/F now MATROZOS entering Scarpanto cancel my 171759

/repeated ...

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Aegean repeated under T.O.O. 171807 to MATROZOS.
 S/M (3) Force "A" keeping West of line Sirina-Saria
 Operations. cancel my 161740 not all addressees.
 (Contd.) (F.O.L.E.M. 172135C to MATROZOS).
 / (? 'By' omitted.)
 Cancel my 171758 proceed forthwith to pass
 through Kinaros Channel about 1502A 18th thence
 through 037° 25' 025° 49' to patrol on Salonika - Mudros route
 North latitude 039° 39'.
 Para. 2 and 3 as in my 171220A not to all addressees.
 (Capt (S) 1. 172219A to MATROZOS, Info: 1st S/M F.,
 F.O.L.E.M., Force "A", F.O.E.C.)

German H.S. M.X.31520/17 September. W.X. 81519.
 BONN Regret German Hospital Ship BONN attacked by 2
 (sunk 16 Beaufighters of 272 Sqdn. at 160810B in 44° 40' N.
 Sept.) 13° 50' E. Preliminary investigation shows BONN
 left Gulf of Pola at 0600B on September 16th
 setting course 153° at 11 knots. No information
 on sailing was at this time available.
 (2) 2 Beaufighters 272 Sqdn. on Armed R/C with 8 times 25 pounds
 R.P's each intercepted BONN approximately 20 miles South of Gulf
 of Pola. First aircraft flying at approx. 800 feet went in to
 attack and fired R.P's before Red Crosses were observed. Believe
 5 under water hits and 3 free board hits observed on the stern.
 Second A/C went into attack from 1200 feet but saw Red Crosses
 on the awnings and did not repeat fire. Ships paintwork is
 reported as being very dirty with ship painted greyish brown
 with green line on the hull. Red Cross on Funnel and Decks.
 (3) First intimation of sailing of this ship was 0927B when
 Italian Radio at Taranto picked up re broadcast from Venice
 passing information on sailing. No information available to
 show whether any previous intimation had been sent out.
 (4) R/C this morning shows no trace of ship and it is feared she
 has probably sunk.
 (H.Q. M.A.A.F. 171059A.)

Attack German Hospital Ship BONN attacked by two
 on German Beaufighters at 0810B 16th in 44° 40' N. 13° 50' E.
 H.S. BONN. five hits estimated.
 (2) Ship was painted greyish brown with green line
 on hull. Red Crosses seen on funnel and decks
 after attack.
 (3) BONN left Pola 0600B/16th according to Venice re broadcast
 of original sailing (?signal) which was not received. Re
 broadcast message was received by Taranto 15 minutes after attack.
 (4) It is considered that the German authorities should be
 informed that unless movements of hospital ships are promptly re
 broadcast and painted in accordance with Geneva Convention such
 regrettable incidents must occur.
 (C. in C. Med. 171214 to Adty.)

Joint Naval G.I./42608 cipher 17th September. Secret.
 Army, R.A.F. Paras. one and two follow to Troopers and Ankara
 Intell. in separate signal.
 Appreciation. 24 hours to 0900 hours 17th September 1944. All

/times

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Joint Naval times G.M.T.
Army, R.A.F. Three. Photo R/C 16th September revealed
Intell. following. Cyclades. Melos. Arrived 1
Appreciation. concrete barge, 1 coaster 100/120 foot, 1 E.M.S.
(Contd.) craft from Piraeus. These craft and 3 Caiques
already present heavily attacked 16th September by
British Naval Forces and believed considerably
damaged.

General. Indications Crete traffic temporarily interrupted
resultant switch to Rhodes of major shipping. Crete traffic
likely to be resumed as opportunity offers.
(C. in C. M.E. 171315C.)

Force Your 161520 / . 034° 30' N. repeat 034° 30' N.
120. (R.A.E.C. 171701C. to F.O.L.E.M. (R) Capt. S.One.)
/ Not received by W.R.
(Corrupt group). R.E.P. tonight Sunday. 3000
ton ship reported in Milos has proved to be 1000
ton K.T. ship and (2 corrupt groups) for (corrupt group).
AURORA and TERPISCHORE now blockading.
Some shore (corrupt group) installations including radar station
at Milos shot up. 266 route covered by R/C. Armed R/C over
roads in Crete destroyed 11 M/T damaged 5.
1 Ju.52 destroyed on ground at Martiza in (4 corrupt groups)
showed no change.
(2) (corrupt group). Flying (?weather) for operating A/C
from carriers but heavy (?cloud) over (corrupt group). No
casualties.
(F.O.E.C. 172221C to F.O.L.E.M.)

G.A.F. (2) G.A.F. activity. 16 Sept. Air transport.
Activity. Night 13/14. 19 Ju. 52 Rhodes to Athens. Night
14/15. 20 Ju. 52 Rhodes to Athens early a.m.
15th Sep. Two He.111 towing gliders Athens to
Salonika. Night 16/17. Indications transport
activity continued.
(C. in C. M.E. No. T.O.O./17 Rec. 1955)

OAKLEY From position 218 2115B/17 proceeding 20 knots
basic eastbound route E.T.A. Alexandria 1000B/19.
(2) E.T.A. (?Tobruk) boom 1700B/18 (requiring)
boat transport 2 officers and sailing immediately.
(3) Codeword Radical 582.
(4) V.A.M's 170912A not to all addressees refers.
(OAKLEY 171957B to F.O.L.E.M.)

FORMIDABLE Your 161154. Shortness of notice is regretted.
(2) Destroyer escort should be retained for onward
passage on completion of FORMIDABLE's docking.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 172140A to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation ...

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Situation report No. 436. On 14th September in addition to bombarding in support of ground force U.S. LUDLOW hit 2 small ships in Oneglia Toulouse (sic) and U.S. EDISON hit merchant ship off Cape Cervo (043° 56' N., 008° 08' E.).

(2) In North entrance to Marseilles Block ship cleared to 30 foot depth for 100 feet width and on 15th September, 2 liberty ships were berthed along pier head and 9 anchored in holding berth inside harbour.

(3) Estimate total unloaded over beaches to 14th September 337505 personnel, 57509 vehicles and 281365 tons stores.

(4) Night 11th/12th September, Coastal Force sank 2 schooners off Istrian Coast. Crews of 17 Italian were captured.

(5) Small German patrol boat was sunk night 14th/15th September off (?Pe - esac) and 2 prisoners taken.

(6) Night 15th/16th September Coastal Forces sank 3 boats and a large L.C. off Brac Island. M.L. 258 patrolling off Rimini was mined and bow blown off. 11 casualties.

(7) P.T. boat on patrol night 15th/16th September between Savona and Genoa made 2 attacks on "F" Lighter Convoy. In first one lighter blown up, in 2nd possible hit scored on another.

(8) H.M.S. KIMBERLEY bombarded coast batteries and troop movements at Rimini on 16th September. Considerable accurate return of fire, but no damage or casualties.

(9) At 1230 17th, F.O. E. carriers reported a 3000 tons merchant ship steaming round Milos harbour, dodging H.M.S. AURORA' shells. (C. in C. Med. 172156A)

Navsitintrep "Dragoon." Period ending 162400. Right flank. No. 33. EDISON 278 rds, 32 rds smoke with S.F.C.P. at enemy batteries, troops, dumps in area around M.T. Magliocca. HILARY P. JONES 137 rds at C.P. bridge guns and road traffic in coastal area Capo Mortola to Capo Biamonte. Good results. Supported M/S with 50 rds at batteries Capo Ampeglio. Sweeping of F.S.A. continued destroying 13 contact mines. M/S Rade d'Hyerres completed and anchorage area to six fathom curve considered safe. Eastern limit Q.B. 352 lying between Port Cros and Cape Benat. Southern limit Q.B. 353 in Grande Passe. East entrance off C.T.A. Benat and west entrance Petite Passe. Rade Porquerolles reported safe to three fathom curve.

P.T. patrol off Ventimiglia. 0230 obtained Radar contact $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off Capo Mortola, gave chase, enemy reported to be explosive control boat two drones escorted by one M.A.S. Lost contact off Cap Ferrat. Hits reported on M.A.S. No return fire.

Marseilles: M/S continued Basin Pinede, Basin President Wilson opened with additional berths for one liberty and one coaster. Unloaded personnel, 7350, vehicles, 32 tons 3384.

Admiral Rodgers and staff in BISCAYNE departed Delta area for Naples 0600 after being relieved as C.T.F. 85 by Captain Robert Morris U.S.N.

(N.C.W.B.F. 172301A)

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17.9.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

R.N.A.S. Your 170943/June. Until more permanent
 Ceylon and arrangements can be made for security protection
 S. India. of Naval air stations in Ceylon and Southern
 India, the minimum number of Royal Marines
 necessary for these duties should be retained, as
 temporary measure, from R.M. detachments mentioned
 in your para. 1.
 (2nd S.L. 170017B to C. in C. E.F.)

U-Boat All areas.
 dispositions. No fresh information. No change in scales.
 (C. in C. E.F. 170438Z)

U.S.S. GEN. Com. Sou. West Pac. Sea Fron. is requested to
 MITCHELL, arrange sailing of U.S.S. GENERAL MITCHELL and
 GEN. RANDALL, GENERAL RANDALL from Melbourne and H.M.S. NIGERIA
 NIGERIA. wearing flag of C.S.4 from Fremantle so that these
 ships R/V off S.W. Australia on 28th September
 Com. Sou. West Pac. Sea Fron. 080412 and my 141226
 refer.

(2) There 100 degs. east as ordered by Com. Sou. West Pac. Sea Fron.
 and thereafter through positions.

(E) 010° 01' S. 088° 05' E. (F) 004° 50' S. 084° 29' E.
 (G) 006° 02' N. 077° 02' E. (H) 012° 01' N. 074° 34' E.
 (J) 016° 01' N. 072° 48' E. (K) 018° 01' N. 072° 22' E.

Thence to Bombay.

(3) Destroyers to be detailed later will R/V with the cluster of
 ships in position.

(F) 004° 50' S. 084° 29' E. at 0800Z 3rd October.

(4) After destroyers have joined NIGERIA is to part company and
 proceed independently to Colombo.

(5) Communications.

(C. in C. E.F. 170512Z. Com. Sou. West Pac. Sea Fron.)

Italian C. in C. E.F.'s 030641Z/September and C. in C. Med.
 A/S 301730B/August.
 Training (2) The position in both Med. and Eastern Fleet in
 S/M's. regard to lack of A/S training S/M's is appreciated
 in Admiralty.

(3) At this juncture it is considered more
 important to increase the build up of A/S training
 S/M's in the Eastern Theatre and existing programme for JALEA
 should therefore be adhered to - A.M. 252321B/July and F.O.G.M.A.
 121057 (neither to all) refers.
 (D.A./S.W. 171119A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med.)

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Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 171328Z, Cominch 171515Z)

S.S. FJORDHEIM (Nor.). P.T.S.165 in O.N.S.251
torpedoed and sunk 55. 58 N. 09. 20 W. 2145Z/2.
(sunk 35 crew members landed in Halifax 1100Z/17.
2 Sept.) 3 missing. My (?171502) with list of survivors
follows.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax. 171501Z)

NABOB A.M. 131356 para. 5.
NABOB is being docked to ascertain the extent of
temporary repairs necessary to enable her to
steam across the Atlantic for permanent repairs
should Cominch wish to carry these out. It is not possible to
effect full repairs in the U.K.
(2) It is estimated that at least 2 months will be required for
temporary repairs. You will be further informed after the ship
has been examined.
(3) Request you will obtain the views of Cominch.
(V.C.N.S. 172010A to B.A.D. Washington)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A.
(1) P.R.U. Unit G/581 reported 500 ton U-Boat
manoeuvring about 1030Z/16. in St. Nazaire.
Para. B.
(1) A/C P/207 sighted submerged conning tower
course 010° at 0950Z/16. in 59° 19' N. 08° 41' W.
(D.D.I.C. 171108A)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 171348A, 171349A)

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18.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+104)

1. Commander in Chief Portsmouth is anxious that Landing Craft be withdrawn from Shuttle Service across the Channel by October 1st, before winter sets in.

2. Cumulative landings to this afternoon were (American only): 1,401,881 men. 249,727 vehicles. 2,422,078 tons of stores.

General.

3. The Air Ministry propose to reinforce Coastal Command by two M.R/G.R. squadrons from the Mediterranean.

North Sea.

4. (a). An aircraft of 16 Group attacked 4 E-Boats off Ymuiden with bombs, and claims one hit.

(b). A.C. Dover instituted a patrol off Dunkirk to prevent suspected communication by sea between Calais, Dunkirk and the Dutch ports.

(c) Further patrols were instituted between Calais and Gravelines, off Nieuport, and off Ostend to prevent evacuation from these ports.

Channel.

5.(a). Delays to the establishment of the cross Channel pipeline "Pluto" are being caused by the Gris Nez batteries, which shell all attempts at minesweeping. S.N.O. Pluto desires to run his line to Plage des Bains, Boulogne, as being the speediest solution once the batteries are silenced, after which the minesweepers will require 3 clear days to carry their channel right into the beach.

(b). Heavy demolition charges have been recovered at Le Havre and rendered safe.

Western Approaches.

6. The 16th Minesweeping Flotilla have cut 8 mines in St. George's Channel, nationality not specified.

West coast of France.

7. There is nothing to report from the West coast of France except the expressed desire of the garrison of Ushant (F.F.I.) for a larger signalling lamp and more tobacco.

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18.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

12th M.S.F.

8. During the two years the 12th Minesweeping Flotilla have been in the Mediterranean they have swept 1000 mines.

Operation
"Dragoon"

9. H.P. JONES bombarded shipping in San Remo harbour today and set fire to a small coaster and a number of small craft. Later, an ammunition dump was blown up at Porto Maurizio.

Gulf of
Genoa.

10.(a). Aircraft of Coastal Air Force last night attacked and damaged eight barges and two 500 ton vessels off Imperia and made direct hits on the mole.

(b) A coastal force operating off Punta del Mesco blew up two F-Lighters.

Adriatic.

11.(a) LOOKOUT fired 202 rounds at gun positions and batteries near Rimini today.

(b). 43 Commando landed on Solta Island (Dalmatian coast) today and had withdrawn by 27 September, reporting the island clear of the enemy.

Aegean.
Landing on
Kithera.

12.(a). A.F.H.Q. reports that a Commando force has landed on Kithera Island, which was reported evacuated by our naval R/C on the night 12/13 September. Some equipment was lost in the rough seas. The reception of the population of the island was friendly.

(b). Air attacks on enemy aerodromes, harbours and installations in the Aegean have been maintained during the past week. Carrier borne aircraft destroyed 25 M.T. today and 11 yesterday.

(c). AURORA and TERPSICHORE shelled targets at Milo today.

East Indies.

Operation
"Light".
(Attack on
Sigli,
Sumatra.)

13. Aircraft from INDOMITABLE and VICTORIOUS, supported by HOWE, CUMBERLAND and KENYA attacked the railway repair and maintenance centre at Sigli, in Sumatra, in the early hours of today. Numerous hits on the target are reported. No opposition was encountered either from the ground or from the air, and no Japanese naval forces were encountered, one aircraft was lost, but 3 occupants were apparently rescued by the S/M SPIRIT.

18.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Moluccas. 14.(a). One or two enemy aircraft bombed Allied ships off the southern part of Morotai Island at dawn today, but effects were negligible. A/A shot down one of the raiders.
(b). Allied carrier borne aircraft flew 108 sorties over the northern part of Halmahera today.
- Carolines. 15. 60 carrier borne aircraft attacked Pelelieu and Angaur today.

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperation "Neptune" (D. + 104)Port Facilities

Granville. All authorities are satisfied as to necessity for provision of dolphins to facilitate entry of vessels into Inner Basin at Granville. This is recommended in Shoosmith's report. As matter is urgent request confirmation that work is in hand. (Admty, 180247A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Havre. N.P.1571 completed search of Quai de Southampton negative result. R.M.K. Demolition mine charges weighing approx. one ton each located suspended under water alongside various quays, two of which have been recovered from the Ecluse de Rochemont and rendered safe. In addition five demolition charges each composed of 3 G and G type mines located alongside Digue Nord. In absence of other directive intend recovering these and sending one specimen of R.M.K. to VERNON.

(C.T.G.125.15, 181034A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Confirming verbal request a swept channel to OE East of Northern Breakwater is desired. Capt. Arnold at Le Havre will indicate exact limits on beach.

(C.T.F.125, 181945A to Capt. M/S. Seine)

Port en Bessin. Your 171832A. Admiralty have little information regarding this port, and methods of berthing at present employed.

(2) Presume that your intention is to prolong western breakwater by about 100 yards in a North Easterly direction. This could possibly be done from surplus small Phoenix, and three reserve blockships already at your disposal.

(3) Admiralty experts can be sent. Suggest, however, as preliminary measure local arrangements be made for survey and report to be made by Captain Jellett R.N.V.R. C.E. in C. Dept. on staff of N.O.I.C. Arromanches.

(Admty, 181802A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Administration and Organisation

Withdrawal of Landing Craft from Shuttle Service. A.M.101751 not to A.N.C.X.F. orders 12 Ancillary Flotillas now employed in Isle of Wight area for servicing L.S.T. and M.L.C. of shuttle service be surrendered for other duties. First four Flotillas to be withdrawn 1st October. Have replied that surrender is dependent on use of M.L.C. in shuttle service ceasing by that date. Request very early information regarding future use of landing craft in shuttle service as many arrangements must be made if these craft are to be used during Autumn and Winter.

My /...

18.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Neptune" (D + 104)

Administration and Organisation

Withdrawal
of Landing
Craft from
Shuttle
Service.
(Contd.)

My O11834 and O21141 refer and there are other reasons such as suitability of moorings to withstand winter that make me wish to discontinue use of landing craft in shuttle service from this area by 1st October if this is acceptable.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181928A to A.N.C.X.F.)

18.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

"Overlord" Situation Reports.

Bombing by
Coastal
Aircraft.

Yesterday afternoon gun positions and troops on the Island of Walcheren were attacked by a strong force of heavy bombers. Coastal aircraft struck at shipping off the Frisian Islands. Fortified positions and garrison troops at Boulogne were bombarded for four hours by other heavy bombers which dropped more than 3,500 tons of high explosives. Intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered at times but there was no opposition in the air. Strong points at Brest were attacked during the day by small forces of fighter bombers.
(J.E.R.A. 181100A for 83 "Overlord" Sitrep.)

Naval.

Cosintitrep No. 167 part 2 Naval.
A. Intelligence. There was some evidence of activity by enemy motor boats off Dunkirk on the night of 17th September. La Roche sur Yon is reported occupied by F.F.I. Unloading figures. Troops. Vehicles. Stores. British 867,392. 217,065. 1,628,686. U.S. 1,392,388. 247,997. 2,337,320. Total D plus 102, 2259,780 465,060. 3,966,006.
(Adm. Ramsay 182340A for Cosintitrep.)

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18.9.1944
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSGeneralPolicy

Extension
of air-
lines, U.S.
to Southern
Ireland,
to Poole.

Following received from A.M. Houghton begins -
Addressed Admty., repeated N.O.I.C. Poole,
H.Q.A.D.G.B., H.Q. 10 Group, Control Poole.
Nav. 647 16th September, 1944.
Proposal under consideration to extend Civil
Airline Services of U.S. Companies Pan American
Airways and American Export Airlines now
operating north America to Eire to Poole. These
aircraft will be additional to those of B.O.A.C.

which terminate flights at Poole following agreement between
Admiralty, Air Ministry and B.O.A.C. at recent meeting.
Anticipate movements are four to five per week in addition to
present B.O.A.C. movements.

Request urgently Admiralty concurrence in proposal.
H.Q.A.D.G.B. to note proposal. T.O.O. 161813. Ends.

(2) Request you will report if you concur.
(Admty., 181227A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Admty. 181227A not to all. Air Ministry and B.O.A.C. are
aware of present conditions at Poole which have been adjusted
to meet their requirements. Should they consider present
conditions are satisfactory for the additional numbers of air-
craft I am quite agreeable.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181914A to Admty.)

Release
of L.S.Ts.
and Craft.

Fwd. 14728 Top Secret. Signal 291908B dated
29th August from Admiralty Commaveu signal
04821 dated 6th September and A.N.C.X.F. signal
051106B dated 5th September refer. Following
decisions on release of L.S.Ts. and craft from
"Overlord" duties made yesterday.

(a) British L.S.T.12 only can be released now which have already
been handed over for refitting. Eight to be released 1st
October.

(b) U.S. L.S.T.18 to be released 15th September, 18 to be
released 1st October.

(c) British L.C.I.(L) 20 to be released from those under repair
now.

(d) U.S. L.C.I.(L) 18 to be released now 12 to be released
1st October.

(e) L.C.T. (5) and (6) (British and U.S.) none can be released
at present.

(f) All U.S. L.C.V. (P) in B.A.A. can be released now A.N.C.X.F.
have agreed above.

(S.H.A.E.F. 181910 to Admty., Commaveu, 21 A.G.)

With reference to meeting at S.H.A.E.F. forward on 12th
September, the following facts emerged regarding the release of
L.S.T. from "Overlord".

(2) 36 U.S. L.S.T. are being released by about 1st October.
These are all for return to the U.S.A. for approved operations,
and none for transfer to the British. This is not in accordance
with Commaveu's proposal at para. 2(a) of his message to
A.N.C.K.F. dated 4th September.

(3) 12 British L.S.T. are being released to the Admiralty, one
of these being badly damaged. These are in partial satisfaction
of the Admiralty requirement for 16 in September plus 2 for

/conversion...

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Release of L.S.Ts. and Craft. (Contd.) conversion to L.S.E. All are needed for future operations now approved and none should be so damaged as to be incapable of repair within six weeks.

(4) After the meeting Com. 11 Phib. instructed Comphibukey to endeavour to meet the full Admty., requirement. This was thought to be possible

in two ways -

(a) By transfer of 7 U.S. L.S.T. from the U.S. operation reserve for "Overlord" to meet the immediate Admiralty requirement of 18 as at para. 3 above.

(b) By transfer of a further 7 U.S. L.S.T. now under repair by the British and which have suffered sufficient damage to render them non-operational. These would be in partial satisfaction of Cominch offer of 35 L.S.T. in the last three months of this year.

(5) Proposition at 4(a) above is now understood to be impossible.

(6) It is requested, however, that the proposition at 4(b) above should be pursued, and that the following vessels be transferred now:-

- (i) No. 359 under repair at Leith
 - (ii) No. 280 under repair at North Woolwich.
 - (iii) No. 538 under repair at Blackwall.
- (Admty., 182309A to Comnavu.)

Reversion of Corep. organisation to status quo ante. A.M. 132315B. I have no objection to the Corep. Organisation terminating, but within this command this can only be in name, as I must continue to keep closely in touch with the problem as the repairs necessary for the maintenance of the forces still operating are in excess of the facilities available.

The Engineer Rear Admiral on my staff will continue to function as heretofore and will keep in close touch with Admiralty to ensure that the many vessels and craft requiring repairs are dealt with quickly and that any special points receive due consideration.

It is proposed to discuss details with Admiralty Dockyard Department.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181930A to Admty.)

Movements

FURIOUS Following received from FURIOUS begins:
I shall be most grateful if you would convey to the Board of Admiralty how deeply we appreciated, and how proud we were to receive, their Lordships' wonderfully heartening message. Again speaking on behalf of all those in FURIOUS past, present and, I hope, future, I would like to pay a tribute to the old lady herself for whom all who have served in her have such a deep and lasting affection that it has been a source of pride and pleasure to keep her going for so long.

(C. in C. H.F. 181242A to Admty.)

BACHAQUERO Intend sailing BACHAQUERO with C.F.M.U.2 embarked escorted by NARVIK and OKSOY at 0700A tomorrow

/Tuesday...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BACHAQUERO Tuesday by standard route east of Orkneys and
(Contd.) Fair Island to Lerwick E.T.A. 1900A/19.
(2) Communications.
(3) N.O.I.C. Lerwick is requested to sail
NARVIK and OKSOY a.m. 20th to Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 181302A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
My 181302A. Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(A.C.O.S. 181632A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

REVENGE or My 181730 September to Admty.
RESOLUTION S.O.R.F. Gareloch is to report to F.O.C.R.F.
repeated to Admiralty when this ship will be
ready to sail in tow and what additional officers
and men will be required for the passage.
S.O.R.F. Gareloch in consultation with Captain (E) i/c S.T.E. is
to report whether any additional complement is necessary to
maintain the ship remaining in Gareloch in a fit state to return
to her present duties in about 2 months' time.
(F.O.C.R.F. 181810 to S.O.R.F. Gareloch)

JEANNE Route for French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC through
D'ARC. (a) 180° The Lizard 4 miles.
(b) 44° 05' N. 11° 30' W.
(c) 38° 59' N. 11° 29' W.
(d) 35° 55' N. 09° 03' W. thence to Gibraltar
for onward routing to Algiers or as ordered by C. in C. Med.
(2) S. of A. should be reported.
(3) C.T.F. 125, 181123 not to all refers.
(Admty., 182230A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Operation Ramose Quick (my 161606B and 161607B) sailed
"S.C.". HESSA at 0425 today Monday 18th Sept.
(2) Air escort on return journey is not
especially desired.
(A.C.O.S. 180442 to Admty.)
Ramosé Nursery (my 141343B and 141344B) sailed HITRA at
0900A today Monday 18th September.
(2) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired.
(A.C.O.S. 180952A to Admty.)

Channel My 071835B (not to all).
patrol. Patrols tonight 18/19th. BLANKNEY patrol
between 127° Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200°
Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2015 tomorrow, Tuesday
STEVENSTONE anchor Dungeness East Roads at
immediate notice until 0530/18 thence Portsmouth.
(2) Communications as in my 071835B.
(A.C. Dover, 181031A to C. in C. Portsmouth, STEVENSTONE, BLANKNEY)

/Operation...

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HOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "Nestegg" Your 15(1?)755B. Boats will be retained at Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181042A to C. in C. Plymouth).

West Coast France. OP.A.S. para.18. Intelligence report.
(1) No activity in Audierne Bay during night 17th/18th
(2) Ushant spoken at 0900A/18. Has nothing to report. Requirements stated to be larger signalling lamp and tobacco for their soldiers.
(S.O. Force 28 181100A to C. in C. W.A.)
Pins cover night 18th/19th September.
(a) GH 1 ROWLEY Z.9 GH 2 VIDETTE Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181250A to Adty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts 'HD' and 'CN' in Area 'C', Portsmouth Night Patrol, ROWLEY, VIDETTE)
Pass to Force GU. Force GU is to carry out patrol in Brest Approaches as in my 141035 from 2000A/18 until after first light 19th. Force is not to go South of 48° 04' N.
(2) Force 26 will be patrolling to southward of you.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181308A to M.L.179)

Norway The flag of C.S.10 will be transferred from JAMAICA to INDEFATIGABLE at 1900 today Monday. Administrative signals and correspondence are to be sent to JAMAICA. Operational signals are to be addressed to C.S.10 in INDEFATIGABLE.
(C. in C. H.F. 181120A to Home Fleet at Scapa.)
HM MS NAMSOS and FARSUND are patrolling between Reykjanes and Skagh.
(A.C.I.C. 181912A to S.E. Convoy D.S.57.)

North Sea. I trust you will do all that is possible to prevent communications by sea between Calais and Dunkirk and Dutch ports which is reported to be taking place at night.
(A.N.C.X.F. 181206A to C. in C. Nore, A.C.Dover)
(a) Unit FT.1 M.T.Bs 359, 362 is to sail to assume Patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 2030 today Monday.
(2) Object interception of enemy small craft encountered.
(3) Unless in close contact with the enemy unit is to leave patrol at 0515 and return to harbour.
(A.C. Dover, 181250A to S.C. M.T.Bs. Dover. S.O. 5th M.T.B.F)
Following patrols temporarily established in QZS 581.
No. 15 NF 2 Buoy to Long 02° 25' E. No. 16 Long 02° 25' E. to NF.8. (2) Other temporary patrols. J in QZS 468 53D Buoy to Lat. 51° 40' N. 17 54B Buoy to 51 Buoy. 17A as 17 one mile east of swept channel.
(C. in C. Nore. 181306A.
to. D.16, D.21, F.O's I.C. Harwich, Yarmouth, Humber, S.O. Corvettes, C.C.F., Com. Sheerness, FERVENT, Adty, WIDGE, MANTIS, BEEHIVE, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Coastal Force Patrols are being maintained as follows from dusk until dawn to prevent evacuation from Channel Ports.
(a) Calais to Gravelines.
(b) Off Nieuport.
(c) Off Ostend inform Canadian Army accordingly.
(A.C. Dover, 181315A to N.L.O., 1st Canadian Army, F.O.B.A.A.)
Carry out operation Moonshine ships sailing at 1800A/18th, September.
(C. in C. Nore, 181529A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

/Moonshine ...

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Operations - Contd.

North Moonshine. Your 181529 sailed HOPEWELL and
 Sea. NONSUCH at 1820
 (Contd.) (F.O.I.C. Humber, 181833A to C. in C. Nore.)
 A.M. 162314.
 CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS and WINDSOR will be
 transferred to your Command.
 (C. in C. Nore, 181813A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 Nore and Dover patrol night 18th/19th September. East
 Tongue to Elbow SHEARWATER 53D buoy in 051° 40' N. HOLDERNESS
 NF (?) to NF 3 buoy STAYNER, NF 3 buoy to NF 6 buoy DUFF.
 SQUIRREL and SATELLITE anchored off Ostend with M.T.B. patrol
 to North westward. BLANKNEY Northern boundary of Z.3, Z.5
 STEVENSTONE Dungeness east road FT 1 2 M.T.B. off Dunkirk
 A.W. buoy.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181829A to Admty., V.A. Dover, C. in C.
 Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Falmouth,
 Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts 'HD' and 'CN'
 in area 'C'.)

Operation Information as requested in your 142058B:
 "Ploughshare" (a) Proposed loading place, Longyear City.
 (b) No ice.
 (c) Time high water: 3rd October at 0419
 hours 4th October at 0515 hours 5th October at
 0708 hours G.M.T.
 (Ploughshare 181400Z to Admty.)

Western BRAITHWAITE and FOLEY investigating doubtful
 Approaches. bottom contact in 051° 39' N. 007° 52' W.
 HELMSDALE and BAYNTON joining H.X.F. 307
 ?suitable.
 (S.O.E.G.10, 181902A to C. in C.W.A.)

Section Home Amendments.

Force 33 S.O. E.G.3 in DUCKWORTH.
 18th E.G. TOWY, REDMILL, PEACOCK, HOSTE, DEANE 55 16 10 21 via
 Minches to East Coast 16.
 Add to my 181210A Swansea PORT COLBORNE, ST. JOHN 50° 01' 09°
 10' 15 kts. to support H.X.F. 307 English Channel section
 escorted by JONQUIERE, OWEN, SOUND, H.M.C.S. ASBESTOS.
 (C. in C.W.A. 181914A to Admty., F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C.,
 F.O.I.C. Greenock, Northern Ireland, Liverpool, Ships in
 Western Approaches Command maintaining W/T watch on B'cast
 'BN' or 'L'. Ships in Orkneys and Shetlands Command maintaining
 W/T watch on B'cast 'HD'.)
 Unidentified A/C dropping flares in close vicinity of
 convoy. My P.C.S. 054° 55' N. 011° 00' W. 212° 5 knots.
 (E.C. Bl, 182348Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation Subject is "Pluto" ex "Dumbo".
 "Pluto". Conference of all concerned held today arrived
 at following conclusions:-
 (1) All movement out of "Dumbo" is governed by
 activity of enemy batteries at Cap Gris Nez.

/A.C. ...

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- Operation "Pluto" (Contd.)
- A.C. Dover cannot arrange for full cross-Channel minesweep as long as these batteries active. This is governing factor.
- (2) Crossing to Le Treport is too long to promise good results and ships' stowages now prepared for short crossing would have to be re-arranged with consequential delay.
- (3) Le Touquet possible but difficult lay owing to sand-banks preventing direct access. Stowage problem also involved.
- (4) Best opportunity for speedy delivery is to use Plage des Bains on north side of outer harbour Boulogne. Naval opinion is that this need not interfere with working commercial port once "Pluto" laid.
- (5) If use of Boulogne for stores traffic precludes use as in para. 4 above original plan to Ambleteuse next best solution. Clearance of land-mines and other beach obstacles can now be confined to strip 400 yards wide. Exact area to be decided between S.N.O. "Pluto" and 21 A.G.
- (6) Time factors as follows:- "Pluto" ready for either Boulogne or Ambleteuse by 25th September. A.C. Dover expects to clear cross-Channel route in 3 days of good mine-sweeping weather after silencing of Gris Nez Batteries.
- (7) Communications. Agreed with War Office (Sigs.8) that initial operating communications shall be by direct R/T if cable circuits not available. War Office ask that 21 A.G. arrange provision of station and operators on Far Shore.
- (8) Use of Plage des Bains at Boulogne offers speediest opportunity and possibly presents least delays in clearance of land-mines etc., as site is inside the outer breakwater but not in main harbour. The use of sheltered water for terminal operations most desirable in view of time of year and need for speed.
- (9) Request decision re Boulogne be notified to W.O. repeated all concerned in order that full preparations may be made. (S.N.O. "Pluto" 182055A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Allied Air Activity

Area for jettisoning bombs impracticable.

Concur in your 101252. (Admty., 181612A to Air Ministry.)

Reinforcement of Coastal Command by two Squadrons from Mediterranean.

AX. 404 September 18th, 1944. Air Ministry have under consideration possibility of reinforcing Coastal Command by 2 M.R./G.R. squadrons from Mediterranean. Consider that such reinforcement would be of great value at present stage of anti-U-boat war in helping Coastal Command to achieve required intensity of flooding of focal and transit areas.

(2) Deputy Air C. in C. M.A.A.F. has stated that he is able to release one G.R. Marauder Squadron immediately and one Leigh Light Wellington Squadron shortly. Request your views on this offer which Air Ministry consider should be accepted. Intention is that Marauder Squadron be re-equipped either Warwick V or Wellington XIV on return to this country.

War Diary18.9.1944
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Reinforcement of Coastal Command by two squadrons from Mediterranean. (Contd.) (3) Meanwhile more definite date for release of Leigh Light Wellington Squadron has been requested, also whether C. in C. Med. has been informed of proposed transfer. (Air Ministry 181845A to Admty.)

Patrols by 16 Group.

Nr. 3. P.C.S. of 10 unknown vessels 52° 40' N. 4° 27' E. (A/C RYOB 182119 to 16 Group.)
Nr. 1. Have attacked 4 E-boats with bombs give and estimate 1 hit.
My position 52° 20' N. 4° 23' E. (A/C RYOF 182159 to 16 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity

? Rocket bomb.

Wellington "O" 524 Squadron sighted at 2235 long brilliant white light climbing at high speed on westerly course and at least 3000 feet above A/C. (R.A.F. Bircham Newton, 180132A to 16 Group H.Q.C.C.)
O.I.C. Note: No position given but patrol was carried out off Rotterdam.

Mining

4th M.S.F.

7 sweepers and 1 trawler of 4th M/S F. arrived. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 180529A and 180946B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

18th M/S F.

18th M/S F.1 and attached Danlayers are to weigh at 0700A tomorrow Tuesday and proceed via Q.Z.S.468 to Harwich to replenish stores. (2) Detach H.M.S. HYDRA at 53 buoy for onward passage to Humber via Q.Z.S. 402 and 277. Your 101747 para. 4 refers. (C. in C. Nore, 181924A to S.O. 18th M.S.F.)

St. George's Channel.

Q.Z.S.293 Northern part. Progress from a line 3 cables south of Southern limit have swept a width of 7 cables to the N.; from the northern limit have reached a line joining the following positions: All following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated. (O) 051° 47' 27" 006° 14' 48". (P) 051° 46' 18" 006° 27' 30". (Q) 051° 43' 39" 006° 41' 00". 8 mines were cut on line joining the following positions, all positions N. and W. (4) 051° 39' 57" 006° 21' 03". (11) 051° 40' 21" 006° 21' 03". Intend to continue operation at dawn. (16th M.S.F. 182129A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/No...

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No Southern Irish facilities. Your 061634. Provided Minesweepers confine themselves to anchoring in Irish territorial waters when necessary and do not visit Eire ports no objection will be raised by Irish. (2) Ships are not to communicate with the shore. (Admty., 182130A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

East Coast Sweep. Sail with Seventh M/S F. and attached Danlayers from (corrupt group) down at 0730A tomorrow Tuesday to carry out LL/SA 1 G.M.S. Southern Side of Q.Z.S.581 between South fall and NF 8 buoy. Operate (corrupt) 2 division in P or Q formation to 769 2 actuation. On completion anchor for night in Q.Z.S.584 close Northwards of OD 2 buoy. (3) Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 182251A to S.O. 7 M.S.F. in RECRUIT.)

Enemy Intelligence

German main units. German main units.
(a) LUTZOW sighted 0721 September 16th off Bornholm with engines stopped. A2.
(b) HIPPER and 6 Destroyers were sighted 0701 September 20 miles South Uto steaming south. A2.
(c) PRINZ EUGEN at anchor off Swinemunde 1001 September 16th. A2.
(d) LEIPZIG class cruiser alongside Swinemunde September 11th. B3.
(e) EMDEN was sighted at Swinemunde on September 7th and off Griefswalde September 11th on northerly course. B3.
(N.A. Stockholm 181721 to Admty.)
O.I.C. Comment:- Para. (a) LUTZOW was seen off Gdynia by P.R.U. on 17th Sept.
Paras. (b) and (c) This is the second report of a Hipper Class Cruiser in this area.
Para. (e) EMDEN was reported in Oslo Fjord 15th Sept. (B2.)

German attempt on Hogland. Finland. 1. Hogland.
My 151259. It is now (learnt) German attempt to occupy Hogland was made by small Naval forces from Kotka and Estonia Coast. At 2000/14 about 1000 Germans landed at Suurkyla and fighting continued until late next day when remaining 300 Germans surrendered. 8 landing craft were sunk by artillery and 2 transports and 4 M/S were sunk by Finnish Motor Torpedo Boats. A2.
(2) North Finland. Fighting between German and Finnish troops is now going on at Kajaani and Suomussalmi. Finnish troops are moving north towards Uleaborg and fighting is expected to start shortly. A2.
(3) German Naval activity.
(a) German cruiser HIPPER and 6 destroyers arrived off Uto night September 15th/September 16th to meet netlayer and 6 tugs.

/HIPPER...

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GERMAN attempt on Hogland (Contd.)

HIPPER left early September 16th with 6 destroyers. See my 181721. A2.
 (b) 2 MAAS Class destroyers and 4 torpedo boats are at present in Aland area. Early to-day one tried to enter Gulf Bothnia, but was driven off by Finnish coastal artillery. A few U-Boats have also been sighted south Aland. Swedish staff do not now expect Germans to attempt occupation of Aland Islands. A.2.
 (c) Four to five German minesweepers stationed Helsingfors left prior to September 14th. Only vessels sighted September 14th were two ocean going tugs and one large motor transport of about twelve thousand tons which arrived to load troops. B.3.
 (4) Shipping. (a) Finnish Naval authorities are refusing passage south from Gulf Bothnia to all German vessels carrying personnel but are allowing vessels carrying material to proceed. (b) All Finnish ships have received orders to proceed Swedish or Finnish ports to avoid capture by Germans. (N.A.Stockholm, 181897 to Admty.
 N.I.D. Comment: Para. 2 - Kajaani, Suomussalmi and Uleaborg form a river and lake line of defence across the waist of Finland between latitudes 64 degs. and 65 degs. N.
 Para. 3 - Uto lies 30 miles S.E. of the Aland Islands. Probably a good report.

Port Facilities

Antwerp. Your 141929B and previous signals. N.O.I.C. Antwerp can be supplied with twelve Belgian M.F.Vs. 45 ft. to 100 ft. 6 to 8 knots, fitted light defensive armament.
 (2) Endeavours are being made to man vessels with Belgian civilian (fishermen) crews, with one Section Belge Seaman-Gunner per vessel.
 (3) It is therefore proposed to remove six pounder from BLANCHE MARGUERITE retaining two hotchkiss.
 (4) Are these arrangements suitable?. In view of shortage of crews can number of vessels be reduced, or alternatively manned by local resources if remainder of vessels are delivered by ferry crews.
 (Admty. 182318A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties and Defects

MIRABELLE. Regret to report that H.M.R. MIRABELLE was rammed and sunk by SS. SAIPA at 1755 September 17th whilst lying alongside 26 shed, Tilbury Dock. No casualties to crew. (F.O.I.C.London, 181018A to Admty)

Shipping and Convoys

ALEXIA. Provisional ready for service date M.A.C. ship ALEXIA exclusive flying practice a.m. 25th Sept. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 181157A to Admty)

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

ALEXIA
(Contd.)

F.O.I.C. Glasgow 181157 not to all. Provisional ready for service date for M.A.C. ship ALEXIA inclusive of flying practice 29th September. (D.E.M.S. (Air) Largs, 181546 to Admty.)

Priority requirements for Coasters.

Fwd. 15230.

Priority for allocation of shallow draught coasters agreed 16th September.

- (1) Express service.
- (2) British petrol to Le Treport.
- (3) U.S. coal to Granville or St. Brieuc as required by Com Zone.
- (4) U.S. supplies to other shallow draught ports.

Continuance of coal supply to St. Brieuc asked for in your EX. 46716 of 14th September needs clear instructions to U.K. Base Section as to priority of coal over other supplies from U.K. to shallow draught ports.

(S.H.A.E.F. Forwd. 181815A to Com. Zone.)

Convoy numbering.

With operational convoys numbered on hundred and upwards, it is proposed to continue the usual practice of omitting the hundreds digit in references, e.g. E.T.C.105 to be referred to as E.T.C.5 and so on.

(Com. I.C. Southend, 181858A to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Suspicious
Ship.

C.54 STEINVILLE to Lagens sighted at 2030Z/17
in 42.10 N. 36.50 W. from 70.00 feet freighter
course 096 took evasive action when sighted by A/C.
(2) A/C briefed to keep lookout for raider in
approx. position of sighting.

(3) Cannot identify here and nothing known of information referred
to in para. 2.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 180102Z to Admty)

Your 180102Z. / Swedish SVEN SALEN should be approx. in
this position.

(D.D.I.C.180829A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

/ C.54 STEINVILLE to Lagens sighted by A/C.

South Atlantic

SS. CATH-
LAMET.

Your 180055 H.M.S. INVER's 172124Z CATHLAMET has
now completed repairs. Am proceeding with her
to Freetown. Speed 10 knots.
(KILMELFORD, 180415Z to Comar, Dakar.)

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Cositintrep 33. Period ending 172400A.
(B) No change in front lines.
(C) JONES fired 162 rounds at small craft San Remo Harbour see my 171640A, and 166 rounds at battery 880864 for S.F.C.P. Results latter unknown.

EDISON fired 33 rounds at 849910 truck and troops. Several trucks left burning in road. 34 rounds at 842911 Bridge. 48 rounds at 845887 Battery. 44 rounds at 824895. Areas well covered. 58 rounds at 82489 Battery. One gun hit several explosions.
(J) EDISON replaced by MADISON fire support area and sailed to Ajaccio. LORRAINE Toulon 171500A to Oran. GEORGES LEYGUES Toulon for Tropez. GLOIRE Toulon to Algiers E.T.A. 181300A.
(K) EDISON reported more counter fire than usual from shore batteries. Minesweeping fire support area suspended. For report of cruiser R/C mission see my 171640A. R.A.F. plane reported at 172115A attacked 8 barges. Several hits. Position 43-57 N. 08-08 E.
(C.T.U. 85.8.2. 180011A)

Aegean S/M Operations. Cancel my 172219.
(2) Proceed through Scarpanto Strait to patrol off Point Lindos Rhodes.
(Capt. (S) 1. 181004A to MATROZOS (R) 1st S/M F. Force A.)
Patrol on Scarpanto-Lindos route East of longitude 027 degs. 33'.
(2) Cancel my 181004.
(Capt. (S) 1. 181544B. to as last and F.O.L.E.M.)
Following is a repetition of my 181808 begins:
"Addressed F.O.E.C. (R) Capt. (S) 1., Force A, MATROZOS. Your 181457/ K.T. ship definitely in entrance by photographic R/C 0930. This your priority target.
(2) You may encounter Greek S/M MATROZOS southbound to Scarpanto Strait."
(F.O.L.E.M. 181810C to Capt. (S) 1., MATROZOS.)
/ No trace in W.R.
From position (A) 035 degs. 06' 020 degs. 01' at 2240 18th proceed on the surface at 9½ knots through (B) 034 degs. (?18') 024 degs. 01' at 2001 19th (C) 034 degs. 30' 027 degs. 10' at 1200 20th (D) 035 degs. 26' 027 degs. 27' at 1815 20th.
(2) This amends my 161247 para one not to VOX.
(Capt. (S) 1. 181043A to H.M.S. S/M P.73 (VOX), Info: 1st S/F., G.S. MATROZOS., F.O.L.E.M., V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Alexandria., S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.H.Q. Eastern Med., R.N.O. Tobruk, F.O.E.C.)
From a position
(A) 035 degs. 50' 027 degs. 28' at 2001 19th passing through
(B) 034 degs. 30' 027 degs. 10' at 0415 20th
(C) 034 degs. 18' 024 degs. 01' at 2015 20th
(D) 035 degs. 48' 016 degs. 27' at 1015 22nd to R/V with escort in
(E) 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 1603 22nd.
(ii) Proceed on the surface at 10 knots.
(iii) All times A.
(Capt. (S) 1. 182214A to VORACIOUS)
Amend R/V position in my 171534 to read 035 degs. 49'. 015 degs. 18' at 1803A 20th.
(Capt. (S) 1. 182231A to VIRTUE, (R) V.A.M.)

/From ...

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Aegean S/M Operations. (Contd.) From position 035 degs. 03' 027 degs. 29' at 2002A 19th pass through 035 degs. 34' 027 degs. 20' thence close east of Saria to pass through Kinaros Channel during daylight 20th.
(2) Pass west of Buey Rock 5 miles east of Cape Doro and west of Skyros to patrol on Salonika - Mudros route north of latitude 039 degs. 39'.
(3) You may proceed on surface by day at your discretion while on passage.
(Capt. (S) 1. 182241A. to VISIGOTH)

S.S. COSME SOLER. Movement in your 151330*cannot be permitted. (C. in C. Med. 181048A to B.N.A. Madrid)
*See North Atlantic.

Red Cross Ships Request you will report how soon Red Cross safe conduct ships may resume voyage to Marseilles.
(2) Coastal route agreed (with) M.A.A.F. to be as in M.S.G.O. 77 Section C. para. 2.
(3) It is not considered necessary that these ships should broadcast P.C.S. but 4 days notice of sailing will be given.
(C. in C. Med. 181052 to N.C.W.T.F.)

Re mines laid in Danube A.M.130128 / September. Request you will pass required information to B.N.A. Ankara for onward transmission to Admiral Archer. Your 081340*to C. in C. Med. also refers.
(2) Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer Alexandria pass to B.N.L.O. Ankara.
(C. in C. Med. 181244B to F.O.L.E.M.)
/ Requesting information be supplied to Admiral Archer re types etc. of British mines laid in Danube.
* Passing action being taken by W.R.

Signal traffic to Alexandria. Minimise signal traffic to Alexandria. (Hd. of M. 181329A to A.I.G.12.)

Joint Naval, Army, R.A.F., Intell. Appreciation. (Extract)
(3) Aegean Shipping Summary. Limited Ph. R.17 September revealed following. Samos Ports. Karlovasii and Tigahi nil but Vathy not covered. Dodecanese. Only important movement arrival 5 pioneer landing craft Kalymnos (or Kalymnis) from Leros. Comment. Probably for removal personnel and stores. K.T. PELIKAN still present Rhodes a.m. apparently still loading. According C.X. cargo includes A.F.V's W.T. equipment possibly troops. Cretan. C.X. reports. Melos. By a.m. departed 1 concrete barge. Comment. Possibly sunk. Arrived DRACHE from Piraeus probably on further trip to Crete. DRACHE attacked by our Naval forces 17 September. Still present a.m. 1 coaster, 1 E.M.S., and 3 caiques. C.X. reports concrete

/barge now ...

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Mediterranean

Joint Naval, Army, R.A.F., Intell. Appreciation. (Cont d.)
barge now identified as ACHILLES and coaster now identified as NORDMARK due embark troops but movement interrupted by naval attack.
(C. in C. M.E. 181340C)

M.S.12. My warmest congratulations upon your outstanding feat of sweeping 1000 mines during the two years you have been in the Mediterranean.
(C. in C. Med. 181440A to M.S.12)

Fast motor boats. Com. 8th Fleet's 291314 August. My 131703 September which is being passed you has been repeated to Cominch by Com. 8th Fleet who has concurred and recommended approval. Tentative plans have been made for manning 8 boats with Yugoslav Naval Personnel and four boats by African Coastal Flotilla.
(C. in C. Med. 181524Z to Adty.)

Aegean Operations. P.R. 0955 18th shows K.T. still in Rhodes after all. This to be priority target for Force A.
(2) A second operational area for Force A is now in force bound by lines joining.
(A) Southern tip Rhodes.

- (B) Kandeliusa.
- (C) Cape Daphni Kos.
- (D) Andemaki Point Kos.
- (E) 5 miles south Cape Krio
- (F) 5 miles south Seskli
- (G) Northern tip of Rhodes.
- (3) Passage of Force A between western and eastern operational areas to be through Corridor between lines joining
- (A) 036 degs. 09' N. 026 degs. 56' E. to 036 degs. 20' N. 027 degs. 11' E.
- (B) 036 degs. 02' N. 027 degs. 05' E. to 036 degs. 14' N. 027 degs. 19' E.
- (4) S/Ms on passage keeping within Corridor bound by line joining
- (A) Cape Daphni - Kandeliusa - Southern tip Rhodes.
- (B) Sirina - North Saria.
- (5) Capt. (S) 1st R.A.E.C. keep one another informed Corridor Passage intentions.
- (6) Force A not to attack S/M or single Schooners under 20 tons east of line Sirina - Saria unless definitely confirmed hostile.
- (7) Force A may encounter MATROZOS G.S. southbound to Scarpanto Strait tonight 18/19th.
- (8) Capt. (S) 1st R.A.E.C. acknowledge.
- (F.O.L.E.M. 181710C to Capt. (S) 1., F.O.E.C. (R) Force A., S.O. Force 51., MATROZOS, 1st S/M F.)

Supplies for Yugoslav Navy. My 121255/ and 131808/ refer intend to issue instructions that all reasonable demands of the Royal Yugoslav Navy for supplies and services are

/to be ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Supplies for Yugoslav Navy. (Contd.) to be met as far as possible without detriment to British requirements in the same way as demands by H.M. ships and establishments. (2) Request accounting instructions covering these supplies and services may be issued at an early date. (C. in C. Med. 181731A. to Adty.)
/ Top Secret.

S.C.Vessel VIRGINIA. Swedes are pressing for very early reply regarding VIRGINIA. A.M. 161352 / refers. (Hd. of M. 181856A. to F.O.L.E.M.)
/ Swedes wish to sail safe conduct vessel VIRGINIA from Piraeus to Samos.

Para 2. your 161352 agree.
(2) There have been C.X. reports recently of mines at Mitylene. Swedes should verify with Germans before proceeding there.
(3) Request 4 days warning of each subsequent move after leaving Piraeus.
(F.O.L.E.M. 181932C to Adty)

U-Boat north of Crete. GARLAND sighted Schnorkel emitting smoke at 1730A in 036 degs. 14' N. 024 degs. 33' E. Capt. (D) 24 and 5 destroyers now in contact and hunting. (F.O.E.C. 181914A.)

Situation report No. 437. On 16th September A/C from escort carrier force attacked M.T. Base Candia and Suda Bay 23 were destroyed and 5 damaged. Off Milo 3 large and 2 small caiques were sunk and a merchant ship strafed inside harbour. No A/C were lost.
(2) AURORA bombarded merchant ship in para. (1) which was reported beached after being hit AURORA also sank 3 small ships and damaged 2 others and a landing craft.
(3) Night 16th September and 17th September U.S. M/B P.T. boats operating in Gulf Genoa sank an "F" lighter off Cape Noli whilst a 2nd group sank one off Porto Fino. Enemy returned heavy fire in both engagements superficial damage to 1 boat. No casualties.
(4) LOYAL and LOOKOUT effected bombardment of gun position and enemy movements at Rimini on 17th September enemy return fire was negligible except for 1 battery which fired at M/S's until engaged by LOYAL.
(C. in C. Med. 182153A)

Operation "Dragoon" Navsitintrep No. 34. "Dragoon". Period ending 2400 17th. Rightflank. G.S. EDISON 153 rds. at Batteries, 33 rds. at Trucks in M.T. Maliocca Area using S.U.G. P. A. C.P. Area well covered. Return fire more than usual. H.P. JONES 106 rds. coastal gun Capo Biamonte and 162 rds. at small craft San Remo Harbour. Flak and 88 M.M. fire precluded accurate spotting by Cub. Reported several straddles on two M.A.S. boats and large explosion on quay.

/Plane ...

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Mediterranean

Operation "Dragoon" (Contd.) Plane observation East to Capo Delle Molle (Melle) disclosed numerous small craft in harbours. Part II. Marseilles. Bassin Pinede opened. Locations of Liberties. Molbyhow one at end and one on end beach each side. Mole de Janet one at end. Coaster North of entrance to Bassin Remisage. Seven alongside Breakwater North of Bassin Pinede. (?When) holding (Beside) stern to West detached breakwater and at buoys in Bassin Marechal Petain. M/S Bassin National five magnetic blown. Unloaded personnel 169 vehicles 130 tons 3489. (N.C.W.T.F. 182201A) / As received.

Cositintrep (Extract)
No. 438 Two. Cruiser sank 3 small ships and damaged 2
Part Two. others and a landing craft at Milo on 16 Sep.
The merchant ship inside the harbour was also hit
and subsequently reported beached.
(C. in C. Med. 182207A)

Landing Cositintrep No. 435 Part four.
on Kithera I. A Commando force has landed on Kithera Island off
the southern Peloponnese. The Island had
previously been reported evacuated by our Naval
recce. Some equipment was lost due to rough
seas. The reception of the population of the
Island was friendly.
(A.F.H.Q. T.O.O. Nil)

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SS, RADBURY Your 151204. C. in C. E.F's 091147 refers.
and SS. NAIRUNG No further news.
overdue. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 180616Z to Admty)

Daily Strategic. 17 Sept. 12 Liberators minelaying 6
Opsum A/C detailed Mergui 6 A/C detailed Tavoy. 22
No.918. British (4 groups missing) 43 United States mark
13 mines. 5 A/C unable reach Mergui laid
mines successfully Tavoy with other 6 A/C detailed
One A/C reached Mergui but due release failure
jettisoned bombs near Kalakyungi Island 5 miles West North
West of Mergui Idem 16 Sept.
(A.C.S.E.A. 180840Z)

Revised K.M.F. convoys.
K.M.F. Revised 21 day cycle for K.M.F. convoys has
convoy been received. In Troopers No.74433 Q.M. two
cycle. to India dated 6th September, 1944.
(2) Convoy programme is concurred in generally
but it is noted that troopships have been allowed
12 days to turn round in Bombay. It will be
necessary to limit this turn round to 8 days for ships returning
from Bombay with more than unescorted number to enable escorts
to arrive at Aden in time for the next outward bound convoy.
(3) Request confirmation that all naval personnel for Ceylon
will be embarked in ships proceeding direct from Aden to Colombo
commencing with K.M.F.35A.
(4) Admiralty pass to D. of S.T.
(C. in C. E.F. 180952Z to Admty)
Sailing 2nd of K.M.F. - M.K.F. convoy. Concur with
your 141048/ subject to sailing date of convoy from Bombay
after K.M.F.35 being adjusted to comply with para. 2 of my 180952
not to all addressees.
(C. in C. E.F. 180953Z to Admty, See amendement 190554Z)
/ Shortening of route for M.K.F. and K.M.F. convoys
commencing with K.M.F.35.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Lake tanker PUNTA GORDA sunk; AMPETCO damaged. British Lake tanker PUNTA GORDA sunk after collision with Belgian tanker AMPETCO off Cape San Roman on 18th at 0730 G.M.T. AMPETCO damaged by fire. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 181209R.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 181352Z, Cominch 181540Z.)

Future naval plans for Trinidad. Following received from S.B.N.O. Trinidad. Begins: Para. (1) U.S. Commandant on instructions from Comcarib has now asked me for plans of future Naval Force at Trinidad after German submarine war has ceased based on following assumptions. (1) German submarine warfare has ended. (2) Japan remains belligerent. (3) Japanese submarine action in Caribbean improbable. Para. (2) Changes in U.S. Forces contemplated entail a big reduction all round. A mobile striking force to be retained at important locations. Surface craft to be reduced to mine-sweepers and salvage vessels. Ends. (2) Your 1419^h which was presumably reply to my 092151 does not indicate whether any agreement has been reached with U.S. authorities as to scale of attack against which defences in West Atlantic must be maintained after defeat of Germany. (3) In order to avoid unilateral action in U.S. operational area propose early directive be issued by C.C.S. to give firm basis on which future plans and reduction can be discussed. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 181604Z to Admty.)

Landing on Palau Is. 1/453 cipher 18th September. (1) Pelelieu Island. Advance slow against strongly prepared defences. Several enemy counter attacks repulsed, Pelelieu airfield captured. (2) Japanese losses 1458. 16-20 enemy tanks destroyed. (B.A.S. Washington, 181715.)

Rescue tug for St. Johns N.F. Your 150041* primary consideration will be given to this as soon as the European situation permits. (Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs, 181726A to N.S.H.Q.) * Re allocation of rescue tug.

Asdic and radar contacts by BOGUE's group. High seas caused termination search 181630Z. Expect moderation by daylight when will search north-east from 41.52 N., 47.30 W. Correct my 150420* escorts now have fuel for only 7 days including reserve. 6281 3174. (C.T.G. 22.3, 181835Z to C. in C. Lant.) * N.T. in W.D. but cf. N.S.H.Q. 151409, para. (C) (1) and (2).

/CORE's ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

CORE's
group.

Patrolling 9100 50 miles south-east from my
182100Z position lat. 47.35 N., 47.50 W. using
aircraft to augment search as weather permits,
weather report 6878 2157.
(C.T.G. 22.4, 182128Z to C. in C. Lant.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. (B) (1) A/C U/105 obtained submerged at
1210Z/17 in 50° 26' N., 06° 14' W.
(D.D.I.C., 181130A.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 181410A, 181430A.)

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Neptune" (D+105)

1.(a). The Director of Sea Transport has asked for the early release of 11 troop transports "for urgent trooping service elsewhere." D.S.T.O. Southampton replies that he cannot honour his anticipated commitments if this is done.

(b). A.N.C.X.F. has replied to C. in C. Portsmouth's proposal to withdraw Landing Craft from the Shuttle Service by Oct. 1st, to the effect that he regards L.C.T.(4)s as wasting assets and wishes to go on using them whenever the weather permits and as long as they remain fit.

(c). Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores
British	880,168	220,741	1,686,696
American	<u>1,414,832</u>	<u>250,559</u>	<u>2,459,112</u>
Total	<u>2,295,000</u>	<u>471,300</u>	<u>4,145,808</u>

General.

North Sea.

2.(a). The frigate STAYNER, with M.T.Bs. 724 and 728, fell in with 3 E-Boats about 23 miles north of Dunkirk during the early hours. The M.T.Bs. stopped one of the E-Boats, which STAYNER finished off. The other 2 enemy made off to the N.E. but on returning three quarters of an hour later were engaged at point blank range by the 2 M.T.Bs. and both sunk. 67 survivors were collected. M.T.B. 728 suffered considerable damage and had 3 ratings killed.

(b). M.L. 216 was mined in Ostend harbour. Her bow was blown off and she had to be beached, but there were no casualties.

(c). The demolition of Ostend blockships is proceeding satisfactorily.

(d). Aircraft of Bomber Command made a damaging attack on Bremerhaven and port area last night.

Channel.

3.(a). Dover engaged "A.3" battery, opposite, with 72 rounds and reports good results.

(b). Dieppe's L.S.T. hard is now ready, but L.S.Is. cannot be accepted. The train ferry terminal will be ready Sept. 23rd.

(c). Le Treport will be ready Sept. 21st.

West coast of France.

4.(a). The surrender of Brest is reported.

(b). 250 to 400 Germans are holding beach defences at Audierne. They have several 3" guns but are suffering from scurvy, and are surrounded by F.F.I.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

General - Contd.

2 U-Boats
sunk.

5. Two Liberators made promising attacks this evening on two several U-Boats 75 and 90 miles N.N.W. of Stadlandet respectively. In each case dinghies with survivors were seen after the attack.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Convoys
U.G.F.15B
and 16.

6.(a). A special convoy U.G.F.15B consisting of about 8 troopships is to sail from New York on 6th October to ports in the south of France.
(b). Troopships in convoy U.G.F.16 which is to sail from New York and Norfolk Va. on 14 October, are also to proceed to southern French ports to discharge.

Aegean and
Greece.
U.407 sunk
S. of Melos

7.(a). Yesterday evening GARLAND sighted a schnorkel emitting smoke. The U-Boat, which was subsequently found to be U.407 was hunted by D.24 in TROUBRIDGE with 5 destroyers and was sunk at 0521 today in 36.27 N. 24.33 E. (20 miles south of Melos.) Some survivors were picked up.

(b). AURORA last night bombarded Candia harbour and Heraklion airfield. There was no opposition.

(c). Aircraft from F.O.E.C's force attacked two depot ships in Rhodes harbour and made a direct hit on the stern of SS.FOMEZIA and several hits on the mole. In the course of an armed R/C of Rhodes and Kos they destroyed 9 M.T.

(d). Fires and explosions are reported from Prevesa (west coast of Greece) indicating that the enemy is abandoning the port.

See Summary
M.S. P. 7. 7. 7. (NSF)

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HOME COMMANDS

"Overlord" Situation Reports

Military

Fighting reported in outskirts of Boulogne.
Heavy German resistance continues Cap Gris Nez.
Brest reported surrendered.
(S.H.A.E.F. 191830A to War Office)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operation "Neptune" (D+105)

Port Facilities.

Arromanches. Your 302229 (not to all) requesting three moorings for A.K. units off Arromanches.
(2) The provision of moorings is not considered to be a satisfactory solution to this problem as (a) great difficulty would be experienced in securing to buoys in bad weather, (b) only 1st class moorings would be of value and even then it is doubtful if Phoenix's would ride out a blow under such conditions.
(3) Request you will give further consideration to parking Phoenix's in emergency in some sheltered water possibly Seine Estuary.
(A.C.N.S. (W) 192038A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Withdrawal of troop-ships. In order that they can be taken in hand for preparation for other services the EMPIRE ANVIL, EMPIRE GAUNTLET and EMPIRE JAVELIN will be withdrawn from cross Channel trooping in the near future.

(2) We will also require the early withdrawal probably not later than 30/9 of as many as possible of CITY OF CANTERBURY, CHESHIRE, ANTECOR, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, MONOWAI, NEURALIA, LEOPOLDVILLE and NIEUW HOLLAND for urgent trooping service elsewhere.

(3) Request you will report urgently whether you will be able to meet anticipated requirements with the remaining vessels now at your disposal up to the middle of October and if not by how much will they fall short and which of the ships in para. 2 would you require to retain to meet this deficit.

(D. of S.T. 190051A to D.S.T.O. Southampton.)

Reference your 190051A September.

(2) The anticipated American embarkation programme up to the middle of October as outlined today by the local U.S. army plus the British Military requirements at present not known can only be successfully met if the vessels named in para. 2 are retained at this port.

(3) Further the vessels mentioned in para. 1 can only be released if the disembarkation on the American beaches is expedited so that the ships are returned to Southampton with the minimum of delay.

(D.S.T.O. Southampton 191656A to D. of S.T.)

Routeing of L.C.Ts. Your 171925. Request you will continue to sail L.C.T. in Bluesky groups as in your 061905 for navigational reasons.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 191156A to C.T.F. 125.)

/F.B.C...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operation "Neptune"

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

F.B.C.
convoys.

C.T.F. 125 "S" 171925A (not to all) para. D.
F.B.C. convoys - revised programme.
F.B.C. convoys will leave Cherbourg at 0800A daily
passing H.10 at 0830A N.1 at 1700A A.1 at 1915A
Eddystone at 0800A D.1 Buoy at 1300A and Lunday at
0900A above timetable to commence with F.B.C. 88 on 20th Sept.
Request joiners may be sailed accordingly Plymouth pass to N.C.
S.Os. concerned in Plymouth Command area.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191242 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. i/c
Cardiff, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Portland, N.C.S.Os. Southampton,
Weymouth.)

Organisation and Administration.

Withdrawal
of Landing
Craft from
Shuttle
Service.

Your 181928 not to S.H.A.E.F. (Fwd.) It is not
the policy of S.H.A.E.F. to close down the Shuttle
Service on October 1st.
(2) I regard the L.C.T.(4) as a wasting asset
and propose to continue their use whenever weather
permits as long as any remain operationally fit.
(3) It is probable that in due course all L.C.T.
(3), will be moved to Dover or Folkestone to run
as regular as possible a Shuttle Service across the Straits
throughout the winter.
(4) Detailed proposals will be signalled later. Meanwhile
request any necessary preparations for the continuance of the
Shuttle Service as at present from your Command may be put to hand.
(A.N.C.X.F. 191211A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

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HOME COMMANDS

General

Policy

Extension of airlines, U.S. to Southern Ireland, to Poole. Concur in C. in C. Portsmouth's 181914. Your 161813 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 191200A to Air Ministry.)

Provision of L.C.T.(5)s. Your 101511B not to all. (1) 12 L.C.T.(5) are now available at MASTODON. Of these 4 are in need of refit, but can be made serviceable for a short time only. (2) It is estimated that a further 12 L.C.T.(5) will be available after refit by end of September. (3) Completion dates of next twelve cannot at present be given as craft have only just been taken in hand. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191431A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Retention of L.C.T. at Plymouth. Your 181706. All such L.C.T.(4) are automatically returned to the shuttle service where they are required as soon as available. However it is approved for the craft given in your 181706 to be retained for further loading exercises provided no craft is delayed more than three days for this purpose. (2) If this does not meet your requirements application should be made to A.N.C.X.F. (info. Admiralty and C. in C. Portsmouth) for one flotilla complete such as No.50 flotilla as proposed by C. in C. Portsmouth in his 242121 August not to all addressees. (D.C.O.L., 192007A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Abolition of Aberdeen Examination Service. Intend to abolish examination service in Aberdeen Sub-Command as from 21st September, 1944. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 191230A to Admty.)

Movements

BACHAQUERO. My 181302A and 181632A. Now sail 1800A today Tuesday routed West of Orkney and North Fair Isle Channel to Lerwick. E.T.A. 0830A/20th September. (A.C.O.S., 191702A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

DEVONSHIRE. Sailed DEVONSHIRE in accordance with my 181944A.* (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 191808A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
* Limited Hush distribution.

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19.9.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Rigmarole". Reference your signal 120, EMPIRE CELIA, SAMARITAN and ADOLPH SÖCHE will proceed direct Kola Inlet and discharge depth charges and other stores earmarked for Murmansk if accessible. EMPIRE CELIA can also discharge surplus bunkers.

NERITINA will also proceed Kola Inlet and discharge deck cargo if required there. At least four days will be available for above operations. Ships will then proceed to Archangel in group two to discharge and load timber. (Watson, 190932A to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

Western Approaches. O.N. Plymouth 5 Sups.
(A) E.G.1 zig-zag search between 050° 05' N., 006° 55' W. and 050° 45' N., 005° 20' W. E.G.9 MONNOW, MEON, STORMONT between Lundy Island and Trevoze Head. SWANSEA, ST. JOHN, PORT COLBORNE between Trevoze Head and Longships.
(C) E.G.1 and MONNOW, MEON, STORMONT forthwith. SWANSEA, ST. JOHN, PORT COLBORNE on completion of present duties.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191003A to E.G.9, E.G.1.)
By D/F on 8212 N. k/cs. at 1329Z U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 58° 10' N., 18° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 191535A to COQUETTE.)
Request you will sail NUBIAN and SERAPIS at 1030Z/22nd to R/V as in Admiralty's 191137 para. 2(c).
(C. in C. W.A., 191554A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Channel. My 071835B (not to all).
Patrols tonight 19th/20th.
BRISSENDEN patrol between 127° Dungeness 7.3 miles and 200° Dungeness 12.5 miles until 2015 tomorrow Wednesday. WALDEGRAVE anchor Dungeness East Roads at immediate notice until 0530/20 thence Portsmouth.
(2) Communications as in my 071835B.
(A.C. Dover, 191020A to C. in C. Portsmouth, BRISSENDEN, WALDEGRAVE.)
Between 1115 and 1546/19th September R.M. Siege Regiment engaged A.3 battery with 72 rounds using air spotting. Results reported as good. At about 1215/19th September minesweepers when in approx. position 330° - 6½ miles and 357° - 10½ miles from Cap Gris Nez were shelled with 12 and 3 rounds respectively from battery situated near Sangatte. Guns approx. 6" calibre. No damage or casualties.
At about 1600 during reconnaissance of enemy coast, M.L.101 in position 3 miles west of Boulogne was shelled with 4 rounds of about 4 inch calibre from close south of Boulogne.
(A.C. Dover, 192100A to A.N.C.X.F.)

West Coast France. No events during the night 18th/19th. Information obtained from fishermen and Penmarch signal station show (A) Ile de Sein Premelin clear.
(B) 250 to 400 Germans holding beach defences W. Audierne several guns up to 80 millimetres pointing seaward. Cases of scurvy in garrison. Surrounded by small number of F.F.I. who request H.Q. at Quimper be informed before any bombardment there. Fuel remaining P.S. BLYSKAWICA 74% P.S. PIORUN 85%. Proceeding S. eastward. Weather report 9270 2722.
(BLYSKAWICA, 191132A to C. in C. Plymouth.) /Pins ...

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19.9.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast
France.
(Contd.)Pins cover night 19th/20th September.
(A) G.H.1 ROWLEY, Z.9. G.H.2 VIDETTE, Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191138A to Admty., V.A.
Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C.
Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C.
Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintainingW/T watch on Broadcasts "HD" and "CN" in Area "C", HORNET, Capt.
(S) 5, VERNON Portsmouth, AGGRESSIVE, ATTACK, N.O.I.C. Newhaven,
ROWLEY, VIDETTE.)

Carry out Operation "Assault".

(A) Force 27 ASHANTI (S.O.), KELVIN. (B) 1900A/19th Sept.
(C) Through (JJ) 48° 25' N., 5° 40' W. (KK) 47° 50' N., 5° 25'
W. to reach vicinity of les Sables d'Olonne by 1400A/20.(D) From les Sables d'Olonne sweep north-west to reach vicinity
of Penmarch Point by 2300A/20 and then patrol in Audierne Bay
during night 20th/21st.(G) Force 26 BLYSKAWICA, PIORUN will patrol in Audierne Bay on
night 19th/20th then return Plymouth. Two M.T.Bs. will patrol
in approaches to Brest on night 19th/20th then return l'Abervrach.
LONDONDERRY and 4 M.T.Bs. in l'Abervrach.(H) German Hospital Ship MÜNCHEN is to be brought into Plymouth
if intercepted.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191156 to ASHANTI, KELVIN.)

Force 26 is to leave patrol at first light 20th September,
and return to Plymouth passing close West of Ushant.(2) Force 27 ASHANTI, KELVIN sail Plymouth 1900A/19 to patrol
in Bay of Biscay routed through (JJ) 48° 25' N., 5° 40' W.
(KK) 47° 50' 5° 25' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191159A to Force 26.)

Pass to M.T.Bs.

M.T.Bs. 91, 94 are to form Force G.U. and patrol in Brest
approaches as in my 141035 from 2000A until after first light
20th. Force is not to go south of 48° 04' N.

(2) Force 26 will be patrolling to southward of you.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191307A to LONDONDERRY.)

1 M/V 3,500 tons, 1 unknown 1,500 tons probably small
hospital ship 47° 16' N., 02° 13' W. Flak from land.

(A/C WPF.40, 191545 to 19 Group.)

Pass to M.T.Bs.

M.T.B.239, 98 are to be sailed with despatch to join Force G.U.
Force 27 ASHANTI and KELVIN will patrol between Ushant and Ile
de Bas in dark hours. No Coastal Forces are to be in this
area between 2100/19th and 0700/20th. M.T.B.239 pass to Force
G.U. at R/V. LONDONDERRY acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191653B to LONDONDERRY.)

My 191156A. Cancel paras. (C) and (D) and substitute (C)
to reach (LL) 48° 37' N., 05° 03' W. by 2330A/19.(D) Patrol between (LL) and (MM) 48° 50' N., 04° 30' W. until
first light 20th September. At first light sweep towards
Belle Ile, returning to reach vicinity of Penmarch Point by dark
20th September. Force 27 is to patrol in Audierne Bay on night
20th/21st.(2) Two P.C. Boats will be patrolling in vicinity of Morlaix
during night 19th/20th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191707A to ASHANTI, KELVIN.)

Cancel para. 2 of my 191159 and substitute.

(2) Force 27 ASHANTI, KELVIN sail Plymouth 1900A/19th to patrol
off Ile Vierge until first light 20th when Force 27 will sweep
toward Belle Ile.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191710A to Force 26.)

/ M/V ...

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19.9.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

West Coast France. (Contd.) M/V grey, 2 masts, 3 Islands white, one mast near bridge St. Nazaire, stationary. (A/C WPF.40, 191725A to 19 Group.) My 191159A. If fuel permits Force 26 is to remain on patrol further 24 hours sweeping towards Belle Ile during daylight 20th and returning to patrol in Audierne Bay on night 20th/21st, and leaving for Plymouth at first light 21st.

(2) If Force 26 carries out above programme, Force 27 will operate further south.

(3) S.O. Force 26 is to report fuel situation and intention at 0800A/20.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191834A to Force 26.)

In view of military situation Force G.U. is to close west coast of Crozon Peninsula as close as possible after dark tonight and prevent enemy from escaping by fishing craft or other means. Keep south of 48° 15' N., while inshore.

(2) S.O. Force G.U. acknowledge.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191921A to M.T.Bs., 91, 94, 98, 239.)

North Sea. (A) Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 361, 353 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. buoy at 2030 today Tuesday.

(2) Object: Interception of enemy small craft encountered.

(3) Unless in close contact with the enemy unit is to leave patrol at 0515N and return to harbour.

(4) Communications: 1700 k/cs and 8200 k/cs (TCS).
(A.C. Dover, 191138A to S.O. M.T.Bs., S.O. 5th M.T.B.F.)

(1) Strong N.E. winds during afternoon and evening prevented 71 ft. 6 M.T.Bs. going to sea with frigates - weather improved further east.

(2) At 2315A STAYNER (Lt. A.V. Turner, R.N.V.R.) with M.T.Bs. 724 (Lt. J.E. Humphrey, R.N.V.R.) and 728 (Lt. F.N. Thompson, R.N.V.R.) on No.15 patrol located 3 E-Boats about 23 miles North of Dunkirk steering westward. M.T.Bs. were vectored on and in this action stopped one E-Boat by gunfire. This was finished off later by STAYNER.

(3) Remaining E-Boats retired N.E. at high speed but at about 0001 returned and were engaged by M.T.Bs. who in the course of several extremely close range actions lasting until about 0100 sank them both.

(4) By 0145 M.T.B.724 had picked up 20 prisoners including Senior Officer of E-Boats and STAYNER fourteen. These have been landed at Harwich.

(5) Four other M.T.Bs. sent at daylight to search area report having picked up 33 more survivors 9 of whom have been landed at Dover.

(6) M.T.B. 728 had 3 ratings killed and one slightly wounded and suffered considerable damage. No other casualties or damage.

(7) Reports from DUFF on No.16 patrol without C/Fs. of one or two possible E-Boats 20 miles N.E. of Dunkirk steering S.W. at 2312 will be investigated when DUFF returns to harbour.
(C. in C. Nore, 191426A to Admty.)
My 051311 September and C. in C. Portsmouth's 051342 Sept. No requirement is now seen for these four Hunt class destroyers. Intend to discontinue destroyer patrols in the Dover Strait from

/0800 ...

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19.9.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperations

North Sea. 0800 tomorrow Wednesday.
(Contd.) (2) Berthing facilities for up to 4 Hunts can be made available if required at Dover as soon as enemy shelling ceases.
(A.C. Dover, 191604A to Admty.)

The Nore and Dover patrols night 19th/20th.
VIVACIOUS 53D Buoy to 051° 41' N. GUILLEMOT East Tongue to Elbow. TORRINGTON N.F.1 to N.F.3 Buoy. RIOU N.F.3 to N.F.6 Buoy. M/SS. anchored off Ostend with M.T.B. patrol in vicinity.
BRISSENDEN, VALOROUS boundaries Z.3 and Z.5. WALDEGRAVE Dungeness East Road.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191728A to Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. 1/c Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Portland, Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts HD and CN in Area C.)
My 181306A. Patrols 15 and 16 cancel and substitute.
Patrol 15 - N.F.3 to N.F.6 Buoys. Patrol 16 - N.F.6 to N.F.9 Buoys.
(2) N.F.9 Buoy is in approximate position 51° 22' 12" N., 02° 53' 24" E.
(C. in C. Nore, 191824A to D.16, D.21, F.Os. 1/c Humber, Yarmouth, Harwich, C.C.F., S.O. Corvettes, Cdre. Sheerness, FERVENT, Admty., MIDGE, MANTIS, BEEHIVE, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C. Dover, C. in C. Portsmouth.)
My 191426 para. (7). At 2240 C/F Unit B.1 8 miles O15 from Ostend obtained hydrophone contact and shortly afterwards sighted 2 E-Boats moving fast to westward. Enemy's high speed prevented interception. Shortly before 2300 DUFF at eastern end of No.16 Patrol obtained radar contact with 2 groups of E-Boats that travelled rapidly down North Channel. DUFF closed to 3000 yards and opened fire but was unable to engage closely.
(2) At 0337 DUFF obtained radar contact with possible E-Boat 14 miles 035° from Dunkirk. These moved north-east at high speed passing fairly close to Unit B.1 who again narrowly missed intercepting.
(3) From above it is probable that 4 E-Boats in 2 divisions twice broke through the patrol line. Judging by the achievement of STAYNER and her C/F Unit it appears probable that if DUFF had had her C/Fs. with her (vide para. (2) of my 191426) the enemy would have been brought to action.
(C. in C. Nore, 192347A to Admty.)

Norway. Reference C. in C. H.F. 191419. Destroyers detailed may be expected. Leigh-light aircraft operating in the area. Aircraft will not be shown I.F.F. R/T 2410 k/cs, call sign aircraft "Pistol" - destroyers "Agua".
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191719A to CASSANDRA, CAPRICE, CAMBRIAN.)

My 191719A aircraft operating in area will leave patrol by 2100A owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191903A to CAPRICE and CASSANDRA.)
Continue search U-Boat in vicinity position ordered by C.S.10 until 0800A tomorrow 20th September.
(2) If no contact obtained by then return to Scapa west of Shetlands.
(3) No. 18 Group C.C. aircraft will withdraw from your area at 2130A today.
(C. in C. H.F., 191936A to CAPRICE, CASSANDRA.)

/U-Boat ...

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Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway (Contd.) U-boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge, position 62 degs. 05' N. 02 degs. 28' E., have attacked U-Boat with depth charge 21 dinghies on sea request instructions.

(A/C S.W.N.S. 191953A to 18 Group)
 Cancel my 191936. 18 Group C.C. aircraft continuing operation. If not in contact with enemy return to Scapa forthwith west of Shetlands.
 (C. in C. H.F. 192226A to CAPRICE, CASSANDRA.)
 Request you will sail P.214 (SATYR) 1600A 20th September through 062 degs. 02' N. 000 degs. 03' W. thence to 065 degs. 01' N. 004 degs. 04' E. thence direct to patrol area bound by 066 degs. 30' N. 067 degs. 18' N. 011 degs. 01' E. and Norwegian Coast.
 (2) Passage to be made diving by day from 062 degs. N. advance estimated 110 miles per 24 hours.
 (3) In patrol area leads are only to be entered by following passages
 (A) Between Briksvaer and Fleinvaer Islands.
 (B) Fleinvaerfjorden.
 (C) Tennholm fiord.
 (F.O.S. 192303A to S.O. S/M's Lerwick)

Operation "S.C." (1) A.m. 21st September.
 (2) 2 days intend sailing S/M chaser operation from Scalloway.
 (3) 085 degs. Sumburgh Head.
 (4) An escort not especially required on return journey.
 (5) My 191416 gives codeword and area.
 (A.C.O.S. 191414A to Adty.)
 My 191414A.
 (1) 60 degs. 10' N. 05 degs. 00' E.
 (2) Ramose Ruffian.
 (A.C.O.S. 191416A to Adty.)
 Ramose Nursery my 180952A HITRA returned at 1445A today 19th September.
 (2) Operation successful.
 (A.C.O.S. 191644A to Adty.)
 Ramose Quick my 180442 HESSA returned at 1445A today 19th September.
 (2) Operation successful.
 (A.C.O.S. 191646A to Adty.)

Allied Air Activity

Two M.R./G.R. Squadrons. Your 181845. Agree that offer should be accepted subject to the concurrence of C. in C. Med. to which your para. 3 refers.
 (A.C.N.S.(H) 191930A to Air Min.)

Mining

M.L. 216. M.L. 216 mined while manœuvring in harbour entrance for Static sweep. No casualties.

/Bow ...

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19.9.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMiningM.L.216
(Contd.)

Bow blown off but ship still afloat. Am attempting salvage.
(Capt. M/S F.B. 191310A to C. in C. Nore.)
My 191310A. M.L. 216 beached inside Ostend Harbour.
(Capt. M/S F.B. 191421A to C. in C. Nore.)

Ostend
Sweep

S.G.M.S. sweeping O.D.4 to one. O.D.5 to harbour entrance and inner road one ship area Q (corrupt group) using explosive Mark one "A" sweep in harbour. Negative result. Further sweep curtailed by low visibility and incident in entrance as reported in my 191310.
(M/S F.B. 191825A to C. in C. Nore.)

St.George's
Channel.

Q.Z.X. 293 Northern Part. Progress limits of unswept water are bounded by the line joining the following positions.
All following positions are North and West.
(A) 051 degs. 46' 39". 006 degs. 14' 42".
(B) 051 degs. 45' 33". 006 degs. 27' 30".
(C) 051 degs. 43' 24". 006 degs. 41' 00".
(M.S.F.16 192207A to C. in C. Plym.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Fecamp

Request you will take action on my 171614 addressed in error to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.
(F.O.B.A.A. 190339A to Capt. M/S Seine.)

Dieppe

Unable to accept L.S.I. at Dieppe.
(2) L.S.T. hard is now ready.
(3) Maximum number L.C.T. which can be accepted daily is 6.
(4) Movement of L.C.T. and L.S.T. can only take place at expense of other movements which would have an adverse effect on tonnage discharged.
(5) Le Treport can take traffic on and after (?21st) September. In order to operate port without reducing tonnage at Dieppe additional shallow draught coaster will be required in daily W.D. Convoy.
(6) Train ferry terminal will be ready on 23rd September provided certain special equipment already demanded by Army is to hand agreed P.E.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 191220A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Ostend

(1) On entering harbour to L.L. sweep M.L. 216 struck a mine and sustained damaged bow. M.L. 216 was subsequently beached and repairs will commence at low water. No casualties.
(2) Wire sweep for mines in Voorhaven continued. No mines exploded.

/(3) ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Ostend
(Contd.)

- (3) Harbour repair work progressing favourably.
- (4) Tanker EMPIRE GYPSY and escort CALDY arrived in inner anchorage 1800 19th.
- (5) Demolition block ships progressing satisfactory.
- (6) S.T.O. (?concurs).

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 192130 to Com. Belgium., C. in C. Nore, P.S.T.O.X.F.)

Casualties

L.B.W. 11. My 162045B. L.B.W. 11 of 28th S. and R. Flotilla did not arrive, craft sank on passage from Far Shore.
(Com. L.C.B. 191840A to Adty.)

Shipping

ALMANZORA Approximately 460 Gibraltarians are to be moved from Belfast in U.S. BORINQUEN to arrive Liverpool for transhipment to ALMANZORA a.m. 29/9.
(2) In addition approximately 25 Gibraltarians at present in U.K. will embark in ALMANZORA.
(3) Total number of Gibraltarians on board ALMANZORA must not exceed 485.
(D.S.T. 190034A to D.S.T.O. Belfast.)

Convoy numbering. Request you will reply to Com. i/c Southend's 181858, which has been passed to you and C. in C. W.A.
(D.T.D. 191333A to A.N.C.X.F.)

GADILA Provisional ready for service date exclusive flying practice M.A.C. Ship GADILA 1st October.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 191403 to Adty.)

E.P.M. - W. Convoys. (1) As Portland portion of E.P.M. convoys consists of L.S.T's only intend that they should sail independently and unescorted to join E.P.M. - W. which will be escorted by escorts based at Portsmouth.
(2) Escorted E.P.M. - W. will R/V with Portland portion at A.3 Buoy at 1045 daily, until further notice.
(3) Of the 5 escort vessels allocated to Portland WANDERER is no longer operational and KRIEZIS is being sailed to the Mediterranean. A.M.031116, A.M.141758 not to all refers.
(4) F.O.I.C. Portland is requested to transfer L'AVEVENTURE and HARGOOD to Portsmouth. PETUNIA has sailed to Plymouth in accordance with A.M.162215 not to all. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail L'ESCARMOUCHE to Portsmouth on completion.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 191507A to Adty, F.O.I.C. Portland.)

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19.9.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanSuez-Canal-
limits of
ship size.

In planning future troop movements it is essential to have information as to limitations of size of ships which can pass through Suez Canal. We are thinking of ships up to the size of MAURETANIA. (2) Request you will state what are limitations of length and draught and any others relevant to the problem.
(D. of S.T. 190040A to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

U.407.
sunk by
D.24.

One enemy S/M sunk in vicinity of Milo last night.
(Capt.(S) 1, 190844 to 1st S/M.F. MATROZOS.)
U-Boat sunk at 190521, in 36 degs. 27' N. 24 degs. 33' E. by Capt.(D) 24 and 5 destroyers.
U-Boat first located at 181730 when GARLAND sighted Schnorkel emitting smoke.
(C. in C. Med. 190950A)

G.2 Summary
No.35.

(Extract). (4) Greece and Aegean: fires and explosions reported Preveza indicating enemy abandoning port. Main body troops already North Arta. Contrary previous reports guns Aigina (?Aegina intended) now said to be manned.

Probable enemy intends holding this Island together with Salamis as long as forces remain Piraeus-Athens. Pr. shows recent raid Athens airfields destroyed 60 Ju.52. This coupled with loss 2 K.T. ships may well prolong enemy's island evacuation schedule.
(A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O/19)

SS. MANGKALI-
HAT (sunk
4 Aug.1943).

Request any information regarding fate of SS. MANGKALIHAT possibly sunk after leaving Aden on 23 June 1943 for Kilindini. F.O.L.E.M.844/525/6 of 8th June, 1944 refers.
(2) Egyptian P.M.G. interested in loss of Egyptian mails.
(F.O.L.E.M.191022C)

Brazilian
Minister of
War.

Re visit of General Dutra Minister of War within next ten days to visit Brazilian troops in Italy.
(A.F.H.Q. 191200A)

Aegean
S/M Opera-
tions.

At 0401/20th proceed on the surface at 9 knots through 035 degs. 01' 027 degs. 21' at 0920/20th thence through. A. 034 degs. 30' 027 degs. 01' at 1301/20th. B. 034 degs. 18' 024 degs. 01' at 0602/21st. C. 035 degs. 05' 020 degs. 01' at 0501/22nd. D. 035 degs. 48' 016 degs. 27'

at 0101/23rd. to R/V escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 0715/23rd.
(2) All times A.
(Capt.(S) 1, 191245A to MATROZOS)

/ Cancel ...

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19.9.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Aegean
S/M
Operations.
(Contd.)

Cancel my 182241.
(2) Proceed forthwith to Kastelorizo arrive about dawn 20th.
(3) When ready sail to Scarpanto Straits reporting your intentions.
(Capt. (S) 1, 191419 to VISIGOTH, Info: 1st S/M. F. MATROZOS, CFB Kastelorizo, F.O.L.E.M. Force A.)

Cancel my 191419 not to Comaro One.
(2) Proceed forthwith through A 035 degs. 37' 027 degs. 32' about 0001 Able 20th.
B east of Sirenac through Kinaros channel p.m. 20th.
D west of Buey Rock.
E 037 degs. 40' 025 degs. 27' thence to Khios harbour arriving a.m. 21st.
(3) You may proceed on the surface by day at your discretion.
(Capt. (S) 1, 191735A to VISIGOTH (R) 1st S.M.F. Force 'A', MATROZOS, CFB Kastelorizo, F.O.L.E.M.)

TUEBINGEN. Intercept 1152Z 500 K/cs. CQ DE ICZ from DHYT German Hospital Ship TUEBINGEN left Cesenatico for Venedig (Venice) at 1115 G.M.T.
(Lands End Radio, 191255A)

GARLAND. My P.C.S. at 2100C/19th (?009 degs. or 080 degs) 29' 027 degs. 15' 148 degs. 15 knots..
E.T.A. Alexandria 1230C/20th.
10 yards of starboard side damaged above water-line with leaks into engine room and several frames bent.
(GARLAND, 192102 to F.O.L.E.M.)

Aegean
F.O.E.C's
Operations.

During the night 18/19th September AURORA bombarded Candia harbour and Heraklion airfield. 312 rounds fired.
9 Met. destroyed in armed R/Cs over Rhodes and Kos. One Ju.52 damaged by cannon Maritza airfield. Two depot ships Rhodes harbour attacked, one direct hit on stern of POMEZIA, several hits on mole. Many near misses.
(F.O.E.C. 192107A)

Salvage
vessel for
Eastern
Command.

Your 251501 May. As CONFEDERATE has to be laid up for retubing there remains only one salvage vessel in the Eastern Command. A second ship has become a prime necessity in view of increasing traffic to the East.
(2) Can you now give a date for transfer of one of your five ocean salvage vessels to C. in C. E.F.
not necessarily SALVAGE DUKE, if another is considered more suitable.
(3) Request you will arrange quick docking of the ship selected if necessary.
(D. D. of Salvage (F) 192133A to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation...

19.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No.438. (1) On 16th September U.S. Destroyers EDISON and H.P.JONES bombarded targets in Ventimiglia area with good results.
(2) On (? 17th) September A/C from assault carrier force strafed traffic in Crete, 11 M/T destroyed and 5 damaged. 1 Ju.52 was destroyed on the ground.
(3) AURORA and TERPSICHORE obtained hits on (? targets) at Milo on 18th Sept. 25 M/T were destroyed in Crete by carrier-borne A/C.
(4) Night 17th/18th September 2 F lighters blown up by coastal force operating off Mesco.
(5) On 18th Sept. LOOKOUT fired 202 rounds at gun (positions) and batteries near Rimini area was well covered.
(6) H.P. JONES bombarded shipping in San Remo harbour on 18th Sept. and set fire to a small coaster and a number of small craft. Later an ammunition dump was blown up at Porto Maurizio.
(7) Following sight of Schnorkel (?by) GARLAND P.S. at 181730 D 24 and 5 Destroyers hunted U-Boat (German) which was sunk in 036 degs. 27' N. 024 degs. 35' E. at 190521, some survivors picked up.
(C. in C. Med. 192308A)

Special Operations Sitrep No.19. (Extract), 255557 BAF/266 cipher 19 Sept.
(4) (B) Albania. Valona South. On the afternoon of 14 Sept. a German Caique landed on the beach at Borch with 21 German troops and a load of H.E. Amn. and food for the local garrison. Partisans of the 12 Brigade knowing that the Borch Garrison was supplied by sea and having obtained detailed information of the enemy defences from a deserter, infiltrated to the area and were lying in wait for the craft. As the Germans were about to come ashore Partisans opened up with A/T rifles set the craft on fire completely destroying it during the ensuing action 13 of the Germans were captured and one killed. From interrogation of one of the P.W. it was revealed that the explosive had been sent in for an immediate demolition of the main Vazona Coast road just south of Borch and the Germans had orders to evacuate approx. 50% of the garrison at the same time. The coast road north from Borch to the Llegara Pass a stretch of some 15 miles is now in Partisan hands.
(5) Nil.
(H.Q.Balkan Air Force, No.T.O.O/19)

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19.9.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Landing Craft base at Vizagapatam. Your 151501/. Owing to slow progress in the construction of Landing Craft Base at Vizagapatam, and to delay in dredging programme this base will not now be ready usefully to employ major M.B.M.U. Number 51, or any additional personnel other than the permanent base staff. (A.F.O. 2964/44) before January 1945.

(2) In view of para one above my 050521 was made in order that Bombay should be given a higher priority than Vizagapatam but only in so far as the despatch of minor mobile base maintenance and engine overhaul units is concerned.

(3) Your para two. It is confirmed that major M.B.M.U. should be sent to Bombay in K.M.F. 35 where it can usefully be employed temporarily in the maintenance of major landing craft staging through Bombay to Cochin and Maddapam. This unit will be sent to Vizagapatam as soon as this base is ready for it.

(S.O. R.N.E. (1) 190316Z to Adty.) / Re arrangements for Major M.B.M.U. No.51 to proceed to Vizagapatam in K.M.F. 35.

U-Boat dispositions. Areas B.B., A.D., K.D., V.P. and C.B. 3, C.B. 4 believed clear of U-Boats, Scale W.5, Area C.B. (1) One U-Boat believed to be approaching 1½ degree Channel on passage between Addu and Chagos Arcipelago from Westward Scale Y 2, Area C.B.

(2) One U-Boat in area South East of Ceylon believed moving East or North East, Scale Y 4, P. (C. in C. E.F. 1903192)

Revised K.M.F. convoy schedule. Correct my 180953. For "your 140917" / read "your 141048". / (C. in C. E.F. 190554Z to Adty.) / N.T. of either mge. in W.D.

Diego Garcia. Anticipate RAFA SHENCKING ready to proceed p.m. 21st Sept. Sunderland A/C arriving Ceylon to-day has full details of Cyclone damage at Diego Garcia no boat or landing craft (?remain), and SHENCKING is (?not) (R) not prepared in use of ships life boat for landing petrol. Gunboat 492 reports H.M.S. BETONY (?has) arrived Diego Garcia, but I (?have) no report from her. (4) Only boat available (?at) Addu Atoll is one 27 foot whaler. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 190554Z to C. in C. E.F.)

S.S. IONNIS FAFALIOS (sunk 5 Sept.) (A) IONNIS FAFALIOS (B) 04 degs. 20' S., 43 degs. 57' E. 1915C/5. (C) Large S/M. (D) Torpedoed and sunk. (E) Two. (F) 25. (G) KUO/.

(H) No. (J) All sank with ship.

Memorandum 716H/71/27 from C. in C. E.F. refers. My 190844 is a list of survivors landed at Kismayu Sept. 10th, 8 of crew not accounted for.

(F.O.E.F. 190847). / as decoded ?two.

/Tropical ...

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19.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Tropical
Service.

Your 160628 is not understood.

(2) The reference received as 7(a) is presumably
3 (a) in Seacos 224.

(3) It is not clear whether you are referring to
the normal term of Service abroad or whether you
are referring to a qualifying period of Service for pay increase.

(4) It is requested you will clarify observing that the period
of Service for pay increase is total Service and the period
spent abroad is not involved.

(5) Any additional emoluments to men serving in the Far East will
not be dependent on length of Service.

(D.F.S.L. 191729B to C. in C. E.F.)

Administration (Extract).

small
craft

Re.manning, administrative staff, day to day
maintenance staff and equipment for administrative
small craft for all naval purposes in the Eastern
theatre. Also whether dockyard equipment
available is adequate for heavy repairs to these
craft as well as to the fleet.

(A.C.S. 191908A to C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

CLYDE

Your 140359 and Capt. S (8) 151556.

CLYDE is to return to Ceylon and pay-off.

Further signal will be made as to ultimate
disposal.

(2) After repair, using spares from CLYDE, SEVERN is to be
employed on the Station as A/S Training S/M for as long as she
can be economically maintained.

(V.C.N.S. 192001A to C. in C. E.F.)

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19.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

H.X. 308 - S/M contact in 45. 04 N. 48. 55 W. Attacked
non-S/M with depth charges. Carried out two attacks and
contact. lost touch.
(W.4. 191302Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
Have carried out search. Nothing to report -
am rejoining convoy with HEPATICA in company.

(W.4. 191707Z)

Your 191707. If contact your 191302 classified as definite
S/M comply with my 191503* otherwise rejoin H.X.F. 308. Report
intentions.

(F.O.N.F. 191825Z to W.4.)

* W.4 remain in area of contact. N.T. in W.D.

Your 191503, and W.4's 191302 not to C.6. On joining
H.X.F. 308 W.4 had also rejoined and reported whales in area of
attack. Contact considered non S/M. W.4's further message to
you refers.

Intend therefore keeping W.4 in company until detaching in
accordance with your 191307.

(S.O. C.6. 191847Z to F.O.N.F.)

W.4's 191302. Contact now considered non-S/M.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 192120Z to G.B.7A.)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 191342Z, Cominch 191606Z)

MAURETANIA Diversion order.
(Com. 10th Flt. C & R. 191350Z to MAURETANIA)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND - R.D.O. Caserta give A.F.H.Q. and Comnavnaw. Army
protest by C.O.S. has by hand informal requests by B.A.D. for
Cominch. escort arrangements have brought to my attention
the fact that the troopship DUCHESS OF RICHMOND,
capacity 4,000, is presently scheduled to sail
from U.K. in convoy U.C.38 for Jamaica to transport
civilians from Jamaica to Gibraltar. I cannot
reconcile this non-essential employment of a troopship with the
need for "Dragoon" follow-up shipping which has necessitated the
retention of U.S. assault A.P.A's in that theatre at the expense
of operations elsewhere. Request you will consider sending
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND to Mediterranean instead of Jamaica.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 191405Z to Adty.)

Future Propose C. in C. Med's. 111350 be put to the
employment combined C.O.S's.
of French (B.A.D. Washington 191951Z to Adty.)
Fleet.

Convoy Sailing date of convoy U.G.F. 16 is advanced to
U.G.F. 16. 14th October. Comeastseafron sail ships loading
in New York to R/V with Norfolk section at sea.
C. in C. Lant. provide escort. Troop ships in
this convoy will proceed to Southern French Ports

/under ...

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19.9.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Convoy under U.S. escort for discharge and return in
U.G.F. 16. G.U.F. 16. Sailing dates of succeeding U.G.F.
(Contd.) convoys remain unchanged.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 192220)

Exchange of (Extracts)
technical Following for British C.o.S. from General Burrows.
information Your 3607 9th July.
with the We are starting to hand over items forthwith.
U.S.S.R. (30 Mission, Moscow No T.O.O. to A.M.S.S.O)

Convoy Comeastseafroon sail special convoy U.G.F. 15B
U.G.F. consisting of about 8 troopships from New York
15B. 6th October to Southern French ports. Troopships
will be those formerly scheduled to sail in
convoy C.U. 42. Convoy will return after discharge
of troopships as G.U.F. 15B. C. in C. Lant
provide escort. Sailing of Army Ferry C.V.E. SOLOMONS in this
convoy for Casablanca is acceptable.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 192222Z)

?U-Boat U.S. Tug A.T.R. 157 and H.M.C.S. KENTVILLE
off obtained Radar contact probly S/M in 44 degs.
Halifax. 42' N., 61 degs. 54' W. Lost contact. Carrying
out search no echoes. Submit if contact was a
S/M it may be bottomed. Am rejoining convoy.
(KENTVILLE 192335Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest September 18.
972. (17) Three (corrupt group) landing made unopposed
on islands off south western Morotai 17th and
fourth at Cape Wajaboela on central west coast:
P.T. boats covered landings.
(18) Night 17th, motor torpedo boats in Ercepaed Iand (sic)
destroyed one Jap barge southbound off southwest coast Morotai.
(19) Belated report states that enemy A/C, probably fighter
bomber, ineffectually attacked our shipping off southern
Morotai on night 16th: Ack.ack. and navy planes engaged but
combat results unknown. One hour later five Jap fighters
over convoy same area were chased off by Navy fighters.
(20) Dawn 18th, 1 or 2 enemy planes were over southern Morotai
dropping bombs amongst ships with negligible effect: Ack.ack.
shot one A/C down.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 190830)

/CLYDE ...

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Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

CLYDE

Capt. (S) 8's. 151556 work appears to be of major nature requiring extended period in dry dock but could be carried out in Sydney N.S.W. if necessary. Recommend however in view of defects and acute shortage of dry docks that requirements for repair be reported on by Naval Constructor on your Staff before decision is arrived at.
 (A.C.N.B. 191232Z. to C. in C. E.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
 and
 sighting
 summary

Para. A.

- (1) GARLAND sighted Schnorkel at 1630Z/18 in 36 degs 14' N. 24 degs. 33' E. Capt. (D) 24 and 5 destroyers in contact and hunting.
- (2) 8 Mosquito A/C attacked U-Boat at 0721Z/18, in 61 degs. 02' N. 04 degs. 30' E.
- (3) A/C H/224 attacked U-Boat, course 190 degs. at 1845Z/18 in 61 degs. 57' N. 01 degs. 03' E.
- (4) A/C R/224 attacked U-Boat course 300 degs. at 2030Z/18 in 61 degs. 41' N. 02 degs. 45' E.
- (5) A/C W/224 sighted wake or swirl at 2032Z/18 in 63 degs. 50' N. 07 degs. 20' E.
- (6) A/C W/224 attacked U-Boat at 2259Z/18 in 63 degs. 53' N. 07 degs. 30' E.

Para. B.

- (1) BRAITHWAITE and FOLEY obtained doubtful contact at 1802Z/18. in 51 degs. 39' N. 07 degs. 52' W.
- (2) A/C sighted suspicious object at 0841Z/18 in 55 degs. 23' N. 09 degs. 00' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 191211A)

U-Boats
 attacked.

My 221059 July 1942.

- (1) At 0821/18 A/C of 248 Squadron sighted and attacked U-Boat conning tower awash in 61 degs. 02' N. 04 degs. 03' E. Straddled with depth charges and hits with 6 pounder cannon.
- (2) U-boat sunk at 0521/19th in 36 degs. 27' N. 24 degs. 33' E. by Capt. (D) 24 and 5 destroyers. U-Boat first located at 181730 when O.R.P. GARLAND sighted Schnorkel.
- (3) At 1848A/18 A/C H/224 attacked surfaced U-Boat in 61 degs. 57' N. 01 degs. 03' E. Depth charges straddled conning tower.
 (D.A.U.D. 191942Z, 211228A)

U-Boat
 dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 191400A, 191416A)

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Neptune (D + 106)

1(a) An Admiralty Message to-day cancelled the Assault Area Operation "Neptune", therefore, ceases as such.

(b) Cumulative landings to this afternoon were:-

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores.
British	882,055	221,237	1,707,033
American	<u>1,420,034</u>	<u>252,289</u>	<u>2,492,893</u>
Total:	<u>2,302,089</u>	<u>473,526</u>	<u>4,199,925</u>

General

North Sea.

2(a) At Antwerp no fewer than 15 dry docks are in working order, with labour available up to 7000 men. A temporary shortage of electric power will soon be made good.

(b) A.E.A.F. have been asked to bomb 4 vessels in Flushing Harbour at high priority to prevent their use as blockships in the Schelde.

(c) 4 Enemy A/C dropped several small bombs on Ostend, causing civilian casualties and damage.

Channel.

3(a) Dover batteries fired 42 rounds at a target close West of A 6" battery opposite, and scored 6 hits.

(b) 16 mines were swept off the coast between Le Havre and Dieppe.

(c) Le Havre is 90% demolished, and can only be used for limited unloading of coasters for a considerable time to come.

(d) At Cherbourg the entrance to the Darse Trans-Atlantique is now clear.

West Coast of France.

4(a) Hardly one building in Brest is intact, but the U-Boat pens and a 150 ton crane are undamaged, and it is hoped that much of the waterfront can be made workable in a short time.

(b) Crozon Peninsula has now been cleared of Germans, and their Audierne garrison surrendered to the F.F.I. to-day.

Norway.

5. TIRPITZ is reported to have been hit by a crashing A/C on Aug. 24th and by a heavy bomb on Sept. 15th Kaa Fjord has been smoke-screened ever since.

Northern Waters.

6. Admiral Commanding Iceland has sailed Admiralty Floating Dock No.17 for Gibraltar for the Far East.

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20.9.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

South of
France.

7(a) LUDLOW fired a few rounds on the right flank to-day.

(b) At Marseilles 16 alongside berths are available 22 Liberty ships, 10 transports and a coaster unloaded 8437 troops, 2169 vehicles and 11240 tons of stores, using 77 landing craft and over 100 dukws. Minesweeping continues in the lower basins. At Toulon 7 Liberty ships unloaded 750 troops, 438 Vehicles and 1183 tons of stores. Port de Bouc unloaded 1288 tons. Minesweeping commenced in Port St. Louis (mouth of the Rhone) where one mine was blown. The beaches unloaded 829 tons.

Adriatic.

8(a) KIMBERLEY and LOOKOUT shelled targets near Rimini to-day. There was no return fire.

(b) Coastal Air Force attacked targets in the Fiume, Dubrovnik, Venice and Trieste areas to-day. Damage was caused to dock facilities, a 350 ton schooner was sunk, and an ammunition dump was blown up.

America and West Indies

U-Boat
reports in
Western
Atlantic.

9. Last night, H.M.C.S. KENTVILLE obtained radar contact, possible S/M. near Halifax; PITCAIRN obtained radar contact east of Nova Scotia; and a U-Boat was sighted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

China

6 ships
sunk in
Formosa
Strait.

10. Two Liberators in a sweep on 19/20 Sept. attacked a convoy of 11 ships South of the Pescadores. They sank by direct hits four freighters 200 to 400 ft. and two 250 ft. tankers, and probably sank a 250 ft. freighter.

War Diary.

20.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation "Neptune" (D+106)

Organisation and Administration.

"Neptune"
ceases.

Your 132145 approved. Cancellation of Assault Area will be promulgated by A.Z. message. (A.C.N.S.(H) 200652A to A.N.C.X.F.)

W.D. Note. Operation "Neptune" is merged in Home Commands, Operations, Channel Section from now.

General.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Reduction
of Coast
Defence
Battery.

A.M. 011735 September. West Blockhouse Battery Milford Haven performed a dual role of examination battery and coast defence. Although its examination role has now ceased, it was not included amongst the batteries to be reduced in the A.M. quoted.

(2) As Milford Haven has again become a convoy assembly port, request I may be informed whether it is the intention that this battery should remain manned or should be reduced. (C. in C. W.A. 201130B to Admty.)

Naval and
Military
personnel
reductions
in Orkneys
and Shetlands.

G.O. C. in C. Scottish Command has visited me to discuss reductions in Army Garrisons within my command. Reductions are based on new assessment of scale of attack on U.K. which has I understand been accepted by the Chiefs of Staff but of which I have not yet received any information other than para. one of A.M. 011136 September.

(2) Appreciation of scale of attack would greatly assist me in judging not only local situation as regards proposed army reductions but also naval reductions ordered and invited in paras. 8 and 9 of A.L.M. 08960/44 dated 1st Sept. 1944.

(3) In the course of discussion it became evident that G.O. C. in C. was unaware that there will be military commitments involved in the question detailed in A.L.M. 056073/44 dated 1st July 1944. It is desirable that this possibility should be brought to his notice.

(A.C.O.S. 201150A to Admty.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- SUTOR. Your 311257 August. Approved to pay off SUTOR forthwith. Proposals for disposal of accommodation and personnel should be forwarded. (Admty. 200010A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- URCHIN & UNDINE. F.O.G.M.A's 181113 not to UNDINE and URCHIN. To avoid Q.Z.X. 259336 and 246 amend route for URCHIN from E to G 049° 30' N. 010° 33' W. thence Q.Z.S. 565. (C. in C. W.A. 200348A to URCHIN.)
- DEVONSHIRE. Arrived DEVONSHIRE. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 200855A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
- GADILA. F.O.I.C. Glasgow 191403 not to all. Provisional ready for service date for M.A.C. ship GADILA inclusive of flying practice 6th October. (F.O.C.T. 201117A to Admty.)
- Admiralty Floating Dock No. 17 Sailed A.F.D. 17 at 1230A/20th September in accordance with my 131248. Speed 5 knots in fine weather. My 131424 not to all refers. (A.C.I.C. 201502A to F.O.G.M.A. C. in C. W.A.)
- REVENGE. Your 181810. Request Commander and 1st Lieutenant may be appointed forthwith to REVENGE which will be first ship to move. Personnel requirements for both ships are being forwarded by letter. Anticipated REVENGE will be ready to sail about one week after balance of crew joins. (S.O.R.F. Gareloch 201515 to F.O.C.R.F.)
- Submarines. Position of submarines 0800/21st September and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.
(A) SCEPTRE 59° 40' N. 04° 01' E. diving by day to pass through 60° 30' N. 04° 03' E. at 0100A/22 then E. through 61° 15' N. 003° 01' E. 090 Muckle Flugga 20 diving by day east of 00° 50' E. advance 90 miles in 24 hours.
(B) RUBIS 61° 01' N. 01° 01' E. diving by day to pass through 61° 01' N. 02° 53' E. at 0100A/22 thence through 59° 05' N. 04° 03' E. to patrol advance 90 miles in 24 hours.
(C) SATYR 62° 23' N. 00° 40' E. diving by day towards 65° 01' N. 04° 04' E. daily advance 110 miles in 24 hours.
(D) VENTURER, escort LOCH MONTEITH west of Orkneys to R/V TRUCULENT, TRUSTY at No. 36 Buoy at 1300/21 thence 3 submarines and escort to Dundee E.T.A. 0600/22.
(E) TRUMP, THRASHER, escort SHIKARI, approaching Lerwick from S.W. TRUMP and THRASHER in company unescorted on the surface leave Lerwick 1600A/21 through 60° 01' N. 00° 30' E. thence TRUMP to patrol vicinity 57° 35' N. 01° 15' E. THRASHER vicinity 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Submarines. (F) O.24, escort COQUETTE, in Little Minch via
(Contd.) Sound Mull and Islay to Clyde.
(G) SELENE, URTICA, escort BRIDGEWATER, 54° 40' N.
05° 00' W. for Holy Loch E.T.A. 1830/21.
(H) SOKOL leave Tyne for Blyth 0630/22.
(J) TRUSTY, TRUCULENT, escort TEKOURA, leave Scapa 1045A/21
to R/V LOCH MONTEITH at No. 36 Buoy 1300/21 submarines thence as
in para. (D).
(F.O.S. 201649A to Admty.)

BACHAQUERO. It is desired to transport certain of special
weapons referred to in A.L. M/O.D. 03232/44 para.
2 (not to all addressees) to Shetlands as soon
as possible.
(2) BACHAQUERO now unloading Lerwick. Request immediate infor-
mation whether she will be available to proceed Teignmouth to
collect M.F.U. number (5) 3 with crew and stores returning spare
gear calling Loch Corrie Oban for additional stores Admiralty
071619 para. 1 not to all addressees refers.
(A.C.O.S. 201753 to Admty.)

MALAYA. Intend sailing MALAYA escorted by LARK (S.O.),
HART and SKATE at 0900A/22 by searched channel
route to Invergordon. S.O.A. 15 knots. E.T.A.
1830A/24th. A.M. 141819 not to all addressees
refers.
(2) SKATE is to be detached at The Smalls to proceed Swansea.
LARK and HART will escort to vicinity of Cape Wrath.
(3) C. in C. H.F. and C. in C. Rosyth are requested to provide
onward escort as necessary.
(4) On relief LARK and HART proceed Londonderry unless otherwise
ordered.
(C. in C. Plymouth 201902A to Cs. in C. Rosyth, H.F., N.O.I.C.
Invergordon.)

Operations.

"Overlord" Situation Reports.

Naval. (A) Intelligence.
Havre. A preliminary report shows that the demo-
lition of the harbour and harbour facilities is
90% complete and that it cannot be used for large
tonnage for a considerable period. There is a channel 80 feet
wide between blockships in the outer harbour and limited unloading
from coasters alongside will be possible when debris in the roads
allows clearance. Public utilities will soon be operating and
there is plenty of local labour.
Brest. N.L.O. with 8th U.S. Corps states that hardly a building
in the city remains intact and that the harbour installations have
been destroyed as predicted with the exception of a 150 ton crane.
The U-Boat pens with power, ventilators and workshops are intact
but the slips are blocked with other destroyed equipment. The

/Naval...

War Diary.

20.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

"Overlord" Situation Reports.

Naval. Naval School appears repairable and it is possible
(Contd.) that much of the waterfront can be made workable
in a short time.

(B) General. M.L. 216 was mined and beached inside
Ostend harbour. No casualties.

(C) Unloading figures.

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores
British	873,801	219,476	1,661,020
U.S.	1,394,811	248,823	2,379,469
Total D+103	2,268,612	468,299	4,040,489

(Adm. Ramsay 200019A to Cositintrep addressees.)

(A) General. Three E-Boats were sunk north of Dunkirk during
night of 18/19th.

(B) Captured ports. Cherbourg. Entrance Darse Transatlantic is
now clear. Havre. Search of Quai de Southampton completed,
negative results. R.M.K. Demolition Mine Charges weighing approx.
one ton each located suspended under water alongside various
quays in addition five Demolition Charges each comprised of 3 C
and G type mines located alongside Digue Nord.

(C) Unloading figures. British not received. U.S. totals,
1,401,881 personnel. 249,727 vehicles. 2,422,078 stores.

(Adm. Ramsay 20221A to Admty.)

Military. Crozon Peninsula completely cleared of enemy
resistance.

(H.Q. 12th Army Group 200925A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Schelde P.R.U. shows only five ships in Schelde area
blockships. suitable for blocking river. These are in Flushing
as follows:-

Type	Length	Position	Port Shipping Plot No. 306 Grid reference.
Tanker	430 feet	Verbreed Canal	148057
Hansa M/V	300 feet	Marine Dock	601101
Hansa M/V	300 feet	On slip at Head of Marine Dock	408110
Hulk	200 feet	Verbreed Canal	093066

(2) Request these may be attacked at high priority.

(3) C.I.U. interpretation report No. A.173 (R) dated 15th Sept.
refers.

(A.N.C.X.F. 201147A to A.E.A.F.)

/Dunkirk...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Dunkirk
patrol.

(A) Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 359, 24 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 2030 today Wednesday.
(2) Object interception of enemy small craft encountered.
(3) Unless in close contact with the enemy unit is to leave patrol at 0520 and return to harbour.
(A.C. Dover 201205A to S.O. M.T.Bs. 5th M.T.B.F.)

Operations.

Channel.

"Neptune"
ceases.

Cancel O.N. one para. 5(B) and 6. The Assault Area has reverted to the control of C. in C. Portsmouth.
(Admty. 200651A Home A.Z. Message 433 A.Z.)

Portland
patrol.

Reference C.P.G.O. 8072 para. 11.
(A) A/S patrol M.L. 1276, 1269. M.G.B. 13, 21.
(B) M.L. 1274, 1010.
(C) M.L. 154, 248 defective until 29/9.
M.L. 1300 defective until 27/9.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 201640A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Cross
Channel
Shelling.

Navistrep No. 72 date 20th Sept. R.M. Seige Regiment fired 42 rounds with air spotting between 1100 and 1345/20th September at target close west of A.6 Battery. Six hits recorded and results reported very good.
(A.C. Dover 202100A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Patrols.

Withdraw so as to be out of range of shore defences by daylight 20th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 200056A to Force G.U.)
No sea activity south Brest during night. Indications that garrison at Audierne may surrender to F.F.I. today.
(2) Force 26 now patrolling in accordance with your 191834 returning to Audierne Bay tonight.
(3) Fuel remaining P.S. BLYSKAWICA 52% P.S. PIORUN 70%.
Weather report 9880 2631.
(BLYSKAWICA 200810A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Nothing to report during night. Intend sweeping as in para. D of your 191707A today.
(2) Spoke to Ushant signal station this morning - nothing to report.
(3) My position 047° 55' N. 004° 48' W. proceeding towards Belle Ile at 17 knots.

/(4)...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Patrols.
(Contd.)

(4) Oil fuel remain at 0800/20. ASHANTI 81%,
KELVIN 85%.
(5) Weather report 3672 1522.
(Force 27 201030A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Pins cover night 20/21 September. (A) G.D.1
HOTHAM Z.9 S. G.D. 2 MAYFLOWER Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 201203A to Admty. C. in C.
Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F.,
F.Os. i/c Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth,
Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts
H.D. and C.N. in area C, Portsmouth night patrols,
HOTHAM, MAYFLOWER.)

Pass to Force G.P. Force G.P. is to leave l'Abervrach at 1630A/
20th to pass through UU 270 Creach Pt. 3 and thence to YY 221° St.
Mathieu 10 to arrive 1900A/20th patrol in vicinity of YY until
dark and then proceed to close Crozon Peninsula as close as
possible and prevent enemy from escaping by fishing craft or
other means. Keep south of 48° 15' N. while inshore. Force is
to withdraw before daylight 21st and return to l'Abervrach.
(C. in C. Plymouth 201219A to LONDONDERRY.)

BLYSKAWICA 200810A not to all addressees. Force 27 is to
operate between Belle Ile and Gironde until further orders.
Communicating with Ile d'Yeu and les Sables d'Olonne as convenient.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201325A to Force 27.)

Opas 17 (A) Ile d'Yeu.

(2) Intend sweeping as in your 201325A. (3) Weather report
0080 2011.

(Force 27 201745A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Carry out operation "Assault".

(A) Force 28 IROQUOIS (S.O.), URANIA.

(B) 1800A/21. (C) Through NN 48° 28' N. 5° 30' W. 00. 48° N.
5° 35' W. and thence to Gironde area keeping west of Force 27.

(D) Patrol between Belle Ile and Gironde.

(G) Force 27 ASHANTI, KELVIN will patrol in Audierne Bay during
night 21/22.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201924A to IROQUOIS, URANIA.)

Enemy
shipping off
St. Nazaire.

Nr. 1. 1 hospital ship, 1 M/V, 2 small craft
stationary 47° 13' N. 02° 15' W.
(A/C TTG 27 201412A to 19 Group.)

Audierne
garrison
surrenders.

Penmarch signal station reports German garrison at
Audierne surrendered to F.F.I. p.m. today Wednesday.
(S.O. 26 Force 201903A to C. in C. Plymouth, etc.)

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Suspected
U-Boats.

By D/F on 5885N k/cs at 2230Z/19th U-Boat estimated
within 75 miles of 59° 30' N. 17° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 200020A to Escorts of R.U. 135.)

/My...

20.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Suspected
U-Boats.
(Contd.)

My 200002. Investigate oil patch reported at
0850 in 055° 20' N. 09° 10' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 201118A to E.G.30.)

From Sono Buoy contact at 1555/19th in 55° 10' N.
09° 22' W. and oil patch at 0850/20th in 55°
20' N. 09° 10' W. I appreciate there is one U-Boat

in above general area and that it may have an oil leak.

(2) Aircraft in B and Northerly C areas will investigate oil
patches with Sono Buoy tonight. Aircraft will also search E
areas.

(3) 10th E.G. is to sweep in areas B.4 and C.2 West of 8° W.
reporting E.T.A. 8° W.

(4) 30th E.G. in general area given in my 201118 until arrival
of 10th E.G. then search areas B.3 and C.1.

(5) 15th E.G. proceed at best speed to areas B.1 and B.2 W.
of 8° W. without calling at Merville.

(6) 3rd E.G. to Merville as ordered investigating any aircraft
reports within 2 hours steaming whilst on passage.

(C. in C. W.A. 201254A to E.G. 15, E.G. 10, Force 33.)

Your 201118A E.T.A. position of oil patch 1630A.

(S.O. E.G.30 201330A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 201254A, E.T.A. 008° W. 2230A/20th September.

(S.O. E.G. 10 201455A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 201254 depth charge attacks on a good contact in 055°
42' N. 007° 50' W. were carried out until dusk on 17th but after
passage of O.N.S. 254 target was abandoned believed non sub.

Subsequent air sightings suggest damaged U-Boat may be in area C.1.

(S.O. E.G.3 201640A to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceeding to position 054° 52' N. 009° 29' W. to investigate
aircraft contact. My P.C. and S. 025° CC 28 195° 13½ knots.

(S.O. E.G. 30 201710A to S.O. Force 33.)

Have detached PORCHESTER CASTLE and KENILWORTH CASTLE to
investigate Marker dropped by Liberator in approx. position 042° CC
26.

(S.O. E.G. 30 201803A to S.O. Force 33.)

Operations.

Norway.

Suspected
U-Boat.

Very indefinite D/F of transmission on 4020 k/cs
at 0309Z suggests that you may possibly have been
reported by a U-Boat.

(D.D.I.C. 200520A to C.S. 10.)

F Air Isle
patrol.

W.A.G.M. 782 N para. 12. Establish new Gamma patrol
forthwith (A) 058° 54' N. 001° 16' W. 059° 07'

N. 001° 46' W. (B) 220°. (C) 8 hours.

(C. in C. Rosyth 201225A to S.O. E.G. 18.)

/Stavanger...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Stavanger
patrol.

Request you will sail TRUMP (P.333) and THRASHER in company on the surface at discretion 1600A/21st Sept. routed through TA 060° 01' N. 000° 31' E. to work up patrol lines length 30 miles direction 180° dash 000° (A) TRUMP mid point 057° 35' N. 001° 15' E. (B) THRASHER mid point 058° 45' N. 001° 15' E. (F.O.S. 201442A to S.O. (S) Lerwick.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Operation
"Rigmarole".

Waihon's 190932A. Most unlikely that EMPIRE CELIA can discharge car at Polyarnee, ammunition at Vaenga and up to 700 tons coal at Rosta in four days observing that coal may be in two holds and overstowed with general cargo. Therefore suggest Schuur's 150927B be carried out and an additional American ship taken to White Sea from Kola Inlet. She can be lightened here if desirable. Frankel concurs. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 200937A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

(1) J.W. 60 operation "Rigmarole". Following ships selected for White Sea (A) group 1. HAWKINS, FUDSKE, HENRY LOMB, THOMAS U. WALTER, EDWARD A. SAVOY, CARDINAL GIBBONS, BRITISH PATIENCE. Preserve in event of casualties JULIUS OLSEN. Total 6 ships. (B) Group 2. EMPIRE CELIA, SAMARITAN, ADOLPH SOCHS, RAYMOND B. STEVENS, GEORGE T. ANGELL, ARUNAH S. ABELL, JOSHUA THOMAS, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, MERITINA. Total 9 ships.

(2) Group 1 to proceed direct to Molotovsk when detached. Pilots will probably board in lat. 64° 39' N. long. 39° 44' E.

(3) Group 2 to proceed temporarily to Kola Inlet. Probably stay four days.

(4) S.B.N.O. North Russia will be requested to sail Group 2 to White Sea in due course.

(5) Watson and Harshaw concur.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 201245 to S.B.N.O. N. Russia, Adnty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Air attack A.C.N. 905 20th September. Following signals from restrictions. H.Q. Coastal Command are cancelled forthwith.

(A) A. 957 24th May 1944 T.O.O. 271620B May not to F.O.B.A.A.

(B) A.C.N. 702 29th August 1944 T.O.O. 292225B

August not to H.Q. Bomber Command, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 100, 91, 92, 93 Groups H.Q. U.S. 9th Air Force, H.Q. U.S. 8th Fighter Command, H.Q. U.S. 8th Bomber Command. H.Q. 2nd T.A.F., H.Q. A.D.G.B., F.O.B.A.A., 16 and 19 Groups, August 1944 T.O.O. 171855B August not to C. in C. Portsmouth, Air Ministry.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Air attack (C) A.C.N. 758 6th September 1944 T.O.O. 061942B
 restrictions. September not to H.Q. U.S. 9th Air Force, H.Q. 2nd
 (Contd.) T.A.F., H.Q.A.E.A.F., H.Q. A.D.G.B., F.O.B.A.A.
 (D) A.C.N. 540 7. C. in C. Nore, Admty. F.O.B.A.A.
 (E) A.C.N. 654 22nd August 1944 T.O.O. 222137B
 August not to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore,
 A.C. Dover, H.Q. Bomber Command. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 100, 91,
 92, 93 Groups, H.Q. U.S. 9th Air Force, H.Q. U.S. 8th Air Force,
 H.Q. U.S. 8th Fighter Command, H.Q. U.S. 8th Bomber Command, H.Q.
 2nd T.A.F., H.Q. A.E.A.F., H.Q. A.D.G.B. Admty. Air Ministry.
 (2) In order to clarify situation and to bring all Air Forces
 into line my immediately following signal institutes the restric-
 tions now in force.
 (H.Q. Coastal Command 201947A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth,
 C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, H.Q. Bomber Command,
 Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 100, 91, 92, 93 (Bomber Command please pass
 last 3 Groups) Groups H.Q. U.S. 9th Air Force, H.Q. 8th Air Force,
 H.Q. U.S. 8th Fighter Command, H.Q. U.S. 8th Bomber Command, H.Q.
 2nd T.A.F., H.Q. A.E.A.F., H.Q. A.D.G.B., Nos. 16 and 19 Groups,
 F.O.B.A.A.)

A.C.N. 906 20th September. Institute forthwith surface
 vessel attack? Restrictions in following areas.
 (A) Bounded on the north by 55° N. on the west by 06° W. on the
 east and south by the West coast of Europe and the north coast of
 Spain south of 55° N. and east of 06° W.*
 (B) Bounded on the north by 48° 30' N. on the west by 08° W. on
 the south by 45° N. on the east by the French coast+.
 (2) On receipt of request from Naval Authority, by Naval
 staff at H.Q. Coastal Command restrictions imposed by para. 1
 will be lifted for the period area and specific air force forma-
 tion required to attack in the area so derestricted. It is
 requested that telephone request may be confirmed by signal.
 (3) Paras. 1 and 2 shall not apply to Coastal Command Aircraft
 who are specially briefed on all occasions by their A.C.H.Qs. nor
 will they apply to Aircraft despatched with specific task of
 escorting Coastal Command aircraft.
 (H.Q.C.C. 201948A to A.E.A.F. A.D.G.B. 8th U.S.A.A.F. 9th
 U.S. A.A.F., H.Q. 2nd T.A.F. No. 2 Group, H.Q. Bomber Command,
 Nos. 13, 4, 5, 6, 8, 91, 92, 93, 100 Groups, Nos. 16 and 19
 Groups.)
 * Roughly Danish Frontier-Newcastle-Belfast-Lands End-Oviedo.
 + Roughly Bay of Biscay out to 140 miles west of Brest and as
 far south as Bordeaux.

Enemy Air Activity.

?Composite Your 192341 received 201901.
 aircraft and At about 190430 in 051° 23' N. 002° 46' E. aircraft
 flying bomb. heard and Radar contact obtained approx. 055° 7
 miles. Contact appeared to split with one echo
 disappearing south eastwards flying bomb then
 observed flying westwards fast and low, visibility
 poor low haze. Noise of bomb coincided with report of echo having
 split and resembled high powered M/B starting.
 (DUFF 202239A to C. in C. Nore.)

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Schelde Channel. Sail from Sheerness at 0830A tomorrow Thursday with 8 ships of 165th M.S.F., 3 M.M.S. and M.L. 221 and proceed via Q.Z.S. 581 and 584 to Ostend anchoring for night.
(2) On Friday 22nd start establishing channel one mile wide centre line joining N.F. 8 Buoy and position 51° 31' 00" N. 03° 02' 36" E. sweeping Oropesa in G formation followed by L.L./S.A. 1 G.M.S. up to 15 actuations.
(3) It is intended to lay H.K. 1 and H.K. 2 Buoys in positions 51° 26' 18" N. 02° 53' 54" E. and 51° 30' 00" N. 03° 00' 42" E. respectively on Saturday 23rd.
(4) Anchor nightly between O.D. 3 and O.D.4 Buoys and return Margate Roads or Sheerness p.m. Monday 25th September unless otherwise ordered.
(5) M.T.B. cover is being arranged.
(6) Report progress daily.
(7) You have discretion to modify programme should weather or other circumstances require.
(C. in C. Nore 201518A to Capt. M.S.F.A. as amended by his 202330A.)

16 Mines swept. Sitrep. 40th M.S.F. report sweeping 3 G.Y. mines whilst searching New Channel from Le Havre to Dieppe on 19th September in 49° 46' 42" N. 00° 04' 48" W. and 2 in 49° 40' 39" N. 00° 00' 51" W. Operations in this Channel continuing today reports not yet to hand.
B.Y.M.S. commenced search of New Channel between 49° 29' 42" N. 00° 07' 24" W. and 49° 25' 54" N. 00° 03' 00" E. and swept 11 magnetic mines. M.M.S. searching Q.Z.S. 585 swept 2 magnetic mines. Summary. A (2) 13 A (4) 3.
(Capt. M/S Seine 202230A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Aarhus. Aarhus. (2) Large concentration of ships reported at Aarhus Sept. 16th. B.3.
(3) It is also reported a large number of barges and small craft belonging to Speer organisation have recently arrived from Norway. See also my 141753. B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 201757 to Admty.)
Note. No comment by O.I.C.

TIRPITZ. B.2 report dated 20th September:-
(A) During last British attack 1 aircraft crashed on bridge of TIRPITZ but no damage visible from land. Some British airmen were saved.
(B) On Friday 15th September 17 "Russian" aircraft attacked TIRPITZ. One hit on foredeck was registered and three small vessels were sunk. From land it can be seen TIRPITZ is damaged. Since this attack Kaafjord has been continuously covered with smoke
Comment: (A) Presumably refers to F.A.A. attack on 24th Aug. and (B) to "Lancaster" attack.
(D.D.I.C. 201825A to C. in C. H.F., C.S. 10, C.S. 1, A.C.O.S. etc.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Fecamp. Your 192120A. Following is a repetition of my 171614A. Begins:- from F.O.B.A.A., 171614A, to N.O.I.C. Dieppe, info. Admty. A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth, AMBITIOUS.
Your 152220 not understood. Presume L.C.T.(I) should read L.C.H.(I) or L.C.T.(III). Request clarification. 171614A. Ends. (F.O.B.A.A. 200021A to Admty.)

Ostend. My H.Q. now established in Navy House Littoral Palace Hotel Ostend.
(2) All D.R.Ls. and D.S.B. should report there.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 201300A to Commodore Belgium.)

Antwerp. Following is summary of repair facilities Antwerp. 15 dry docks in working order except for minor damage to one dock. 3 docks small. Remainder 730 feet to 440 feet length. Dock plans obtained.

Shipyards and works not damaged.
(2) Local shipbuilding and repair Federation very co-operative. 5 firms available and willing to undertake general ship repairs. Some machinery, electrical and foundry work can also be undertaken. Labour available about 7,000 men total. Fair stocks of materials.
(3) Temporary shortage of electric power in certain areas due to one or two power stations being in enemy hands. Expect alternative supply from other station can be made shortly.
(4) Few ships under repair in port. Firms at present engaged in minor salvage works and in completing some new ships.
(5) Request consideration use of foregoing facilities when port is open. Early forecast of requirements desirable.
(6) Dock plans, details of firms etc., with Constructor Captain (on staff of A.N.C.X.F.) who expects to visit Admiralty shortly.
(7) Signal follows concerning four enemy asdic trawlers, C.M.A.8 wooden motor minesweepers and a mine destructor ship in various stages of completion in three of Antwerp yards.
(8) Ministry of War Transport (Antwerp) concurs.
(Commodore Belgium 201846A to A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

Convoy H.X.F. S.O.S. Rammed approx. position 54.20 N. 05.15 W.
307, LAWRENCE (SS. LAWRENCE D. TYSON 200235Z.)
D. TYSON. Proceed to assistance of U.S.S.S.
LAWRENCE D. TYSON in distress in 054° 20' N. 005° 15' W.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 200450A to WAVENEY.)

We are astern of you and approaching at speed of 12 knots, if assistance required let me know. Master.
(DIRECTOR No T.O.O. to LAWRENCE D. TYSON.)

Speed 5 knots course 010°.

(LAWRENCE D. TYSON No T.O.O./20 to DIRECTOR.)

Please how long have you been doing 5 knots and what is your present course.

(DIRECTOR 0724Z to LAWRENCE D. TYSON.)

We are 2 hours at 5 knots course 010 have altered course to 325 true at 0700 G.M.T. speed 8 knots. Master.
(LAWRENCE D. TYSON 200725Z to DIRECTOR.)

/Report...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects -

Convoy H.X.F. 307, LAWRENCE D. TYSON. (Contd.) Report forthwith any information available regarding collision of LAWRENCE D. TYSON at 0335A/20th including name and condition of other ship involved. (C. in C. W.A. 200823A to S.E.C. H.X.F. 307, WAVENENY.) Escorting collision casualty apparently leaking but seaworthy. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. Greenock 1730Z/20. (DIRECTOR 201240Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Withdrawal of troopships. Your 190051*not to A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) EMPIRE JAVELIN cannot be released from "Overlord" service until after operation "Nestegg" for which she has been specially prepared. (2) At meeting at S.H.A.E.F. Forward last week at which D. of S.T. was represented it was agreed that L.C.I.(L) would be gradually withdrawn from the shuttle service. (A) For service elsewhere and (B) in view of worsening weather ahead It is assumed that their non availability will be borne in mind when arranging withdrawals of troopships. (A.N.C.X.F. 201121A to D. of S.T.) * See "Neptune" shipping.

German ship BERLIN. It is assumed that German hospital ship BERLIN will be routed north of U.K. when proceeding to and from Brest. (A.N.C.X.F. 201151A to Admty.)

"Bouvet" whalers for Dutch and Belgian voyages. There will be continual requirements for small quantities of fuel, fresh provisions, mails etc. to be sent to Dutch and Belgian ports from now onwards. In view of the shallow water and heavy mining it is most desirable that small vessels should be available for this purpose. It is thought that "Bouvet" type whalers would be suitable. If available request consideration may be given to allocating two of these vessels for this purpose now. (C. in C. Nore 201240A to Admty.)

Danish SKALLINGEN. Humber arrival at 201615 Sept. Danish Fishing vessel SKALLINGEN length 57' carrying fishing gear. Vessel carries crew of 5 and 1 passenger all Danes. Vessel detained at Grimsby. Skipper Poul Poulsen also claims to be part owner, request instructions as to whether vessel is to be taken in prize vide C.A.F.O. 1263/44. (F.O. Humber 201835A to Admty.)

/Return...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Return of
British small
craft lent
to U.S.

Admiralty has made request for the return of British small craft loaned to U.S. Navy prior "Overlord" whose services are no longer required. Addressees are requested to report by craft number. (A) Location following types of British small craft within their respective commands. Harbour Launches Naval Auxiliary Boats, Motor Fishing Vessels, Seaplane Tenders. (B) Which of these craft are no longer required. (C) Craft which have already been returned to the British. (D) Craft which have been lost or damaged beyond economical repair. (Com. 12th Fleet 201858 to Comphibsukay, C.T.F. 125.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Spanish Ships - trading. (Extract)
Financial Adviser thought it was time the Minister agreed to resume sending Spanish ships to the U.K.
(4) Suggested triangular scheme: Spanish ships to take iron ore or pyrites to U.K., then carry cargoes of coal to the Argentine and return to Spain with wheat.
(5) It seems clear that Minister of Commerce has decided on a radical change in policy. If triangular scheme is impracticable it should be possible to fit in some return cargoes for Spanish ships in the coming months under the supply programme.
(Madrid 201500 to M.E.W.)

FORMIDABLE (on passage to Far East) Intend operating 30 A/C West of (5 groups missing) 1300 tomorrow Thursday.
(2) 1 Avenger will arrive Gibraltar about 1400 22nd.
(3) Request sleeve towing A/C in 285 Cape Spartel 30 at 1100 for close range practices and that call signs and frequency be signalled.
(?FORMIDABLE 202158 to F.O.G.M.A.)

S.S. PULASKI. Ref. 181636 from P.S.T.O. S.Africa, request information on nature of repairs to PULASKI necessitating 11 weeks. Owners have expressed surprise and disappointment that such a lengthy period is necessary in view of vessel's comparatively recent extensive overhaul.
(D. of S.T. 202342A to S.T.O. Durban.)

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WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMedi terranean

Aegean
S/M
Operations.

From position 035 degs. 26' 027 degs. 27' at 1815A 20th. VOX proceed East of Saria and Sirina pass through Kinaros Channel during daylight 21st thence West of Buey Rock and Kaloyeri Rocks.
(2) UPSTART proceed as above times 24 hours later.
(3) S/M's may proceed on the surface by day at

their discretion.

(Capt. (S) 1. 201131A to VOX, UPSTART, (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M. S.O. Force 51. S.O. (I) Izmir, Force A.)

From vicinity Kaloyeri Rock about dawn 23rd UPSTART proceed through position 039 degs. 29' 024 degs. 46' about 1501A 23rd and (7039 degs) 37' 024 degs. 15' to patrol in Pireaus - Salonika route south of latitude 039 degs. 29'.

(2) VAMPIRE leaving patrol through 039 degs. 32' 024 degs. 11' at 1501A 23rd passing West of Piperi, Skyros Kaloyeri Rock and Buey Rock to pass Kinaros Channel during daylight p.m. 24th.

(Capt. (S) 1. 201751A to UPSTART, VAMPIRE (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M. S.O. Force 51. S.O. (I) Izmir)

S.S.
MANGKALIHAT
(sunk 4
Aug.)

Your 191022C. MANGKALIHAT torpedoed at 1700Z/ 1st August 1943 in 25 degs. 06' S. 34 degs. 14' E. Vessel was taken in tow but sank at 1856Z/ 4th August in 25 degs. 44' S. 33 degs. 32' E. approx. No information regarding mails.
(D.T.D. 201218A to F.O.L.E.M.)

M.V.
VIRGINIA
(S.C.Vessel)

See my 181917 based on Admiralty's 161352 / not to you. Your 191255.
(2) Admiralty have been asked to arrange 4 days warning of movement of VIRGINIA from Khios and Mitylene, my (718) 1932 / not to you.
(F.O.L.E.M. 201349C. to B.N.A. Ankara).
/ Passage of safe conduct vessel VIRGINIA from Piraeus to Samos.
/ Reports of mines at Mitylene.

Black Sea.

From Intelligence Report Sept. 13th to Sept. 19th. Following craft reported at Belgrade Sept 19th.: Minesweepers BRUCH and BRUNHILDE, two F lighters and one special purpose auxiliary vessel: German

gunboat ALBERICH (corrupt) IRON GATES (?RICH).

Following additional craft reported earlier at Belgrade: Minesweepers SIEGFRIED of general purpose convoy flotilla, S/M chaser number 10 10 of 10th flotilla, two minesweepers M.L. of 30 minesweeper flotilla, 5 F lighters and three special purpose auxiliary vessels.

One non contact mine destroyed off Ochakov.

(N.L.O. Black Sea. 201315)

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

(Extract) 24 hours to 0900 G.M.T./20.
General. Weather probably hampering movements smaller shipping. Striking concentration landing craft and I-boats Syros.
(C. in C. M.E. 201315C)

/Force ...

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20.9.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- Force 120. Night intentions.
Close blockade of Candia-Suda Bay and Santorin.
(F.O.E.C. 201457A to F.O.L.E.M., (R) Air H.W.
Eastern Med.)
- Aegean - P.R. a.m. 20th.
Enemy (A) Pireaus 2 U-Boats (German) present arrived
shipping. DRACHE, 1 Corvette departed PETER.
(B) Khalkis present boom layer(s) PIRAEUS, TZR
FERDINAND, BURGAS, one corvette.
(C) Portolago departed (corrupt group) ship(s).
- (2) Appreciation.
(A) PETER bound Salonika.
(B) Ships in 1(b) may leave tonight for either Salonika or
Pireaus.
(F.O.L.E.M. 201806 to Capt. (S) 1, S.N.O.K.I.T., Info: S.O.
Force 51, P.72 (VAMPIRE)
- Heel ports - A number of L.C. and Coastal forces craft are
Kithera now running between heel ports and Kithera.
traffic. (2) As there is little likelihood of enemy
surface ships outside the Islands off West Coast
of Greece and South of 038 degs. N. all craft
encountered in this area must be clearly
identified as enemy before fire is opened.
(C. in C. Med. 201840A to Med.Station 091 B.)
- M.E.Balkan (Extract)
Sitrep Epirus. Confirmed Preveza free of Germans
No. 310. occupied by Zervas.
(C. in C. M.E. 202020C)
- Situation (1) Night 18th/19th September AURORA bombarded
report Candia Harbour and Heraklion Air Field no
No. 439. opposition.
(2) 1 (one) F (Lighter) was sunk by coastal
forces between Sestri Levante and Spezia night
18th/19th.
(3) Carrier based A/C made armed R/C of Rhodes and Kos on 19th
September and destroyed 9 Motor Transports.
(4) Prisoners from U-Boat my 192308 para. 7 refers 3 Officers
including C.O. and 44 ratings.
(C. in C. Med. 202218A.)

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20.9.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Fuelling at Sea. Methods of fuelling at sea. Your 261345B August refers. Full details are being despatched by fast air mail.
(C. in C. E.F. 200215Z to C. in C. H.F.)

U-Boat dispositions. All areas no fresh information. Scales remain unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 200347Z)

Operation "Light" (attack on Sigli, Sumatra) Operation "Light". Following is proposed communique begins: (?A) carrier borne air attack supported by units of the Eastern Fleet under command of R.A. Clement Moody was carried out against the railway repair and maintenance centre at Sigli - the most important in Sumatra - during early hours of Monday 18th September.
(2) Numerous heavy bombs were seen to hit the target which became enveloped in a pall of black smoke.
(3) No opposition was encountered either from the ground or in the air.
(4) No attempt was made by Japanese to intercept our surface forces either during attack or after the operation had been carried out.
(5) From this operation one of our aircraft did not return ends.
(C. in C. E.F. 200954)

Convoy Dar es Salaam - Tamatave I.A. Convoy Dar Es Salaam - Tamatave I.A escorted by DUMONT DURVILLE arrived Tamatave 20th.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 201113Z)

Service in eastern waters. Your 191729. Para 7 (A) of Seacos 224 recommended that the qualification for return home was a maximum of three years overseas.
(2) This is a concession as applied to the Army and Air Force but is the opposite when applied to the Navy. The word maximum was used to give me latitude to recommend separately to Admiralty a period of two years.
(3) If two years is approved I consider it most important to mention it if any public announcement is made on the subject.
(4) This period is not related to increase of pay in any way.
(C. in C. E.F. 201247 to Adty.)

K.M.F. Convoys. Your 180952 para 2. is noted.
(2) For your information planning of K.M.F. convoys is proceeding on the basis of a 20 day cycle starting with K.M.F. 36 leaving U.K. 9th November.
(3) Details of programme will be subject of further signal.
(4) Your para. 3 confirm that all Naval personnel for Ceylon will be embarked in one ship. Request your proposals for routing

/these ...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

K.M.F.
Convoys
(Contd.)

these ships in order to return with next M.K.F. convoy from Port Said observing that Naval drafts will probably not always fill them to capacity and remaining space must be used for personnel for Bombay or Cochin.

(5) Agreed with War Office and D. of S.T.
(D.O.D.(F) 201943A to C.in C.E.F.)

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WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Radar contact E. of Nova Scotia. Radar contact 040 degs. 54' N. 057 degs. 18' W. at 2316Z. Area searched without result. Asdic faulty. Resuming course. Weather report 9080 2021 position 0312. (PITCAIRN, 200049Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

344 (French) Air Sqn. Your 132153. The grounds on which the original French request was refused are substantially the same. See F.O.C.W.Af. 151223Z 344 Squadron should therefore remain at Dakar. (2) Request you will ask Cominch to inform French accordingly. (3) Air Ministry agree. (A.C.N.S.(F) 200110A to B.A.D.) / Re employment of 344 Squadron.

T.G.21.9. My 152343Z. Delete H.M.S. ST. HELENA. (C. in C. Lant, 200122Z)

A/S sweep in G. of St. Lawrence. Sweep altered in 48.37 N. 62.00 W. at 0330Z/20th to 255 16 knots to close position 47.56 65.20 where U-Boat sighted, Gaspe's 200145Z for 573J3 refers. 9060, 3365. (E.W.13, 200400Z to C. in C. Lant.)

Radar contact near Halifax. H.M.C.S. KENTVILLE obtained Radar contact classified possible S/M. 044 degs. 42' N. 061 degs. 54' W. at 2335Z/19th. Contact lost. KENTVILLE searching area. (C. in C. C.N.A. 200515Z to G.B.7A)

M.V. AMPETCO. Further to my 181209/ AMPETCO has been towed to San Nicolas. Upper Works, damaged by fire, engines in apparently good order, 16 survivors out of 48 complement landed from this ship and five out of 25 from British ship. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 200950) / British Lake Tanker PUNTA GORDA sunk after collision with Belgian tanker AMPETCO.

H.X.S.C. Convoys: ships for E.coast of U.K. ports. To save voyage time ships for East Coast destinations will whenever practicable be detached in a section from H.X. and S.C. convoys and be routed through English Channel. To facilitate the control of these sections request that Vice repeat Vice Commodores of these convoys be in East Coast ships whenever this can be conveniently arranged. (D.T.D.201140A to Connav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/ U-Boat ...

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21.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. Approval has been given for further reductions in the air defences of Great Britain; all but 800 of the heavy A.A. guns, and practically all barrage balloons, are to be withdrawn.

2. 26 M.Ls. and 8 M.T.Bs. are to be sailed for the Mediterranean in early October.

West Coast
of France.

3. (a). 300 German prisoners were taken by the F.F.I. at Audierne yesterday and turned over to the Americans. The port is accessible for ships up to 200 tons only at high water.

(b). La Rochelle is reported strongly held, but the garrison would surrender to anyone except the F.F.I.

Western
Approaches.

4. A deep minefield trap for U-Boats is to be laid off Southern Ireland in the neighbourhood of the Nympe Bank.

Norway.

5. An aircraft of 18 Group scored hits on 2 enemy merchant vessels near the Naze.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Boundary
with E.I.
Station.

6. The dividing line between the Mediterranean and East Indies Stations is drawn along the parallel of 17° N.

South of
France.

7. SS. MORIALTA was damaged by an underwater explosion believed to be a mine at 0645A today in 42.55 N. 05.30 E. (about 25 miles south of Marseilles) and was towed to Marseilles.

Adriatic.

8. Rimini was captured and a bridgehead was established across the River Marecchia by noon today.

Aegean.

9. S.O. 5th M/S Flotilla reported today progress in sweeping in Kithera Channel. Two mines were cut southeast of Kupho.

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21.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Submarine patrol reports. 10. On their recent Far East patrols off Sumatra the submarines SIRDAR and O.19 found only coasters for targets. TANTIVY patrolling off Sunda Strait after a first unsuccessful attack at night on 4th September followed for 4 hours and then sank an escorted 4000 ton merchant ship: the ensuing counter attack was ineffective.

America & West Indies.

Collision casualties.

11.(a). Convoy C.U. 40 sailed from New York and Boston yesterday. STIRLING CASTLE (25,560 tons) carrying troops was damaged in collision with the tanker BROOKFIELD and both ships returned to New York today. SS. SANTA CATALINA struck a submerged object in New York harbour and returned to the pier.
(b). The Chilean SS. CHOAPA sank this afternoon when about 25 miles southeast of New York as the result of a collision.

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Fishing Amenities. A.M. 111344B. Scottish Home Department represent that fishing in the Minch is at present very unproductive and that with the ban on fishing in the southerly grounds the fleet of 12 vessels working from Ayr and Oban is practically immobilized.

(2) Is there any objection to the trawlers being allowed to work in the area included in the triangle formed by (1) Skerryvore, Dubh Artach, Oronsay, (2) Oronsay to North point of Coll and (3) North point of Coll to Skerryvore. (Adty. 210104A to C. in C. W.A.)

Reactions to Government's Demobilisation proposals. Request reports as in my 062251 para. 2 may reach Admiralty by 1st October. (A.C.N.P. 210446A to all Flag Officers, at Home and Abroad.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Reduction of Air Defence. Approval has been given for a further reduction in the air defences of the United Kingdom. (2) Consequent upon this reduction, all A.A. defences in your Command will be removed with the exception of 24 Heavy A.A. guns in the Clyde area.

(3) All facilities for the provision of air raid warning, including the Royal Observer Corps, will be removed from the area West of Scotland North of the Clyde and in Northern Ireland. Reduced facilities for the provision of Radar cover, fighter patrols and Air Raid Warnings will be retained West and South of the line joining Strumble Head - Gloucester - Bournemouth.

(4) Royal Observer Corps Organisation is being retained in the remainder of your Command for the provision of air raid warning in order to control the blackout.

(D. of L.D. 211956A to C. in C. W.A.)

Approval has been given for a further reduction in the A.A. defences of the United Kingdom.

(2) Defences that will remain in your Commands will be as follows.

	<u>Heavy A.A.</u>	<u>Light A.A.</u>
Humber	72	24
Yarmouth, Lowestoft	40	24
Harwich	24	12
Brightlingsea	Nil	4
Thames Medway	104	40
London	288	Nil
Richborough, Sandwich	Nil	8
Deal	Nil	4
Dover	24	12
Folkestone	Nil	8
Hythe	Nil	4
Dungeness	Nil	8
Rye	Nil	8

(3) With the exception of guns of 20 mm. and below, existing

/Heavy ...

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom - Contd.

Reduction of Air Defence. (Contd.) Heavy and Light A.A. guns in the "Eastern Diver Gun Box" will remain.
(4) With the exception of a reserve which is being held for possible Diver requirements all balloon barrages are to be abolished.
(D. of L.D. 212008A to C. in C. Nore, A.C. Dover)
Approval has been given for a further reduction

in the A.A. defences of the United Kingdom.

(2) Under this reduction, all A.A. defences East of a line Humber - Solent are to revert to their pre-"Overlord" status. West of this line the defences are to be removed.

(3) Defences that will remain in your Command will be:

	<u>Heavy A.A.</u>	<u>Light A.A.</u>
Southampton	32	16
Portsmouth	48	8
Isle of Wight	24	12
Bognor	Nil	4
Littlehampton	Nil	4
Worthing	Nil	4
Shoreham, Brighton	24	8
Newhaven	24	12

(4) Full facilities for the provision of radar cover, fighters and air raid warning are being retained west of a line Gloucester - Bournemouth. East of this line reduced facilities will remain.

(5) Balloon Barrages will be abolished.

(D. of L.D. 212016A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Further reduction in the A.A. Defences of the United Kingdom have been approved. This will leave the following guns in your Command:-

	<u>Heavy A.A.</u>	<u>Light A.A.</u>
Tees	16	12
Tyne	32	12
Forth	16	8
Aberdeen	Nil	4
Fraserburgh	Nil	4

(2) Balloon barrages will be abolished.

(D. of L.D. 212025A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Approval has been given for a further reduction in the A.A. defences in the United Kingdom.

(2) Consequent upon this reduction all A.A. gun defences in your Command will be removed.

(3) Reduced facilities for the provision of radar cover, fighter patrols and air raid warnings will be retained West and South of the lines joining Strumble Head - Gloucester - Bournemouth.

(4) Balloon barrages will be abolished.

(D. of L.D. 212055A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Movements

FRIEDRICH
BUSSE.

German Flak ship ex. FRIEDRICH BUSSE has been salvaged at Blainville and is now fit for towage: there is a slight leak in engine room and cross bunker.

(2) Request instructions re disposal.
(F.O.B.A.A. 211704A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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21.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

FRIEDRICH BUSSE (Contd.) F.O.B.A.A.'s 211704. Request instructions for disposal of this ship. (A.N.C.X.F. 211931A to Adty.)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN. To meet requirements in Mediterranean it is desired to allocate ROYAL ULSTERMAN. She will be required to leave U.K. about the middle of October.

(2) Propose that her place in "Nestegg" be taken by ULSTER MONARCH to provide L.S.I. lift and either KINGSMILL or ALBRIGHTON as selected by you to act as H.Q. ship. (3) ROYAL ULSTERMAN would not be withdrawn from "Nestegg" until relieved by ULSTER MONARCH on completion of her repairs about 8th October. (D. of P. 211140 to A.N.C.X.F.)

MALAYA. Amend my S.O.E. 462 not to all and my 201902A. Admiralty direct that MALAYA is to proceed direct to Rosyth. Gunnery trial in Dornoch Firth will not take place on passage.

(2) MALAYA is to pass gate at 0800A tomorrow 22nd September and proceed by route ordered to Duncansby Head and thence by Q.Z.S. 323, 322, 175 and 152 to arrive Rosyth a.m. Monday 25th September.

(4) Reference C. in C. W.A. 211302 not to all. MALAYA is to report estimated time of passing 4 deg. 30' W. to C. in C. Home Fleet Info: C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. W.A. (C. in C. Plym. 211930A as amended by his 212136. to MALAYA, LARK, HART, SKATE.)

Take VEGA under your orders and proceed by S.C. route leaving Methil 2300A 23rd. Adjust speed as necessary to R/V with MALAYA at Duncansby Head 1200A 24th. Place yourself under orders of MALAYA and escort thence until arrival Rosyth a.m. 25th.

(C. in C. Rosyth 212257A to VERDUN.)

CAPETOWN Arrived CAPETOWN. (C. in C. Plymouth 212016A to Adty.)

M.L's to Mediterranean. A.M's 061624 paras. 5 and 6 and 091851 neither to all addressees.

(2) M.L's 591, 594, 599, 904, 905, 907, 187, 189, 123, 182, 191, 193, 194 and M.T.B's 700, 703 and 699 are to sail in convoy from Milford Haven to the Mediterranean on 5th October.

(3) F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, N.O.I.C. Appledore, R.N.O. Brixham and R.N.O. Teignmouth, are respectively requested to sail the M.L's and/or M.T.B's stated in para. 2 as soon as possible but in any event so as to arrive at Milford Haven not later than 29th September.

/(4) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

M.L's to Mediterranean (Contd.) (4) M.L's 200, 201, 202, 204, 205, 214, 230, 245, 269, 303 and M.T.B's 697, 698, 705, 706 and 710 are to sail in convoy from Milford Haven to the Mediterranean on 12th October.
(5) C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. London, N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea and N.O.I.C. Lowestoft are respectively requested to sail the M.L's and/or M.T.B's stated in para. 4 as soon as possible but in any event so as to arrive at Milford Haven not later than 6th October.
(6) C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Western Approaches, and A.C. Dover are respectively requested to expedite the passage of the craft stated in paras. 2 and 4 through their respective commands.
(7) Further signal will be made regarding M.L's 246, 247 and 923.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 212109A to C. in C's Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, W.A., A.C. Dover., F.O.I.C's Falmouth, Yarmouth, London, Milford Haven., N.O.I.C's Appledore, Brightlingsea, Lowestoft., R.N.O. Brixham, R.N.O. Teignmouth.)

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval (A) General. The Assault Area in Baie de la Seine and off Cherbourg has now reverted to the Portsmouth Command. The Ports and Coast and Searched Channels in this area still remain the responsibility of A.N.C.X.F.
(B) Captured ports. (1) Audierne. Port accessible for ships up to 200 tons at high water. No port installations. 300 P.O.W. taken yesterday.
(2) Antwerp. 15 dry docks, of which 12 are large, intact except for slight damage to one Shipyard, and works undamaged.
(3) Ostend. Mine and obstruction clearance proceeding satisfactorily. Air attack by about 4 enemy A/C occurred at 1310/20, several small bombs dropped causing some damage and casualties to civilians and property.
(C) Minesweeping. 3 moored mines have been swept off C. d'Antifer in coastal channel being established between Havre and Dieppe. 11 magnetic mines swept south of Havre in entrance to Seine.
(D) Unloading figures.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	880,168	220,741	1,688,696
U.S.	1,414,832	250,559	2,459,112
Total D + 105 (Adm. Ramsay 212257A to Adty.)	<u>2,295,000</u>	<u>471,300</u>	<u>4,147,808</u>

Operations

Channel

Operation "Pluto" Subject is "Pluto" ex "Dumbo".
Use of Plage des Bains Boulogne not approved.
Original plan to use Ambletuese approved as agreed except that only four hundred yards of

/foreshore ...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Operation
"Pluto".
(Contd.)

foreshore need be cleared of land mines and other obstructions. Request that S.N.O. Pluto and 21st Army Group arrange details and that all concerned take necessary steps to ensure that speediest possible delivery of M.T. 80 may be given. (S.H.A.E.F. 211130A to C. in C. Portsmouth, A.C. Dover, Troopers, Admty. S.N.O. Pluto, Exfor Rear.)

Suspected
U-Boat.

Following received from RETALICK: "Degaussed contact apparently bottomed in 049° 43' N. 001° 34' W." Ends. Passed for information. (C. in C. Portsmouth 211708 to C.T.G. 125.4.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Audierne
surrender.

Landed Audierne a.m. today Thursday. Installed Aldis on end of pier with watch from 0600 to 0901 (?) and 1858 to 2100. (2) Port accessible for ships up to 200 tons only at high water. No port installations. German trawlers being disarmed by F.F.I. 300 prisoners taken yesterday and sent to Americans. (3) Have 6 Polish, 2 Czech deserters from German Army. Local F.F.I. strength 400. (Force 26 211155 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

La Rochelle
situation.

Visited Ile d'Yeu and les Sables d'Olonne no change. F.F.I. state La Rochelle still strongly held but would surrender to any one except F.F.I. Only fuel dump in La Rochelle is situated in Forest 46° 10' 05" N. 01° 07' 06" W. (2) Intend to patrol tonight as in our 211018A. (3) Opas 17. (A) Vicinity Ile d'Yeu. (B) Audierne Bay. (4) Weather report 9180 1871. (Force 27 211600A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy vessels
off Gironde
entrance.

Nr. 2. Position of 1 merchant vessel 45° 33' N. 1° 04' W. stationary. (A/C SRJ 47 211900A to 19 Group.)
Nr. 3. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel and 1 small craft 46° 06' N. 1° 25' W. 010° 5 knots. (A/C SRJ 47 211915 to 19 Group.)

Operations

Western Approaches.

Escorts from American troop-22nd. Adjust speed to arrive Milford Haven buoy by 0530Z/ ship MT. On arrival open envelope 0053/16. (C. in C. W.A. 211248A to NUBIAN, SERAPIS.)
VERNON.

/Left...

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Escorts from American troopship MT. VERNON. (Contd.)
Left MT. VERNON at 1330A P.C. and S. 048° 49' N. 011° 33' W. 224° 19.5. (NUBIAN 211605A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Enemy shipping. Nr. 1. P.C. and 3. one vessel medium size 3000 tons is 62° 24' N. 6° 04' E. 320° 9 knots. (A/C FWZF 210803 to 18 Group.)
Position of 2 enemy medium vessels 58° 03' N. 6° 52' E. result of attack hits observed. (A/C LAGB 211605A to 18 Group.)

It is reported (graded B.2) that a laden collier of 3,000 G.R.T. ran aground in Aaramsund (62° 12' N. 5° 30' E.) at 0001B/16th September and was still aground on 17th September. Comment: Possibly a result of operation "Begonia." (D.D.I.C. 212012A to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1, C.S. 10, A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, A.O.C. in C.C.C., F.O.S.)

Operation "S.C." Ramose Ruffian (my 191414A and 191416A) sailed from Lerwick HITRA at 0730A today Thursday. (2) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired. (A.C.O.S. 210814 to Admty.)
Ramose Maxim (my 151626B and 151627B and 171024A) HESSA now sails 0200A/22nd September, weather permitting. (A.C.O.S. 211249A to Admty.)

Patrols. On leaving Laycock carry out line abreast patrol between 31 and 35 buoys until further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 211546A to E.G. 18.)
At 0800A/22 patrol in area C. (C. in C. Rosyth 212319A to E.G. 18.)

Possible U-Boat. BALFOUR attacked a possible U-Boat (German) contact in position 018° Kinnaird Head 6.5 at 1905A. Slight trace of oil observed just before dark. (2) BALFOUR still in contact with object adhering on bottom although this may be wreck in near vicinity.
(3) Intend her to continue investigating until daylight. (E.G. 18 212112A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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21.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Operation "Rignarole". Destinations. (1) To Molotovsk. HAWKINS, FUDSKE, HENRY LOMB, THOMAS U. WALTER, EDWARD A. SAVOY, CARDINAL GIBBONS, BRITISH PATIENCE. Total 6 ships.
(2) Kola Inlet for holding. EMPIRE CELIA, SAMARITAN, ADOLPH S. OCHS, RAYMOND B. STEVENS, GEORGE T. ANGELL, ARUNAH S. ABELL, JOSHUA THOMAS, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, NERITINA (T). Total 9 ships.
(3) Remainder to Kola Inlet for Murmansk.
(4) In the event of casualty in para. 1 substitute JULIUS OLSEN. (D.T.D. 211050Z to Convoy J.W. 60.)
J.W. 60. Destinations given in S.B.N.O. Archangel's 201245 have been broadcast by B.A.M.S.
(D.T.D. 211848A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Mining.

Havre approach sweep. Today an enemy ground mine in Havre Approach Channel in 10 fathoms was attacked using a square pattern of 9 depth charges with Mk. 8 three Star pistols set to 280' laid from three M.T.Bs. disposed abeam stationed at 20 yards and dropped at 20 yards intervals. Speed 12 knots sea very smooth. Mine detonated 23 secs. after first charge was dropped damaging centre and port vessels. Time interval does not check with minimum depth charge firing interval for this setting. Request confirmation that vessels now being used are suitable for reasonable safe operations against enemy weapons encountered.
(M/S 182 211241A to Capt. M/S Seine.)

St. George's Channel Sweep. Progress. Area swept from Northern edge to a southern limit bounded by a line joining the following positions:-
(A) all following positions are either N. & W. unless otherwise indicated. 051° 36' 12" 007° 51' 30". (B) 051° 47' 48" 007° 01' 48" (C) 051° 52' 42" 006° 42' 48". (D) 051° 58' 48" 006° 15' (24"). Negative result.

Flotilla anchored Ballycotton Bay, intend continuing at first light tomorrow 22nd.
(S.O. M/S 4 211937A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Normandy approaches sweeps. Request following may be made as an A.Z. message. All channels in former Assault Area will for the time being be considered as approach or coastal channels for minesweeping purposes and C.T.F. 125 and F.O.B.A.A. will continue to be responsible as at present for their maintenance and, if necessary, for the diversion and stoppage of traffic therein. 433 A.Z. refers.
(A.N.C.X.F. 211927A to Admty.)

/Deep...

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21.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Deep mine-
field for
St. George's
Channel.

Consideration has been given to laying small deep minefields as traps for U-Boats.

(2) The conclusion has been reached that such action would be unprofitable at present to the north of Ireland in view of the size of the area and lack of information on which to site the fields

(3) Following the decision to route convoys south of Ireland it is however appreciated that the channel through the Nymph Bank minefield may prove an attractive area for U-Boats and one to which the objections outlined in para. 2 do not apply with such force.

(4) It is therefore desired that in the first instance PLOVER shall lay a series of five parallel lines of mines each consisting of 100 mines spaced at 200 feet. The initial line to be laid in a direction 180° from position $51^\circ 45' N. 07^\circ 35' W.$ Succeeding lines to be 2.5 miles apart, their northern ends lying on a line drawn 210° from the position quoted above. Depth settings to be adjusted to bring mines between 60 feet and 70 feet from the bottom.

(5) Outfit E.1 is available at Portsmouth. Further outfits Z.1, Z.2 etc. will be arranged at Milford Haven. Outfit E.1 consists of Mark XVII Assembly 1 mines and the remainder of Mark XVII Assembly 39 mines. The latter are fitted with hydrostatic safety switches in addition to the standard mooring rope safety switches. A skimming sweep over these mines is therefore not essential although desirable. It will however be essential over outfit E.1

(6) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail PLOVER having embarked outfit E.1 to such destination as C. in C. Plymouth may indicate.

(7) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange in conjunction with C. in C. Plymouth for above operation to be carried out.

(D.D.O.D. (M) 212045A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth, W.A.)

Schelde
Approach
sweep.

Unit of 2 M.T.Bs. to R/V sweepers at N.F.8 buoy at 1100A/22 to act as covering force and be prepared to make smoke if required.

(C. in C. Nore 212153A to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.)

Your 212153A. M.T.B. 442 and 444 detailed estimated time of departure 0830.

(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 212306A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German
military
transport
in Norway.

German military transport to Norway.

My 121841 there was little change in transport activity between Denmark and Norway up to Sept. 11th

(A) Fredrikstad to Fredrikshavn. Service continued to be operated regularly by MARS and BRETAGNE though on Sept. 11th JUPITER replaced BRETAGNE which was stated to be damaged.

/(B)...

21.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German military transport in Norway. (Contd.)

(B) Oslo to Aarhus. Traffic still very slight.
(1) LEVANTE returned Oslo from Aarhus Sept. 7th with about 1600 young recruits without equipment and left on Sept. 10th with 6 to 700 men and field artillery consisting 44 and 12.5 and 8 centimetre guns.
(2) Norwegian BJORNBJELL was also reported in Oslo loading war material and a few troops.
(3) BIRKENAU was employed regularly carrying war material but no troops between Oslo and Aarhus.
(C) Copenhagen. MAR DEL PLATA still lying in harbour Sept. 12th.
B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 211137 to Admt.)

Navigational.

Lightbuoys for Q.Z.H. 367. Your 201518A para. 3 and 202330A (passed to LIGHT-FOOT) H.K. 1, Red Can F.L. E.V. 2½ secs. and H.K. 2, Red Conical F.L. E.V. 10 secs. will be loaded into T.H.V. PATRICIA To be laid unlit and fitted with 2½ mile visibility screens. Also Conical superstructure for N.F. 7 (Q.Z.H. 367 refers.)
(2) Intend to sail PATRICIA escorted by LIGHTFOOT at 1200A/ tomorrow Friday Sept. 22nd via Q.Z.S. 468 to anchor for night in small downs - E.T.A. 1730A.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 211300A to C. in C. Nore.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Dieppe shipping. Exfor Rear Mov. Q.M. 2 of 171700B. Shipping programme can be accepted.
(2) Insufficient shipping at present being produced particularly light draught coasters. Agreed by P.E.C.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 211215A to Exfor Rear.)

Casualties & Defects.

R.A.F. H.S.L. 2565. Regret to report total loss of R.A.F. H.S.L. 2565 at 1050A today from internal explosion and fire while lying alongside FORTE IV after fuelling. Following casualties to R.A.F. ratings 1 missing, 1 seriously injured, 4 slightly injured.
(2) No damage or casualties to other craft or the base.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 211242A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys + Ports, nomenclature. Designation of "Overlord" convoys. With the incidence of continental coastwise traffic which has already started along the Brittany coast and which will shortly extend along the north

/coast...

21.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys & Ports
nomenclature.
(Contd.)

coast of France and the Low Countries, and also in view of the proposal to abolish the Assault area contained in my 132145B September (not to all addressees) it is considered that the system of lettered designation of convoys should now be revised.

(2) The following proposals are therefore made:-

(A) The original three letter system for convoys between U.K. and "Neptune" area, whereby the first letter represented the country of departure and the second letter the area of arrival or departure in U.K. and the third the nature of the convoy, to be discontinued.

(B) All convoys concerned with the "Overlord" build-up to continue to be designated by three self-evident letters, the first letter to represent the port or area of departure the second letter to represent the destination port or area, and the third letter the nature of the convoy.

(3) Proposed port or area letters to be as follows retaining existing allocations where possible:-

- A - Antwerp.* B - Bristol Channel. C - Cornwall (and Devon).
- D - Dieppe (including Treport and Fecamp.) E - Cherbourg.
- F - French U.S. Beaches (Omaha and Utah). G - Boulogne. H - Havre and Rouen. I - Harwich. J - Ymuiden (and Amsterdam.)
- K - Hook of Holland (including Rotterdam). L - Spare.
- M - Arromanches (including Port en Bessin and Ouistreham - Caen.)
- N - Spare. O - St. Malo (and North Brittany ports). P - Portland. Q - Spare. R - Brest. S - Calais (and Dunkirk.)
- T - Thames. U - Hamburg. V - Spare. W - Isle of Wight.
- X - Newhaven (Sussex). Y - Spare. Z - Spare.

(4) Examples of new convoys would be:-

X.D.C. 2 - the second coaster convoy from Newhaven to Dieppe.

E.H.L. 1 - The first L.S.T. convoy from Cherbourg to Havre.

(5) If approved, I would then cancel my O70929B August O71109B August, 291846B August and O11826B September, and O.N. 13 para. 9. (A.N.C.X.F. 211558A to Admty.)

A.M. 191333 concur.

(A.N.C.X.F. 212247A to Com. Southend.)

"Overlord"
convoys.

A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) 211115A. L.S.T. of E.P.L. convoys will sail independently from Portland to France. M.T. ships of E.W.M. convoys from Wight to France will be escorted by escorts from Portsmouth. On arrival at destination escorts will return independently to Solent.

(2) Amend my 191507A paras. 1 and 2 accordingly.

(3) Capt. D. pass to ships for whom you are responsible.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 211914A to Capt. D. Portsmouth.)

Convoys
O.N. and
O.N.A.

The procedure given in A.M. 171744 will be brought into force with O.N. 256 which sails on Sept. 27th. Channel section will be known as O.N.A. 256.

(2) C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Plymouth are requested to arrange escort accordingly.

(D.O.D.(H) 212020A to Cs. in C. Nore, W.A. Plymouth.)

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21.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

F.B.C.
convoys.

Your 191242B. Timetable is not agreed with speed of advance for F.B.C. convoys is 7 knots. Estimate time of passing Eddystone should be 0600A D.1 Buoy 1030A and Lundy 0400A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 212330A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U.S.S. GEN.
W.A.MANN,
M.C.MEIGS,
T.G.14.5.

C.N.O.282130 and 291835 August (not to all) refer.
Intend to sail U.S.S. GEN. W.A. MANN and U.S.S.
GEN. M.C. MEIGS at 0900/22 for Gibraltar. (Route
etc.). Sailing with Task Group (714).5 composed
of MEMPHIS, TRUMPETER, CANNON and Brazilian RIO
GRANDE DO SUL.
(N.O.B. Rio, 211335) W.D. Note: Carrying Brazilian
troops for Italy.

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

GEORGES LEYGUES. Your 201902A. GEORGES LEYGUES not desired on 12 hours notice for steam. She is available for 10 days for repairs. (C.T.F.86,210057A to F.O.W.M.)

Aegean S/M Operations. Intend to sail from Khios for patrol to be in position to 038 degs. 40' 026 degs. 05' by 1030B/24th. Medical opinion considers Officer fit by that time. Fuel remaining 52%. (VISIGOTH, 211555B to Capt.(S) 1, S.O. Force 51, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

Aegean-enemy intelligence. P.R. a.m. 21st Piraeus U-Boat (German) left dry dock and not located elsewhere. (2) ZEUS and SOLFERINO destroyers arrived Salonika. (F.O.L.E.M. 211857C to Capt. (S) 1, S.N.O.K.I.T., S.O. Force 51.(R) VAMPIRE.)

Sweeping-Kithera Channel. Situation report 6. H now cleared, (?checked) and can be considered safe is (?bordered) by (all bearings and distances from South Kupho Island) A. 080 degs. 1.75 miles. B. 116 degs. 3.5 miles. C. 205 degs. 7 miles. D. 239 degs. 5.9 miles. (2) 2 mines cut south east of Kupho. (3) Fuel remaining expressed in sweeping days H.M.S. CLINTON 3, remainder 5. (4) TUMULT and TENACIOUS 40 per cent each. (5) Intend sending danlayers to Malta for fuel. (6) One Junkers 88 inspected Flotilla at 1430. (S.O.(?5) M.S.F. 212005B to C. in C. Med.)

Mitylene. (Extract) M.E. Balkan Sitrep No.311. A. Greece.Mitylene. 19 Sept., entrance to inner harbour blocked by 45 ton caïque filled with cement. Harbour unfouled. Two ton hand crane working. Population 160,000. Food requirements 60 tons per day. Stocks estimated last ten days. (C. in C. M.E. 212015C)

Navistintrep No.37. Operation "Dragoon". Period ending 202400. Right flank. G.S. LUDLOW 12 rds. at railway and vehicles Ventimiglia. S.F.C.P. Reported area well covered. Range of batteries Ventimiglia extended to West of Cap Martin. Marseilles.

Basin National opened making four more alongside berths available. Two South side pier Pinede. One at end Mole dug (?D) One outer end North side Mole C. Total alongside berths 15 plus one coaster. 22 Liberty's 10 transports one coaster unloaded. Personnel 8437 vehicles 2169 cargo (?tons) 11240. 50 L.C.T. 27 L.C.M. over 100 Dukws employed. M/S continued in lower basin Toulon. Two additional Liberty Berths. One pier three East. One pier one west total nine. 1 (?) Berths. Land side rehabilitation Crasee (?25) 1200. Seven Liberties unloaded

personnel /...

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21.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Navistintrep personnel 750 vehicles 438 tons 1183. Port De
No.37. Bouc. Unloaded 1288 tons. M/S started in
(Contd.) Port St. Louis. One mine blown. Beaches.
Six L.S.T. Arrived one M/V remaining. Unloaded
829 tons.
(Algiers W/T 212145)

Capture Cositintrep No.549 to 1200/21 (Extract).
of Rimini. First. Eight Army. 1 Cdn. Corps. Rimini R.
R.8597 captured and bridgehead est across R
Marecchia. 1 Cdn. Div. 3 Greek Mtn. Bdr. en-
tered Rimini and reached line of canal without
opposition. Bridge at R 859081 captured intact. One Cdn.Bde.
Leading Bn SP by tks crossed R Marecchia against light opposition
and last reported R 818986. 4 Brit. Div. 10 Brit Bdr. Leading
elts reached R 805937. 28 Bde. Fwd tps passed through 10 Brit
Bdr. and reached R 808949 without contact
(H.Q. AA.I.Adv. No.T.O.O.)

War Diary21.9.1944
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-Boat All areas. No fresh information. Scales remain
dispositions. unchanged except CB one becomes X.4.
 (C. in C. E.F. 210406Z)

Training of (Extract) To avoid undue congestion of training
assault facilities at Airfields in Southern India and
carrier Ceylon it is important that all pilots of Assault
fighter Carrier Fighter Squadrons be given their basic
squadrons. bombardment spotting training before arrival on
 the Station. A.M. 111629 July para. 6 and a.m.
 300253 Aug. para. (4) refer. It is proposed that
 bombardment spotting training facilities should
be provided at Tambaram and Puttalam and China Bay.
(3) It is considered that the amount of firing practice required
to train and keep in practice the number of pilots envisaged
justifies the employment of an old six inch cruiser as a bomb-
ardment training firing ship. Such a ship would also be of much
value for training F.O.P?), Parties and would if required be
used in subsequent combined operations. Request consideration
be given to the provision of such a ship.
(C. in C. E.F. 211031Z to Admt) Amended 011032.

Controlled Your 071011Z (not to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez) and
M.F. 160910Z. Approved to weigh Controlled Mine-
Diego field.
Suarez. (2) MANCHESTER CITY and REDSHANK may be used be-
 fore proceeding to Ceylon.
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 211224A to C. in C. E.F.)

SIRDAR, SIRDAR 3rd far east patrol.
O.19, (2) 2nd Sept. attacked convoy with gunfire
TANTIVY, damaging one coaster which beached in 003 degs.
patrol 54' N. 096 degs. 20' E. One escort was damaged
reports. and a 3rd ship was hit but escaped northwards.
 (3) O.19 1st far east patrol.
 (4) 4th Sept. position (?002 degs) 20' S. 100 degs.
 50' E. sank large Sampan by gunfire.
(5) 6th Sept. position 002 degs. 42' S. 101 degs. 09' E. sank by
gunfire 200 ton southbound coaster.
(6) 10th Sept. sank 400 ton coaster by gunfire.
(7) TANTIVY 5th far east patrol.
(8) 1st Sept. on passage Trincomalee to Fremantle in 007 degs. 30'
S. 101 degs. 56' E. attacked by A/C which dropped 3 dud bombs.
(9) 4th Sept. while patrolling off Cape Redak Sunda Strait at
night, having been ordered there by C.T.F.71. missing escorted
4000 ton merchant ship with 3 torpedoes. 4 hours later attacked
again from submerged on eastern side of Semangko Bay firing 7
torpedoes. 2 hit and target sank. Escort counter attacked
ineffectively.
(C. in C. E.F. 211404)

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21.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-boat dispositions Estimates.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 211320Z, 211542Z.)

Radar contact Para. C. C.T.G. 22.4 disappearing Radar contact
 42° 20' N. 50° 00' W. at 0032/21.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 211507Z.)

Ships for E. coast of U.K. ports in H.X. convoys. Vice Commodores of H.X. convoys should when practicable be in ships destined East Coast to save voyage time East coast ships will, if possible be detached in a section and be routed via English Channel. This section suffix is A. (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 211606Z.)

Convoy C.U.40 Your route altered. Pass through KL to new position KR lat. 38.00 long. 65.01 thence to KM. Acknowledge. Inform me when you increase speed. (Comeastseafron, 211641Z to C.T.G.21.9.)

C.U.40 - M.V.STIRLING CASTLE and tanker BROOKFIELD. STIRLING CASTLE and BROOKFIELD have returned to New York. (Comeastseafron, 211710Z.)
STIRLING CASTLE has returned following collision. Understand fore peak holed all damage above water line.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 211815Z)
My 211815 STIRLING CASTLE.
(1) Will effect temporary repairs and depart C.U.41.
(2) 3 B.A.S.
(B.M.W.T. New York, 212245Z.)

L.23
L.26. With arrival UPRIGHT and UNITED request your intentions with regard to H.M.S. L.23 and L.26 your 130234 May not to B.S.O. Philadelphia refers. (N.S.H.Q. 211948Z to Admty.)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND - protest by Cominch. Your 191405. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND is due to proceed to Mediterranean prior to employment for planned operations in the Indian Ocean, and in the meantime is the vessel that can most conveniently undertake the task of repatriating these Gibraltarians.
(2) In conformity with the usual procedure proposal to use DUCHESS OF RICHMOND was notified to U.S. War Dep. and U.S. Navy Dep. through B.A.S. and B.M.S.M. Washington. A reply (B.A.S. No. QM.557 17/9) was received advising their concurrence.
(3) It is to be noted that the use of DUCHESS OF RICHMOND for this purpose does not in any way interfere with the movement of U.S. troops to the European theatre.
(4) To facilitate early release of U.S. APAs. from Mediterranean, the Ministry of War transport, who are the responsible authority, will gladly investigate what additional assistance can be given to U.S. share of "Dragoon" build up by temporary employment of

/British...

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21.9.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND protest by Cominch. (Contd.) British ships, so long as this does not in any way delay their use for employment for planned operations in the Indian Ocean. (5) In the circumstances, it is not intended to alter the arrangements made for DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. (V.C.N.S. 212015A to Cominch.)

Casualties and U/B incidents. First report since my 152033. 0900/18 British Tanker PUNTA GORDA total loss from fire 12.15 N. 70.05 W. (c) 0032/21 CORE A/C had Radar contact 42.15 N. 50.00 W. followed by the sightings of an oil stock and Sonobuoy indications at 0850Z/21. All times Z. (d) About 1420/21 transport A/C sighted partially submerged U-boat 06.55 S. 20.56 W. course 280. (Cominch, 212101Z.)

Stragglers' report No.69. Two arrived Halifax from H.X.F. 308 CATRINE September 16 deck cargo shifted HENRY HADLEY (U.S.) September 16 boats and davits damaged and deck cargo shifted. Two returned New York from H.X.F. 308.S.M. SHOEMAKER (U.S.) and ROBERT WALTON MOORE (U.S.) both September 16 with weather damage. One arrived Bermuda from U.G.S.54 EMPIRE STUART Sept.15th unable to maintain convoy speed. Two returned New York from C.U.40 STIRLING CASTLE and BROOKFIELD (U.S.) both Sept. 20th no reason given. One arrived from O.N.S. 251 ELMER A. SPERRY (U.S.) Sept. 16th for shelter due to weather. (N.S.H.Q. 212115Z.)

X-craft BON-AVENTURE. A.M. 291038 July. (There will probably be delay in completion of X-craft, and departure of BONAVENTURE from U.K. is almost certain to be delayed until end of January at earliest. (A.C.N.S.(F) 212122A to B.A.D.) *BONAVENTURE with 6 X.E. craft to leave U.K. end of 1944. (HUSH distribution)*)

T.G. 69.7 T.G.69.(?7) hereby constituted BUTLER, GENTRY TRAW MAURICE J. MANUEL NAIFEH* escort convoy U.G.F.15 B. departing New York 6th October for port Southern France. SOLOMONS ferrying aircraft for Casablanca included in convoy. Return escorting G.U.F.15B when directed by C. in C. Med. Comorseafron requested return SOLOMONS in G.U.F.15B. SOLOMONS be prepared fuel escorts if necessary. (C. in C. Lant 212323Z.) *As received.

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21.9.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

- Endeavour Strait. Detailed survey carried out in accordance para.3 my 120505* July completed and shows no change charted depths.
(A.C.N.B.210432Z) * Dredging of danger area at western entrance Endeavour Strait.
- Force X. Comsowestpac Force at present planning to employ Force X almost continuously in forward operating area participating in training and in assault operations. Improbable force will return mainland between operations. Comsowestpac Force recommends Milne Bay for reserve landing craft site with Cairns as alternative if site must be on mainland. Your 022047 August refers.
- (2) U.S. facilities at Cairns will move forward shortly and those at Milne Bay within next six months.
- (3) Comsowestpac Force agrees to U.S facilities at either site being made available subject to para. 2.
- (4) Accommodation available at Milne Bay but would have to be improvised at Cairns.
- (5) Confirmation is requested that 13 L.C.A. and 10 L.C.S.(M) due Sydney about 24th October are (?initial) shipment for reserve minor landingcraft for Force X. Your 160239 to B.AD. Washington only refers.
- (6) When site is decided it may be desirable for ship with (?craft) embarked vide para. (5) to be (?routed) to specific port for unloading observing that transshipment would involve very considerable delay.
(A.C.N.B. 210930Z to Admty.)
- Digest (Extract)
974. (2) P.T. BUWXS night previous to 19th/20th sank North bound sea truck carrying fully equipped troops, fuel ammunition and stores off North-East Coast Morofaw (?Morotai) Colyn also sank 2 small (Crlim?) raiding personnel attempting escape from sea truck. Same time another pair motor torpedo boats probably sank 2 barges heading West around Petak Point on North Eastern Celebes.
- (10) Aircraft carrier borne planes flew 108 sorties over Northern Halmaheras 18th September dropping 27½ tons bombs plus firing 31 rockets. Photos showed over 30 planes probably damaged but repairable on Galelagmiti and (Lolobmhqfields) and of these 5 destroyed, one probably destroyed and 16 further damaged (?Llyn) 2 tankers already unserviceable were further damaged.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 211113)

SECRET

IN

489A.

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.

Date 21.9.44

Received 0700

From: B.A.S. Washington

CIPHER

OPERATIONS IN PALAU

Addressed: The War Office

IMPORTANT

474791 I/460 cipher 20 Sep. M.I.2.

Following operational information from CG USAF Pacific cypher 19 Sept.

One. Peloliu (A) 17 Sept. Supported by strong mortar and Arty fire Japs offered determined resistance to 1 Marine Div. attack throughout 17 Sept. Allied aerial bombing and CB fire destroyed many enemy mortars and guns. During day gains of approx. 500 yards made and villages Ngarokoukl and Omaok captured. By 1800 hrs all of Peloliu south these two villages held by Americans except Peninsula extreme south tip island.

(B) 18 Sept. During night 17-18 Sept. counter attack launched in some strength against American left flank. Successfully repulsed, Arty and mortar fire against left flank continued throughout night. Morning 18 Sept. co-ordinated attack launched by marines. Heavy resistance encountered particularly on left flank but by 1800 hrs. Asiab town captured. All of island south of town successfully held.

Two. Angaur (A) 17 Sept. Good progress made throughout day and by 1800 hrs. advance inland from NE shore had progressed approx. 1,000-1,500 yds. Intermittent fire on beach during night.

(B) 18 Sept. Commencing at first light Japs launched three counter attacks. All repulsed. American progress continued during day against light opposition and by 1800 hrs. north half island controlled.

Three. Casualties up to 1800 hrs. 18 Sept. (A) Peloliu. Americans killed 343 wounded 2,231 missing 266. Japanese killed 5,495. PW 3.

(B) Angaur Americans killed 10 wounded 120 missing 9. Japanese killed 48.

No T.O.O.

Received in War Reg. at 220852. Circulated by W.O. to W.O. and Air Min. and Admiralty.

1st Lord	A.C.N.S.(A)(2)	O.I.C.(3)	M.(2)	I.P.(2)
1st S.L.(2)	A.C.N.S.(W)	D.N.I.(5)	D.P.D.	
D.F.S.L.	U.W.R.	C.W.R.	C.C.L.S.	
4th S.L.	Ad. Blake	D. of P.(Q)(3)	A.L.O.	
5th S.L.	Capt. Pim	D.D.O.D.(M)	W.D.	
V.C.N.S.	Ops.(2)			
A.C.N.S.(H)	Plot			
A.C.N.S.(F)	O.D.(5)			

D.I.79

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21.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C attacked U-boat on 21st
September in 37° 32' N., 22° 25' W.
Para. B. (1) A/C J/110 obtained submerged contact
at 1530Z/20th 54° 52' N., 09° 29' W.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2305Z/20 in
56° 05' N. 10° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 211042A.)

U/B
dispositions

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 211346A, 211347A.)

22.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

1. The majority of the Coast Defence batteries in the UK. are being reduced to care and maintenance status with the exception of anti-E-boat installations.

North Sea

2a. Terneusen in the Schelde Estuary has fallen.
b. Ostend will be able to take 4 ships of up to 10 ft. 9 in. draught by Sunday afternoon.

Channel

3a. The Canadians have taken Wimereux and all of Boulogne except 2 strongpoints, as well as all coastal batteries south of the town.
b. The decision has been taken definitely to run the "Pluto" pipe-line from Dungeness to Ambleteuse.

West Coast
France.

4a. At Brest the Passe Sud is blocked by a sunken floating dock and 2 or more ships, but there remains a clear gap of 400 ft. The Port Militaire is effectively blocked and completely wrecked.
b. The German Naval Attache in Madrid is enquiring for ROSTOCK (see 16.9.44)

Northern
Waters.

5a. The Russian submarine patrol line is extended again to 20° E (S. of 72° 30' N.)
b. American SS. YUKON was mined or torpedoed in Convoy U.R. 136, 30 miles west of Reykjavik. The area was swept for both ground and moored mines with negative result and all evidence tended to prove that the ship was torpedoed. She is making for Reykjavik at 3 knots.

Mediterranean

Riviera

6. The U.S. destroyers EDISON and WOLSEY bombarded batteries and storage dumps in the Franco-Italian frontier area today.

Adriatic

7. LOYAL shelled a road north of Rimini today.

Aegean

8a. Aircraft of Strategic Air Force dropped 163 tons on the port facilities of Salonika last night. Good concentration is reported, causing fires that were visible for 100 miles.

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22.9.1944

Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean
(Contd.)

8b. VAMPIRE today obtained two hits on a north-bound 3,000 ton merchant ship (possibly the German SS. PETER) north of Skiathos and probably sank it.

c. Middle East aircraft today attacked a 2,400 ton vessel in Port Vathi, Samos Island; subsequent reconnaissance showed the vessel completely burnt out and only a hulk remaining.

d. C. in C. M.E. reports that the "minelayer" DRACHE (C.B.1815 shows her as a gunnery school vessel) was attacked from the air p.m. today at Vathi and is reported seriously damaged.

Australia and New Zealand

Moluccas

9a. P.T. boats sunk five fuel laden barges off Halmahera last night.

b. An allied destroyer shelled a reported enemy concentration on the north coast of Morotai today.

New
Guinea.

10. In the early hours of today, two P.T. boats torpedoed and sank a 200 ft. enemy ship believed to be a minesweeper off Sorong.

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Friday

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Division of responsibility between British and U.S.

Consequent on decision that U.S. Forces shall open up Havre and the abolition of the assault area, the Division of responsibility between C.T.F.125 and F.O.B.A.A. is revised as follows:-
(2) C.T.F.125 is responsible for all Coast and Ports westward from 49° 21' 4" N. 00° 48' W. and in addition from east bank of River Orne to Cap D'Antifer including estuary of Seine as far as

Quillebeuf.

(3) F.O.B.A.A. is responsible for all Coast and Ports from Cap D'Antifer eastwards to Franco-Belgian Frontier and also between 49° 21' 4" N. 00° 48' W. and East Bank of River Orne.
(A.N.C.X.F. 221025A to All ships and Authorities taking part in Operation "Neptune", Commaveu, S.H.A.E.F., N.A.G., Central A.G., 12th U.S. Army, 1st Canadian Army, A.E.A.F. (Main), H.Q.C.C., A.D.G.B., 2nd T.A.F., C.G.9th A.F.)

Fishing facilities

A.M. 210104 para. 2. No objection. This area will be promulgated by W.A.G.M. (C. in C.W.A. 221314A to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Reduction of Coast Defences.

Reference A.M. 011817. Approval has been given to the reductions proposed.
(2) Home Guard Batteries are also being placed in Care and Maintenance.
(3) Urgent consideration is now being given to further reductions in Coast Defence Guns. (Admty., 221955A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Ref. A.M. 011836. Approval has been given to the reductions proposed as amended by your 021932.

(2) Home Guard Battery at Wick is placed in care and maintenance. State of readiness of A/M.T.B. batteries remain as at present.

(3) Urgent consideration is now being given to further reductions in Coast Defence Guns. (Admty., 221956A to A.C.O.S.)

Movements

Admiralty Floating Dock No.17.

My 201502. A/C reports position of A.F.D. 17 received from S.O. at 1905A/21 was 62° 58' N. 22° 10' W. 190° 3½'. (A.C.I.C. 221120A to C. in C.W.A.)

MALAYA

Request you provide 2 destroyers to rendezvous with MALAYA in approx. 058° 45' N. 004° 30' W. on Sunday 24th September. E.T.A. this position to be to be reported by MALAYA. Destroyers to escort MALAYA from there until relieved by VERDUN and VEGA in vicinity of Duncansby Head then return to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 221243A to R.A.D.H.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

CAPETOWN Intend to destore CAPETOWN and reduce to reserve fleet in Category C.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221507A to Admty.)

BACHAQUERO Your 201753 not to all addressees.
BACHAQUERO may be employed as requested.
(2) Your 201802. MINNA available at 24 hours' notice.
(Admty. 221855A to A.C.O.S.)

ROYAL A.M. 211140. Repairs to ULSTER MONARCH are expected to take six weeks (F.O. I.C. Cardiff's 181625 refers).
ULSTERMAN (2) ALBRIGHTON has been released from "Neptune". Request she may be allocated as KINGSMILL may be required for other operations.
(A.N.C.X.F. 221529A to Admty.)

TOMPAZIS Your 151836 and C. in C. Mediterranean's 211208 TOMPAZIS is being sailed to Plymouth a.m. 23rd Sept. Request you will give C. in C. Plymouth her onward sailing instructions.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 222336A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations

Situation Reports

Military

In the Schelde Estuary we have captured Terneuzen and are steadily mopping-up the southern bank east of the Leopold Canal. In the Boulogne area, the enemy has been confined to the high ground southwest of the town.
(S.H.A.E.F. Ford. 221100A to Agwar.)
3rd Canadian Infantry Division 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade captured Wimeraux.
9th Canadian Infantry Brigade cleared remainder Boulogne excluding two strong points.
(Exfor Main, 222245A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Naval

A. Captured Ports.
(1) Brest. Further preliminary reports show that both town and harbour area have suffered very heavy damage. At present there appear to be no alongside berths fit for use and all unloading facilities have been destroyed. All exits from wharves are completely blocked by rubble and craters. The Passe Sud is partially blocked by sunken floating dock and 2 or more ships but there is a clear gap of 400 feet. The Port Militaire is effectively blocked in 3 places and completely wrecked, all bridges are either down or damaged.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports - Contd.

Naval (Contd.) (2) Dieppe. There are now six more berths available for Coasters up to 12 feet draught. (B) Intelligence. An ungraded report states that the only enemy fuel dump in La Rochelle district is in a forest at 046° 10' 05" N. 001° 07' 06" W.

(c) Unloading figures:-

	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores
British	882,055	221,237	1,707,033
U.S.	1,420,034	252,289	2,492,892
Total D+106	2,302,089	473,526	4,199,925

(Adm. Ramsay, 222313A to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Patrol (a) Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 359, 358, is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 2015 today Friday. (2) Object interception of enemy small craft encountered. (3) Unless in contact with the enemy until is to leave patrol at 0530 and return to Harbour. (A.C. Dover, 221155A to S.O. M.T.Bs. Dover, S.O.5 M.T.B.F.)

Operations - Channel

Operation "Nestegg". (1) Have received Naval Amendments to the terms of surrender "Nestegg" from C. in C. Plymouth direct. (2) Urgently desire you reply our Fwd.15055 of 16th September or request Air Officer Commanding 10 Group to send concurrence or comments direct. (S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. 221500A to Southco.)

Operation "Pluto" "Pluto"-"Dumbo" Ambleteuse Scheme approved. Barges load accordingly. Request "Pluto" H.Q. be informed. (S.N.O. Pluto, 221947A to Admty.)

Boulogne batteries captured. All coastal batteries Boulogne area south captured. (N.L.O. 1st Canadian Army 222114A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations - West Coast France

Patrols. Nothing to report during night. Landed Audierne. No change. Boarded and searched scuttled trawlers and obtained log books etc. Weather report on arrival. (2) OP AS 17 (C) West of Saints. (3) E.T.A. Plymouth gate 1630A/22. (4) Following 2 groups weather report 8 figure 2866 1352. (S.O. Force 27 220915A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Patrol...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

Patrols
(Contd.)

Patrol A.M. today Friday 22nd September between Belle Ile and Ile D'Yeu.

- (1) Nothing to report.
- (2) Spoke Ile d'Yeu Signal Station. Situation unchanged.

(3) Intend sweep from Gironde to Belle Ile during the night returning to Sables d'Olonne A.M. tomorrow 23rd September.

(4) OPAS 17.

(a) Vicinity of Gironde

(b) Belle Ile.

(c) Les Sables D'Olonne.

(4) O.F. remaining at 0800/22nd IROQUOIS 85% URANIA 90%

(6) Weather Report.

10/10 Cloud at 1000 feet. Weather cloudy. Visibility 10 miles.

1009 Millibars. Pressure. Wind S.W. Force 2.

(S.O. Force 28 221455A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Alleged
Hospital
Ship
ROSTOCK.

German Naval Attache Madrid has requested Ministry of Marine to approach me for information regarding German Hospital ship ROSTOCK which he alleges sailed from Lorient 17th September with 400 wounded personnel bound for Santander in agreement with British Authorities. Grateful for instructions. (B.N.A.Madrid, 221245B to D.N.I.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Suspected
U-boat

Escorts made two Hedgehog and one depth charge attacks without evidence of damage on Sonar contacts near 42.23 N. 49.18 W. between 2015 and 2235Z 21st. Escort made Hedgehog attack about zero hours Z 22nd near 42.02 N. 49.03 W. without

explosion. Sonar Range Range very short contacts difficult to evaluate. Plane had disappearing blip at 0825 22nd near 42.22 N. 48.30 W. Escorts made intermittent Sonar contacts at 1206 and 1242Z at point three miles West of plane blip. Concentrating search this vicinity.

(C.T.G. 22.4 221343Z to N.S.S.)

Operations

Norway

Suspected
U-boat

By D/F on 4020 kc/s at 0347Z U-boat in area within 30 miles of 60.40 N.4.15 E. (D.D.I.C., 220609A to S/Ms. on Patrol N. of 51 N. info. F.O.S. etc.)

My 212112A. BALFOUR, TOWY in firm contact with stationary object which projects 45' above sea bed.

- (2) Several attacks carried out and some oil produced.
- (3) Owing to low visibility impossible to fix position

/accurately...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Suspected
U-boat
(Contd.)

accurately to decide whether object may be one of two wrecks chartered approximately near estimated position.

(4) BALFOUR, TOWY continuing to investigate. PEACOCK in charge search in area C. (S.O.E.G. 220950A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 220950A. From (?nature) of (?wreckage) brought to surface consider object (?to be) a wreck in position (?189°) Kinnaird Head Light 5.3

(2) Am proceeding to comply with your 220950. (S.O.E.G.18, 221230A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operation
"S.C".

Ramose Ruffian. My 210814A HITRA returned at 1150A today Friday.

(2) Operation "Successful". (A.C.O.S. 221301A to Admty.)

Wildcats
for
TRUMPETER.

In view of shortage of fighters for forthcoming operation intend to embark two A.R. Wildcat Mark VI A/C from Hatston. My 211201*not to all refers.

(C. in C.H.F. 221348A to Admty., RAMAS (N), (R) S.O.N.A.S. (Orkney), F.O.C.T., A.C.O.S., TRUMPETER) *Circulation "Hush".

Operations

Northern Waters

Russian
oil
available.

Para. 4 of A.M. 151332 Russians have consistently stalled over giving firm figure but balance of furnace oil owing to Russia is agreed at (?about) 8,000 tons.

(2) Balance of diesel oil is about 700 tons to credit of Admiralty.

(3) Firm figures will follow when agreed. (S.B.N.O. N. Russian 220920A to Admty.)

Admiral Golovko now states that 5,000 tons of fuel oil will be available now. A.M. 021359 August paragraph 5 refers. Previous figure quoted June 1943 was 10,000 tons. I consider that reduction is a lever to induce the payment of balance (my 220920 refers) and have little doubt that more could be produced if necessary.

(2) Diesel oil 700 tons. (S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 220924A to Admty.)

Russian
S/M Zone.

Western limit of Russian S/M patrol zone is extended to 020° East south of 072° 30' N. from 23rd September.

(3) Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer.

(C. in C. H.F.221238A to Home Fleet (except ships refitting or temporarily detached to another Command or Station, but including vessels temporarily attached to Home Fleet for an operation or for escorting Convoys), Admty., C. in C.W.A. etc.)

/Spitzbergen...

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters - Contd.

Spitzbergen. A.M. 142058. JAMAICA expects to arrive Adventfjord p.m. 4th October and will disembark stores and reliefs at Longyearby on rising tide.
 (2) Two L.C.Vs. will be used for unloading.
 (3) Request you will report any change in the ice situation to Admiralty. C. in C. H.F. and JAMAICA.
 (D.O.D., 221454A to "Ploughshare".)

Patrol ALGONQUIN at 0600/23 proceeds from Reykjavik to relieve TAHOMA on Station C route via Q.Z.S.438 and 412 and (E) 64.06.36 N. 22.56.30 W.
 (F) 63.44 N. 24.32 W. (G) 59.59 N. 34.59 W.
 thence Station C. E.T.D. (East) 0900Z/23. E.T.A. Edge C Circle 0540Z/25. E.T.A. Point (E) 0220Z/27. Ten knots each ship.
 All times Z.
 (Comgopat, 221615 to C.T.F.24.)

Operation "Rigmarole" J.W.60 Operation "Rigmarole"
 (a) If time permits cancel all ships in Group One for White Sea and substitute following, DAVID STONE, JOHN VINING, DANIEL WILLARD, NATHANIAL ALEXANDER, JOHN WOOLMAN, BRITISH PATIENCE (T)

Total 6 ships.
 (b) JULIUS OLSEN remains as reserve.
 (2) Group 2 remains unchanged.
 (3) Alteration caused by special request from Moscow received only today. Russians have agreed to original selection.
 (4) This does not alter number of ships in Groups 1 and 2 namely 6 ships only to proceed in Group One.
 (5) Para. 1 (A) of my 201245 original Group One will discharge at Murmansk.
 (6) If too late original programme will be adhered to.
 (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 221745Z to S.B.N.O. N.Russia, Admt.)
 Amended destinations given in S.B.N.O. Archangel's 221745 have been broadcast by B.A.M.S. for compliance if time permits.
 (D.T.D., 222005A to S.B.N.O. North.Russia.)

Mining

Escort for Schelde Channel Sweepers. Ramsgate 22nd September Departure M.T.Bs 442 and 444. C. in C. Nore, 212153A refers.
 (FERVENT, 220832A to C. in C. Nore)

American minesweeping responsibilities. Your 211918/8. It is expected that Comdr. M/S Brest with forces assigned him will complete Brest clearance requirements in all respects. Thereafter U.S. Y Squadrons with 9 French trawlers can meet minesweeping maintenance commitments at U.S. operated ports between Brest and Cherbourg inclusive. Too great dependence cannot be placed on French forces considering their maintenance problems and short endurance. If additional minesweeping responsibilities /are...

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMiningAmerican
mine-
sweeping
responsin-
ilities.
(Contd.)are given C.T.F.125 adequate forces and personnel
will be required.
(C.T.F.125 221657A to A.N.C.X.F.)Sweeping
of Ostend
Approach.Your 201640A. Channel searched half mile each
side of Danned centre line oropesa G formation
LL/SA One G.M.S. One actuation negative result.
Anchored O.D.2. Protection promised pass to
N.O.I.C. Ostend.
(Capt. M/S F.A. 222020A to C. in C. Nore.)Sweeping
of Havre
approaches.Anchorage off Le Havre as in C.T.F.125. 191203
swept Oropesa negative results. LL/SA
clearance commenced one magnetic swept 227° Cap
De Le Heve 2.8 miles. Intensive sweeping
continued in Le Havre Approaches and Channels to
beach. Negative results. My 202230A belated
report to hand of additional 5 magnetics swept by B.Y.M.S. Add
4 magnetics to my 212350B details not yet received. Summary
A(2)-1.
(Capt. M/S Seine 222230A to A.N.C.X.F.)Enemy IntelligenceGerman
main
unitsGerman main units.
(1) Pocket Battleship believed ADMIRAL SCHEER
carried out firing practice off Nexø Bornholm at
0930 G.M.T. yesterday September 21st.
(2) LEIPZIG class cruiser observed off Alinge
Bornholm September 21st.
(3) Both Leipzig and NUERNBERG were observed off Alinge
Bornholm September 17th. B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 221031 to Admty.)Baltic
activitiesEastern Baltic.
A Transports.
(1) Reference my 251621 of August. Transports
ISAR, BREMERHAFEN, WARTHELAND, DRECHTDIJK and
DONAU are still employed in Eastern Baltic
making round trip between Danzig and Riga twice a week.
DONAU arrived Danzig from Riga September 10th and others were
sighted at Riga September 15th. Discharging time at Riga is
8 hours.
(2) These transports are bringing SS. and Panzer troops Tiger
and Panzer tanks reconditioned Soviet T 34 tanks 88 mm. guns and
field howitzers. They return with casualties and ballast
state nationals conscripted for duty in German armed forces.
(3) 10 medium size merchant vessels including CHARLOTTE
CORDS and WEST PREUSSEN were observed at anchor off Riga
September 15th. Three of these carried deck cargo of cars and
light guns. All were waiting to discharge. ADELE TRABER
was sighted at Danzig September 10th having arrived with 6 small
standard gauge locomotives from Riga.

/(b)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Baltic activities (Contd.) (b) Naval Activity.
Riga and approaches September 15th.
(1) 8 M class minesweepers were sighted in bay together with one torpedo boat.
(2) 6 minesweepers 7 landing craft and 5 escort vessels and one large new prefabricated U/Boat were sighted in Riga harbour.
All B.3.
Please inform W.O. Soviet Mission.
(N.A. Stockholm 221743 to Admty.) N.A. Stockholm, 221743 to Admty.) N.I.D. Comment:- Reported activity of Merchant Shipping is considered to be probably correct.

Navigational

Buoyage of Q.Z.H.367 Propose sailing at 0700 tomorrow Saturday with T.H.V. PATRICIA to comply with your 201518A (amended by 202330A) and N.O.I.C. Harwich 211300A. (LIGHTFOOT 222046A to C. in C. Nore.)

Port Facilities

Ostend Estimate limited channel up harbour will be available for ships of not more than 10 feet 9 inches draught by P.M. Sunday 24th September. Can accept maximum of 4 ships. Request they are loaded with stores and not ammunition or petrol.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 221703A to Comm. Belgium.)
(1) Counter mined entrance to harbour with depth charges. No result.
(2) Carried out static LL sweep of entrance with no result.
(3) Continued sweeping with improvised wire sweep. Result - 2 minor explosions in sweep one explosion combined sweep buoy cut and one mine fouled in sweep. Number of mines destroyed to (?date) 6.
(4) P Party diver fitted detonating charge and destroyed Z type mine discovered yesterday.
(5) Cordite $\frac{1}{2}$ charges demolition continues.
(6) Wreck dispersal ships CLYNE CASTLE and SUNLIGHT sail Dover for bunkers and water.
(7) Anticipate channel up harbour will be clear for ships of not more than 10 feet 9" by p.m. Sunday? My 221703A refers.
(8) S.T. concurs.
(N.O.I.C Ostend 222035A.)

Casualties and Defects

EMULOUS At 0555 outbreak of fire discovered in boiler room fire contained to one section and out 0640 considerable damage observed but smoke prevents full examination.
(EMULOUS 220700 to F.O.I.C. London.)

/EMPIRE...

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and defects - Contd.EMPIRE
GOVERNOR

Tug is being sailed from Loch Ewe to your assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221219A to EMPIRE GOVERNOR)
Proceed to assistance of EMPIRE GOVERNOR main engine broken down off Ness Point, Isle of Skye.
(C. in C. W.A. 221224A to CAPE MARIATO, COLUMBINE.)

Am proceeding to your assistance what is your exact position.

(COLUMBINE 221230Z to EMPIRE GOVERNOR)

060° 3 miles Ness Point.

(EMPIRE GOVERNOR, 221300 to COLUMBINE.)

Your 221449A. Am taking EMPIRE GOVERNOR in tow to Loch Ewe.

(COLUMBINE 221550A to C. in C.W.A.)

CAPE MARIATO proceed in execution of previous orders.

My 221224A refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 221630A to CAPE MARIATO.)

Shipping and Convoys

"Bouvet"
whalers for
Dutch and
Belgian
voyages.

Your 201240A Sept. This matter has been referred to the War Office and Ministry of War Transport. Bouvet whalers draw 12 feet and are employed on minesweeping.
(Admty. 220318A to C. in C. Nore.)

Convoy
H.X.F.308

Escorts H.X.F.308. Have obtained bearings (?on) H/F D/F of a U-boat transmitting a Naval Enigma bearing 345° distance within 60 miles on serial one Groups 30 time of interception 0435Z.
(S.O.E.G. C.6, 220522Z to Admty.)

If no contact obtained by 0001Z/23rd transfer A/S search to area 3 miles either side of line position all the following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated. 064° 19' 022° 57' and 063° 49' 022° 52'.

(2) Adjust movements so as to meet U.R.136 off Reykjanes at 0400Z/23rd and escort to number 5 buoy. Then resume A/S search as in para. 1 unless otherwise ordered. WINDERMERE pass to SOUTHERN SHORE and FARSUND.

(A.C.I.C. 222106A to WINDERMERE.)

O.N., O.S./K.M.S. convoys.

Commencing with O.N. 256 vessels for O.N. Convoys from East Coast ports are to be sailed to Southend for assembly.

(2) Commodore-in-Charge Southend is requested to advise East Coast N.C.S.O.'s of the date by which ships should arrive, as soon as this is known.

(3) N.C.S.O.'s having ships for these convoys are to signal their names, overseas destinations and convoy particulars, as soon as these are known, to N.C.S.O. Southend, info. N.C.S.O. Mersey and Admiralty.

(4) Ships for O.S./K.M.S. Convoys will continue to assemble at Milford Haven proceeding southabout from Southend. N.C.S.O.s should advise N.C.S.O. Milford Haven of these ships, as well as the addressees mentioned in para. 3.

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Friday

War diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

O.N., O.S./K.M.S. (5) Ships for O.N.S. Convoys will continue to
Convoys. assemble at Loch Ewe for the present.
(Contd.) (D.T.D., 221826A to Cs. in C. Nore, Rosyth.)

Convoy American SS. YUKON mined or torpedoed in 064°
U.R.136 07' N. 022° 50' W. at 1715Z today Friday.
Making for Reykjavik at 3 knots. Assistance sent.
Air and surface A/S search instituted.
(A.C.I.C. 221946A to Admty.)

A.C.963 22nd September at 1815 A.C./53 reported U.S.S. YUKON
mined or torpedoed believed torpedoed in position QKQK 0511.
Search by A/C and A/Vs. laid on. Intend covering UR 136 from
thirty miles South East of Reykjanes.

(H.Q.R.A.P. Iceland, 222030A to H.Q.C.C., 15, 18 Groups,
Admty.)

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22.9.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Brazilian
Expeditionary
Force.

U.S. transports GENERAL W.A. MANN and GENERAL M.C. MEAGES left Rio de Janeiro noon today 22nd with approx. 9000 troops Brazilian expeditionary force. Escort U.S. cruiser MEMPHIS 2 escort destroyers and Brazilian Light Cruiser RIO GRANDE DO SUL. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 221545Z.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean,
enemy
intelligence. DRACHE left Piraeus p.m. 21st.
(Capt. (S) 1 220030A to 1st S/M F.)
(1) SALOMEA escorted by 1 patrol ship left Salonika
(?16)01/21st for Lemnos.
(2) Concrete barge, 2 coasters and 8 caiques left
Salonika 21st possibly to evacuate Lemnos.
(Capt. (S) 1 221706 to 1st S/M F.)

Travel. Your 191729. Following is a repetition of A.M.
161411 to C. in C. Med. (q.v.)
(Head of M. 220138A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Aegean,
S/M
operations. Proceed with despatch to patrol off Port Vathi
(Samos).
(Capt. (S) 1 220819A to VOX.)
From position 035° 26' 027° 27' at 1715A/22nd
proceed east of Saria and Sirina to pass through
Kinaros Channel during daylight p.m. 23rd. Thence
west of Buey Rock and 5 miles east of Stapodia to patrol eastern
approaches to Steno pass.
(Capt. (S) 1 221116A to VIGOROUS, (R) S.O. (I) Izmer, 1st S/M F.
S.O. Force 51, F.O.L.E.M. (Force "A"?)
At 1258A today obtained 2 hits on 3000 ton merchant ship
resembling GARDINER, northbound in 039° 16' (?023°) 24'.
(?Probably sunk). Four torpedoes remain. Weather report 0070 2212.
(VAMPIRE 221843A to Capt. (S) 1.)

G.2 summary FX/82519 21st September (Extract.)
No. 37. (2) Greece and Aegean. (A) German evacuation Aegean
being held up by bad weather. Air transport whole
area including Greece continues.
(B) C.X. reports Salamis Naval Dockyard totally
destroyed except for hospital. Blocking of Corinth Canal also
said to be planned by Germans but execution of this unlikely
until shipping now Patras returns Piraeus.
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/22 Recd. 0942.)

Signal Normal traffic may now be resumed to Alexandria.
traffic to A.M. 181329 is cancelled.
Alexandria. (Head of M. 221158A to A.I.G. 12.)

18th D.F. The British Hunt Class destroyers of 18 D.F. and
& 59th Divn. 59 Division are nominated to return to U.K. in due
course in accordance with A.M. 050257 to C. in
C. Med. only.
(C. in C. Med. 221202A to Admty.)

SS. MORIALTA SS. MORIALTA carrying commercial cargo damaged by
mined 25 underwater explosion believed mine about 21/0645A
miles S. of approx. position 42.55 N. 05.30 E. No casualties.
Marseilles. Ship towed into Marseilles anchorage by SS. BRET
HARTE and cargo being discharged by L.C.Ts. Survey
in progress to determine extent of damage.
(Unknown U.S. warship 221552A to C. in C. Med.
Admty.)

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22.9.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Comdesron 18. Intend to sail Comdesron 18 in U.S.S. FRANKFORD with U.S.S. CARMICK, DOYLE, ENDICOTT, McCOOK, BALDWIN, HARDING, SATTERLEE and THOMPSON P.T. 23, 1700 to U.S. via Bermuda for fuel. Route and arrangements.
(Commob Oran 221713Z.)

Restoration of submarine cables. Your 301702 August and S.H.A.E.F. 081530B to Admiralty only.
Dakar-Brest cable was cut in May 1941 in 32° 51' N. 17° 56' W. and Casablanca-Brest in September 1941 in 36° 49' N. 13° 24' W.
(2) Latter was also cut 13 miles from Casablanca to provide shore-end for Gibraltar-Casablanca cable but presume French are aware of this.
(3) Statement that 200 miles has been removed is incorrect as remainder of Gibraltar-Casablanca cable was picked up Italian cable.
(4) Concur your para. 3, first and second sentences. Third sentence is not applicable, since neither of these two cables was diverted or picked up.
(5) Your para. 4 doubtful if ALSACE has sufficient gear to undertake repairs of cuts owing to depth of water but no objection to her attempting them provided that other repairs of higher operational importance for which ALSACE is responsible are not neglected on this account. Suggest cable for this work can be provided from the lengths streamed east of Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 222112A to C. in C. Med.)

Situation Report No. 440. U.S.D. LUDLOW engaged (corrupt group) in Ventimiglia area on 19th and 20th.
(2) By 20th Sept. 16 alongside berths available at Marseilles. Minesweeping of port still in progress.
(3) KIMBERLEY and LOOKOUT bombarded North (?Western) Rimini on 20th September. All area well covered and one battery silenced. No return fire.
(C. in C. Med. 222201A.)

Tugs. Para. 6 A.M. 042244*. Now intended that SAUCY shall continue with LARIAT to destination and on arrival remain temporarily under orders of C. in C. Eastern Fleet in lieu of EMINENT.
(Admty. 222204A to C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. E.F.)
* LARIAT to continue with tow to Kilindini. Further signal re 2nd tug from Gibraltar and disposal of SAUCY. N.T. in W.D.

R.A. Rodgers BISCAYNE. Rear Admiral Rodgers and Staff and BISCAYNE remain Oran for further orders. My 181138A modified.
Acknowledge.
(N.C.W.T.F. 221717 to Commob Oran.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Areas A.D., B.B., K.D., V.P., C.B.3 and C.B.4
believed clear of U-Boats. Scale W.5 area C.B.1
no fresh information. Scale remains X.4 area C.B.
2 no fresh information scale remains Y.4 P.
(C. in C.E.F. 220355Z.)

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22.9.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Atlantic A/S
operations.

At 220825Z plane had disappearing Radar blip lat. 42.22 N. long. 48.30 W. Sonar conditions reduce effectiveness escort search. M.A.D. equipment may attempt in locating U-Boat suspected this area. Advise whenever conditions permit operation units your detachment. 5681283.
(C.T.G. 22.4* 221304Z to C.T.U. 22.3.1.)
* CORE's group.

BITER.

A.M. 131356 para. 5. BITER has the following defects: (A) 1 generator, some 30 main electric, 24 sub-main and 30 smaller cables damaged by fire require renewal.

(B) 5 in number diesel generator engines to refit, fire row tubes in auxiliary boiler to renew, main engine cylinders and main bearings to refit and adjust.

(2) Before ship can be steamed across the Atlantic, fire damage (para. 1 (A)) must be made good and this will take approx. 4 weeks.

As no yard is available at present in U.K. neither is one likely to become available for some very considerable time, it is not intended to undertake these repairs unless the ship is specially required by Cominch.

(3) Request you will obtain the views of Cominch.
(D.O.D.(H) 221442A to B.A.D.)

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

Para. C. (1) A/C of T.G. 22.4 sights oil slick. Obtains Sonobuoy indications on 42.15 N. 50.00 W. at 0850Z/21.

(2) T.G. 22.4 escorts obtain intermittent asdic contacts in 42.23 N. 49.18 W. at 2138Z/21.

D. (1) C.54 A/C sights U-Boat in 55.30 N. 48.30 W. at 1040Z/21.

(2) C.54 A/C sights U-Boat in 53.00 N. 44.00 W. at 1421Z/21.

(3) R.C.A.F. A/C L/160 attacks possible periscope with D/Cs in 45.04 N. 52.25 W. at 1600Z/21.

(N.S.H.Q. 221453Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 221502Z, Cominch 221600Z.)

Disposal of
captured ships

Following from Chiefs of Staff. Ref. Z.O. 207* We concur in draft directive concerning capture enemy ships in your Z.O. 207 subject to the addition of the following words after "policies" at the end of the first sentence:-

"Concerning enemy ships captured before the surrender of Germany".

(2) You will appreciate that para. (B) (ii) of the directive does not cover the question of the flag under which captured German vessels would leave German ports, and that in practice they would be likely to sail under the White Ensign. We presume question of title and flag under which they would afterwards be operated in United Nations Shipping Pool would be settled according to allocation made by C.S.A.B.

(A.M.S.S.O. 221510Z to J.S.M. Washington.) * 141635 Top Secret.

/Casualties...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Casualties and U/B incidents. About 211700 Chilean CHOAPA sank due to a collision area 40.16 N. 73.47 W.
Para. C. CORE group made two attacks on sound contacts near 42.23 N. 49.18 W. between 212015 and 212235 and a third attack about 220000 near 42.02 N. 49.03 W. followed by Radar contact near 42.22 N. 48.30 W. at 220825 and sound contacts three miles farther west at 221206 and 221242. All times Z.
Para. D. Transport A/C reported sighting U-Boat 55.30 N. 48.30 W. course 360 at 211040.
(Cominch 222116Z.)

NABOB, BITER. Before informing Cominch of the contents of A.M. 131356 and 172010*, request confirmation that, if Cominch is prepared to refit NABOB and BITER, it is intended that they should be reassigned to the U.S.N. in addition to the five mentioned in A.M. 131356 para. 1 (b).
(B.A.D. 222117Z to Admty.)
* NABOB docked for repairs.

R.N.A.S. Palisadoes. Reference your letter dated 6th September forwarding Commander, North Caribbean Area's O11605 Sept. No objection to local arrangements being made for immediate use by military or surplus personnel accommodation at R.N.A.S. Palisadoes, to meet temporary commitments. Proposal that administrative control of station should be transferred temporarily to military under consideration and reply will be made as soon as possible.
(Head of Air Br. 222304A to War Office.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. 975. (Extract) September 21st. Home
(2) Delayed report of carrier ~~3012~~ aircraft strikes north Halmahera dromes 19th September states 8 grounded planes destroyed Pluicour probably destroyed on Galela and Miti dromes during 104 sorties using 8 tons bombs, 48 rockets. On 21st September 16 Safrir based aircraft sorties flown further damaging another 5 planes on ground same 2 fields: all these aircraft were probably already damaged during previous raids. (16) Morotai our perimeter further extended 20th September without incident. Amphibious patrol landed Cape Sopi (Northern most tip Island) without opposition.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 220745.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. A/C Q/206 sighted U-Boat on surface in
61° 27' N. 04° 07' E. at 1945/21.

Para. B. BALFOUR attacked contact in 57° 46' N.
01° 55' W. at 1805/21. (Established as wreck
D.D.I.C. 231103A.)
(D.D.I.C. 221118A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 221420A, 221427A.)

23. 9. 1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. The Examination Service in all United Kingdom ports is being abolished, and the Examination Vessels are being withdrawn.

North Sea.

2. (a). Guns at Cape Gris Nez again shelled Dover and Folkestone. Only 10 rounds were fired, but considerable damage and casualties were caused.
(b) Two aircraft of 16 Group, at intervals of 2 hours, dive bombed E-Boats off the Texel. One of them observed hits.
(c). Ostend hopes to be able to berth two tankers, drawing not more than 14 ft., on Oct. 1st, and to have storage for 2400 tons of petrol by Sept. 29th.

Channel.

3. (a) Dieppe will take 6 large coasters (up to 17 ft. draught) and 6 small ones (up to 12 ft.) and one train ferry, on Sept. 25th.
(b). Boulogne is now completely cleared of hostile elements and the port party has commenced work.
(c). C. in C. Plymouth desires to close down Coastal Forces bases at Falmouth and Brixham.

West Coast of France.

4. The F.F.I. report U-Boats operating from La Rochelle, with 15,000 enemy present in this area, 30,000 around St. Nazaire, and 5,000 south of the Loire with a good ferry service.

Western Approaches.

5. C. in C. W.A. asks for promulgation of the new Irish Sea approach lanes (south of Ireland), whose sweeping has now been completed.

Norway.

6. SCEPTRE reports having torpedoed 2 out of 3 ships off Stavanger on the 20th. Both burst into flames, which suddenly disappeared after 5 minutes. One was of 7000 tons, the other 3,000.

Northern Waters.

7. (a). SS. YUKON, (mined yesterday in convoy U.R. 135), has arrived safely at Reykjavik and berthed alongside.
(b). Convoy J.W. 60: 25 merchantmen, the Soviet destroyer LINCOLN and one submarine chaser, with escorts arrived safely at Kola Inlet. The White Sea section of 6 ships proceeded on.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

South coast
of France.

8. (a). Coastal forces on patrol between Genoa and Sestri Levante were engaged by shore batteries last night, but sustained no damage. No enemy was sighted.

(b). Intelligence reported the possibility of attack on shipping in Marseilles and Toulon harbours by M.A.S. and assault craft leaving Spezia last night. Offshore and harbour patrols were increased. A blimp patrol was established off Toulon and counter measures were instituted.

(c). The U.S. destroyers EDISON and WOOLSEY bombarded batteries and storage dumps in the Ventimiglia area again today.

(d). Minesweeping continued in Marseilles and further areas are considered safe. One moored mine was detonated in Port St. Louis.

Adriatic.
Commando
landings.

*(Operation
"mercised")*

9. Since 16th September the available landing craft have been operating in the southern Dalmatian Islands, transporting commando troops and partisans who have been harassing the German withdrawal. No. 2 Commando and supporting arms, 500 men in all, were also successfully landed last night on the Albanian coast about 5 miles north of Sarande.

Adriatic.
H.S. ST.
ANDREW mined.

10. (a). Early this morning WHADDON and BELVOIR operating off the coast of Albania were in action with 3 enemy vessels thought to be torpedo boats, one of which was set on fire and possibly sank later. WHADDON received superficial damage.

(b). The hospital ship ST. ANDREW was reported to have struck a mine off Pescara (Adriatic coast of Italy) this morning. The ship was empty and was taken in tow and eventually reached Taranto.

TARANTO
bombed.

(c). 27 Medium bombers of Tactical Air Force attacked the cruiser TARANTO in Spezia harbour today and left her on fire after hits on bow, midships, and stern.

(d). Coastal Air Force attacked shipping in the Adriatic with some success today.

Aegean.

11. (a). TUMULT sank a small caique north of Suda today.

(b). The German DRACHE (see 22 Sept.) was reported by Capt. S.1 to have been sunk by aircraft in Samos today, (possibly a mistake for 22 Sept. q.v.)

(c). An 800 ton merchant ship was attacked by Middle East Aircraft in harbour at Denusa Island (east of Naxos) today and was later found beached and abandoned by aircraft who made further attacks and claim to have destroyed the vessel. VIGOROUS who sighted the vessel when beached believed her to be the German SS. ORION.

/(d)...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aegean.
(Contd.)

11.(d). There are strong indications that a major shipping effort is impending in the Dodecanese.

Australia & New Zealand.

Morotai.

12. Co-operating with the ground troops naval ships today bombarded enemy positions on the west coast.

23.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Abolition of Examination Service. Nore No. 4594/564/1 of 8th September. Request early decision regarding examination service at Harwich.
 (C. in C. Nore 231656A to Adty.)
 A.M.505A of 18.8.44. Examination Service at all United Kingdom Ports is being abolished and Examination Vessels are being withdrawn.
 (2) C.B.01618(R)(42) will be amended.
 (D. of L.D. 232129A AZ.Message 445)

Dutch Port Parties for Flushing, den Helder, Delfzyl and Amsterdam. Understand from Admiral Stowew F.O.I/C. C.Z.M. that in addition to the Netherlands Personnel quoted in A.N.C.X.F. 041547 (there are now 90 Officers including 20 Pilots and 194 Ratings) a further Netherlands part of maximum 54 Officers and 270 Ratings will be assembling in London on October 1st (from S.H.A.E.F. (Main) from A.N.C.X.F. (P.H.)).
 (2) This party is intended eventually to form the Nucleus of four Netherlands port parties for Flushing, Den Helder, Delfzyl and Amsterdam (with Ymuiden).
 (3) Request this party may be accommodated as convenient to C. in C. Nore and kitted up with personal kit only as was supplied to Netherlands increment of Party 1732.
 (4) Consider this party should continue to be administered by Netherlands Naval Authorities.
 (5) F.O.I/C. C.Z.M. is making a request to Admiralty for stores for the above four ports which ports are not at present required by Operation "Talisman."
 (S.H.A.E.F. (Main) 231755 to Adty.)

Closure of Coastal Force Bases. My 211159A paragraph 4.
 It is proposed to close down the coastal force bases at Falmouth and Brixham as soon as possible. Approval is requested.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 231812A to Adty.)

Movements

ARGONAUT Request you will sail ARGONAUT 28th September to Gibraltar for onward routeing by C. in C. Med.
 (2) Admiralty will promulgate route.
 (3) ARGONAUT is to join Mediterranean Command temporarily until required to proceed to Eastern Fleet. She will be required to take a number of officers and ratings to Mediterranean for disposal as required by C. in C. Mediterranean.
 C. in C. Med. 161309 to Admiralty refers.
 (4) Further signal will be made giving details of those to be embarked.
 (V.C.N.S. 230104A to C. in C. Plym.)

ST. ADRIAN Your 191708 Sept. Request N.A.B. ST. ADRIAN be handed over to Marvins Yard, E. Cowes for care and maintenance under D. of S.T. Vessel should

/be ...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

ST. ADRIAN be destored,, armament removed, inventory agreed
(Contd.) on handing over, crew returned to EUROPA, and
date reported to Admiralty.
(D.S.V.P. 230409A to C. in C. Po.)

BACHAQUERO N.O.I.C. Lerwick is requested to sail BACHAQUERO
escorted by MACBETH tomorrow Sunday for Greenock
for onward routeing to Teignmouth MACBETH
returning to Scapa from Greenock.
(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide onward escort from
Greenock if considered necessary.
(3) Request BACHAQUERO may be sailed with M.F.U. Number S.(3)
from Teignmouth to Scapa calling at Loch Corrie Oban for
additional stores my 201753 and Ady. 221855 neither to all
refer.
(A.C.O.S. 231127A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, F.O.I.C. Greenock,
C. in C. W.A. and N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

SCEPTRE, 2000 position Saturday.
SEASCOUT, SCEPTRE, SEASCOUT, SHIKARI leave Lerwick 1830 via
SCYTHIAN, north Fiar Isle channel and west of Orkneys to
SWIFTSURE. 058 degs. 43' N. 004 degs. 00' W. where SCYTHIAN,
ST. AGNES join from Scapa at 0700. ST. AGNES
return Scapa remainder to Loch Alsh 11.
EGERO, NARVIK, SPOSA, DUNNET HEAD to Loch Ewe 10.
1 Fleet unit H.M.S. SWIFTSURE 6 Destroyers 061 degs. 45' N.
005 degs. 15' W. to Scapa (?14). CELIA HAZEL PAUL M 059 degs.
05' N. 007 degs. 06' W. to Lerwick.8.
(A.C.O.S. 231157A to Adty.)

BERWICK On parting company with A.T. 150 proceed through
(X) 4650 N. 1635W. thence (Y) 180 degs. Fastnet
10 miles and (Z) Q.Z.S. 565.
(D.O.D.(H) 231831A to BERWICK, Info: C. in C. W.
A., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C.)

OperationsSituation Reports

Military The clearing of the Boulogne area has been
completed with the capture of Le Portal.
(S.H.A.E.F. Forwd. 231100A to A.G.W.A.R.)

Biscay (1) Landed Les Sables d'Olonne met F.F.I.
situation. Commandant L'Helias C.O. District.
(2) Obtained etailed information and maps land
defences La Rochelle and La Pallice. Strength
of enemy estimated to be 15000. U-Boats
operating from La Rochelle and reported to be proceeding to
sea frequently.
(3) 30000 enemy estimated to be in vicinity of St. Nazaire
and 5000 South of Loire good ferry service.

/(4) ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Biscay
situation.
(Contd.)

(4) F.F.I. at Ile D'Yeu and Les Sables d'Olonne report no shipping between St. Nazaire and La Rochelle.

(5) F.F.I. at Les Sables d'Olonne have again asked for more arms and have requested permission to fish at night; requests were not granted.

Maps and written reports received from F.F.I. will be forwarded by letter.
(IROQUOIS 231735Z to C. in C. Plymouth)

Cross
Channel
Shelling.

Between 1253 and 1417 today, Saturday, the enemy coastal battery situated on Cap Gris Nez fired ten rounds. Six of these fell in Dover and four in Folkestone, causing considerable damage to civilian property. Casualties are as follows:-
In Dover - 7 killed (including three service personnel and several injured. Full report not yet available.)
In Folkestone - 1 Civilian killed, 1 seriously injured, 5 slightly injured, but no service casualties.
(A.C. Dover 232336A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

North Sea

A.N.C.X.F's 221241A (not to CRICKET) Para. 2 C. Please comply. The 72 L.C.A's are to assemble at CRICKET with crews, spare crews, maintenance parties, operational stores, derrick slings, if available and are to be fully operational in every respect.

(2) If available Major Stewart Brown should be sent as S.O.R.M. of this Force.

(3) The above number includes 20 L.C.A. at present in CRICKET.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231030A to Force J.)

Ostend

(1) Swept entrance with L.L. sweeps and with improvised wire sweeps. No result.

(2) Swept up harbour with improvised wire sweeps between fishing boats. No result.

(3) M/S 138 proceeding up harbour to carry out L.L. sweep of Voorhaven.

(4) "P" party making good progress.

(5) Salvage party diver examined demolished blockships and removed projecting wreckage with small charges.

(6) S.T.O. concurs.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 232015 to Cdre. Belgium.)

Operations

Channel

Operation
"Nestegg"

A.N.C.X.F's 171123 September. Concur.
(C. in C. Plym. 231454A to Adty, Info A.N.C.X.F.
C.T.F. 125, C.T.G. 125.2.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

West Coast France

Patrols. Intend to patrol off Gironde between 1900 and 2300 today 23rd September, then sweep north to Belle Ile returning Ile d'Yeu a.m. Sunday 24th September.

(2) O.P.A.S. 17 (a) vicinity Gironde (b) Belle Ile (c) Ile d'Yeu.

(3) Oil fuel remaining 0800 23rd September IROQUOIS 65%, URANIA 76%.

(4) Weather report 7381, 1573.

(S.O. Force 28. 231142Z to C. in C. Plym.)

Force 28 is to sweep North and West from Gironde Area on night 24/25 and is to examine Audierne Bay at first light 25. Thence Force 28 is to return to Plymouth.

(2) Force 26 BLYSKAWICA, BRISSENDEN sails Plymouth 1200A/24 routed through (P.P.) 48 degs. 30 N. 5 degs. 20 W.

(Q.Q.) 48 degs. 00 N. 5 degs. 21 W. and thence to Gironde area keeping West of Force 28.

(C. in C. Plym. 231654A to Force 28.)

Carry out operation "Assault."

(A) Force 26 BLYSKAWICA (S.O. BRISSENDEN.

(B) 1200A/24 September.

(C) Through (P.P.) 48 degs. 30 N. 5 degs. 20 W.

(Q.Q.) 48 degs. 00 N. 5 degs. 21 W. and thence to Gironde area keeping west of Force 28.

(D) Patrol between Belle Ile and Gironde.

(G) Force 28 IROQUOIS URANIA as in my 231654A.

(C. in C. Plymouth 231657A to BLYSKAWICA, BRISSENDEN)

Operations

Norway

Operation "Divan" Have had to abandon operation "Divan" owing to weather conditions and O.F. situation of destroyers. Am returning to Scapa E.T.A. 1000A/ 24. My P.C.S. 065 degs. 54' N. 000 degs. 46' E. 215 degs. 14 knots. Weather report 4572 0847. (C.S.10 230001A to C. in C. H.F.)

SCEPTRE's I.S.O.H. 30. SCEPTRE report.
patrol (1) 20th September.
report. (A) 1245 attacked 800 tons unescorted Norwegian Coaster with three torpedoes which missed possibly by running under. P.C.S. of target 058 degs. 30' N. 005 degs. 41' E. 307 degs. 6 knots range 1000 yards.
(B) 2231 P.C.S. of convoy probable composition three merchant vessels three escorts 058 degs. 19' N. 005 degs. 35' E. 152 degs. 12 knots. Attacked with 6 torpedoes, 2 hits were observed on each of 2 ships estimated at 7000 and 3000 tons. Both ships burst into flames and are thought to have sunk since the fires disappeared suddenly after about 5 minutes.

/SCEPTRE ...

23.9.1944
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

SCEPTRE's
patrol
report
(Contd.)

SCEPTRE 23rd shadowed and chased this convoy for one and three quarter hours before firing and subsequently retired on the surface. Commanding Officer states that a vigorous counter attack with 35 depth charges was rendered most enjoyable since SCEPTRE was 2 miles away proceeding at high speed.

- (2) Numerous small craft sighted in patrol area.
- (3) No regular surface or air patrols.
- (S.O. S/M Lerwick 230955A to F.O.S.)

ULA and
VIKING
patrols

ULA and VIKING will be required to leave Lerwick a.m. 28th September and 2nd October respectively to patrol Lister and Bodo Areas respectively.
(F.O.S. 231307A to Capt. S.C. 9)

Operation
"S.C."

Ramose Maxim. My 220231A HESSA returned at 1710A today Saturday.
(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 231714A to Adty.)

Operation
"Rigmarole"

Operation J.W.60. Kola Inlet arrived escorts, 25 merchant ships, Soviet Destroyer LINCOLN and one S/M chaser.
(2) White Sea Section of 6 merchant ships met by Russian local escort and has proceeded.
(3) Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia 232103A to Adty.)

Allied Air Activity

Wreckage off
Bude, Cornwall.

Investigating oil patch with dinghy and wreckage homing Task 50 degs. 36' N. 05 degs. 16' W.
(A/C J.N.L.8† 231652A to 19 Group).

Convoy off
Texel.

P.C.S. of convoy 53 degs. 02' N. 4 degs. 39' E. fixed by pinpoint within ½ hour of 2000 020 degs. speed unknown.
(A/C K.A.G.B. 232025 to 16 Group)
Nr.3. My 2114 6 merchant vessels position, course 52 degs. 53' N. 04 degs. 39' E. Returning base E.T.A. 2221.
(A/C K.A.G.Q. 232145 to 16 Grp.)
P.C.S. of 6 unknown vessels 52 degs. 45' N. 4 degs. 31' E. based on fix by Gee within ½ hour of 2200 course 020 degs. 10 knots.
(A/C M.G.P.C. 232212 to 16 Grp.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 53 degs. 15' N. 4 degs. 43' E. 9 unknown. Based on a fix by Gee obtained within ½ hour

/of ...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSAllied Air Activity

- Convoy off of 2200.
Texel. (A/C M.G.P.C. 232235 to 16 Grp.)
Nr.3. Position and course of 12 unknown 53 degs. 18' N. 4 degs. 45' E. 030 degs. based on a fix by Gee obtained within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 2200. (A/C M.G.P.C. 232300 to 16 Grp.)
- E-boats P.C.S. 3 E-boats 53 degs. 07' N. 4 degs. 35' E. off Texel. fixed by Pin point within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 2100 010 degs. 25 knots. Have attacked enemy bombs dive. (A/C K.A.G.B. 232118 to 16 Grp.)
- Nr.1. P.C.S. of 6 E-Boats 52 degs. 35' N. 4 degs. 38' E. based on fix by Pin point 010 degs. 25 knots. Have attacked enemy with bombs dive, hits observed. (A/C K.A.G.A. 232304 to 16 Grp.)

Enemy Air Activity.

- Reconnaissance At 1902 today an A/C reported as Ju.188 was of Northern sighted off Rackwick flying South at 500 feet and Base. at 1905 was fired on while travelling West at sea level. It is considered that A/C had an oblique view of the Fleet anchorage. No Radar plots, and Fighters on dusk patrol saw nothing.
- At 2006 a hostile A/C was plotted briefly 20 miles North of Muckle Flugga course South-East at an estimated height 2/300 ft. (A.C.O.S. 232358A to Adty.)

Mining

- Minesweeping 1 ground mine detonated 182 degs. South Knock off Nore. Buoy 2.6 miles at 1049 today 23rd September. Detailed report to follow. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 231157A to Adty.)
- Deep mine- A.M. 212045A para. 6. Request PLOVER be held field for temporarily at Portsmouth and sailed to Milford St. George's Haven when required by C. in C. W.A. Channel. (C. in C. Plym. 231642A to C. in C. Portsmouth, Info: C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Adty.)

Navigational

- Buoyage Your 231647B August and my 311631B August. Do in Cherbourg you concur with suggested amended positions of approaches. F, G and H. (C. in C. Plym. 231142B to C.T.F. 125) Your 231142A concur. (C.T.F. 125 231833A to C. in C. Plym.)

/Irish ...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSNavigational

Irish Sea Approach lanes. A.M's 041259 Sept.
On completion of sweeping of Q.Z.X. 293 it is requested two Q.Z.S's may be issued as follows:
(1) South Ireland Approach to Irish Sea. Width 12.5 miles centre line joins the following positions:
(A) 51 degs. 43' 24" N. 7 degs. 29' 00" W.
(B) 180 degs. Tuskar Rock 10 mins.
Ships are to keep to the centre line of the Channel.
(2) South of Ireland departure from Irish Sea Width 12.5 miles. Centre line joins the following positions:
(A) 51.degs. 49' N. 06 degs. 15' W.
(B) 51 degs. 31' 30" N. 07 degs. 25' 00" W.
Ships are to keep to the centre line of the Chamel.
(C. in C. W.A. 231227A to Adty.)

Withdrawal of Light buoy. A.2 light buoy has been withdrawn. My 022108B refers. Request Q.Z.H. message.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231630A to Hydrographer)

Port Facilities

Ostend Admiralty please pass the following to Ministry of War Transport.
(1) Deklerk visited Ostend and after consulting N.O.I.C. there reports
(2) Depth over obstructions D.B. Entrance at high water 21st September 13 feet 9 inches.
(3) (?Ships) calling and coasters are expected to berth 24th September but must not draw more than 10 feet 9 inches.
(4) Demolitions of wrecks continue but it will be necessary meantime to deduct 2 feet from Admiralty Tide Tables for Ostend for tankers safe draught.
(5) No tankers can be berthed before 1st October by which time tanker berth should be clear. Port will be available for two tankers drawing not more than 14 feet to arrive 1st October.
(6) Two shore tanks of 1200 tons capacity each should be ready for motor spirit 29th September.
(7) Expect to revisit Ostend next week and will report further.
(M.W.T.R. Antwerp 231217A to Adty.)

Port en Bessin. A.N.C.X.F. 171832 not to F.O.B.A.A. or N.O.I.C. Arrow. It has now been decided to lay two Tombolas and allocate two tanker berths in Arromanches. In consequence need to provide additional protection by Phoenix Breakwater at port en Bessin does not arise.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Adv) 231615A to Adty (R) F.O.B.A.A., N.O.I.C. Arrow, A.N.C.X.F.(Main)

Liverpool A.L.M/L.D. 04759/44 of 19th August. All examination services in Liverpool sub command cease operation at 0800A Monday 25th September.

/(2) ...

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Port Facilities

Liverpool
(Contd.)

(2) At Liverpool the examination service will be replaced by Port Shipping Regulation Service operated by H.M. vessel at Liverpool Bar. Arrangements.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 231620A to Adty.)

Le Havre

Owing to extensive damage to wharves at Le Havre it is not now considered possible to make full use of moored pontoon for berthing Liberty ships. The possibility of using these pontoons for discharging small craft is being explored and further signal will be made.
Request alternative moorings for Liberty ships may be supplied and laid in following order of priority as soon as they are available.
Depth at 25 fathoms spring rise 24 feet tidal stream negligible.
(A) 10 in number (corrupt group) mooring buoys to be laid 300 feet apart and 650 feet from Quai Joanne Couvert. Ship will secure head to buoy and stern to wall on approximate bearing 230 degs.
(B) 3 buoy Trot to berth 2 ships secured head and stern in Bassin de Maree. Buoys to be 650 feet apart.
(C.T.F.125 231825A to Adty, D.B.D.)

Dieppe

Can take following ships on 25th Sept. 6 large type coasters maximum draught 17 feet, 6 small type coasters maximum draught 12 feet, 1 ferry.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 232015 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Boulogne

General Sitrep No. 1.
All enemy resistance now ended.
(2) P.S.V.O. estimates 7 to 10 days to clear entrance block. Time might be reduced.
(3) Four controlled mines blown. All control points located.
(4) P. Party commenced work.
(5) Following berths agreed by S.S.T.O.
(6) Two Liberty ships 25 ft. draught plus one coaster 300 ft. 20 ft. draught at anchor in Rade Carnot subject to underwater examination. Discharge by Tid Tugs and lighters to north side Bassin Loubet or Traverse Basin.
(7) Bassin Loubet south side: one Liberty Ship 25 ft. draught if wrecks removed 20 ft. only if alongside pontoons. North side three coasters 300 ft. long not exceeding 14 ft. draught, subject to removal of wrecks. One berth available already. West quay not repairable.
(8) Bassin a Flot. One coaster 300 ft. one 220 ft. one 175 ft. all 14 ft. draught to dry out till gates made workable and wrecks removed. When gates workable ships of 23 ft. draught can be accepted.
(9) Avant Port. Two L.S.T. hards can be constructed on present slipways.
(10) Quay by Gare Maritime. One personnel ship 250 ft. 14 ft. draught subject to clearing roadway and breach in quay.

/((11) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities

Boulogne (Contd.) (11) Quays d'Echouage, Gambetta, Excursionistes. Personnel ships one 250 ft. one 220 ft. one 300 ft. all 14 ft. draught. and subject to removal of wrecks and sunken obstacles and further detailed survey.

(12) Berths in paras. 10 and 11 only available one hour each side of high water.

(13) Arriere Port of no use.

(14) Petit Port of no use.

(15) No allowance made for H.M. Ships in above appreciation.

(16) Two Berthing Tugs and mooring boats will be imperative.

(17) Anticipate further mining information from reputed reliable source may be forthcoming by next Sitrep.

(N.O.I.C. Boulogne 232215A)

Casualties and Defects

L.T.410
WOLSEY. Grimsby Fishing Trawler WOLSEY L.T. 410 brought into Great Yarmouth and handed over to Ministry of War Transport. Vessel damaged in Yarmouth fishing area at 1230 today Saturday by mine caught in trawl. Further particulars will follow after investigation.

(F.O.I.C. Gt.Yarmouth 232029A to Adty. C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping

Convoy H.X.F. 308. My 222106. If convoy not yet met continue sweeping Reykjanes to Skagi until convoy is sighted. WINDERMERE pass to FARSUND. (A.C.I.C. 231030A to WINDERMERE.) H.X.F. 308 BEACONHILL and COBOURG hunting promising anti-submarine contact in 48.44 N.

26.21 W. (S.O.C.6 231631Z to C. in C. W.A.) My 231631Z. A.C.I. Article 39.

(2) COBOURG, ST. LAMBERT, BEACON HILL B 1534Z/23 September (C) Asdic, (D) 4844 N. 2621 W. (E) 3 (F) 18403 ships hunting not in contact for some time recalled to screen convoy. Weather report 4852 2274. (S.O.C.6. 231947Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy U.R.136. My 221946. YUKON has berthed alongside in Reykjavik harbour. (A.C.I.C. 230045A to Adty.) Periscope sighted in 063 degs. 50' N. 022 degs. 50' W. by escort of U.R.136. Two attacks carried out on A/S contacts after which contact lost. Hunt proceeding. (A.C.I.C. 231920A to Adty.)

/Convoy ...

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSShipping

Convoy Force 33 supporting O.N.F. 255 consisting of
O.N.F. E.G. 3rd DUCKWORK S.O. 4 Frigates, E.G. 15 TOWY
255. 4 Frigates and E.G. 31 BERKELEY CASTLE 3 corvettes.
Add to my 231204A.
(C. in C. W.A. 231412A)
Close position 055 degs. 04' 008 degs. 48'.
A.S.V. contact possibly U-Boat.
(C. in C. W.A. 231541A to E.G.30.)

W.D.C. My 081632B N.O.I.C. Newhaven's 141625B and
Convoys 171515A. Following conference attended by
for Dieppe. N.O.s i/c Dieppe and Newhaven and by BUCO.
It has been decided to cancel the tidal sailings
of sailing W.D.C. convoys, which it is intended
should be brought into force as from sailings on 25th September.
(2) Coasters from Southampton and Poole to sail in unescorted
group as W.D.C. convoy from St. Helens about 1400A daily to
arrived Dieppe at first light the following day.
(3) L.C.T. from Wight to sail escorted by one M.L. in company
with coasters (W.D.C. Convoy)
(4) Coasters sailing from Newhaven to be escorted by A/S trawler
to C.2A buoy to R/V with W.D.C. and proceed in company to
Dieppe. Trawler to remain at C.2A buoy for escort of Thames
section.
(5) Coasters from Thames to break off from E.T.C. convoy at
C.2A buoy and proceed to Dieppe escorted by trawler.
(6) All ships will anchor in coaster anchorage off Dieppe on
arrival and will be called in for berthing during daylight H.W.
period.
(7) For return passage all ships leaving harbour on one tide
to sail in group escorted by trawler to C.2A buoy whence ships
for Wight will proceed in unescorted group while ships for Thames
will anchor off Newhaven to await passage in F.T.C. convoy or
will be joined to F.T.C. by trawler if times suit.
(8) Tram ferry (2 days out of 3) and 1 L.S.T.(daily) will be
sailed from Wight to arrive 3 hours before H.W. hospital ship
(daily) will be sailed by day passage the day before she is
required.)
(9) Com. Southend is requested to sail Thames ships in
accordance with para. 4 above. These ships will form T.D.C.
convoy from C.2A buoy to Dieppe.
(10) It is not intended that ships or landing craft should be
sailed in excess of the numbers than can actually be received in
harbour on the tide following their arrival at the Dieppe
anchorage. N.O.I.C. Dieppe will require to take special
precautions for the Safety of vessels particularly landing
craft waiting entry in view of approaching winter conditions.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231954A to A.N.C.X.F., F.O.B.A.A., Com.
Southend)

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Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

MISSION
BAY's
Group.

On Station position 1200Z/23 13. 30 N., 27. 30 W.
(C.T.G. 22.1. 231414 to Radio Washington)

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

H.S. ST. Intercept.
ANDREW S.O.S. from Venice.
mined. G.P.Q.W. Hospital Ship ST. ANDREW has struck mine
off Pesaro going ? to B-uts. Ends.
(Niton Radio 230620)

Aegean VIGOROUS remain West of a line 318 degs. Buey
S/M Rock from 0001A 24th to 2002A.
operations. (2) VAMPIRE pass through 037 degs. 49' 025 degs.
25' and 5 miles East of Buey Rock.
(3) This amends para. 2 my 201751.
(Capt (S) 1. 231025 to VIGOROUS, VAMPIRE)

From position 308 degs. 40' 026 degs. 05' at 0930A 24th
proceed to patrol on Salonika-Mudros route North of latitude
039 degs. 39'.
(Capt (S) 1. 231055A to VISIGOTH, Info: 1st S/M F.
F.O.L.E.M., COMARO (corrupt group), S.O. (I) Ismir.)
From vicinity of Kinaros channel about dusk 24th proceed
East of Sirina and Scarpanto to arrive in 035 degs. 27' 027 degs.
28' at 1002A 25th.
(2) You may proceed on the surface by day at your discretion.
(Capt (S) 1. 231114 to VAMPIRE, Info: 1st S/M F.,
F.O.L.E.M., F.O.E.C.)
Weak earth on field coils of port generator suspected
causing excessive leak past (corrupt group) git seal.
(2) Position 35 degs. 06' N. 019 degs. 54' E. speed 8 knots
or 90 miles diving by day. Acknowledge.
(UNSWERVING 231235A to Capt (S) 1)
VISIGOTH proceed in accordance with my 231055 to patrol
in area L.L.
(2) UPSTART patrol in area X.X. and T.T.
(3) (?VOX) proceed forthwith to area 22.
(4) VIGOROUS proceed forthwith to area S.S.
(Capt. (S) 1. 231631 to 1st S/M f, F.O.L.E.M.)
One P.V.C.A. 10 ton (portion missed). Bound Piraeus
from Suda Bay with Olive oil and soap. (corrupt group) with
enemy would not go Kithera. Have crew of 4 Greeks on board.
(TUMULT 231740 to F.O.L.E.M.)
Unsuccessfully attacked northbound U.J. boat at 0856A
in position 039 degs. 18' 023 degs. 21'.
Incurred accurate counter attack.
One defective torpedo remaining.
Appreciate traffic used Skiathos channel proceeding close
inshore.
Weather report 5370 1982.
(VAMPIRE 232129A to Capt (S) 1st S/M F., Info: F.O.L.E.M.,
1st S/M F.)
Your 231850(A). At 1730A found ship believed (?OR)ION
beached burnt and abandoned on West point Chendro Bay.
Considered to be total loss. Am proceeding in accordance
with your 231631.
(VIGOROUS 232219A to Capt. (S) 1)

Flying Med. Stn. 014B. Amend as follows. Para. (C)
restrictions delete Oran Algiers Maddalena Ajaccio Calvi
over ports Bastia.
in Med. (2) 097B was a Bgram by Adls.
Stations. (C. in C. Med. 221445A to Med. Stn. 098B)

/Danube...

23.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Danube,
Situation.

Following from S.O. Bulgarian Danube Flotilla.
Part one M/S.

(1) - (2) Details of British mines examined by
Germans, and of sweeping methods.
(No para. 3 in message.)

(4) Swept Channel not buoyed consider river channel is swept
and convoy pilot trusted to keep to channel.
(5) Russian Naval Command now established Rustchuck under F.O.
Latter fully informed of above matters. Sweeping restarted with
original M/S crews. No new method adopted except Bulgarian
Acoustic sweep now being used.

Part 2. General information referring to stretch Orsova to
Silistra.

(1) Rough estimate of (?fatal) casualties due to mines about 20
craft in all. No salvage attempted.

(2) Mines well observed (corrupt group) laying (?.) Of those
recovered all had fallen on dry land. Latterly (?12) have been
exposed by fall in river level. (?Unknown) mine which fell on
land exposed but about 20 laid in river exploded about 2 hours
after laying. Very few mines laid in Rustchuck.

(3) Little demolition on Bulgarian Bank. VI(?D)IN ferry pontoon
sunk (?recently). One of 4 passenger ferry pontoons at Rustchuck
sunk by British bombing, but train buildings intact.

(4) Bulgarian Chart of river on scale of 1 50000 exists with
wrecks marked. Large scale plan of Rustchuck exists.

(5) Germans abandoned about 190 Danube craft near Rustchuck.
All practically undamaged, but some (?aground) and being recovered
by Russians.

(6) For information that although Allied mines stopped Bulgarian
and Roumanian traffic German river traffic never ceased.

(Danarm I 231600C to C. in C. Levant.)

Submarine
patrol areas
in North
Aegean.

The following patrol areas in North Aegean are
instituted forthwith.

(1) LL bounded by lat. 040° 01' and 039° 38' and
long. 024° 38' and 025° 22'.

(2) SS bounded by lat. 039° (?42') long. 024°
(?19') and 023° 45' and line joining Cape Paurito
Mount Athos.

(3) TT bounded by lat. 039° 27' long. 023° 37' and north and west
coast of the northern Sporadaes.

(4) XX bounded by lat. 039° 27' long. 023° 37' east coast Magnesian
(?promontory omitted) and north coast Skiathos.

(5) YY lat. 039° 27' and 039° 42' east coast Thessaly and long.
024° 01'.

(6) ZZ lat. 039° 42' long. 023° 45' the south coast Pallene
Peninsula and hundred fathom line south Gulf Salonika.

(Capt. (S) 1 231619 to 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M. (R) Comaro 1, S.O.(I)
Med.)

Danarm. *Mission*

Russian Chief of Staff has just informed me reply
had been received regarding our movements.

MOVEMENTS.

(2) As our arrival had not previously been agreed
between the two Governments General Borezov had to
comply with standing orders that no foreign officer could remain
in a zone of Military operation of U.S.S.R. Army.

/ (3) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Danarm. (3) He could not therefore allow our work to
(Contd.) continue.
(4) I replied that I would immediately report above
to C. in C. Mediterranean on whose orders I was
here and ask for instructions.
(5) C. O. S. appeared dubious and said he would speak to
General B. and let me know. He seemed to expect I would make
arrangements to leave immediately.
(6) He told me he was going to give a similar message to Colonel
Gibson.
(Danarm 231715B to C. in C. Med.)

Comdesron 18. My 221713 sailed.
(Comnob Oran 231748.)

Balkan relief & operations. In view of imminent commencement of relief and
other operations in the Balkans it is desirable that
earliest possible action be taken to obtain C.C.S.
approval for provision of shipping required and to
get allocation responsibility settled as between
M.W.T. and W.S.A.

(2) Request you will arrange for A.F.H.Q. to submit an official
demand showing (a) estimated number of sailings required to cover
Balkan plans over and above the Mediterranean sailings already
requested in Medcos 144 and 180 and (b) the approx. period involved
(3) As far as possible the numbers required for (i) military pur-
poses and (ii) civil relief should be indicated separately.
(D. of S.T. 232008A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

Situation report No. 441. (1) SS. MORIALTA was damaged by mine in 045° 03' N.
005° 19' E. at 210645 and was towed Marseilles.
No casualties.
(2) LOYAL bombarded road north of Rimini on 22nd.
Sept.
(3) Hospital ship SAINT ANDREW was mined off
Pescara about 230615. Ship was empty and is now in tow for Bari.
(4) WHADDON and BELVOIR operating off Albanian coast were in ac-
tion with 3 enemy, thought to be T.Bs. at 230500 1 ship was set
on fire and possibly sank later. Enemy retired through smoke into
north channel to Corfu superficial damage to WHADDON.
(5) VAMPIRE reports 2 torpedo hits on 3000 ton merchant ship re-
sembling SS. PETER in position 10 miles north of Trikiri channel
at 221458. Ship considered probably sunk.
(C. in C. Med. 233218A.)

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Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat dispositions. Area C.B. One. reduce scale to W.5.
Area C.B. Two. reduce scale to X.4.
Other Areas no fresh information, scales unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 230418Z)

K.M.F./
M.K.F.
Convoys. The actual interval between the arrival of the K.M.F. and the departure of the succeeding M.K.F. convoys from Port Said is not known pending the receipt of the detailed programme referred to in your 201943 para. 3.
(2) Assuming however that this interval would allow for 22 days between the arrival of these ships at Aden eastward bound and their return westward bound the following programme for Ceylon ship is proposed. Para. 4 of your above quoted signal refers.
(A) In the case of ship calling at Colombo and Bombay leave Aden day one arrive Colombo day eight leave Colombo day 11 arrive Bombay day 15 leave Bombay day 18 arrive Aden day 23.
(B) In the case of ship calling at Cochin and Colombo leave Aden day one arrive Cochin day seven leave Cochin day nine arrive Colombo day 10 leave Colombo day 16 arrive Aden day 23.
(3) In the case of two A. ship should carry sufficient victualling stores to reach Bombay in the case of two B. Ship could not be supplied with victualling stores in Ceylon or Cochin and hence must if necessary replenish then in a Middle East port.
(C. in C. E.F. 231017Z to Adty.)

Surveying Ship As further surveying requirements for forthcoming operations become apparent it is now imperative that there should be a surveying ship with the Eastern Fleet. Therefore request that either CHALLENGER or WHITE BEAR may be ordered to join E.F. as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.F. 231217Z)

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Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U.S.S. WEST POINT. T.A. 148A alter course forthwith for new D 42 - 30 north 60 - 30 west thence to PRRER/
(Com. 10th Fleet C and R 231330 to WEST POINT)
/ as received.

S.S. NIEUW AMSTERDAM T.A. 148 alter route at 232000Z steer direct for (Q) omitting (P).
(Com. 10th Fleet 231342Z to NIEUW AMSTERDAM)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 231440Z, Cominch 231613Z)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. Para C.
(1) T.G. 22.4 escort makes H/H attack near 42. 02 N. 49.03 W. about 0000Z 22nd. No explosion.
(2) T.G. 22.4 escorts intermittent Sonar contacts near 42.22 N. 48.30 W. at 1206Z and 1242Z 22nd.
My 221453 Para C. (2) B.N.A. contacts obtained between 2015 and 2235. 2 attacks made with H/H and one with D/Cs without evidence of damage.
(N.S.H.Q. 231505Z)

S.S. MOUNT VERNON. T.A. 149A MOUNT VERNON E.Q. recommend diversion from position H. 43 degs. N. 38 degs. W. to new L. 40. 30. 47. 30. M. 40. 30. 56. 55 rejoin route at K.
(Comtenthflt C and R. 232020Z to Adty.)

CORE's Group. Due lack further contacts and questionable character those previously reported operation area shifted west. 232000Z position lat 41. 25 N. 52.09 W. to patrol near long. 53 W. between lat. 40. 30 N. and 43. 30 N. unless otherwise directed.
9872 1847.
(C.T.G.22.4 232030 to C. in C. Lant.)

JUSTINA sunk. At 230720Z Dutch Tanker JUSTINA sank due to collision 1209 north 6926 west.
(Cominch 232105Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 976. September 22nd.
(20) P.V. (?P.T. intended) boats sank five fuel laden barges northbound off Northwestern tip Halmahera previous night (21/22 Sept.)
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 230725Z)

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War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A.

(1) A/C G/53 reported U.S.S. YUKON mined or
torpedoed at 1715Z/22 in 64 degs. 05' N.
22 degs. 49' W.

Para. B.

(1) A/C obtained disappearing contact at
0412Z/23 in 55 degs. 45' N. 12 degs. 14' W.

(2) A/C B/311 obtained radar contact at 1205Z/22 in 58 degs.
24' N. 05 degs. 36' E.

Ref. A.M. 221118A Para. B. BALFOUR's contact now established
as wreck.

(D.D.I.C. 231103A)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 231445A, 231446A)

24.9.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. 6 L.C.T., 6 L.C.I.(L), 1 L.C.G.(L), 1 L.C.T.(R), and 1 L.C.G.(M) flotillas with their quota of L.C.Qs., L.C.Hs., and L.C.T.(E)s. are to sail for the East from Falmouth before the turn of the year.

North Sea.

2.(a). At Ostend enough of the Avant Port is now cleared of mines to enable 4 vessels of up to 10 ft. draught to be berthed. The mines under the car ferry pier were found to be safe. It is proposed to pump out the Mey lock to refloat the ships sunk in it.

(b). Patrols were confined to harbour by a gale.

Channel.

3. (a). Bad weather caused dislocation of cross Channel shipping and convoys today.

(b). Boulogne entrance is blocked by 26 sunken craft, but a 250 ft. channel could be cleared by dispersal in 10 working days. In the Bassin a Flot are twelve wrecks and a sunken floating dock, but 2 or 3 coas-ter berths are available now. Bassin Loubet is fouled by 6 wrecks and a number of cranes. The port can be made available for limited tonnage as soon as the channel is cleared; the number of berths will increase as salvage proceeds.

(c). Havre anchorage and the channel to the beach north of the town are now cleared of mines. The last 3 (magnetic) were swept today. The Seine will now be swept to Rouen.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

South of France.

5. (a). EDISON, with MADISON providing a smoke screen shelled enemy artillery and a troop concentration on the right flank today.

(b). 25 merchant ships arrived today, of which 4 were sent to Marseilles and 21 to the Great Roads, Toulon. In addition at Marseilles 35 ships are unloading and at Toulon 39 in the Great Roads, 12 in the inner harbour and 1 at Namel.

(c). Unloading totals (D+40)

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores
Marseilles	40,459	5,257	77,636
Toulon	3,673	1,856	19,858
Port de Bouc			29,240
Beaches	346,441	63,235	308,506

(d). Y.M.S., P.C. and S.C. (submarine chasers) are now being turned over to the French.

/Adriatic...

24.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

6.(a). Coastal forces last night sank three I-Boats in Rogac Cove, Sulet I., Yugoslavia. Two L.C.F. operating south of Drvenik were unsuccessfully attacked by E-Boats which they drove off without suffering damage or casualties.

(b). No. 40 Commando with detachments of the raiding support regiment and H.Q. 2 S.S. Brigade landed last night about 5 miles north of Sarande on the Albanian coast.

(c). LOOKOUT bombarded north of Rimini today, the principal targets being an area of troops, tanks and mortars. Minesweepers operating in this area were forced to withdraw by enemy fire.

Adriatic.

7.(a) Wellingtons of Coastal Air Force last night attacked in the northern Adriatic an 1800 ton vessel with two escorts; large explosions were seen and one vessel is believed sunk.

(b). ZETLAND and BRECON shelled a small merchantman in Argostoli this morning with inconclusive results.

Aegean.

8.(a). TERPSICHOPE and TERMAGANT destroyed an enemy convoy consisting of 1 large caique, 2 F-Boats and 2 small craft east of Scarpanto (Dodecanese) today.

(b). 52/58 B.24s dropped 140 tons on the harbour installations at Scaramanga (Salamis.) Photographs show a 500 ton U-Boat and two 200 ft. vessels sunk and extensive damage caused.

U. 565 } sunk.
U. 596 }

Australia & New Zealand.

Japanese
destroyers
sunk.

9.(a). A naval Catalina in the early hours of today bombed and sank in Davao Gulf, south Philippines a tender and two destroyer escorts.

(b). At the same time another Catalina sank with a 500 lb. bomb a large tanker, thought to be ferrying aviation fuel near Kendari, Celebes. A third Catalina hit with a 500 lb. bomb a small merchant ship in the northern Celebes; the vessel was subsequently beached.

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24.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

HIND & REDPOLE A.M. 231701.
HIND and REDPOLE should be sailed for Eastern Fleet with K.M.F.35.
(D.O.D.(F) to C. in C.W.A.)

BACHAQUERO A.C.O.S.231127 and N.O.I.C. Lerwick 231900.
Relief (?escort) will not be provided through this command. Request you will sail BACHAQUERO onward in first convenient E.B.C.Convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 241637A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

FRIEDRICH BUSSE. Your 211931. Vessel should be towed to Portsmouth, after which further instructions for disposal will be issued.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 242050A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Landing Craft for Eastern Fleet. A.M. 132222 September not to all. Following are to be programme and arrangements for "Appian" Assembly and despatch of M.L.C. to East this year, subject to concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth in use of Falmouth for assembly in paragraph 2(f).
(2) L.C.T. (a) Nos. 9 and 70 Flotillas form in Clyde area and No.71 at STOPFORD. These flotillas comprise "D" Squadron.
(b) No. 9 and half No. 70 L.C.T. Flotilla sail in tow of Merchant Ships in convoy K.M.S.66.
(c) Nos. 71 and half No. 70 L.C.T. Flotilla sail in tow in K.M.S. 67.
(d) If weather precludes (b) or (c) flotillas concerned will proceed under own power as in (f) below.
Note. Alternative possibility of towing some craft by L.S.T. in this event will be investigated.
(e) Nos. 10, 72 and 73 Flotillas comprising "K" Squadron form in Clyde area and at Stopford except that craft completing on east coast south of Wash proceed Plymouth (FOLIOT) to await and join main body of respective flotillas on latter arriving south.
(f) Flotillas in (e) assemble at Falmouth approximately ten days before sailing. Sail under own power in three escorted "flights" during November to Suez Canal whence they will proceed in tow of Merchant Ships after 500 hours engine overhaul.
Note. In event of independent sailings of M.Vs. having been commenced by this time, alternative despatch of some of craft in (f) in tow of these vessels will be considered.
(3) L.C.I. (L) (a) Six in number Flotillas form in Clyde area except that craft completing on east coast south of Wash proceed Plymouth to await flotillas' arrival south.
(b) Flotillas in 3 (a) assemble Plymouth and sail under own power unescorted in two "flights" in November and/or December for destination via Suez Canal.
(4) L.C.C.(L) (a) No.334 L.C.G. (L) Flotilla (8 craft) form at BRONTOSAURUS.
(b) This flotilla sail under own power in company with L.C.T. in one of the flights in 2(f) above.
(5) L.C.T.(R) (a) No.326 L.C.T.(R) Flotilla (6 craft) form at FOLIOT.

/(b)...

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Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Landing Craft for Eastern Fleet (Contd.) 5(b) Sail as in 4(b) above. It will be joined on passage or at destination by 6 more craft ex-Mediterranean.
(6) L.C.C.(M) (a) No.340 L.C.G.(M) Flotilla (6 craft) form at Troon (DINOSAUR II)
(b) This flotilla will be transported to Gibraltar in L.S.D. as and when available, and thence proceed under own power to destination.
Note. Possibility of towing from Suez Canal onwards will be investigated.
(7) L.C.Q. L.C.H. and L.C.T.(E) will be allocated to appropriate units of basic hull type and sail therewith.
(8) Further signals will be made on paragraphs 2(f), 3, 4(b), 5(b), 6(b) and 7 above.
(9) To facilitate action in paragraphs 2(a) and (b) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to make available 12 berths in the inner basin at Bo'ness, subject to not displacing craft on which refit work is actually proceeding.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 242321A to R.A.M.L.C. D. of S.T., S.O. Force "W", Cs. in C.W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth.)

Situation Reports

Naval A. Captured Ports.
(1) Havre. Mine clearance of anchorage and channel to beach north of town completed.
(2) Ostend. Channel 150 feet wide and 10 feet deep at high water neaps now clear. Enough of Avant port cleared of mines to berth four ships.
(3) Brest. Mine clearance force anchored Douarnenez Bay. Gale prevented start of clearance.
(B) Unloading figures:

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	882,289	221,593	1,702,643
U.S.	1,424,160	253,224	2,537,462
Total (D+107)	<u>2,306,449</u>	<u>474,817</u>	<u>4,340,105</u>

(Admiral Ramsay, 242147A to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Patrols Weather permitting, Z patrols are:-
(1) MIDGE, M.T.B. Unit F.B.1. 19.
Unit F.N.3. 16.
(2) MANTIS M.T.B. Unit F.B.4. 10
Unit F.B.5. 6
Unit F.B.6. 3
(3) BEEHIVE M.T.B. Unit F.B.7. 53 Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 241118A to MIDGE, MANTIS, BEEHIVE.)

/(A)...

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24.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Patrols (Contd.) (A) Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 358, 24 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 2000 today Sunday.
(2) Object interception of enemy small craft encountered.
(3) Unless in contact with the enemy, Unit is to leave patrol at 0530/25 and return to Harbour.
(A.C. Dover, 241130A to S.O.M.T.Bs. S.O.5 M.T.B.F.)
My 241130A. Unit F.T.1 is to remain in harbour at one hours' notice.
(A.C. Dover, 241451A to S.O. M.T.Bs. S.O. M.T.B.F.5)
Cancel my 241118A. One Unit at each Base to be at second degree readiness remainder notice C.
(C. in C. Nore, 241527A to MIDGE, MANTIS, BEEHIVE.)
Weather permitting carry out patrols as ordered in my 232305A.
(C. in C. Nore 241618A to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate.)

L.C.M. to Ostend. Notwithstanding signal from Capt. Pugsley that it may not be possible to transport L.C.M. by land request NORTHWAY may be sailed for Ostend with 23 L.C.M.(1) when loaded.
My 201920 and 221241 refers.
(A.N.C.X.F. 241754A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

OperationsChannel.

Patrol Pins cover Night 24th/25th September.
G.D.1 HOTHAM Z.9 S.
G.D.2 WATCHMAN Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241224A to Admty., C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T Watch on B'casts 'HD' and 'CN' in Area 'C'. HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, VERNON, Portsmouth, AGGRESSIVE, ATTACK, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, WATCHMAN, HOTHAM.)

East Calvados Area. Request following amendment may be made to A.Z.410 Para. A .(1) That part of French coast extending from St. Honorine to Orne River (approx. covering the original assault area anchorages) will be known as East Calvados Area.
(F.O.B.A.A. 241503 to Admty.)

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24.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern ApproachesQ.Z.S.
565

16th and 4th M/S Flotilla's are to keep clear of Q.Z.S.565 and the eastern western approaches thereto between 0001 and 1400 tomorrow 25th September.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241116A to M.S.F. 16 & M.S.F.4)

Force 33
searches.

On detaching from O.N.F.255 in 053° 30' N. (Time to be reported) Force 33 is to proceed as follows:-

- (2) E.G.3 to search E.2.
- (3) E.G.15 to search between parallels 056° and 057° and meridian 013° 30' and 015°
- (4) E.G.31 to search between parallels 054° and 055° and meridian 013° 30' and 015°.
- (5) In order to assist A/C in identifying escort Groups by A.S.V. ships are to operate at not more than three thousand yards apart both by day and night.
(C. in C.W.A. 241435A to Force 33.)

Patrol

Four ships are to patrol convoy route between Lundy Island and Trevoise Head, remainder between Longships and Trevoise Head. S.O.E.G.6 report ships detailed.

- (2) You are to provide support to Coastal Convoys while they pass through your patrol area.
- (3) Two ships of escort group 1 are patrolling between 050° 05' N. 006° 55' W. and 050° 45' N. 005° (20') W. remainder will join up after S.L.160 has passed Lundy Island at about 0300A/25.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241735A to E.G.6.)

Action to
be taken
by surface
craft on
A/C
sightings.

A/C have been ordered to carry out automatic homing on a confirmed sighting.
(2) If not in contact groups are to act as follows:-
(a) The group in whose area the sighting lies is to close immediately.
(b) Should sighting be outside the areas given in my 241435 the 2 nearest groups are to close forthwith reporting that they are doing so and their position course and speed.
(3) Disappearing contacts reported by A/C are to be ignored unless ordered to be investigated by C. in C.W.A.
(C. in C.W.A., 242003A to Force 33.)

Operations - NorwayOperation
"S.C."

Intend sailing S.C. Operation from Scalloway:
(1) a.m. 26th September.
(2) 3 days.
(3) 049° Muckle Flugga.
(4) Air escort not especially required on return journey.
(5) My 242032 gives codeword and area.
(A.C.O.S. 242031A to Admty.)

/My...

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24.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Operation "S.C"
(Contd.)

My 242031A.
(1) 63° 35' N. 08° 30' E.
(2) Ramose Opportune.
(A.C.O.S. 242032A to Admty.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Operation "Rigmarole"

J.W. 60 arrived 23rd September. Voyage entirely uneventful except for the weather.
(C.S.1 240837A to C. in C.H.F.)

Mining

3 mines swept in Havre approach.

(Havre) clearance of Channel to Casino Beach completed negative results. Clearance of anchorage as in C.T.F.125's 191203 completed Seine Channel sweeping continued; negative results. 3 Magnetics swept, position 25° 2.5 miles 216° 2.3 miles 213° 2.4 miles from Cape de la Heve. Summary A (2) 3.
(Capt. M/S Seine 240830 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Clearance of Seine to Rouen.

A.N.C.X.F. (Adv.) 231629Q ?not to Captain M.S.
(R) M.S. Seine.
(2) Two additional M.F.Vs. fitted L.A.L. can be made available shortly for clearance to Rouen. Request you will signal Captain M/S Seine's estimate of minimum time to complete clearance with these and present forces.
(3) Admiralty are being asked whether L.A.A. sweep can be fitted to proportion of your M.M.S. for this purpose. Request you will signal (A) how many you would require to be fitted and (B) minimum time for clearance if this were done.
(A.N.C.X.F., 241315A to F.O.B.A.A. as amended by his 261007A.)

Deep minefield for St. George's Channel.

A.M. 212045 para. 4. It is now considered that mines could be more usefully placed further to the west and it is requested that initial position may therefore be amended to read 51° 36' N. 08° 10' W.
(D.D.O.D.M. 241615A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth, W.A.)

Port Facilities

Boulogne

Have surveyed Boulogne Harbour low water today. 26 craft consisting of tugs, barges, dredgers etc. 19 of which are visible at low water are sunk in entrance between Jetty North, South-East and Jetty South-West completely blocking channel. Consider ?clearance of Navigable Channel by removal of wrecks would take

/not...

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24.9.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

Boulogne (Contd.) not less than 6 weeks. Clearance of 250 feet channel by combined removal and dispersal in 10 working days after mine clearance permits entry of Salvage Steamer. About 12 wrecks and one floating dock sunk in Bassin a Flot. Intend clearing quay by complete removal to selected position. 2 or possibly 3 coaster berths available now. Bassin Loubet at least 6 wrecks and number of cranes fouling berths. Salvage all possible. Bassin a Flot tidal inner gates blown outer gate open but extensive damage quay in close (?vicinity). Generally I agree with N.O.I.C.'s view that Port can be made available limited tonnage as soon as channel is clear number of berths increasing as salvage proceeds.

(P.S.V.O. 241359A to F.O.B.A.A., A.N.C.X.F., Capt. M/S Dover.)
P.W.S.S. with Flag Staff established in Cliff Edge in Grey Stone building bearing 116° light on extreme Northern end of Digue Carnot 12.7 cables. Admiralty Chart 438.
(N.O.I.C. Boulogne 242101A to Admty.)

Arromanches Admiralty 192038.
(1) It was the intention to secure tugs towing Phoenix to moorings and Phoenix direct.
(2) Concur that mooring a Phoenix to withstand severest gale conditions is not possible due to swell.
(3) It is considered desirable to avoid parking except in cases of extreme emergency. Danger of damage to unit unless bottom has been very carefully examined for wreckage of boulders is considerable.
(4) Mining conditions in Seine Estuary at present would probably preclude diving operations on scale necessary to establish a suitable parking area of sufficient size to ensure that units could be parked within its limits in conditions contemplated.
(N.O.I.C. Arrow, 241536A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Dieppe Can take following ships on 26th September (Tuesday afternoon confidential report) subject to weather conditions moderating. 5 large type coasters maximum draught 17 feet, 2 medium type coasters maximum draught 15 feet, 6 small type coasters maximum draught 12 feet, train ferry. Agreed P.E.C.
(N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 241915 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Ostend. Situation report
(1) Strong North West gale restricts operations in harbour M/S remained in berth. Oropesa M.L. entered harbour and moored alongside.
(2) Conferred with Salvage Officer and port construction and repair representative on prospect of opening up Mey lock. Consider only quick method is to pump lock (and?) refloat sunk ships. Should this be impossible considerable delay inevitable.
(3) P Party examined 5 G mines found under car ferry pier mines found to be safe.
(4) 4 ships called (corrupt gr.) Ostend did not arrive presumably owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 242025 to Com Belgium.)

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24.9.1944

SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and DefectsL.T.410
WOLSEY

My 232029.

From investigation and inspection of fragments mine identified as German "M" type. Position of incident approximately 090° 56A buoy 2 miles. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 241528A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

L.S.T.430

L.S.T.430 ashore on Quarry Ledge off Gurnard Point Solent, failed to refloat high water today with tug. Laying out heaving off gear and will attempt refloat directly weather and tides permit. Fear damage to bottom. Main engines reported not usable but as far as is known vessel making no water at present in main compartments. (C.S.O. Cowes, 241909A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SS. ~~WILLIAM~~
W. S. JENNINGS.

Following signal received from Master of SS. ~~WILLIAM~~ S. JENNINGS (U.S.A.) begins:- Vessel had collision with No. 3 buoy this morning and we fear damage, to propeller. Require examination and survey of damage. Ends.

Request arrangements may be made accordingly. Vessel is due to sail from Southend 27th., to catch O.N.F.256. (Com. Southend, 242024A to U.S. W.S.A.)

Shipping and convoys.Convoy
R.A.60

Repairs to RATHLIN satisfactorily completed she will sail with R.A.60. Docking will probably be necessary in U.K. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 241215A to Admty., M.W.T. S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Convoy
H.X.F.
308

My 231947Z. COBOURG confident submarine in position of attack went deep before contact lost. This not confirmed by other ships. H.X.F.308 1200Z P.C.S. 49.15 N. 21.30 W. (S) 081° 9.5 knots. W.R. 4872 2574. (S.O.C.6, 241247Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 241921. PENNYWORT now fuelled after second attempt. During first attempt one man lost and others injured by accident. Have put my M.O. on board.

(2) Intend keeping PENNYWORT in company until daylight when M.O. and badly injured officer can be transferred to EASTVIEW.

(3) PENNYWORT instructed to continue reporting weather in accordance with his orders. Weather report 5862 2574.

(S.O.C. 6, 241949Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy
S.L.170.

F.T.9 straggler from S.L.170 last seen in 49° 21' N. 6° 48' W. at 0330A today 24th and since unsuccessfully searched for by GORE.

(2) BENTLEY and CAPELL are to join GORE and are to search for F.T.9 tonight and tomorrow 25th

/as...

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24.9.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Convoy
S.L.170.
(Contd.)

as arranged by BENTLEY.
(3) Liberator N/110 will co-operate from 0700
tomorrow 25th searching to South-Eastward from
49° 21' N. 6° 48' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 242004A to GORE, BENTLEY,
CAPELL; and 242335A.)

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24.9.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

S.S.
ANDES.

Diversion order.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 241130Z to S.S.ANDES)

MISSION
BAY's
Group.

From position 14. 48 N. 29. 52 W. 0725Z/24
established 24 hour beam patrols 65 miles each
side base course 285. At 0740Z/25 will reverse
course to about 095 and drop centre of barrier
20 miles to South. C. in C. Lant 232036 not to
all. 241600Z position 1515 3126.
(C.T.G. 22.1 241847 to Cominch, C. in C. Lant.)

541

24.9.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Yugoslav
Navy.

Following recyphers my 231524* begins, Addressed Admiralty from C. in C. Med. pass to Yugoslav Prime Minister from Commander Sostaric. At my first interview with British Naval C. in C. appointment of Yugoslav C. in C. was discussed.

Admiral Cunningham was emphatic that the Royalist and Partisan elements must amalgamate into one navy without delay. He stressed the importance of this from the operational administrative and political standpoints and stated that he was convinced that such an arrangement was contemplated after separate discussions with yourself and Marshall Tito.

(2) Admiral Cunningham is anxious that new C. in C. should arrive as soon as possible and considers he should be an officer of old Royal Yugoslav Navy he proposed that Chief of Staff should be an officer from the Partisans and suggested that this would tend to hasten the unification of the New Royal Yugoslav Navy and smooth out political differences.

(3) Admiral Cunningham also suggested that the names of the new C. in C. and his Chief of Staff should be announced simultaneously which should have a good effect politically.

(4) With Admiral Cunningham concurrence I am paying short visits to Taranto and Vis leaving Caserta on 27th September. Admiral Cunningham suggested that if you concur I discuss the above points with Yugoslav authorities at Vis and obtain their reactions.

(5) Request very early reply in view of my imminent departure.
Ends. Your N.R. 72/986 refers.

(Caserta C.C.O. 240336 to Admty.) * Received undecypherable.

Patrol off
Cephalonia.

Patrol maintained from 0230A till 0500A. Nothing met. During withdrawal at 0530A a (?one or ten) thousand ton merchant ship was observed at anchor in Argostoli Road. This was bombarded by both ships at a range from 11,000 to 14,000 yards. Result inconclusive. Intend both ships keep Malta broadcast from 1200A.
(ZETLAND 240558A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.L.E.M. BRECON.)

Aegean S/M
operations.

Sailed Khios as in my 211555B not to all addressees. Have obtained fuel, remaining now 71.5%.
(VISIGOTH 240801B to Capt. (3) 1, (R) S.O. 51 Force, (corrupt addressee) 1st S/M F.)

TARANTO hit
at Spezia.

(Extract.) Tactical details. 27 B.25s left the cruiser TARANTO burning in Spezia Harbour after hits on bow, centre and stern. 1 B.25 and 1 B.26 are missing.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 240922A.)

/Special...

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24.9. 1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Special Ops. Sitrep No. 24. (Extract.) (3) Dalmatia. Partisans control strip of coast from Marina to Primosten both incl. with the exception of Rogoznica. Partisans control channel between Murter Island and Vdodice on mainland.
(H.Q.B.A.F. 241200A.)

Danarm. Stay where you are. Your 231715. Tell the Russians you have referred back and are expecting instructions.
(2) Elements of a British Mission expected to arrive in Bulgaria within a week. You may join up. If hard pressed you may tell the Russians that this is your intention.
(3) As a last resort return to Istanbul.
(C. in C. Med. 241230A to Danarm.)

Aegean, enemy intelligence. Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation 24 hours to 0900/23. All times G.M.T.
(3). Aegean shipping summary. Photographic R/C 22nd Sept. revealed following.
Samos. Not covered but visual R/C Vathy a.m. showed arrival minelayer DRACHE and 1 escort vessel from Piraeus. Comment. Probably to evacuate troops. DRACHE attacked from air p.m. and reported seriously damaged. In addition 1 of 3 Magdas recently loading military stores Vathy damaged.
Candia. Large concentration up to 400 M.T. still in and around town.
Comment. Vessel reported successfully attacked by our Naval Forces Gulf of Salonika later 22nd Sept. may have been PETER.
Western Greece. Patras. Some thinning out shipping with departure 1 F-Lighter, 1 concrete barge, 1 tug and 4 escort vessels. 7 Siebels and SS. ADIGE however still present. General. Strong indications major shipping effort impending Dodecanese.
(C. in C. M.E. 241315C.)
SS. SILVA sailed Piraeus evening 23rd Sept. bound for Salonika. DRACHE sunk by aircraft in Samos 23rd Sept.
(Capt. (S) 1 241650 to 1st S/M F.)

Sitrep No. 400. (Extract.) 23rd September. Andros. 11 of 13 Hun on merchant ship Gavros captured result R.A.F. bombing. Paros. Total Hun 420. Torpedo boat 500 ton caïque sunk by R.A.F. 14th Sept. 2 Hun killed 14 wounded. 3,000 ton tp. tpt. aground off Santa Maria following air raid. Samos. Hun continues evac. efforts many Ities some Hun deserting. Large freighter two large, two small escort vessels in Vathy. Athens result air raid 15th September.

/Tatoi...

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24.9.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Sitrep No. 400 (Contd.) Tatoi. 29 planes destroyed Eleusis 12 destroyed Kassana 10 destroyed 18 damaged. Destroyer TURBINE sunk another damaged. Small floating dock sunk large damaged. One submarine sunk one missing. Two floating cranes destroyed several small craft sunk or damaged. Three Greeks 200 Huns killed.
(C. in C. M.E. 242000C.)

Situation report No. 442. During the period 16th/23rd September available landing craft have been operating in Southern Dalmatian Islands (group omitted) with Commandos and Partisans who have been harassing German withdrawal. Night 22/23 500 Commandos were also landed on Albanian coast. [Operation "Mercurised" - Med. W.D.]
(2) Night 18/19th coastal forces attacked escorted Siebel (corrupt group) in 045° 07' N. 013° 36' E. Torpedoes were fired but results unobserved.
(3) Night 20/21 M.Ls. attacked 3 armed launches near Solta Islands. One enemy reported damaged but all escaped in bad visibility.
(4) On 22nd and 23rd September EDISON and WOOLSEY bombarded batteries and storage dumps in Franco Italian frontier area. All targets well covered.
(5) Coastal force on patrol between Genoa and Sestri Levante night 22/23 September were engaged by shore batteries but sustained no damage. No enemy was sighted.
(6) TUMULT sank small caique north of Suda on 23rd Sept.
(7) ZETLAND and BRECON bombarded thousand ton merchant ship in Argostoli a.m./24 result inconclusive.
(C. in C. Med. 242312A.)

Former assault escort carriers. A.M. 202330 August not to all and F.O.E.C's 231141. Request you will arrange to sail KHEDIVE, SEARCHER and PURSUER for U.K. by 1st October.
(2) Further signal will be made regarding withdrawal of the remaining 4 assault C.V.Es.
(V.C.N.S. 242331A to C. in C. Med.)

Aegean, S/M operations From position 035° 27' 027° 28' at 1003/25th proceed through A 034° 30' 027° 10', B. 034° 18' 024° 01', C. 035° 48' 016° 27' to R/V escort in D. 035° 49' 015° 18' at 1030/26th. (2) Speed 9 knots.
(3) Time A.
(Capt. (S) 1 242347A to VAMPIRE.)

Navsitintrep No. 40. "Dragoon". Period ending 232400. Right flank. G.S. WOOLSEY 67 Rds EDISON 52 Rds. (both using S.F.C.P.) on railyard personnel batteries and several hits on observation post all in Ventimiglia area. Accurate return fire remained unlocated in spite of cub R/C.
M/S Marseilles continued in Bassin de la Gare. Bassins d'Arenc and Lazaret considered safe. Port St. Louis 1 moored mine detonated. Intelligence reported possibility attack on shipping in Marseilles and Toulon harbours by M.A.S. and assault craft departing Spezia night 22 and 23*. Off shore and harbour patrols increased. Blimp patrol established off Toulon and counter measure instituted.
(N.C.W.T.F. 242351.) * As in version P/L by D/R: but 5 services C.C.M. "A" by W/T has night 22/23 which is no doubt intended.

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U-Boat Dispositions. No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 240312Z)

U-Boat in Indian Ocean. Following was received at 1300Z on 500 k/c's.
begins:
"All ships from NEWBOROUGH.
Submarine sighted position 004 degs. 26' S.
064 degs. 08' E. at 0815Z/24th. T.O.O.
240815Z." Ends.

Message was made from C/S NUMS.3 and was recoded in Mersigs.
My position at 1500Z 003 degs. 32' S. 069 degs. 40' E. course
240 degs.

(H.M.S. ^{SV} QUEEN ELIZABETH 241525Z to C. in C. E.F.)

S-9. NEWBOROUGH reports sighting S/M on surface in 004 degs.
26' S. 064 degs. 08' E. at 0815Z/24 steering Eastward.

(2) N.O.I.C. E.Africa pass to A.H.Q. E.A.

(C. in C. E.F. 242001Z to S. and A. E.I. Station, Adty,
222 Group, A.H.Q. E.Af., C. in C. S.A.)

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U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON. Diversion order.
(D.O.D.(H) 240338Z to MOUNT VERNON)

S.S. O.M. BERNUTH (Tanker). Serious engine damage must return Balboa. Doubt if able return under own power, may require tug. Will advise soon.
(O.M. BERNUTH 240400Z to Adty.)

Stragglers' report. Stragglers arrived week ending 23rd September NEMAHA (U.S.) H.X.S. 309. Auxiliary machinery defects.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 241307Z)

S.S. NIEUW AMSTERDAM. T.A.148 alter immediately for C. 039 degs. 28' 072 degs. 14' omit Q.
(Com. U.S. Fleet C. & R. 241429Z to S.S. NIEUW AMSTERDAM)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 241446Z, Cominch 241510Z)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. (c) R.C.A.F. A/C R/116 disappearing A.S.V. contact in 42. 15 N. 57. 30 W. at 0720 24th.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 241453Z)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. Concurrence with respect DUCHESS OF RICHMOND noted in your 212015A related to details of escort and passenger capacity. My non-concurrence as to diversion of the vessel from Troop service was contained in my 191405 to Admiralty and B.A.D. B.A.D. has info by hand.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 241601Z to Adty.)

C.U. 40, STIRLING CASTLE, BROOKFIELD, SANTA CATALINA. Ref. Mydis 211458 211356 M.V. STIRLING CASTLE, BROOKFIELD collided vicinity Ambrose and returned to Port. Mydis 201810 not to all SANTA CATALINA struck submerged object in Harbour returned to pier. All cancelled from Convoy C.U.40.
(P.D. New York 241636)

C.U.39. Arrived at following times.
At position 50 - 26 N. 10 - 58 W. at 1600Z/21.
Mersey 2000Z/22. Clyde 0300Z/23. Barry Roads 1655Z/22.

Cherbourg ships anchored Weymouth Bay 1800Z/22 proceeding to Cherbourg daylight 23rd September. Arrived Cherbourg 1100Z/23.
(D.T.D. 241710A)

/U-Boat

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-Boat off Newfoundland. Abandon sweep forthwith and proceed at best speed possible to vicinity 48. 00 N., 51. 35 W., where Liberator has sighted U-Boat. Further signal follows.
 (F.O.N.F. 241712Z to STRATFORD)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 977. (Extract). September 23rd.
 (2) Previous night (22/23 Sept) P.T. boats sank two barges off Svalif Island heading South towards Wewak.
 (14) Pair P.T. boats torpedoed and sank enemy ship believed 200 foot minesweeper early hours 22nd off Sorong.
 (21) Same night 21st September, P.T. boats conducted usual negative patrols both Northeast and Southwest coast New Ireland strafing coastal targets.
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 240847)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A.
 (1) A/C A/224 attacked U-Boat on surface course 090 degs. at 0300Z/24 in 61 degs. 00' N. 04 degs. 40' E.
 (2) A/Y/502 sighted U-Boat course 190 degs. at 0500Z/24 in 61 degs. 46' N. 02 degs. 57' E.
 (3) A/C N/220 sighted U-Boat on surface course 215 degs. at 0200Z/24 in 45 degs. 59' N. 33 degs. 44' W.
 Para. B.
 (1) H.M. Ships sighted periscope and attacked contact before 1820Z/23 in 63 degs. 50' N. 22 degs. 50' W.
 Para. C.
 (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1325Z/23 in 55 degs. 04' N. 08 degs. 45' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 241059A)

U-Boat dispositions Estimates.
 (D.D.I.C. 241330A, 241331A)

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War Diary-

SITUATION REPORT.

General.

Shortage
of tugs.

1. Owing to continued requirements for all available tugs in Operations against the Continent and indefinite delay in the arrival dates of American lease lend tugs serious shortage of ship tugs in all theatres appears inevitable.

Home Commands.

2. The Swedish authorities have closed their East Coast to all foreign shipping as from 27th, but Malmo and Göteborg are unaffected.

3. The gale has somewhat abated.

4. The first two merchant ships entered Ostend with stores, chancing mines, a number of which may still be left. Three magnetic mines have been exploded.

Dover Straits.

5.(a). Cape Gris Nez batteries fired 21 rounds, of which 11 fell in Dover and 3 in Folkestone, causing considerable damage and casualties. Nine rounds were also fired at our minesweepers, but none of these scored hits.

Channel.

(b). Cherbourg can now provide coaling facilities.
(c). In view of the eased situation C. in C. Portsmouth proposes to simplify the through Channel routing with a more direct buoyed channel.
(d). The U.S. minelayer MIANTONOMAH was sunk by a mine near the entrance to Le Havre this afternoon. All traffic to Le Havre was suspended at 261451 except for minesweepers and similar craft, whilst a new channel was swept.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

German refu-
gee vessels
at Pasajes.

6. The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the six German refugee D.E.M.S. and A.S.R. boats which arrived at Pasajes on 19 August have been interned.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

South of
France.

7. (a). MADISON shelled military targets in the Ventimiglia and Bellenda areas today.
(b). At Marseilles all basins have now been swept and are safe.
(c). Orders have been given to close Camel beaches, and when this is accomplished Task Group 85 will be dissolved. (c.f. 9 September.)
(d). An operating P.T. base has been established in Golfe Juan in connection with screening against small craft raids from enemy held territory.
(e). N.C.W.T.F. in CATOCTIN left Toulon today for Naples.

Aegean
evacuation.

8. (a). A.F.H.Q. reports that withdrawal from Lemnos continues and the evacuation is expected to be complete within the next few days.
(b). Considerable movement of small craft westwards across the Aegean suggests that a major effort is impending to evacuate stores and equipment from the Dodecanese.

Air attacks
on Salamis
& Piraeus.

- (c). Heavy bombers attacked harbour installations at Scaramanga and Piraeus harbour today. Photographs show hits on docks and probable damage to ships at Scaramanga; but at Piraeus results were poor and most bombs fell in the sea. B.24s bombed Salamis harbour installations with fair results.

China.

9. A Liberator laid mines off Takao Harbour, Formosa last night and another bombed the docks at Amoy harbour.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. Naval Catalinas operating from Morotai in the early hours of today sank a 3000 ton merchant ship and damaged a smaller one in Darvel Bay, N.E. Borneo, set on fire a small freighter carrying fuel off the north coast, and damaged barges.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

L.B.V. Reference War Office B.M./T.N. 7 /Craft/23/3.
Flotillas Second para.
15 and 16. (1) L.B.V. Flotillas 15 and 16 have been held at Caen since 6th September.
(2) Your representative at my shipping meeting at Courseulles on August 28th stated that Army would be unable to man all the barges to be turned over by Navy to Army and requested that French Naval crews be provided for two of the flotillas to work under control of army.
(3) Accordingly French Naval crews have been ready to take over these two flotillas since September 12th, 1944.
(4) It is now reported by R.N.O. Canoe that you will not accept transfer of these two flotillas and since they are crewless he has had to find British Naval personnel to provide guards for them.
(5) Since it is wasteful to have barges doing nothing and it is a breach of the arrangements made with French Navy request this matter be rectified.
(6) It is suggested that if no requirement exists in Caen Canal the barges might be valuable for working elsewhere.
(7) Request acknowledgment.
(F.O.B.A.A. 250959A to EXFOR Rear D.T.N.)

Rescue tug Rescue tug EARNER was withdrawn from Iceland (C) for Iceland. prior to Normandy landings. Two incidents have recently occurred, ice damage to U.S.S. NORTHLAND and torpedoing of YUKON, in which a rescue tug was urgently required. My 061400 and 221946 refer. It is requested that consideration be given to the re-establishment of a rescue tug at Reykjavik at an early date. (A.C.I.C. 251300A to Adty.)

Swedish East Swedish Authorities have declared Swedish East Coast closed. Coast closed to all foreign shipping from September 27th. This includes Trelleborg and ferry service will be closed. Malmo which takes largest amount of foreign shipping calling at Swedish ports and Gothenburg are unaffected. (N.A. Stockholm 251524 to Adty.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Barry A.L. M/L.D. 04759/44 of 19th August, 1944.
and Barry and Swansea examination services will cease to function at 0001 Sunday 1st October.
Swansea (2) Shipping identification and diversion
Examination services will operate in Barry Roads and Mumbles Roads as from that date. All inward bound
Services. merchant vessels will be required to contact the identification steamer which will display the following distinguishing signals.
By Day - Military pennant. By Night - Two vertical white lights.
(3) Barry and Swansea P.T.R's are being amended accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 251113A to Adty, Info: C. in C.W.A, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, C.T.F.125, F.O's i/c and N.O's i/c in W.A. for N.C.S.Os. Westco.)

/Further ...

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Further reduction of Coast Defence guns in Portsmouth Command. Reference A.M. 230321 para. 2. It is now considered that the threat of E-Boat attack on Newhaven and Portsmouth will disappear when the enemy has been driven out of Holland. There is no threat of E-boat or submarine attack on ports in your command West of Portsmouth.
(2) It is proposed therefore to make the following further reductions in coast defence guns.
(a) Now. At Portland. A.Pierhead. C.Pierhead. Breakwater.
(b) After German withdrawal from Holland.
At Portsmouth. Culverdown, and one 6 pdr. each from Hurst and Blockhouse.
At Newhaven 2 12 pdrs.
(3) Request your early concurrence or remarks.
(D. of L.D. 252208A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Further reduction of Coast Defence guns in Western Approaches Command. Reference A.M. 230318. It is considered that there is now no threat of S/M attack on ports in your command.
(2) It is proposed therefore to reduce the following batteries to care and maintenance
At Milford Haven. West Blockhouse.
In Clyde. Toward Point.
In Northern Ireland. Orlock Point, Kilroot, Larne, Magilligan Point.
(3) Request your early concurrence or remarks.
(D. of L.D. 252209A to C. in C. W.A.)

Further reduction of Coast Defence guns in Rosyth Command. Reference A.M. 230319 para. 3. It is now considered that only sufficient coast defence guns need be retained in your command to defend the Forth against S/M attack.
(2) Apart from S/Ms it is not considered that seaborne attack, including bombardment, against the U.K. will play any part in German strategy.
(3) It is the intention therefore to reduce the following batteries to care and maintenance.
North Sutor. Peterhead.
Torry Point. Broughty Ferry.
Park. Roker. South Gare.
(4) Request your early concurrence or remarks.
(D. of L.D. 252210A to C. in C. Rosyth)

Further reduction of Coast Defence guns in Nore Command. Reference A.M. 011802 and 230317. The only form of sea attack against the ports in your command which now need be considered is by E-boats.
(2) It is the intention therefore to reduce the following additional batteries to care and maintenance.
At Yarmouth Links. In Thames. Fletcher.
(3) Request your early concurrence or remarks.
(D. of L.D. 252211A to C. in C. Nore)

/Further ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

Further reduction of Coast Defence guns in Plymouth Command.

Reference A.M. 221955 para. 5. It is the intention to confine the coast defence guns at Plymouth to the minimum required for defence against submarines and to reduce the remaining batteries in Plymouth command to care and maintenance.

(2) It is proposed therefore to reduce the following batteries.

At Plymouth Western Kings, Bovisand.

At Falmouth Half Moon, Pendennis, St. Mawes.

Bristol Channel Flatholme North, Flatholme South.

(3) Request your early concurrence or remarks.

(D. of L.D. 252212A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Further reduction in Coast Defence guns in Orkneys and Shetlands Command.

Reference A.M. 221956 para. 3. It is now considered that only sufficient coast defence guns need be retained in your command to defend the Fleet base against S/M attack.

(2) Apart from S/Ms it is not considered that seaborne attack, including bombardment, against the U.K. will play any part in German strategy.
(3) It is the intention therefore to reduce the following batteries to care and maintenance.

Lerwick North, Lerwick South, Ness of Sound,

Galtness, Wasswick, Carness, Berwick, Links. Balfour to be reduced to one 6 pdr.

(4) Request your early concurrence or remarks.

(D. of L.D. 252213A to A.C.O.S.)

Further reduction in Coast Defence guns in Dover Command.

Reference A.M. 230316 para. 3. the following further reduction in coast defence guns is now proposed.

Wanstone, Langdon, South Breakwater, Pier Extension, Lydden Spout, Dungeness East, and one gun each from Fanhole and Eastern Arm.

(2) Request your early concurrence or remarks.

(D. of L.D. 252214A to A.C. Dover)

Movements

ARGONAUT

Route ARGONAUT A/M 230104.

A. 48 degs. N. 07 degs. W. B. 44 degs. 10 degs.

C. 37 degs. 10 degs., thence to Gibraltar.

(D.O.D.(H) 251413A to C. in C. Plym.)

Intend to sail ARGONAUT at 1515 28th Sept. to Gibraltar for onward routing in accordance with A.M. 230104.

(2) - (4) Routed and arrangements.

(C. in C. Plym. 251808 to F.O.G.M.A. as amended by his 261556A)

TYNE

It would be greatly appreciated if an early indication could be given of the period that TYNE will be available as Home Fleet destroyer depot ship after refit before proceeding abroad.

/Following ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

TYENNE
(contd.)

Following consideration apply (A) future employment of Greenwich (B) Accommodation for Commodore (D) and staff.
(3) In connection with para. 2(B) above it is essential to give A.C.O.S. early information whether Offices at present used by Commodore (D) can be used for other purposes either temporarily or permanently.
(Com. (D) H.F. 251541 to Adty)

S.S. QUEEN MARY carrying 1st Sea Lord and Prime Minister.

S.S. QUEEN MARY arrived 1708/25.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 251717A to P.S.T.O. Clyde)

L.C.T's to C.T.F. 125.

Your 212311A and C.T.F. 125 191441 neither to all. 15 repetition 15 in number U.S. L.C.T. are to be sailed to Omaha forthwith.
(2) Official numbers of craft are to be reported.
(3) Reliefs for these craft are not required.
A.N.C.X.F's 101511A and C. in C. Portsmouth's 191431A neither to all refer.
(F.O.B.A.A. 251837A to N.O.I.C. Arrow.)

MALAYA

During this week a battleship will be operating off the coast to the east of Montrose. At night she may either anchor off Buddon Ness, proceed South by searched channels or return to Methil or Rosyth anchorage according to weather or other circumstances.
(2) It may be necessary to fuel water and provision her in about five days time at Methil.
(3) If anchored off Buddon Ness boat transport will be provided by R.M.L's from Dundee. N.O.I.C. Methil to arrange boat transport if at Methil.
(C. in C. Rosyth 251911A to N.O.I.C. Methil, N.O.I.C. Dundee, F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, C.O. May Island, X.D.O., A.S. Rosyth, LOCHINVAR, 18 Group, 17 Group, R.A.N.A.S.(N), 13 Group N.A.S. Crail, N.A.S. Arbroath, K.H.M. Rosyth, S.9.)
My 251911A. When trials with A/C are taking place it will be necessary for other A/C surface vessels and submarines to avoid the area bounded by position A. 57 degs. 08' N. 01 degs. 48' W.
Position B. 57 degs. 08' N. 00 degs. 48' W.
Position C. 56 degs. 25' N. 00 degs. 48' W.
Position D. 56 degs. 25' N. 02 degs. 15' W.
(2) Information will be passed when restriction is required and when clear.
(C. in C. Rosyth 251912A to R.A.N.A.S.(N), N.A.S. Crail, N.A.S. Arbroath, 13 Group, 18 Group, LOCHINVAR, S.9.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval

(A) Captured Ports:-

Boulogne. Preliminary survey shows 26 craft sunk in entrance to inner harbour completely blocking channel. All but two or three coaster berths damaged or fouled by sunken craft or cranes. Anticipated that it will be possible to clear a channel in about 10 days after repeat after mine clearance permits entry of salvage craft.

(B) Unloading figures.

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>
British	885094	221992	1744327
U.S.	1435370	254740	2606321
Total D + 109	2320464	476732	4350648

The above figures correct errors in my 242147A.

Unloading was curtailed in the U.S. sector by bad weather. (Adm. Ramsay 252230A to Cositintrep addressees)

Operations

North Sea

Patrols

(A) Unit F.T.1, M.T.B's 359, 24 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 2000 today, Monday.

(2) Object interception of enemy small craft encountered.

(3) Unless in contact with the enemy, Unit is to leave patrol at 0530/26 and return to harbour.

(4) Communications 1700 kc/s and 8200 kc/s T.C.S.

(A.C. Dover 251150A to S.O. M.T.B's, 5th M.T.B.F.)

My 250937. Cancel 3, 4, 5, 15 and 16 patrols tonight.

(C. in C. Nore 251549A to Capt. (D) 16, Capt. (D) 21, S.O. Corvettes, F.O.C. Coastal Force, N.O.I.C. Sheerness, N.O.I.C. Harwich, S.E.E.C.C.D., N.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, N.O.I.C. Humber, N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, F.O.C. Dover, H.M.S. BEEHIVE, H.M.S. SHEARWATER, H.M.S. STEVENSTONE, H.M.S. EGLINTON, (DUFF?), THORNBOROUGH.)

Operations

Channel

Operation "Nestegg"

Reference A.M. 211140 and A.N.C.X.F. 221529. Repairs to ULSTER MONARCH will now be completed about 8th October. F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 191117 refers.

(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail ALBRIGHTON to Plymouth for duty as H.Q. ship for "Nestegg." (D. of P. 251227A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Portsmouth)

Troopers H.B.P (79430) M.O.2 25th September nil. Ref. F.W.D. 14771 13 September. Request copies early of following for information.

(1) 21542/4/plans 20 July addressed Soutco.

(2) F.W.D. 12991 undated received by Soutco 23 August amended by F.W.D. 13238 252110 August. Request you keep us fully

/informed ...

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"Nestegg"
(Contd.)

informed on all matters regarding "Nestegg" in view urgent necessity of co-ordinating action with Civil Ministries.
(War Office 252042A to S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. Admty, Soutco, C.T.F. 135 (Soutco pass) C. in C. Plymouth, A.O.C. 10 Group R.A.F.)

Patrols

Pins cover night 25th/26th September.
G.D.1 HOTHAM Z. 9 South.
G.D.2 WATCHMAN Z. 109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251301A to Adty, WATCHMAN, HOTHAM, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff. Ships maintaining W/T watch on Broadcasts "HD" and "CN" in Area "C". H.M.S. HORNET, Capt (S) 5, H.M.S. VERNON, Portsmouth. H.M.S. AGGRESSIVE, H.M.S. ATTACK, N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

Shelling of
Dover and
Folkestone.

Between 1112 and 1333 and 1619 and 1628 today Monday the enemy coastal battery situated on Cap Gris Nez fired 21 rounds in all. Of these rounds ten fell in Dover town, one in Dover harbour, three in Folkestone and the remainder to seawards off Dover. Considerable damage was sustained by civil property. To date thirty casualties have been reported of which five are fatal, nine seriously injured (including one naval rating) and the remainder slight.
Dover minesweeping trawlers when operating in low visibility close Eastward of the East Bullock Buoy this morning were shelled by an enemy battery. Nine rounds were observed but no damage or casualties were caused.
(A.C. Dover 252100A to A.N.C.X.F.)

OperationsWest Coast France

Patrols

Carry out operation "Assault."
(A) Force 27 TARTAR (S.C.) ASHANTI.
(B) 1200A/26.
(C) Through (P.P) 48 degs. 30' N. 5 degs. 20' W.
(Q.Q) 48 degs. 00' N. 5 degs. 21' W. and thence to Gironde area keeping west of Force 26.
(D) Patrol between Belle Ile and Gironde.
(G) Force 26 BLYSKAWICA, BRISSENDER as in my 251324A. Own minesweepers may be encountered in vicinity of Brest.
(C. in C. Plym. 251325A to TARTAR, ASHANTI.)

/Brest ...

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Operations

West Coast France

Brest approaches. 3 Mile approach Channel to (?position) B searched 90 per cent negative result. Douarnenez Bay and approaches from position B searched high percentage negative result. Intend sweeping into Brest with advance force first light tomorrow Tuesday or as soon after as weather permits. With exception Anse de Morgat consider Douarnenez Bay can safely be used into 5 fathom line for any ships requiring shelter.
(Com. M/S Brest 251416A to C.T.F. 125)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols My 241735. Para. 3 amend AFFLECK and GARLIES supporting S.L. 170 to Lundy Is. thence patrolling between 050 degs. 05' N. 006 degs. 55' W. and 050 degs. 45' N. 005 degs. 20' W. remaining ships of first E.G. carrying search in the vicinity of 049 degs. 21' N. 006 degs. 48' W.
(2) Report if PROSPECTOR, PANDORIAN or F.T.9, stragglers from S.L. 170, are met.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 250035A to S.O.E.G.6.)
My 242004A. F.T.9 located off North Cornish Coast resume patrol.
(C. in C. Plymouth 250911A to BENTLY, GORE, CAPEL, E.G.1.
C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Adty.)

Force 33. Your 241435 U-boat groups detached at 0400A/25th. P.C.S. of O.N.F. 255 053 degs. 30' N. 012 degs. 40' W. 211 degs. 9½.
(S.O. Force 33 250425A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Operation "Rigmarole" Arrived Molotovsk following six ships J.W.60, JOHN VINING, JOHN WOOLMAN, DAVID STONE, DANIEL WILLARD, NATHANIEL ALEXANDER, BRITISH PATIENCE.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 251655A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia)

Withdrawal of plane guardship for 15 hrs. to fuel. The following re-encyphers Congrepat's 251318Z begins. Because of fuel considerations necessary for plane guard and weather Station C. ship to be off station 0300/25 to about 1700Z/25.
(A.C.I.C. 251804A to Adty, C. in C. W.A.)

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sighted off
Walcheren.

Report 5 ships possibly destroyers position
D 28 64 at 1400 hours today Monday.
(84 Group 251606A to A.C. Dover)
35 Wing reports 5 destroyers 10 miles N.W. of
Westkapelle Walcheren 1510 today steering N.E.
(N.L.O. 1st Canadian Army 251640A to A.C. Dover)

Convoy
attacked
off Texel.

Have attacked enemy with cannon or machine
gunfire. Position of enemy 1 merchant vessel
6000 tons 23 escort vessels 52 degs. 58' N.
4 degs. 47' E.
(A/C J.F.B.A. No. T.O.O. to 16 Group)

MiningSweep of
Q.Z.S. 512.

Pass Needles 0730A with 31st M/S F. in company
and proceed to Cherbourg by Q.Z.S. 284 and 512.
(2) Sweep Q.Z.S. 512 in H formation double
Oropesa using S.A. gear. Guide to be in
centre of formation with only one sweep streamed.
Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251617A to FORT WILLIAN)

NavigationalProposed
direct route,
Start to
Dover.

With a view to simplifying the through channel
routing of ocean convoys the mining situation
has been examined and it is considered that a
route further off shore than the existing
searched channels could safely be established to
run direct from the eastern end of Q.Z.S. 478
(off Start Point) to C.3 light buoy (Q.Z.S.
488) continuing towards the Straits of Dover by Q.Z.S. 488
to C.2 buoy, whence it is suggested that the original channel
direct from C.2 to D buoy might with advantage be re-established.
(2) It is considered that in general the waters traversed by
the proposed direct route are clear of all known minefields
but it is proposed that a searching sweep should be carried
out on this route to a breadth of at least two miles before
it is brought into force.
(3) If this proposal is concurred in a re-organisation of the
buoyage in the vicinity of Z buoy may be desirable. The
route as suggested leaves A.4 and F.1 buoys about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to
the northward and A.6 buoy about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the southward,
and passing through K1. buoy. It is considered that ocean
convoys should cross the Isle of Wight to France supply routes
during daylight hours but if night passage through this area
is unavoidable St. Catherine's Light, which will be passed at
nine miles would be shown continuously at full brilliancy and
shipping instructed to burn navigation lights in this area.

/(4) ...

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Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Navigational

Proposed direct route, Start to Dover. (Contd.) (4) It is considered that the proposed route should be declared under traffic regulations as a convoy route and not as a searched channel. (5) In the event of a recrudescence of enemy mining activity in the channel, ocean convoys should be re-routed on the existing coastal convoy routes. (C. in C. Portsmouth 251217A to Adty, C. in C. Plym, A.C. Dover.)

Port Facilities

Cherbourg B.N.L.O. 139th M/S Flotillas 140955B. (A) Coaling facilities exist at Cherbourg. (B) Ships at Anchor are in V/S Touch with Base Authorities. (C) This is being done by Comdr. M/S Cherbourg. (E) Office accommodation is being arranged at Cherbourg. (C.T.F. 125 250957A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Le Havre Entrance channel to Le Havre closed from 2 hours before to 2 hours after high water to all vessels until further notice. (C.T.F. 125 251219A to A.N.C.X.F.) C.T.F. 125's 231825A not to all addressees. Request KIRRIEMOOR and three Bar Vessels be sailed Havre to lay alternative moorings for Liberty Ships as required by C.T.F. using material ex CHASTITY. (2) Subject to confirmation by C.T.F. 125 that the depth at low water is not more than 35 feet pendants provided for CHASTITY moorings will be suitable. (3) Names of vessels to be reported. (D. of B.D. 251912A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Ostend (1) First 2 merchant ships entered with stores. (2) Carried out Oropesa sweep of harbour with negative results. (3) Defensive hunt sweep of harbour exploded 3 magnetic mines. Seaward part Vo(group missing)haven now reasonably clear of mines. Have information that acoustic (?minefield) Katy mines were laid in Vo?haven but have been unable to find Snag line or explode them. Consider possibility of ship striking them is reasonable (?risk) in view of urgent situation. (4) N.W. gale abated but weather (corrupt groups). (N.O.I.C. Ostend 252100 to Com. Belgium.)

Technical

Captured torpedoes. N.L.O. First Canadian Army reports three torpedoes on trailer found at H. 377862. (2) Torpedoes possibly Human Torpedo type. (3) Request retention in safe custody until disposal decided. (A.N.C.X.F. 251215A to N.A.G. for Colonel Strangeways.)

25.9.1944
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

LARKSPUR Am stopped off Helwick Light Vessel. Starboard engine rocker arm that was repaired broke again. Advise at once if to proceed on passage with one engine. The other so far in order. Draft 26 - 11. Master.
(U.S. Hospital Ship LARKSPUR 250822 to Adty, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff)
Your 250822. Return to Newport for examination.
(D.T.D. 251125Z to LARKSPUR and B.A.M.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Reduction in number of M.T. Ships. M.T. ships retained in service have been reduced as from 15 September to 70.
(S.H.A.E.F. 251400A to A.G.W.A.R.)

Convoy R.A.60. (1) Intend to sail for Loch Ewe 0100A/28. Kola Inlet portion R.A. 60 to M.U. to R/V with White Sea portion at 1000A/28.
(2.4.5. and 6.) as in S.B.N.O. Archangel 241759.
(3) Routed KX. MU. thence as in (?S.B.N.O. Archangel) 241759.
(7) British ship ZAMALEK (rescue ship).
(8) American Ships ~~W~~VIJAH KELLOG, CLARK HOWELL, EDWARD L. GRANT, OAKLEY WOOD, CHARLES DAURAY, FRANK GILBRETH, J.S. LOWELL, LEO J. DUSTER, THOMAS DONALDSON, THOMAS H. SUMNER, CHARLES A MCALLISTER.
(9) Norwegian Ship NOREG (T).
(N.C.S.O. Murmansk 251817A to Adty)

Convoy J.W.61. In view para. 1 of S.B.N.O. North Russia's 220920 and two cargoes Furnace and Diesel Oils sent in J.W. 60 proposed (Tanker Message) to include one black tanker in J.W.61.
Vessel will be equipped for oiling at sea.
(D.of S. 251956A to C. in C. H.F.)

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25.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B sighting 450 miles N. N.W. of Azores. A.G. Opsum 332 24th September Z.D. (H) K/22- B.C./114 U.S.N. Z.E. - Fortress Mark III U/220 sighted Radar then illuminated four inch type flares at 0042 XSTW 5196 (45.51 N. 33.7 W.) fully surfaced believed 740 ton U-Boat on Co. 215/14 knots. Not attacked with D/Cs due poor illumination and target presentation. When sighted visually U-Boat was 500 yards on starboard bow. Accurate light and heavy flak three hits port mainplane crew unharmed, aircraft replied. Results not observed and Radar contact maintained intermittently for 15 mins. then faded abruptly. T/220 and C.D./114 (U.S.N.) consecutively homed by W/T to position C. and D. using Sono Buoys. No further contacts. (H.Q. 247 Group 250015 to H.Q.C.C.)

WHITE BEAR. Special equipment of WHITE BEAR not necessary for survey in Torres Strait area propose therefore she may be ordered to join E.F. after meeting CHALLENGER to transfer stores and personnel and that Capt. Day should proceed in her after relieving Capt. Wyatt as Fleet Hydrographic Officer. C. in C. E.F. 231217 refers. (Fleet Hydrographic Officer CHALLENGER 250115Z to Admty.)

G.2 Summary (Extract.) (B) Balkans. One Yugoslavia. No. 39. A. Dalmatia. Following enemy withdrawal partisans reported to have occupied several localities on Peljesac Peninsula. Two. Greece and Aegean. A. Withdrawal from Lemnos continues. Evacuation expected to be complete within next few days. B. Arrival troop carrier DRACHE Samos suggests final evacuation intended. Process however possibly delayed by Allied air action. C. Considerable movement small craft westwards across Aegean suggests major effort impending evacuate stores and equipment from Dodecanese evacuation Rhodes town believed begun. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/25 Recd. 0750.)

FORMIDABLE. (Corrupt group) FORMIDABLE will remain at Gibraltar for a further 14 days? Mail may be forwarded accordingly. (FORMIDABLE 251537B to Admty.) Docking at Gibraltar before resuming passage from U.K. to Eastern Fleet.

ATROPO. Route for Italian S/M ATROPO due depart Gibraltar about 30th Sept. for Bermuda under escort from Gibraltar through:- W. 32.00, 14.00. X. 31.00, 24.00. Y. 31.00, 40.00. Z. 31.00, 57.00. Thence Bermuda, all positions N. and W. Your 231444 to C. in C. Med. and B.A.D's 021943 para. 6 refer. (D.O.D.(F) 251713A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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25.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

6 German
refugee
vessels at
Pasajes.

My 241835B August. Notice has today been received from Ministry of Foreign Affairs (dated) Sept. 18th, that (?all) 6 German refugee vessels at Pasajes have been interned. These are IMMELMANN, RICHTOFEN, BROSEN, F.L.Bs. 979, 526 and 536. (B.N.A. Madrid 251745B to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

T.G. 14.5 &
transports
carrying
Brazilian
troops.

N.O.B. Rio 211330*. Group departed 6½ hours late. (Com. 4th Fleet 242132.)
* 211355 intended (so W.R. says, but probably 211335 intended.)

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25.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean S/M
patrols.

From position 035° 26' 027° 27' submarine UNSWERVING proceed on the surface at 8 knots to arrive Castelorizo 09(30?)A/26th.
(2) From position 034° 50' 027° 10' submarine App. No. 14 CURIE F.S. proceed on the surface at 9 knots to arrive Castelorizo 1745A/26th.
(3) (?Bombing) (?restrictions) arranged.
(Capt. (3) 1 250010A to UNSWERVING, CURIE F.S., Info. 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M., F.O.E.C., C.F.B.J.L., MEREUS.)

Your 251114. Pending onward routeing instructions intend following reverse of UNSWERVING route as in your 231734. My position 035° 59' 027° 22' speed 10 knots. Acknowledge.
(VAMPIRE 250101A to Capt. (3) 1.)

P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel 2 caiques one unknown vessel 39° 46' N. 24° 51' E. 275° 6 knots.

(H.M.S. P.206* 251615A to Alexandria W/T.)

* As received.

My 251615A. 1 merchant ship, 2 caiques, 2 E.M.S. altered to reciprocal at 1715. Re-appeared and unsuccessfully attacked course 235° speed 4 knots in 039° 52' 024° 46'. Four torpedoes remain.

(H.M.S. P.206* 251930A.)

* As received.

Air attack
on Scaramanga

Strategic details. Day 24. Scaramanga Harbour installations were attacked by 52/58 B.24s with 140 tons scoring hits on main jetty, both seaplane hangars, workshops, shipways, and hits on possible submarine pens. Flak: S.I.H. Photo show 1 x 500 ton U-Boat and 2 x 200 ft. vessels sunk and extensive damage. 71/75 P.51s provided target cover. 1 P.51 missing.

{ U.565
U.596
sunk

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 250855A.)

Black Sea.

From intelligence report Sept. 20 to Sept. 24th.

(1) (?German) (?minesweepers) ALEXANDRIA and BECHELAREN reported between Belgrade and Budapest on Sept. 24th and 3 minesweeper M.Ls. one S/M

chaser one F-Lighter and special purpose auxiliary vessels arrived Iron Gates.

(2) Night Sept. 14/15th mines reported laid in Danube near 617 kilometre post. Sept. 20th one non contact mine destroyed near 695 kilometre post. Sept. 22nd four non contact mines destroyed off Ochakov.

(N.L.O. Black Sea 251135.)

Shortage of
tugs.

Your 4033/Med.56/5/13 of 12th June and 112204/Sept. Owing to continued requirement for all available tugs in operation "Overlord" and indefinite delay in the arrival dates of American lease lend tugs, serious shortage of ship tugs in all theatres appears inevitable.

War Diary.

25.9.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Shortage of tugs. (Contd.)

(2) Urgent operational requirements have arisen for ship tugs in the Eastern Theatre of which three ocean going ship tugs are required by end of October.

(3) Two Empire class tugs are becoming available from new construction in U.K. this month.

(4) In order that best arrangements can be made having regard to stringency of ship tug situation to meet essential requirements following information is requested:-

(a) Whether existing and known future commitments in the Med. can be met without further allocations:

(b) whether any ship tugs can be released for the Eastern Theatre later in the year and the numbers and dates by which this is possible.

(5) C. in C. E.F. has advised ^{C.M.} ~~CHARLES~~ SPEDDEN is required to undertake towage mid-October of dump hoppers from Aden to India.

(6) Can PAULINE MOLLER on completion of repairs also be made available for Indian ports?

(7) Agreed M.W.T.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 251145A to C. in C. Med.)

Danarm. Under pressure from Chief of Staff used paras. 1 and 2 of your 241230C.

(2) Summoned by Berezov who was politely angry at delay in departure and said British High Command had contravened international relation by (corrupt group) officer without prior agreement of U.S.S.R. Government. Gave myself and Gibson alternative leaving today or arrest.

(3) Added when position legalised would be glad to resume co-operating and stated our work and conduct whilst here were correct throughout.

(4) In view your para. 3 am leaving for Istanbul. Expect to arrive Plovdiv tonight when will try W/T contact. Frontier tomorrow, Istanbul. Please inform Turks.

(Danarm 251320B to C. in C. Med.)

Weather observations. My 191808B August. Mobile weather reporting (?station) 502 now in 047° 48' N. 006° 18' E. (C. in C. Med. 221550.)

Palermo, forthcoming U.S.N. withdrawal. Com. 8th Fleet reports that U.S. Navy may withdraw from Palermo as soon as operational conditions permit

(2) Palermo has excellent docking and repair facilities which are at present operated by 27 U.S.N. Technical Officers. There are 1500 Italian shipyard workers reinforced by 300 U.S. Naval Artisans.

(3) Facilities would not be essential for maintenance of Med. Fleet after the European War but could make a valuable contribution to ship repairs and refits arising from Far East operations.

(4) Propose in the event of U.S. withdrawal, (a) before departure of U.S. turn over management of repair and docking facilities to Italians. (b) Italians to operate port facilities under general control of British R.N.O. with small Liaison operations and Technical staff. (c) British Staff to be drawn from existing station resources. (5) Request early approval of policy in para. 4

(C. in C. Med. 251632A to Admty.)

/Aegean...

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25.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean
operations.

Intend to sweep (on) coast line Kithier - Milo -
Santorin - Kaso. Own M.T.Bs. are operating 10
miles north of Crete in Suda Bay and Candia area.
(TERPSICHORE 251817A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Situation
report No.
443.

LOYAL fired 434 rounds at gun positions and
batteries north Rimini on 24th Sept. Areas effec-
tively covered. Enemy batteries fired at M/S
without success.
(2) TERPSICHORE and TERMAGANT destroyed convoy of
one large caique, 2 F-Boats and 2 small craft East
Scarpanto on 24th Sept.
(C. in C. Med. 252221A.)

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25.9.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- H.X.S. 306. Average speed 7.5 knots. In position 50.33 W. 10.53 W. at 0600Z/15. All arrived. (D.T.D. 251237A.)
- H.X.F. 307. Average speed 10 knots. In positions 50.31 N. 11.27 W. at 1045Z/18. All arrived. (D.T.D. 251238A.)
- U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 251419Z, Cominch 251620Z.)
- S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. D. (1) R.C.A.F. Liberator Y/10 obtains Radar contact and sights smoke from suspected Schnorkel in 48.00 N. 51.35 W. at 1606Z/24th.
(2) A.D.C. sights U/B in 48.40 N. 54.05 W. 2100Z/24.
(3) C.54 (?A)/C sights U/B course 085° in 47.05 N. 62.30 W. at 1221Z/25th. (N.S.H.Q. 251439Z.)
- ATOLIA. Delivery of tugs. Tug ATOLIA has arrived Bermuda without previous warning. She reports passage speed about 8 knots. Your 032121 May para. 3 is it still desired to sail tugs from Bermuda in groups if so when can others be expected. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 251641Z to B.A.D. Washington.)
- U.S.S. GEN. MANN & MEIGS. C.C.O. pass to Comnavnaw. Refer N.O.B. Rio 211330 regarding relief of fourth fleet escorts off Gibraltar, in view your 301550B August and your 130924B*do you propose furnish escort U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN and U.S.S. GENERAL M.C. MEIGS in Med. In addition to all others concerned request you will inform C.T.G. 41.5 of your decision. (Cominch 251810Z to C. in C. Med.)
* Not yet identified in W.R.
- U/B incidents. Para. D. 242150Z two shore observers reported a U-Boat which submerged heading in westerly direction 13.00 N. 59.30 W. (Cominch 252115Z.)
- U.C. 38A. U.C. 38A request you will divert convoy max. southward immediately to avoid hurricane centred 038° N. 053° 30' W. at 1830Z moving N.N.E. at 30 knots. C.T.G. 21.7 report action taken. (Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 252329Z to Admty. C.T.G. 21.7, (R) Cinclant, A.T. 152.)

War Diary.

25.9.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 978.

(Extract) (Uncorrected) September 24th.

(3) During early hours Navy Catalina attacked tender similar to CHITOSE MARU one conversion or tanker fuelling two destroyer escorts off shore lower west coast Davao Gulf, scoring two quarter ton and two century direct hits on ships: violent explosion ensued and two escort vessels sank within five minutes. Sinking tender heckled for two hours with machine gun fire and another quarter tonner, after which ship rolled over and sank.

(4) Same time another Catalina landed one bomb of five hundred pounds square on large tanker thought ferrying aviation fuel near Kendari, as vessel exploded inferno blazed over five acre area and ship sank 40 minutes afterwards.

(13) Ground situation quiet on Morotai. Allied destroyer shelled reported enemy concentration north coast 22nd Sept. and Naval surface ships bombarded occupied positions Wajabeela on west coast next day supporting attempt to oust occupants.

(14) Night 23 Sept. P.T. Boats destroyed one barge heading south Galela Bay after driving same ashore. Fierce fuel fire started near Gelela by machine gun fire. Two torpedoes fired from shore positions near Gelela passed underneath boats.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 250745.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. D. (1) ^{NY} ~~SS~~ NEWBOROUGH sighted submarine on surface, course E. at 0815Z/24 in 04° 26' S. 64° 08' E.
(D.D.I.C. 251046A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 251433A, 251457.)

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25.9.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Area C.B.3. ^{MY}~~SS~~. NEWBOROUGH reports sighting
submarine in 004° 26' S. 064° 08' E. at 0815Z/24th.
Pending amplification of report. Scale remains W.5.
Other areas no fresh information, no change in
scale of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 250435Z.)

567

26.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A/S offensive
east of
Faroes.

1. In view of the U-Boat situation in Northern waters the 6th and 17th Support Groups are being transferred from Plymouth and Western Approaches commands, respectively, to C. in C. Rosyth, for A/S operations east of the Faroes. TRUMPETER and FENCER are to provide support for these operations.

North Sea.

2. (a). The Nore anti-flying-bomb patrol is now withdrawn.
(b). Ostend can now accept 4 light draught ships per day, but the W.N.W. gale prevented work on the blockships.

Channel.

3. (a). Sangatte and Gris Nez batteries fired 79 rounds at Dover and Deal, of which 60 fell in Dover and 2 in Deal, causing considerable damage and a number of casualties, naval and civilian.
(b). The definite decision recorded in Situation Report of 22.9.44 to run the "Pluto" pipeline to Ambleteuse has had to be revoked, and Plage des Bains, Boulogne, will after all be used.
(c). Le Havre minesweeping has been hindered by the weather, and all traffic to the port is suspended. The American minelayer MIANTANOMAH which was mined yesterday lies sunk at the side of the Channel.
(d). Aircraft of Bomber Command dropped 824 tons on enemy defences at Calais.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

U/B
attacked.

U.871 sunk

4. A Fortress aircraft made a promising attack on a U-Boat this afternoon in 43.18 N. 36.29 W. (460 miles N.W. of the Azores.) Debris and cylindrical canisters were afterwards seen, together with a patch of oil which extended, after 50 minutes, to 700 x 1600 yards. On 30 September U.S. C.G. CONIFER reported a large oil slick and additional oil continually surfacing in the area 43.02 N. 36.37 W.

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26.9.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- South France. 5. (a). The U.S. and French destroyers bombarding in the Ventimiglia area today were attacked by 2 man submarines. The attack was driven off, one or two of the enemy craft being sunk (one apparently by FORBIN) and 3 prisoners taken.
(b). Minesweeping in the port of Marseilles is completed from the northern entrance to the Bassin du Lazaret. 17 alongside berths and 12 holding berths are available.
- Greece. 6. A party with stores was successfully landed at Katakolo on the west coast of the Morea today, escorted by LEDBURY and swept in by B.Y.M.S.
- Aegean. 7. VIGOROUS late this evening obtained a hit on an escorted westbound ship believed to be SS. CAROLA (1348 tons) off Cape Paliuri (55 miles S.E. of Salonika) and it is believed sank the vessel.

East Indies.

8. The submarine STORM reports that on 1st September she attacked a northbound convoy of 7 coasters and 2 landing craft about 85 miles south of Mergui in southern Burma. Next morning she attacked the same convoy with gunfire and destroyed one landing craft & one coaster, and damaged 2 coasters.

China.

9. Liberators last night attacked a convoy of 7 vessels whilst on a sweep in Formosa Strait and south China Sea. One 400 ft. tanker was sunk and a 250 ft. freighter was damaged.

America & West Indies.

- U/Bs sighted. 10. (a). H.M.C.S. QUESNEL reports sighting about 250 miles east of Belle Isle Straits a U-Boat disguised as a sailing ship which dived as she approached.
(b). The tanker LAKE GEORGE reports being missed by a torpedo about 400 miles east of Cape Hatteras this forenoon.
- H.X.F. 310. 11. 14 ships in convoy H.X.F. 310 were damaged in some degree in a hurricane today.

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26.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

6th and 17th Support Groups transferred to Rosyth Command. In view of the U-Boat situation in northern waters two additional support groups are being transferred to C. in C. Rosyth for operations east of the Faroes.

(2) C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. Plymouth are requested to transfer forthwith the 17th and 6th Support Groups respectively.

(3) On completion of operation "Tenable" C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange in conjunction with C. in C. Rosyth for TRUMPETER and FENCER to provide support for these anti-U-Boat operations.

(V.C.N.S. 260107A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, H.F.)

Conference on release of Amphibions.

Conference will be held in Chief of Staffs conference room Trianon Palace Hotel Versailles at 1100/30 to discuss release of amphibious craft. Agenda (i) releases already effected, (ii) confirmation of reduction of one October releases (see notes of meeting at H.Q. A.N.C.X.F. on 12 Sept.) (iii) Further releases at 15 October and

one November. (iv) S.H.A.E.F. requirements L.C.T.(3) and (4). (S.H.A.E.F. 260645A to Admty. A.N.C.X.F. Com. 11th Phib. Comnavu, U.S. Basfrance, Comphibukay, 21 Army Group, Com. Zone for Info. War Office Fwd. 15775.)

Organisation of fast escort re-inforcements.

I have had under consideration the most effective employment of the fast escorts recently allocated to reinforce my command.

(2) Excluding those operating under C. in C. C.N.A. there are at present the following 19 Support Groups either formed or in process of formation:-

(a) 14 R.N. Groups, namely groups 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30 and 31.

(b) 5 R.C.N. Groups, namely groups 6, 9, 11, 25 and 26.

(3) There are two alternatives for the employment of reinforcements

(a) to form 3 additional R.N. Support Groups,

(b) to bring the strength of R.N. Support Groups up to 6 ships apiece.

(4) The following are reasons against forming additional Support Groups;

(a) Training facilities would be overstrained.

(b) The provision of additional senior officers and Group staffs is difficult in view of the need to economise manpower. Moreover, owing to the recent increase in the number of support groups, there is a lack of experienced officers available for such duties, and this fact would tend to impair the efficiency of any additional groups formed.

(c) Intensive operations in Winter conditions are likely to reduce a paper strength of 5 to a running strength of 3 ships per group.

(5) I intend, therefore, to bring the paper strength of R.N. Support Groups up to 6 ships per group.

/(6)...

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26.9.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- Organisation of fast escort re-inforcements. (Contd.) (6) With regard to R.C.N. Support Groups, groups 6 and 9 are up to strength, and a paper strength of 5 should suffice groups 25 and 26 for the present, as these groups are composed of new ships. (C. in C. W.A. 261157A to Admty.)
- Sub-command limits. Concur in your 161529 but subject to the amendment proposed by A.N.C.X.F. in his 171123 not to all. (2) Limits of the sub-command will be promulgated. (A.C.N.S.(H) 261337A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- Anti-flying bomb patrol withdrawn. Your 151815 July proposal 4. (2) Craft specially detailed for anti-flying bomb duty are no longer required and should be withdrawn. (D. of L.D. 261349A to C. in C. Nore.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

- Further re-duction of coast defences Your 252214A. Concur. (A.C. Dover 261216A to Admty.) Admty. 252210A. A number of instances have occurred of submarines bombarding ports and I must point out that Aberdeen and Peterhead are particularly susceptible to this form of attack. (2) If Admiralty is prepared to accept the risk of this taking place and the submarine not being engaged I concur in proposed reductions at Scottish ports. (3) Flag Officer in Charge Tyne has been requested to reply concerning ports in the Tyne sub-command. (C. in C. Rosyth 261250A to Admty.) Your 252213 as Lerwick is important operational base consider Lerwick North and Lerwick South batteries must be retained. Ness of Sound - concur with reduction but essential retain two C.A.S.L. for observation and early warning. (2) Galtnes Wasswick Carness Lerwick - concur with reduction. (3) Links - do not concur for following reasons (a) removal of Links will leave only one six pounder at Graemsay which cannot shoot inside entrance as lighthouse obstructs (b) Links C.A.S.L. essential to complete illuminated area otherwise entrance not secure. (4) Balfour - do not concur with reduction. Consider two six pounders necessary for security of entrance. (A.C.O.S. 261301A to Admty.) Your 252208, not to all addressees. Concur in proposed reduction of coast defence guns in the Portsmouth Command. (C. in C. Portsmouth 261642 to Admty.)

Movements.

- IMPLACABLE. My 231155. IMPLACABLE will be required to proceed to Scapa on departure of KING GEORGE V. Intend destroyer escort of KING GEORGE V part company on reaching 55° N. p.m. 6th October and proceed to Clyde to escort IMPLACABLE to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 261225A to F.O.C.T., C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock, IMPLACABLE.)

/Sailing...

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Movements - Contd.

Sailing of 23rd L.C.T. from U.S. area. Request you will refer to circumstances in which units of 23rd L.C.T. Flotilla were sailed from Utah on 24th September in gale force 8.
(2) Cmdr. T.G.'s 125.2 241315A referring to movement of 5 L.C.Ts. was not repeated (?to) C. in C. Portsmouth and referred to a movement commencing at 0151A/24. In fact 6 L.C.Ts. and 1 L.C.I.(L) sailed.
(3) First intimation of movement in this H.Q. was signalled from WATCHMAN that L.C.T. 651 was out of control and this was followed by distress signals at 2046/24 from S.O. 23rd L.C.T. Flotilla.
(4) (In) the event 3 tugs, 1 destroyer and 2 frigates were sent to locate and rescue the dispersed craft.
The following damage resulting from weather - L.C.T. 883 broke in two and L.C.T. 646 after returning to (?Utah) and being resailed at 0600/25 had to be towed into harbour with a broken back.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 261954A to A.N.C.X.F., C.T.F. 125.)

Operations.

North Sea.

?Germans escaping from Dunkirk. Unconfirmed army report enemy may be escaping by sea from Dunkirk.
(C. in C. Nore 262246A to STAYNER, DUFF, TALYBONT, EGLINTON.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrol. Pins cover night 26/27th September.
G.H.1 WALDEGRAVE Z.9 South. G.H.2 SEYMOUR Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 261143A to Admty. C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F., F.Os. i/c Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts H.D. and C.N. in area C, Portsmouth Night Patrol, WALDEGRAVE, SEYMOUR.)

Shelling of Dover & Deal. Between 0200 and 0249 today Tuesday, 12 rounds were fired by the 16" enemy battery at Noires Mottes (Sangatte) 4 rounds fell in Dover, 2 in Deal and remainder off the South Foreland. At 0948 enemy bombardment was recommenced by the 15" Battery at Haringzelles (Cap Gris Nez) the last round falling at 1715, by which time 66 rounds had been fired. Of these, 43 fell in Dover, 12 in Dover Harbour and remainder unobserved. At 1916 the same battery fired one round, which fell in Dover. Naval casualties are 1 officer killed, 1 rating slightly injured. So far as known, civilian casualties amount to 2 killed, and several injured. Full report is not yet available. Considerable damage has been caused to civil property. During the enemy shelling this morning, spectacular bombing of Cap Gris Nez area by R.A.F. heavy bombers was witnessed from Dover.
(A.C. Dover 262100A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Operation...

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Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Operation
"Pluto".

R/C has shown use of Ambleteuse impracticable owing to mines and other obstructions. Fwd. 15320 of 21 Sept., is therefore cancelled and use of Plage des Bains Boulogne is approved. Request that all concerned take necessary steps to ensure that M.T. 80 be delivered as a matter of urgency.
(S.H.A.E.F. 262155A to C. in C. Portsmouth, A.C. Dover, S.H.O. Pluto.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Patrol.

Opas para. 17. Intend to proceed during the night 26/27th from Q3 at 2015 course 135° S.O.A. 18 knots until 0400.
(B) 046° 30' N. 002° 33' W.
(C) Sables d'Olonne. Following eight figure weather report 7581 1363.
(S.O..Force 27 261730A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Force 33.

S.O. 31st E.G. will assume command of Force 33 at 1100A today 26th September.
(S.O. E.G. 3 260900A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol.

Patrol between 050° 48' N. 005° 17' W. and 050° 06' N. 006° 20' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth 261113A to BENTLEY, CAPEL.)

Lapses on
patrol.

A case has occurred of an escort being sunk by two straight running torpedoes whilst proceeding at six knots on a steady course maintained for more than half an hour.

(2) Such tactics are a gift to a U-Boat in the vicinity and directly contravene para. 4C of A.G.M. 579A of 27th February, 1944 and A.C.I. Art. 138 para. 20. The danger from types of torpedo other than "Gnats" must not be lost sight of.
(3) As two complete sets of "Foxyer" equipment are authorised to be carried there should never be any hesitation when circumstances demand, to cut the "Foxyer" gear adrift.
(C. in C. W.A. 261732A W.A.G.M., N. Series.)

Submarine
sighting.

Aircraft sighted S/M in 49.38 N. 18.42 W.
(S.O. C.5 261845Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Ramose Opportune (my 242031A and 242032A) delayed 24 hours by weather. (A.C.O.S. 260946A to Admty.)

Operation "S.J." Be prepared to sail at 0830 tomorrow 27th with HOSTE and BALFOUR for operation "S.J." details of which will be signalled later. Area of operations will be approx. between 060° N. and 063° N. and 001° E. and 004° E. (C. in C. Rosyth 261556A to S.O. E.G. 18 as amended by 261905.)

E.G. 18 is to sail position 062° N. 002° E. at 0830A tomorrow Wednesday 27th or on completion ammunitioning whichever is the later. Proceed at best speed reporting E.T.A. as soon as practicable. Orders for operation "S.J." follow. My 261556A refers. (C. in C. Rosyth 262226A to S.O. E.G. 18.)

Mining.

Minelayer MIANTANOMAH⁹ struck mine and sank near entrance to Le Havre 251430. Details to follow as available. Cominch not informed. (C.T.F. 125 261511A to Comnaveu.)

Minesweeping at Le Havre. Your 231627 not to all addressees. Operation "Ho(?over)". Channel has been searched by E/S Yacht from beginning of Passe du Nord Ouest to 500 yards from Mole at harbour entrance. Channel so searched is 100 yards wide. So far 24 possible mines have been located. Of these 4 have been attacked individually each foreign pattern and 9 depth charges with following results. One no result. If a mine, it was rendered safe. One appeared to have partially detonated. One swept afterwards by S.A., indicating an A.P. mine with percussion switch jammed on by depth charge. One mine detonated 25 seconds after first charge of pattern was dropped and before depth charge exploded - slightly damaging M.T.B. and indicating possible presence of acoustic "Oyster". After this all depth charge attacks were discontinued. These have now been resumed and further report will be rendered as soon as results are available. American minelayer MIANTANOMAH sunk at side of channel details not yet received. Operations during last 3 days hindered by autumn adverse weather conditions. (Capt. M/S Seine 261415A to Admty.)

Mine detonated in W. Schelde. Details of one ground mine detonated at 1529/24 by M.M.S. 92 in 51° 16' 12" N. 2° 40' 45" E. 200°. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 261636A to C. in C. Nore.)

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Navigational.

Navigational Aids in and off France. A. Your 221245 suggested priority of lights as follows: (i) Dieppe, Boulogne and later captured port lights. (ii) Cap d'Antifer, Gris Nez and Pte. d'Ailly. (iii) Pointe du Hant Banc, Ver sur Mer, Cap. d'Alprech, Oustreham and Fecamp. (iv) Remaining small port lights.
B. Buoyage of Seine Estuary considered most important French Authorities are taking necessary action.
C. Director General of French Lighthouse service is now inspecting lights from Le Havre to Boulogne.
(F.O.B.A.A. 261156A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Proposed direct route, Start to Dover. Your 251217A September. In view of advantages in bad visibility, intend to maintain present one way traffic lanes between C.2 Buoy and Dover. Direct eastbound channel between C.2 Buoy and D. Buoy will be established when present commitments allow.
(A.C. Dover 261230A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities.

Arromanches. N.O.I.C. Arrow's 241536 concur. In addition it is considered that Seine Estuary is too far from Arrow to be of use for parking units. Suggest they be returned to U.K. if weather deteriorates on passage.
(F.O.B.A.A.261157A to Admty.)

Ostend. Ostend ready to accept 4 ships per day, but draft must be limited to height given in Admty. tide tables for appropriate high water. Ammunition and petrol acceptable on 29th without undue risk bearing in mind urgency. Arrangements exist for unpacking forward ships as required. Increased draft and more berths will be possible later. Junction Zeebrugge still in enemy hands.
(Com. Belgium 261420A to A.N.C.X.F.)

- (1) Strong W.N.W. gale prevented further work on blockships.
- (2) Carried out LL and Oropesa sweeps of harbour with negative result.
- (3) P.party cleared 300 feet of railway quay.
- (4) Shifted 50 ton floating crane and removed large portion road demolished bridge over Mey sluice.
- (5) Can accept 4 coasters daily drawing not more than height of H.W. given in Admty. Tide Tables for day of arrival.
- (6) Consider harbour will be reasonably clear of mines to accept ammunition and petrol ships by a.m. tide 30th September.
- (7) Unable to bring M.L. 216 up harbour owing to gale.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 262115A to Com. Belgium.)

Le Havre. All traffic to Le Havre suspended except minesweepers and similar craft. If weather permits sweeping new channel will be ready by September 29th. Further despatch will be sent when conditions considered safe.
(C.T.F. 125 261451 to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy
O.N.F. 255.

By D/F on 4020 k/cs at 2211Z/25th - U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 48° 30' N. 20° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 260020A to PENNYWORT (R) C. in C. W.A., S.E. O.N.F. 255, H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy
R.A. 60.

(1) R.A. 60. (D) 10 NACELLA (T) M.F. D.F. 365 k/cs SAMSUVA 11 M.F. D.F. 446 k/cs. SAMIDWAY 10½ searching 300/500 k/cs. ~~GRANDBY~~ M.F. D.F. SAMCONSTANT 11. For remainder of M.F. D.F. S.B.N.O. Murmansk will inform. (12) Loch Ewe. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 261642A to Admty.)

Convoy
H.X.F. 308.

For ships in Irish Sea section Belfast Area.
(1) South Gap Light Buoy has been replaced.
(2) The light of Skulmartin Light Vessel No. 4972 will be exhibited as in peace time but with reduced power.
(C. in C. W.A. 261812Z to Ships and Stragglers of H.X.F. 308.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

WHITE BEAR. A.M. 131804 August. WHITE BEAR is to remain at Horta pending further instructions. (V.C.N.S. 260038A to WHITE BEAR, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

ATROPO. Request escort and liaison party for Italian S/M ATROPO. A.M. 251715 and B.A.D's 021943 para.6 not to all refers. (F.O.G.M.A. 261035B to C. in C. Lant.)

Red Cross Ships.. Request if now necessary for Red Cross Ship from Philadelphia to Barcelona to call at Gibraltar for control and search. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 261502B to Admty)

SS. VINRIVER. Straggler VINRIVER arrived p.m./22nd from 0589 (?0889 intended) K.M.S.63 boiler defect. A.M. 041340 May 1944 (sic refers. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 261735A)

ALMANZORA - repatriation of Scorps. ALMANZORA in Convoy K.M.F. 35 for West Africa will have on board for Gibraltar approx. 485 Gibraltarians plus 280 measurement tons of baggage and stores stowed in two hatches. Presume this can be discharged during normal stay of convoy at Gibraltar. (D. of S.T. 262219A to S.T.O. Gibraltar)

U-Boat attacked 340 miles N.N.W. of Flores. Azores A/C reports attacking positive U-Boat periscope at 1655Z/26th in lat. 43 degs. 10' N. long 36 degs. 29' W. course 250 degs. (D.D.I.C. 261834Z to Escorts of O.N.S. 254, C.U.40, Info: S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. W.A., Cominch)

U.871 sunk

South Atlantic

THANE. Your 251637Z. My 261200Z P.C.S. 008 degs. 35' N. 039 degs. 37' W. (2 groups missed). (THANE, 260740Z to Cdr. 10th Fleet)

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Navsitin- "Dragoon". Period ending 242400.
 trep No.41. Right Flank. G.S. EDISON (with MADISON providing smoke screen) 51 rds at enemy artillery in Ventimiglia and 44 rds at troop concentration Maliocca. Both targets reported well covered.

Minesweeping. Marseille. Completed M/A sweep of Bassin de la Gare Maritime and Joliette. Both considered reasonably safe.

Vit. Port Channel now open for L.S.Ts with channel width 130 feet, depth 12 feet.

Unloading. D plus 40 convoys. 25 M/V's arrived. 4 M/V to Marseille. 21 M/V to Great Roads Toulon. Additional M/Vs in forwarded area. 35 Marseille unloading. 19 off shore, 16 alongside berths. 39 Great Roads Toulon. 12 Inner harbour.

1 Camel. Unloading totals, personnel, vehicles, tons:

Marseilles	40,459	5,257	77,636
Toulon	3,673	1,865	19,858
Port de Bouc	0	0	29,240
Beaches	346,441	63,235	308,306

All M/S Units T.G.80.10 - released to Com. 8th Phib for re-assignment. Majority units returned in forward area. T.G.80.10 dissolved. Programme for turnover of Y.M.S. P.C. and S.C. to French now in effect.
 (N.C.W.T.F.260801)

Aegean- From position 034 degs. 30' 027 degs. 10' at 1902A/
 S/M 27th proceed at 7½ knots to arrive Kastelorizo at
 Operations. 1603A/28th.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 260952 to NEREUS)
 At 2320A/26th obtained one hit (?on) ship believed CAROLA escorted by 2 E.M.S. Westbound in 039 degs.

54' N. 023 degs. (?49') E. Believe sunk. (?4) torpedoes remain.
 (VIGOROUS, 262348A to Capt. (S) 1)
 UNSWERVING proceeds from Kastelorizo at 1202A/27th passing 3 miles south of Symi in close to Cape Krio thence through Turkish territorial waters diving by day. From Gulf of Skala Nuvoa proceed on surface at your discretion close to West Antipsara and through position 039 degs. 30' 025 degs. 23' to arrive in area LL about 1802A/30th.

(2) VOX leaves patrol at 2359A/28th pass through 039 degs. 33' 024 degs. 17' to arrive 038 degs. 06' 025 degs. 37' at 1802A/29th.

(3) When clear of patrol area VOX report whether sufficient fuel remaining for passage to Malta and most suitable S. of A.

(4) At 2359A/28th VIGOROUS patrol area SS and ZZ.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 261105A to UNSWERVING, VIGOROUS, VOX, Info: S.O.(I) Izmir, 1st S/M.F. F.O.E.C., C.F.B. Kastelorizo, NEREUS, S.O.51)

Palermo- My 251632 is being passed to V.A. Malta and
 forthcoming F.O.T.A.L.I.
 U.S.N. (C. in C. Med. 261101A to Admt)
 Withdrawal.

A/S tactics. A U-Boat recently sunk was initially detected by smoke from Schnorkel being sighted at 8 miles, thus emphasizing extreme importance of a good look out /.

/ (2) ...

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A/S tactics. (2) Following additional points should be borne in
(Contd.) mind.
(A) Periscope may be blinded by Schnorkel smoke if approach is made-up wind.
(B) Radar should not be operated during approach as G.S.R. on top of Schnorkel may intercept transmissions.
(C) Asdics should not be operated until U-Boat dives as transmissions may be received on U-Boat hydrophones at greater range than apparatus of own ship.
(C. in C. Med. 261215A to Med. Stn.105B).
/ C.f. in C. in C. Med. 261220A)

SS. GUINE- Portuguese Ministry of Marine propose sending
few merchant ship GUINO (?GUINE intended) to Haifa via
refugees. Cadiz and Tangier with Jewish refugees to return
via Alexandria to Lisbon with Egyptian cotton.
Request indication route to be followed if no objection to this voyage.
(2) Portuguese NIASSA undertook similar but more extensive voyage early this year. Admiralty's 202238 December refers.
(3) Admiralty please pass to C. in C. Levant and F.O. Alexandria Force.
(N.A.Lisbon, 261218A to Admty)

KHEDIVE, A.M. 242331 request destination in U.K. of ships
SEARCHER in para. one.
and (F.O.L.E.M. 261219 to Admty)
PURSUER.

Sinking Following amplifies my 190958 re use of Schnorkel
of U.407 by U.407. GARLAND acting independently sighted
19 Sept. smoke at 1600Z/18, distance 8 miles in 36 degs.
14' N. 24 degs. 33'.
(2) GARLAND approached upwind and sighted
Schnorkel and periscope at 400 yards. U-Boat
dived at 200 yards. No radar detection obtained with type 271Q
radar. State of sea 33. (?3 intended). U-Boat appears to
have been unaware of approach of GARLAND due to combination
following factors.
(a) Periscope blinded by smoke from Schnorkel.
(b) Noise of diesels probably prevented detection by hydrophones
G.S.R. if fitted failed to detect Type 271Q transmissions.
(C. in C. Med. 261220A to Admty) / 190950?

/ Joint ...

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Joint Naval, Army and R.A.F. Intelligence Appreciation. 24 hours to 0900/26th. All times G.M.T. (Extract) (3) Aegean Shipping Summary. Photographic R/C 25th September revealed following:- Scarpanto. 1 I-boat arriving a.m. Comment: Probably survivor from convoy attacked leaving Scarpanto 24th Sept. This convoy probably included caique **CASTELLO** and 3 I-Boats which left Rhodes p.m. 23rd September carrying lifebelts clearly engaged evacuating personnel.

Lemnos. CX reports SALOMEA (or SALOMUA) and 1 oiler due depart p.m. 25th September for Salonika with stores and equipment. Enemy still burning stores and preparing blow up CD guns. General. Arrival 3 destroyers from Adriatic plus switching ZEUS and 1 torpedo boat southwards from Salonika considerably improves fast evacuation possibilities south Aegean. (C. in C. M.E. 261315C)

PAPANICOLIS G.S. PAPANICOLIS port engine stopped is being escorted to Bone by DELPHINIUM E.T.A. 2232A. (EVENLODE, 261851A to F.C.W.M.)

Situation Report No.444. U.S. destroyers WOOLSEY and EDISON engaged several targets in Ventimiglia area and several hits on observation post on 23rd Sept. (2) Mine sweeping Marseilles port completed from Northern entrance to Bassin Du Lazaret. 17 alongside berths and 12 holding berths available. (3) Night 23rd/24th Coastal Force sank 3 I boats in Rogac Cove (Sulet). (4) Coastal force operating from Kithera drove 25 tons Caique ashore on Melos night 24th/25th. (5) LOOKOUT bombarded North of Rimini on 25th Sept. Principal target area of troops tanks and Mortars. M/S's operating in this area were forced to withdraw by enemy fire. (C. in C. Med, 262342A)

Navisitintrep No.42 and final. "Dragoon". Period ending 252400. Right Flank. GS Madison 200 Rds on urgent mission consisting of supply train in Ventimiglia. Hits were reported by air spot on locomotive cars and tracks. Madison 77 Rds destroyed an observation post at Via Wgengo Forbin 34 Rds on Mortars and personnel South of Bellenda. Area reported well covered. Marseilles. Minesweeping completed Bassins De La Gare Maritime D'Areny Lazaret. All Bassins swept and safe. Additional alongside berths above 16 now available dependent on progress underwater salvage. Unloading personnel 8391 Vehicles 173 tons 9647 from 16 vessels at alongside berths and 23 offshore. Port de Bouc 1561 tons dry cargo 30,000 barrels fuel. 1 additional Liberty Berth Avcaissile making total of 3. Camel beaches have been ordered closed. When this is accomplished T.F.85 dissolved. Convoy control in forward area shifted from C.T.U.80.6.7 to C.T.G.80.8. Escort and off shore screening remain tasks of C.T.U.80 6.7 at Marseilles. Toulon Tropez employing 25 U.S DD 9 French DD 6 French Sloops and 17 PC. T.F.86 operating from Gulf of Tropez. Operating P.T. Base established Gulf Juan in connection with screening against small craft raids from enemy held territory. N.C.W.T.F. in CATOCTIN departed Toulon for Naples. (N.C.W.T.F. 262350)

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East Indies

- U-Boat dispositions. Area C.B.3, report of SS. NEWBOROUGH on 24th possibly indicates presence of S/M in this area. Scale X.4. Other areas believed clear of U-Boat scale unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 260354Z)
- FORMIDABLE. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. Med's proposal in FORMIDABLE's 221531 to work up at Alexandria for approx. period 13th to 23rd Oct. is approved. F.O.G.M.A.'s 241815 refers.
(2) It is desired that ship should leave Med. in time to arrive Ceylon 3rd November and that ship and squadrons should arrive as nearly ready for operations as practicable.
(C. in C. E.F. 260909Z to C. in C. Med.)
- Destination of Gen. Blaizot and staff. Request very early confirmation of proposals in F.O.W.M. 251236 and ultimate destination of General Blaizot and Staff.
(2) Earliest date F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE could reach Suez is being investigated.
(C. in C. E.F. 260927Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.)
/ Not identified by War Reg.
- S/M patrol reports. S/M STORM 6th Far East patrol.
First Sept. 1130 position 011 degs. 05' N. 098 degs. 21' E. fired 5 torpedoes at Northbound convoy of 7 Coasters 2 landing craft.
Second, 0900 position 012 degs. 04' 098 degs. 19' E. attacked same convoy with gunfire.
Landing craft and 1 Coaster destroyed 2 Coasters damaged. An M.T.B. from Mergui fired 2 torpedoes at S/M STORM. Remainder of convoy fled into Auckland Bay.
(C. in C. E.F. 261206Z)
STYGIAN 1st Far East Patrol.
(2) 1555/6 sank 40 ton schooner by demolition charge off Heinze Basin. Three prisoners taken.
(3) SPIRIT 2nd Far East Patrol.
(4) 1333/14 off Pulau Terutau sank 320 tons junk by gunfire and took 2 prisoners.
(5) 1250/19 off Campbell Bay, GREAT PARACHUTE sank 80 tons junk by gunfire.
(6) 18th September carried out air/sea rescue duty during operation "Light".
(8) Rescued 3 occupants of T.B.P. (7) Times F.G.
(C. in C. E.F. 261209Z)
- Re-arming of fleet Carriers. Further to A.M. 141403 para. 2 (a).
(2) Owing to re-arming of E.T. fleet carriers with Avenger A/C, a large number of Barracudas now in your commands will be surplus to requirements.
(3) It is therefore requested that you will consider how best some of these A/C can be used to replace other A/C in ancillary Squadrons.
(4-5) Re disposal of remainder.
(Director of Air Equipment, 261707A to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.).

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BOUND BROOK - SSSS position 0230 G.M.T. 2217 N. 70.40 W.
 U-boat sighted submarine 03 G.M.T.
 report. *((KWJH) BOUND_BROOK No T.O.O. 26)
 Position 0330 G.M.T. 23.17 N. 60.40 W. sighted
 submarine 0340 G.M.T. Ends.
 ((KWJH) BOUND_BROOK No T.O.O.26)
 * (Note - Message passed to Colombo)

German P.C.S. at 0700Z/26 051° 45' N. 056° 00' W.
 R/T 233° 10 knots. intercepted German R/T on 2410
 intercepted kcs. coming in very strong and regularly on the
 hour for past 3 hours.
 (ARROWHEAD, 260757Z to N.S.H.Q.)

U-boat and Sighted U-boat on surface disguised as sailing
 mines ship dived when we approached was talking on R/T
 sighted. in German "Wait until later" have sighted
 mines on surface, my position 051° 32'050°(should
 be 56° see next signal) 25'.
 (QUESNEL 260953Z to C.in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

1 S/M on surface bearing 110° distant 1.5 miles position 51° 32'
 N. 56° 25' W.
 (QUESNEL 261025Z to Halifax W/T.)

GYAROYE GYAROYE T.G.275 260829 (quote) preliminary
 report at latitude 38.04 Long. 58.10 at 0500Z
 ST 719 reported sinking crew abandoned at
 0535Z. Ten rescued including Master of 13 men
 crew search continues W.X.4578116 (unquote)HH.
 (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 261123.)

German Cominch has replied to my letter based on
 H.S. Admiralty message 130803 that in view of the
 BORDEAUX fact the United States Government has not
 adopted the British policy of refusing to
 recognise any vessels of less than 2000 tons as
 hospital ships and that BORDEAUX has been
 specifically accepted as such, he regrets he
 is not in a position to support her capture in the absence
 of evidence that she was guilty of a violation of the convention.
 (2) Although the proposal for disposing of BORDEAUX is a
 British matter, Admiral King deems it pertinent to take note of
 the letter of guidance of the 8th June 1944 on the subject of
 treatment of captured ships which was transmitted by the C.C.A.C.
 to C.C.A.C./L. for further transmission to S.C.A.E.F. He
 points out that the instructions in this letter give absolute
 discretion to S.C.A.E.F. with respect to immediate operational
 use of captured ships. They further provide that when any
 such ocean-going merchant ships are no longer required for
 military operations in A.C.A.D.F. they should be placed in the
 combined shipping pool.
 (B.A.D. Washington, 261415Z to Admty.)

/U-boat...

26.9.1944

Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 261420Z, Cominch, 261537.)

N.S.H.Q.
S/M attack
and sighting
Summary.

(c) U-boat disguised as fishing vessel sighted by H.M.C.S. QUESNEL in 51.31 N. 56.23 W. at 10252(?)/26. Dived when approached. Mines reported on surface in same vicinity.
(d) Training A/C reported suspected U-boat in 46.51 N. 62.15 W. on 25th. My 251439Z.
(d2) Position should be approximately 48.50 N. 53.58 W.
(N.S.H.Q. 261457Z.)

SS. LAKE
GEORGE
attacked
by U/B.

Action LAKE GEORGE information (1) U-boat was not sighted due to position in sunk (?S/M's) path on starboard bow of ship.
(2) Torpedo located by torpedo detector and immediately following alarm ship was given full right rudder completing a 090° turn within 30". Immediately on completion of 090° turn torpedo detector alarm shut off and track of a torpedo was seen by Captain on bridge to pass ship port side at distance approximately 50' visibility at time was unlimited except for sunlight, sea running very small swell.
(Unknown merchant ship 261925Z to Cominch, Cinclant, Comeastseafrom N.O.B. Bermuda.) cf. Cominch 262030Z.

U/B
incidents

Paragraph B. 251956 LAKE GEORGE reports being missed by one torpedo 33.51 N. 69.71 W. 261027 MISSION BAY A/C had Radar and Sono Buoy contact 14.56 N. 33.12 W. All times Z.
(Cominch, 262030Z.)

E.Gs.
W.3 and
B.2.

W.3 relieved by B.2 SHREWSBURY CASTLE (S.O.) until HIGHLANDER arrives.
At 1920Z lat. 44° 13' N. 50° 30' W. course 020° speed 9 knots.
W.3 hove to at present until centre of storm passes. Weather report 09 thereafter corrupt.
(W.3 262105Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
979

(Extract)
Digest for 25th September. Navy Catalinas from Morotai had further successes during early hours. One merchant ship estimated at 3000 tons sunk and one smaller ship damaged in Darvel Bay (northeast Borneo)..

War Diary

26.9.1944
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
979
(Contd.)

Borneo): set afire small freighter carrying fuel off Cape Soemaleta on central north coast Jmanado district: damaged barges at Xachjanga. (16) P.T. boats sank 2 barges each carrying 50 Japs in Wogdamenmxay? (south of Jean Geelvink Bay) night 23rd.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 260825Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A.

(1) Mediterranean Allied Air Force reports that on 24th September 15th Air Force obtained hits on a U-boat in 37° 59' N., 23° 34' E.

Para. C.

(1) A/C S/407 obtained radar contact 0101Z/25 in 61° 04' N. 03° 38' E.

(2) A/C had disappearing radar contact at 0445Z/26 in 36° 49' 12° 30' W.

(3) A/C had disappearing radar contact at 0800Z/26 in 56° 57' N. 12° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 261115A.)

U/B
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 261347A 261350A)

Attacks
on U/Bs.

My 221059 July 1942.

(1) At 0821/18 in 61° 02' N. 04° 30' E.

Mosquitoes of 248 Squadron attacked U-boat conning tower awash course easterly. U-boat lifted out of water by D/C. Numerous hits six pounder cannon, left listing and smoking.

(2) At 1950/18 in 61° 57' N. 01° 03' E. Liberator H/224 attacked surfaced U-boat after Radar contact. D/C explosion plumes covered conning tower. Gunfire temporarily silenced U-boat gunners. Oil patch seen after U-boat submerged.

(3) At 1636/19 in 62° 15' N. 01° 50' E. Liberator Q/224 attacked surfaced U-boat. D/C close ahead and to port. U-boat sank after forty-five minutes. Many survivors seen.

(4) At 1910/19 in 62° 20' N. 02° 30' E. Liberator S/206 attacked U-boat conning tower awash after Radar contact. 7 depth charges. Large oil slick and survivors seen after U-boat disappeared.

(5) At 0426/24 in 61° 00' N. 04° 07' E. Liberator A/224 attacked surfaced U-boat after Radar contact. Stern of U-boat lifted out of water by D/Cs. Contact lost after attack. Oil patch and streak seen one and half hours later.

(D.A.U.D. 262045A.)

27.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- 1(a) All balloon barrages are now to be withdrawn except a few organised against the flying bombs.
(b) The Coastal Force bases at Falmouth and Brixham will also be closed down due to the War's eastward movement.

North Sea.

- 2(a) ROCKINGHAM, whilst acting as target ship for aircraft off Crail, was mined and sank.
(b) Two mines have been detonated in Antwerp basins, and two more at Ostend.
(c) Boulogne and Dover are to be used for an L.C.T. shuttle service, and Ostend and Tilbury for L.S.Ts. Operations will start as soon as Boulogne and Ostend are ready - it is hoped before mid-October.

Channel.

- 3(a) F.O.B.A.A. is to continue his sweeping operations to open the River Seine as far as Rouen, but as soon as C.T.F. 125 is ready to take over above Quilleboeuf the whole river will become an American responsibility for development and operation.
(b) In view of the reduced risk of enemy action in the central Channel F.O.B.A.A. proposes that all ships sailing from Dieppe and ports west of it for the U.K. west of Beachy Head (personnel ships excepted) shall be sailed independently. For navigational reasons L.C.Ts. will sail in groups as heretofore.

West Coast
France.

4. The Germans at La Rochelle are reported as intending to fight.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

South France
and Gulf of
Genoa.

- 5(a) Coastal forces last night attacked 3 ships estimated to be two 2,000/3,000 ton merchant ships and a corvette off Sestri Levante. One merchant ship blew up and a second was probably hit.
(b) Coastal forces torpedoed and blew up a tanker off Rapallo last night.
(c) C. in C. Med. reports that maintenance over the beaches is now completed.

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27.9.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

U/B east
of Malta.

6. An unknown ship made a submarine distress report at 1610Z today in 35° 46' N., 16° 15' E. There is no further information.

Adriatic.

7. Beaufighters of Coastal Air Force set on fire a 1,000 ton vessel and a schooner off Trieste.

Aegean.

8(a) VIGOROUS reports a torpedo hit on a small merchant ship, possibly SS. SALOMEA, in the Gulf of Salonika early today, and considers that the ship was sunk. VIGOROUS and VOX each report sinking a motor lighter in the Aegean today.
(b) Middle East aircraft attacked shipping at Andros today and set a 300 ton vessel on fire.

East Indies

U/B S.W. of
Colombo.

9. An unknown ship reported a submarine on the surface at 0845Z today in 07.08 N., 79.16 E. (S.W. of Colombo).

Australia and New Zealand

Sulu
Archipelago.

10. A naval aircraft in the early hours to today bombed and hit a large heavily laden transport in the Sulu Archipelago; fires swept the ship, and explosions followed. An escorted merchantman in the same area was attacked and damaged.

Philippines.

11. U.S. submarines report successful attacks on a convoy of 10 ships off the west coast of Luzon this afternoon. The remnants of the convoy apparently made for Lingayan Gulf.

War Diary.

27.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Eagle ships. A.M. 221032.* No further requirement can be foreseen for these vessels in "Overlord" or "Talisman" except for SANDOWN who is now replacing DOUWE AUKES. (A.N.C.X.F. 271805A to Admty.)
* Ref. - request whether any further requirements are foreseen for Eagle ships.

Withdrawal of balloon barrages. All balloon barrages except any which may be authorised in future against Diver are now to be withdrawn. Request you will arrange with local R.A.F. Balloon Authorities for disposal of R.A.F. equipment including balloon winches. Disposal instructions for balloon-flying craft will be forwarded separately. Arrangements are being made for lifting moorings. Details to follow.
(D. of L.D. 271810A to A.C.O.S. C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, A.C. Dover, F.Os. i/c Humber, Harwich, Southampton, C. in C. Sheerness, C. in C. Southend.)

Closing down of Coastal Force Bases at Falmouth & Brixham. Your 231812 not to all. Approved to close down Coastal Forces Bases at Falmouth and Brixham as soon as possible. Separate instructions will be given for disposal of personnel at the bases. Request proposals for disposal of buildings and other accommodation occupied by Coastal Forces at these bases.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 272248A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Greenock Examination Service. A.M. 232129A September. All examination services in Greenock sub-command will close down as from 0001A Sunday 1st October.
At Greenock a patrol vessel will be stationed to the southward of Toward Point to instruct and regulate incoming traffic as required. (Arrangements).
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 271638A to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Risk of bombardment of Aberdeen & Peterhead. Your 261250 para. 2 this risk is acceptable.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 271713A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Links and Balfour batteries to remain. Your 261501. Para. 1. After further consideration conclusion has been reached that risk entailed by removal of Lerwick North and Lerwick South batteries must be accepted. Paras. 3 and 4. Your proposals will be supported.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 271714A to A.C.O.S.)

/Further...

War Diary.

27.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom - Contd.

Further re-
duction of
Coast de-
fence guns
in Nore Com-
mand.

Your 252211. Concur.
(C. in C. Nore 272151A to Admty.)

Further re-
duction of
coast de-
fences.

A.M. 252212A, concur in Plymouth and Falmouth
reductions.
(2) Presume Bristol Channel area will be referred
to C. in C. W.A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 272751A to Admty.)

Movements.

Landing Craft
for Eastern
Fleet.

A.M. 242321A. Concur in the use of Falmouth for
the assembly of major landing craft flotillas as
arranged.
It is requested that craft be completed with
stores including clothing, before arrival at
Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271628A to Admty.)

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Naval.

Beginning with this signal unloading figures will
in future be those for the previous 24 hours not
the cumulative total.

Place.	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
Cherbourg	7004	Nil	8069	6439
Beaches	6984	278	5024	17
Brittany ports	Nil	10	1704	Nil
Small ports	Nil	Nil	2189	Nil

U.S. total 13988, 288, 16986, 6456. British figures not received.
(Adm. Ramsay 270038A to Admty.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrol.

A. Unit F.T. 1 M.T.Bs. 359, 353 is to sail to assume
patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 2000
today, Wednesday.
(2) Object, interception of enemy small craft
encountered.

(3) Unless in contact with the enemy, unit is to leave patrol at
0530/28 and return to harbour.

(A.C. Dover 271327A to S.O. M.T.Bs., 5th M.T.B.F.)

My 271327A. Unit F.T.1 is to remain in harbour at one hour's
notice.

(A.C. Dover 271710A to S.O. M.T.Bs., 5th M.T.B.F.)

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27.9.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrol. Pins Cover night 27/28th September. G.H.1
WALDEGRAVE Z.9 south. G.H.2 SEYMOUR Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 271217A to Admty. C. in C.
Nore, V.A. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth,
F.Os. i/c Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth,
Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts
H.D. and C.N. in area C, HORNET, Capt. (S) 5,
VERNON, Portsmouth, AGGRESSIVE, ATTACK. N.O.I.C.
Newhaven, WALDEGRAVE, SEYMOUR.)

Operation "Pluto". If Pluto is to enter Plage des Bains and Traverse
Basin is not required for pipe line from tanker,
request 24 L.C.T.(5) or (6) plus 1 L.B.O. be
allocated. Your 261111 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Boulogne 272216A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

La Rochelle Intend to speak Penmarch at sunset 27th and then
situation. sweep down coast to Gironde during night 27/28th.
Intelligence report. Arrangements made at Sables
d'Olonne as required by your 261856A. No change
there in situation. F.F.I. have spoken to Ger-
mans at La Rochelle under flag of truce and learned Germans are
determined to fight. No change at Ile d'Yeu.
(2) Spanish trawlers and 1 French fishing ship all showing
lights, were sighted and visually examined at 0315/27th and 0500/
27th respectively, in position 70 miles west of Sables d'Olonne,
without result.
(Force 27 271415A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Traffic off Opas para. 17. (B) and (C) 45° 55' N. 01° 55' W.
Lorient. Intend to sweep up to Belle Ile during daylight of
28th and down to southward during night 28/29th
avoiding Force 28.
Intelligence Report. Penmarch reports one small
passenger ship named ALDEBARAN runs between Lorient, Belle Ile
and Croix and 2 armed small craft 90 feet long between Lorient and
Quiberon by night only. 3 wooden trawlers with German crews
fish within 10 miles of Croix.
(Force 27 272218A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

N.W. Approaches.

Suspected Force 32 attacking in 135° Butt of Lewis 27,
U-Boat. report follows.
(HART 271953A to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

27.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Operation "S.J." MERMAID and PEACOCK will be sailing to join you on relief by 17th E.G.
(2) The time for start of operation "S.J." will be ordered by signal. Operation orders will be sent in 6th E.G. and precis will be signalled.
(3) The following communications orders embodied in "S.J." are to come into force from 1200A/28.
(A) - (C) Technical.
(D) On arrival escorts aircraft will ask S.O. for instructions.
(E) 18th E.G. are allocated codeword "Tartar". Aircraft call signs "Pistol Peter" following a number.
(C. in C. Rosyth 271943 to S.O. 18 E.G. (R) Cmdre. (D) H.F., E.G. 18, Admty. 18 Group, C.C. A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)
Your 271631 refers. Proceed to new position 064° N. 001° W. report E.T.A. Patrol orders follow.
(C. in C. Rosyth 272226A to S.O. E.G. 18.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Ramose Opportune (my 242031A, 242032A, 260946A and 271056A) HITRA at 0800A today Thursday.
(2) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired.
(A.C.O.S. 270814A to Admty.)
Ramos Opportune (my 260946A) delayed further 24 hours by weather.
(A.C.O.S. 271056A to Admty.)

Patrols. Intend carrying out V.P. 72. (1) 2 days.
(2) No. (3) No. (4) 055° Noss Head Bressay.
(5) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 271805A to A.C.O.S.)
My 271805A. (A) 29th September, 1944. (B) 062° 13' N. 005° 09' E.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 271807A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Orfordness to Ostend air lane. Following received from A.V.A.F. Rear, begins:-
As a temporary measure until further notice Halifax aircraft of Bomber Command will use route Orfordness to Ostend return same route for supply to Brussels, Melsbruk Airfield. Operation involves approx. 70 aircraft daily at 5 minute intervals.
Aircraft will fire colour of day on crossing Belgian coast. Request all concerned be warned. Time of start will normally be first light but depend on weather.
(A.N.C.K.F. 270935A to C. in C. Nore, Com. Belgium.)

/Start...

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War Diary.27.9.1944.
Wedne sday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.Start Point
to Seine
air lane.

Concur in day and night corridor from Start Point to Barfleur thence across Bay of Seine.
 (2) Concur that navigation lights may be burned in all recognised corridors.
 (3) H.Q.A.E.A.F. 261600 refers.
 (D.O.D.(H) 272310A to H.Q.A.E.A.F.)

Mining.ROCKINGHAM
sunk.

Leave convoy and proceed with utmost despatch to 056° 47' N. 001° 30' W. ROCKINGHAM mined. Copperno and May Island Radio Beacons operating. (C. in C. Rosyth 270508A to LANCASTER.)
 Following received from ROCKINGHAM which was exercising SSS with H.A.S., Crail. Begins:-
 "Am mined in 56.47 N. 01.30 W. Situation serious. T.O.R. 0446."
 Ends. Assistance has been sent.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 270608A to Admty.)

ROCKINGHAM on north edge of Q.Z.X. 604. Am I to enter.
 (LANCASTER 270630A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 270608 latest information as follows:-

LANCASTER reported her position at 0850 as 056° 31.5' N. (001°) 05' W. ROCKINGHAM drifted towards her 1.5 miles distant. Radar plot at 0815 confirmed LANCASTER's position. LANCASTER and VANITY have been informed it is reasonable to consider ROCKINGHAM has now drifted out of Q.Z.X. VANITY with 4 trawlers in company expect to arrive position at 1500. 2 salvage steamers are proceeding at 1400.

(C. in C. Rosyth 271213A to Admty.)

Regret to report that in spite of determined effort by LANCASTER and other ships ROCKINGHAM had to be abandoned at 2026A/27 and has sunk in 056° 29' N. 000° 57' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth 272152A.)

Channel
sweeping.

Proceed with H.M.C.S. CORVICHEN, MALPEQUE and drop 0700A tomorrow Thursday and sweep L Channel from H.10 Buoy to L.4 Buoy, double Oropesa and S.A. gear to be used. Returning to Cherbourg on completion.

(C.T.F. 125 271031A to FORT WILLIAM.)

If available request a flotilla of Bangors be allocated to Capt. M/S Seine to expedite opening of Le Havre - Dieppe Channel present estimate 3 weeks to complete but priority considered low. M.S. Seine's 262023 (not to all) refers.
 (F.O.B.A.A. 271601A to A.N.C.K.F.)

Anchored East O.D.3. Following swept today with negative result. (1) Northern side. C to D. 4 cables 3 actuation. Further 4 cables 1 actuation D to E. 4 cables 3 actuations. Further 4 cables 2 actuations. Further 4 cables 1 actuation.

/(2)...

War Diary.

27.9.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Channel
sweeping.
(Contd.)

(2) Southern side. C to E. 8 cables 1 actuation.
D to E. Further 4 cables 1 actuation.
(3) Intend weighing 0615.
(M.S. 18 271822A to C. in C. Nore.)
Commence E.G. M/S sweep tomorrow Thursday of
channel one mile each side of line joining N.F. 3
buoy and 53A Buoy Oropesa sweep has been completed.
Anchor in Small downs for night.
(C. in C. Nore 272251A to S.O. M.S.F. 7.)

Deep mine-
field for
St. George's
Channel.

C. in C. Plymouth's 231642. In order to avoid
delay in beginning the operations referred to in
A.M. 212045 it is proposed that PLOVER shall dis-
embark outfit E.1 at Portsmouth and proceed to
Milford Haven as soon as practicable.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 271712A to C. in C.W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic.

(A) Estonia. Dago and Osel are reported strongly
held by Germans together with small areas at Par-
akula and Tostamaa. Organised resistance was put
up only by Estonian troops and S.S. Owing to
deterioration of moral among Wehrmacht it was decided not to send
further re-inforcements as it was considered fresh troops would
immediately become infected. B.3.

(B) Aaland Island. See my 271159*. About ten German U-Boats and
some torpedo boats are carrying out patrols in this area. B.3.

(C) Finnish Admiralty is now supplying Soviet with full details
of minefields and swept channels in Gulf of Finland and Baltic.
Light Soviet forces are now reported operating at entrance Gulf
of Finland. B.3.

(N.A. & M.A. Stockholm 271234.)

Comment by N.I.D. This report probably correct except for last
para. for which there is no confirmation beyond Soviet press
claims.

* 271207 intended-reporting main units and destroyers off Aaland
September 24th.

German mine-
laying
operations
Kattegat.

(1) Minelayer KAISER and two M.A.A.S. class
destroyers each carrying 50 mines have been carry-
ing out minelaying in Kattegat between Sept. 13
and Sept. 16. Exact locations of minefield is
not known.

(2) Two small minelayers left Frederikshavn Sept.
14 to lay anti-invasion mines between Skagen and
Frederikshavn, returning later same day.

(3) Two F craft left Frederikshavn Sept. 15 to lay mines in
Aalbak Bay. One of these carried 60 and other 50 mines. B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 271814.) Note. No comment by O.I.C.

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27.9.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Proposed
direct route,
Start to
Dover.

Your 251217A. Concur that an ocean convoy channel be established direct from eastern end of Q.Z.S. 589 (Start Point.) To C.3 buoy after searching sweep has been carried out.
(2) Consider width of channel should be 4 miles.
(3) The fact that radar contact may be lost crossing Lyme Bay can be accepted.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271319A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Port Facilities.

Arromanches.

Your 262149A. Relief for GOLD SHELL required as soon as possible water getting low.
Relief requested in our 1319/18th Sept. 1944 to Admty. (R) D.S.T.O. Southampton.
(N.O.I.C. Arromanches 270921A to D. of S.T.)

Water tanker BRITISH STATESMAN is to be sailed urgently to Arromanches.

On arrival she will relieve GOLD SHELL for return to Southampton. 270121A from N.O.I.C. Arrow to D. of S.T. (not to all addressees) refers.

(D. of S.T. 272135A to S.T.O.I.C. Portsmouth.)

Boulogne.

(?Here) is my 211630A recoded. 261920A (?) from V.A.D. refers. Begins (?N.P.)

(1) Following report by F.O.W. German pilot graded Good B.2 received since your visit today.

(2) Position of 11 Tommy mines and 2 controlled minefields known.

(3) No Katie mines.

(4) Inner entrance blocked by line (?of) 15 tugs and small craft.

(5) Full report by despatch rider tomorrow. 211630A ends.

(N.O.I.C. Boulogne 271032A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Rouen and
Seine.

My 221025 para. 2 port of Rouen and entire Seine river have now been assigned Gr. S.H.A.E.F. to U.S. Forces for development and operation.

(2) F.O.B.A.A. is to continue operations to open river to Rouen. C.T.F. 125 is to report when he is

ready to assume responsibility for river above Quilleboeuf. Thereafter naval responsibility for entire Seine River will lie with C.T.F. 125.

(3) F.O.B.A.A.'s H.Q. will remain at Rouen for the present. (A.N.C.X.F. 271247.)

Your 251230 not to all addressees estimate minesweeping of Seine will be progressed sufficiently to allow salvage craft to proceed to Rouen about 2nd October.

(2) Opening Rouen expected to take at least one week from above date during which period minesweeping of river should be completed. Draught acceptable will then be 12 foot at neaps increasing to 18 foot at springs. No estimate can yet be given of time to clear river for 24 draught.

(3) Opening of Rouen is dependent on provision of two in number 60 ton floating cranes and two in number ten ton cranes which were being supplied by N.A.G.

(A.N.C.X.F. 271641A to S.H.A.E.F.)

/Antwerp....

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27.9.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

- Antwerp. Two mines detonated by first pulses of portable pulsing unit working in wet basins in Antwerp. Following additional personnel and gear urgently required, One Leading Wireman M/S. 4 Wiremen M/S. to maintain P P sweep charge batteries and maintain S.A. gear 18 19 inch diaphragms which should be sent over by Naval Despatch boat service to Ostend and 6 flown across to Brussels. (Com. Belgium, 271716A to Admty)
- Cherbourg. Report of sweeping carried out up to 1700/27. S.A. LL and Oropesa search of approach channel carried out. Negative results. (C.M/S Cherbourg, 271905A)
- Ostend. Sitrep 2 coasters sailed a.m. tide and 2 arrived p.m. tide.
(2) (?Rapidly) (?increasing) gale delayed salvage operation on block ship.
(3) Carrying out LL and Oropesa in Voorhaven. One mine exploded spontaneously one moored mine exploded in sweep. Total mines destroyed 11.
(4) P Party discovered 2 lighters laid alongside railway pier in 12 feet water at low water. This temporarily eliminates one coaster berth. Salvage operation will commence immediately.
(5) M.L.216 sailed towed by POSTILLION.
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 272200A to Com. Belgium.)

Shipping and convoys

- "Overlord"
Convoy
designations. Designation of "Overlord" Convoys. As convoys designated by three letters commencing H.X. already pass up Channel to the Nore, propose Havre be designated L. and H. be left spare. This will avoid possible confusion with Havre-Newhaven Convoys. In addition propose Humber be given a letter. Subject to the above concur your 211558B.
(D.T.D. 270010A to A.N.C.X.F.)
- R.U.136. Preliminary D/F bearing on 5060 K/cs at 0516Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 270731A to Escorts of R.U.136, Info. A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)
- Evacuation
of Casualties. S.H.A.E.F. Fwd. D.T.G.261530 reports:-
No further L.S.T. will be used for evacuation of casualties with the exception of 14 which will remain equipped and manned for use by Com. Zone in the event of emergency. The existing 8 marked for evacuation of British and U.S. casualties. 2 of the existing 5 hospital ships held for Cross Channel evacuation will remain available for British and U.S. cross Channel evacuation. The remaining 3 hospital ships are allocated for 1 trip each to Com. Zone transatlantic evacuation. Further transatlantic lifts in these 3 ships will be authorised by S.H.A.E.F. upon application

/ from ...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys

Evacuation of Casualties. (Contd.) from Com. Zone in accordance with the situation existing at the time. Ends. (A.N.C.X.F. 271250A)

J.W.61. Concur with your 251956. It is intended that two escort carriers should accompany J.W. 61 and in emergency these could be used for fuelling escorts.

Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer.
(C. in C. H.F. 271255A to Admty)

(1) Intend convoy J.W. 61 sail on 20th October your 240635 August refers.

(2) C.S.10 will take charge of operations.

(3) Request following may be made available from sources outside H.F.

(A) 2 escort carriers to Scapa by 15th October.

(B) At least 6 escorts destroyers frigates or corvettes.

(C. in C. H.F. 271721A to Admty)

Sailings from Far Shore to U.K. (1) In view of reduced risk of enemy action in Central Channel area, propose following amended routine for sailings from B.A.A. to U.K.
(2) All ships and vessels including L.S.T. except for those specified in paras. 3 and 4 below, sailing from Dieppe and East Calvados areas to proceed independently as follows:-

(A) Those for Ports between and including Wight Area and Beachy Head direct to their destination.

(B) Those for Ports west of Wight Area to Wight for onward routing.

(3) The following to continue to be sailed in convoy as heretofore.

(A) Ships and Vessels for Nore. (B) Personnel Ships.

(4) Landing Craft to continue to be sailed in Groups as heretofore.

(5) All sailings from Pas De Calais Ports to be in convoy initially.

(6) Routing of ships sailing independently to be that at present in force for convoys.

(F.O.B.A.A. 271801 to A.N.C.X.F.)

The total number of escorts for personnel convoys in my command does not admit of any delay in their return from the Far Shore.

(2) It is necessary that escorts of E.P.E.W. convoys should not be delayed to await unloading of the ships they have escorted.

(3) Escorts are being instructed to return to Portsmouth forthwith if no empty ships from previous convoys are immediately available.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271808A to C.T.F.125, A.N.C.X.F.)

Shuttle Services.

At meeting of continental movement and shipping committee held to-day the following proposals were put forward: (a) As soon as Boulogne can accept L.C.T. to transfer up to 44 L.C.T.(3) to Dover in order to run a cross-channel shuttle service between these two ports.

/ (b) , , ,

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and ConvoysShuttle
Services.
(Contd.)

(b) As soon as Ostend can accept L.S.T. to transfer to Nore all British operational L.S.Ts except those which are rail fitted in order to operate a shuttle service of four to five L.S.Ts daily between Tilbury and Ostend.

(2) The foregoing proposals are based on the following considerations: (a) The desirability of using more easterly continental ports of entry and thus shortening the Army's L. of C. (b) That, in view of the advent of autumn, L.S.T. must operate on the shortest possible cross-channel route.

(c) That, after providing for 1 (a) and other commitments, L.S.T. cannot be based on Dover.

(3) C. in C. Nore and V.A. Dover are requested to say whether they concur in the foregoing proposals or in any estimate thereof observing that having regard to 2 (c) the only alternative to 1 (b) would appear to be for L.S.T. to continue to load at and sail from Portsmouth. This would not only entail longer turn-round but also introduce the prospect of considerable delay as the best advantage could not be taken of spells of fine weather which must expect to become less frequent from now on.

(4) If these proposals can be accepted C. in C. Nore and F.O.C. Dover are further requested in conjunction with C. in C. Portsmouth to set in motion machinery necessary for effecting the transfer of landing ships and craft concerned and for establishing the necessary organisations operating proposed shuttle services.

(5) It is believed Ostend may be ready to accept L.S.T.s by 8th October.

(A.H.C.X.F. (Buco) 272550 to C. in C. Nore, F.O.C. Dover.)

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WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

SS. CHARLES Intercept 2312Z 500 K/cs Type A.2. Bearing 128
GOODYEAR degs. Class One.
on fire. CQ Toulon Shore Station DE KHST (CHARLES GOODYEAR).
This is CHARLES GOODYEAR. Fire in hold one.
Send fire boat at 2313Z.
S.O.S. De KHST (CHARLES GOODYEAR).

*Fire in hold Toulon Harbour anchorage. Send fire boat at 2314Z
(Lands End Radio, 270017A) Note by W/R: At 2316 Burnham Radio
read similar text as that shown starred above, but with ship
using her secret war call sign KU2SS.

Aegean F.O.L.E.M.'s (corrupt group). ZETLAND R/V
Operations. Saint Nikaolo Bay Kithera 270800C. Thence intend
steering 090 degs. 18 knots. All (escorts to?)
join by 271800C.
(2) F.O.L.E.M. is requested for repetition of part
2 received partially corrupt.
(ROSEBAY, 270309C to ZETLAND, BRECON, Info: F.O.L.E.M. S.N.O.K.I.T)

Aegean (1) Patrolling in North Aegean VOPOM (sic) UPSTART,
S/M VIGOROUS, VISIGOTH.
Operations. (2) CURIE at Kastelorizo.
(3) UNSWERVING North East of Rhodes proceeding
North Aegean through Turkish Territorial waters.
(4) TEMPLAR 34 degs. 59' 20 degs. 32' to Malta.
(S.1, 270914A to F.O.L.E.M.)

From Kastelorizo CURIE proceed at 0802/28th passing 3 miles south
of Symi and close to Cape Krio about 2303/28th thence through
Turkish territorial waters diving by day to Gulf of Skala Nuova.

(2) From position 037 degs. 50' 027 degs. 01' about 2205/29th
proceeding on the surface by day at your discretion through
(A) (038 degs) 09' 025 degs. 47' (B) 039 degs. 33' 024 degs 33'
(C) 039 degs. 33' 023 degs. 59' at 2359/30th thence to patrol in
areas XX and TT.

(3) UPSTART leaves patrol p.m. 30th to pass position 039 degs. 33'
024 degs. 16' at 2004/30th thence on surface to arrive 038 degs.
06' 025 degs. 37' at 1002/1st October.

(4) All times A.
(Capt. (S) 1, 271247 to CURIE, UNSWERVING, (R) 1st S/M.F. F.O.L.E.M.
S.O. Force 51, NEREUS, F.O.E.C. S.O.(I) Izmir C.F.V. Kastelorizo.
Leave patrol through 039 degs. 38' 024 degs. 42' at 2359A/29
passing 039 degs. 06' 024 degs. 43' to arrive in 038 degs. 06'
025 degs. 37' at 1558A/30th.

(S.1, 271300 to VISIGOTH (R) F.O.L.E.M. 1st S/M.F. C.O.M.A.R.C.
1, F.O.E.C., S.O.I. Izmir, G.S. NEREUS).

VIGOROUS report forthwith number of torpedoes remaining.

(2) VISIGOTH proceed to the vicinity of position 039 degs. 54'
024 degs. 21'.

(S.1, 272335 to VIGOROUS, VISIGOTH, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

French My 111350 refers. French Admiralty request that
wish to LORRAINE and three Cruisers (yet to be named)
work from should proceed to Brest and/or Cherbourg as soon
Brest/Cherbourg as these ports are in working order.

War Diary

27.9.1944
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

French wish to work from Brest/Cherbourg. (Contd.)

(2) French state that ships could take part in possible future operations in Atlantic, Channel and North Sea. It is observed in this connection that the guns are badly worn and ammunition stocks are low.

(3) If not required for operations LORRAINE would be employed as a training ship at Brest.

(4) F.O.W.M. is requested to report names of cruisers concerned.
(C. in C. Med, 271616)

Adriatic landings.

Cositintrep No.444. Part four.

Para. 1. Kithera. Patrols from the force which landed on Kithera report that Neapolis (O. 7083) on the mainland of the Southern Peloponnese is clear of the enemy. Patrols are also operating on the mainland in the Navplion Area (D.5505) and on the islands of Poros and Antikithera.

(2) Northwest Peloponnese. On 23 Sept. parachute troops (special boat service) were dropped on Cape Pappas to seize the airfield (C.3878) and organize the repair of the runway. Further personnel with tools and equipment were landed by 3 A/C on a nearby airstrip on the 24th Sept.

(3) Southern Albania. Number 2 Commando and supporting arms were landed about 5 miles north of Sarande on the night 22/23 Sept. On the night 24/25 Sept. number 40 Commando with detachments of the raiding support regiment and H.Q. 2 SS. Brigade landed in the same area. No major engagement has taken place with the Germans who are estimated to number 1,000 in this area and who are holding a general line along the Sarande-Delvine Rd.

(4) Dalmatian Islands. 43 Command who landed on Solta on 18 Sept. has now withdrawn and reports the island clear of the enemy.
(A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O/27)

German H.S. BONN. Your 171214. As BONN is under 2,000 tons German notification was expressly rejected by H.M.G. Accordingly, she is liable to attack at sight and no question of a communication to the German Govt. arises.

(2) The only vessels entitled to be treated as German Hospital Ships are those nominated in A.F.O's.

(3) Your para. 4. Although permission has been given to British Hospital Ships to broadcast their position in Mediterranean, there is no obligation under International Law to take such action. Enemy are, however, well aware of British practice and recognised German Hospital Ships frequently broadcast their positions.
(R.A.S.(L) 271539A to C. in C. Med.)

2 - man S/M sunk. Request you will make certain that FORBIN's sinking 2-man S/M is not announced in the press or otherwise. C.T.F.86 270426A not to all refers.
(C. in C. Med. 271438A to N.C.W.T.F., F.O.W.M. (R) C.T.F.86 Admty, Naval France.)

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27.9.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Joint (Extract).
Naval, (3) Aegean Shipping Summary. Photographic R/C
Army, R.A.F. 26th Sept. revealed following. Piraeus. 2 war
Intelligence Partenope destroyers now Salamis Straits 1 in
Appreciation. main harbour. Destroyer SAN MARTINO however in
floating dock. SS. CAROLA under tow in Salamis
Straits. Loading activity Bourgas confirmed and
also Boomlayer Piraeus. Comment. Both presumably
due for Salonika. Lemnos. Further caique turnover. M.T.
and stores seen loaded on Oiler at jetty. SALOMEA not located
and may have been vessel reported sunk by S/M in Gulf of Salonika
early 27th Sept.
(C. in C. M.E. 271320C)

H.S. ST. ST. ANDREW damaged by near miss by mine on port
ANDREW. quarter and preliminary examination afloat at
(mined Taranto by M.W.T. surveyor reveals the following
23rd Sept.) damage. (Details) Proposal to carry out temp-
orary repairs at Taranto and then tow to U.K.
with steering gear operative.)
(P.S.T.O. Med. 271204A, 271350A to D. of S.T.)

L.S.D's A.M. 301533 August para. 2 and your 171402
September. Request you will sail EASTWAY to
U.K. in M.K.F.35.
(2) HIGHWAY should be sailed to U.K. as soon as
practicable after ship is operational.
(A.N.C.S. (F) 271734A to C. in C. Med.)

ENNERDALE. R.F.A. ENNERDALE (L.S.G.) should be sailed to
join Eastern Fleet with craft only of 640 L.C.M.
flotilla embarked as soon as she can be spared
from active operations in the Mediterranean.
(2) Craft are to be destored and put in a state of preservation
before departure. Further signal will be made regarding dis-
posal of stores and personnel of this flotilla.
(3) Ship will subsequently be allocated to Force W.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 271735A to C. in C. Med.)

U-Boat S/M sighted P.C.S. speed 35.46 N. 16.15 E.
East of Weather clear. 1610Z.
Malta. ((KKHZ) SANTA BARBARA, 271822A)

Ships Only restriction on ships transiting Canal is
transiting draught which should not exceed 33 feet as general
canal. rule but up to 34 feet can be accepted in certain
cases and subject to special precautions ships of
820 feet length have already made successful
transit D. of S.T. 190040A refers.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 271833C to D. of S.T.)

/Summary ...

War Diary

27.9.1944
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Summary
G.2 No.40.

(Extract) Para. 3. Greece and Aegean.
Para. A. British paratroops landed 22 September
Araxos Airfield. Enemy reactions not yet known.
Para. E. Recent shipping moves and closing down
W/T station suggest Monemvasia being evacuated
by sea.
(A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O./27.)

Allied
Naval
courts in
W.Med.

Need for such courts in Western Med. appears to have
passed and is not now considered sufficient to
justify their setting up. Your 061529 refers.
(C. in C. Med. 271917A to Admty)

Cositintrep
No.445 Part
4.

(Extract). (1) Aegean Islands. The islands of
Poros ND Idhra (?and Hydra) are reported to be clear
of the enemy. At the town of Poros, there are
no mines or demolitions in the harbour, and no
blockship in the estuary.
(4) Dalmatian Islands. Our arty. on Brac fired
on enemy targets on the mainland.
(A.F.H.Q. No.T.O.O./27 Recd. 2340)

Cositintrep
No.447
Part. 2.

257759 272250A cipher 27 Sept.
Night 23/24 Sept. 2 L.C.F. operations (?operating)
south of Drvenik were attacked by 2 E-Boats.
Torpedoes were fired but missed. L.C.F. drove off
the E-Boats but result of fire unobserved our
damage and casualties nil.

U.S. and French destroyers successfully bombarded targets in
Ventimiglia area on 25 and 26 Sept. bombarding forces in para.2.
were attacked by two man S/Ms. on 26 Sept. attack was driven off
one possible 2 S/Ms sunk and 3 prisoners taken. Maintenance over
south France beaches now completed.
(C. in C. Med. No. T.O.O.)

War Diary

27.9.1944
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Air Attack
on U-Boat.

A.G/Opsum 334 26 September. (Extract)
(Q) U 220 C.D. 114 Z.E. H.O.C./220 Fortress Mk
IIA, Capt. F/Lt. Carter, sighted visually at
distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 miles, Schnorkel later confirmed
with binoculars, at 14. 02 N. in position 43. 04
N. 36. 45 W. Co. 040/4 knots sea moderate. No attack was made,
the A/C turned to nose height for attack, Schnorkel was lost in
sun. P/220 Fortress Mk IIA, Capt. F/Lt. Wallace, sighted
visually periscope in 43. 18 N. 36. 29 W. Co. 250/5 knots at
1544N. Dropped three 250 pound Torpex D.C's Mk from height
50 feet, spacing 100 feet. Fourth D.C. hung up. D.C's straddled
conning tower, which at time of attack was breaking surface.
Two entered water on port side one on starboard side, one on
port side being approximately 71 feet from conning tower. Nose
gun and midupper fired four bursts each during run up. Tail
gunner fired one long burst into explosion plume as aircraft
drew away. After explosion, oil rose on surface forming patch
which 50 minutes later had attained dimensions of 700 by 1600
Cds.(sic) Debris like cylindrical canisters in centre of oil.
(247 Group 270100)

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27.9.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat
S.W. of
Colombo.

The following has been read:
SSSS S/M on surface running for vessel close by
position lat. 7.08 N. longitude 79.16 E. Bearing
285 degs. 36 miles from Colombo.
(Colombo W/T, 270845Z to Admt)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Area C.B.2 and C.B.3 reduce scales to W.5 other
areas no fresh information. Scales remain
unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 270848Z)

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War Diary27.9.1944
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesU/B
dispositionsEstimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 271510Z, Cominch 271559Z.)Mines
reported
250 miles
E. of Belle
Isle.Mines later confirmed as oil drums. My 261457
para (C) refers.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 271514Z.)U/B
incidentsPara. B. 271333Z Mariner A/C had Radar contact
34.28 N. 68.09 W. Evaluated as friendly.
(Cominch 271955Z)(Cominch 282015Z.)U/B
hunt
by T.G.22.2My 232046Z modified. Proceed to get submarine
reported moving southwest 42.15 N. 37.30 W.
Cominch 271541 not to all refers.
(C. in C. Lant, 272112Z to C.T.G.22.2.)
Shifting target (referring?) your 272112
2333Z/27 position 38.25 N. 53.15 W. course 072°
S.O.A.13. Weather 5783 2115.
(C.T.G.22.2 272345 to C. in C. Lant.)ILE DE
FRANCE
lights in
water.My P.C.S. 040° 25' N. 041° 30' W. 277° 20 knots
E.T.A. Chebucto 0300Z/30th.
Sighted several small flashing white lights in
water position 042° 15' N. 033° 07' W. at 2230Z/
26 A/C in vicinity.
(ILE DE FRANCE 272200Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

E.G.16.

My P.C.S. at 2330Z 052° 26' 055° 01' 090° 12.
Request you take M.Ls. under your orders,
F.O.N.F. 271831Z refers. Request area M.Ls.
operate in be indicated. Weather report
6772 1641.
(S.O. E.G.16, 272358Z to PRESERVER.)Australia and New ZealandSS. EDNA
aground.EDNA number 7280192/43. Register en route
Cairns Darwin aground Fife Island. Naval
Vessel in attendance Tug Boat standing by at
Cairns to assist if required. Pass Lloyds
London and London Salvage Association from
Burphil.
(N.O.I.C. Cairns, 270049Z.)

/Digest...

27.9.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest
980

Sept. 26th.

U.S. Submarine reported two Battleships southbound approximately 200 miles northwest of Northern Luxon early afternoon.

- (4) Same night (?25/26 Sept. intended) Navy Catalina attacked and sank one small merchant ship in Wowixi Strait off South eastern Celebes.
 - (9) Night 24th September P.T. boats sank two large barges one collapsible boat off Miti Island and damaged one lugger beached northwestern Halmahera. Following night pair M.T.Bs. sank two barges carrying fuel supplies and personnel heading northwards into Calela Bay: Light shore fire received from vicinity Galelakajd 3 inch gunfire from Miti Island all without effect.
 - (10) Perimeter advanced up west coast Morotai 24th to include another mile of coastline. Nil Jap contacts reported 25th. Morotai perimeter and patrols cut considerable quantities supplies and equipment captured northern portion of island.
 - (15) Navy Catalina attacked heavily laden barges and luggers alongside jetties Davao and 10 barges off Samal Island night 24th, 3 barges two luggers set afire. One medium Freighter noticed off Davao but weather prevented attack.
- (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 270730Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A.

- (1) A/S sighted U-boat before 1745Z/26 in 49° 38' N. 18° 42' W.
- (2) A/C P/220 attacked periscope course 250° at 1644/26 in 43° 10' N. 36° 29' W.
- (3) A/C U/220 sighted Schnorkel at 1502Z/26 in 43° 02' N. 36° 42' W.
- (4) M.T.B. attacked U-boat between 1427Z and 1605Z/25th in 61° 14' N. 02° 30' E.

Para. B.

- (1) A/C obtained contact at 1230Z/26 in 47° 38' N. 06° 48' W. (D.D.I.C. 271141A as amended by 287203A.)

U-boat
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 271400A, 271408A.)

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28.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North
Sea.

1a. Two of our aircraft attacked enemy shipping off Ymuiden and Terschelling and claim hits.
b. At Ostend 300 ft. of Oil Quay have been cleared and 6 Coaster berths are now available, but the weather has prevented work on the blockships.

Channel.

2a. 1768 tons of bombs were dropped on Calais, and Noire Mottes Battery was captured.
b. A survey of Rouen reveals 140 sunken wrecks there; 40% of the quay space is uninjured, but 129 cranes have been demolished and thrown into the water.
c. Adverse weather has hindered Seine mine-sweeping.

West
Coast
France.

3a. KELVIN and URANIA successfully disembarked stores and personnel for the F.F.I. at les Sables d'Orlonne.
b. A survey of Brest discloses "extreme demolitions." Quays and harbour facilities in all areas have been rendered "totally useless", and it would require 2½ months to provide very limited facilities. To develop the port to useful proportions is, by American estimate, beyond economic undertaking.

Northern
Waters

4. Convoy R.A.60 left Kola Inlet at 0100 for the U.K., routed south of Bear Id.

North Atlantic

Passage
of fast
convoys
through
Straits

5. With the reduction of enemy threat in the Mediterranean there is now no longer any objections to the passage of fast convoys through the Straits of Gibraltar in daylight.

South Atlantic

6. The Argentine tanker SS. SAN BLAS exploded and caught fire this morning when entering La Plata fully loaded with fuel oil. The vessel is a total loss. Fire extended to the port installations.

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28.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

South
of
France

7. The French destroyer FORBIN and U.S.S. H.P. JONES shelled guns and troops in the Ventimiglia area today.

Adriatic

8a. Hvar Island is now reported clear of the enemy and also all Peljesac west of Ston which the Partisans are attacking. Thus all the southern Dalmatian Islands of importance are free of the enemy.

b. Landing craft operating last night south of Sibinik, Yugoslavia attacked a convoy of I-boats and sunk at least two and damaged others, without casualties to themselves.

Aegean

9a. LIDDESDALE, ZETLAND and BRECON entered Pegadia Bay, Scarpanto (southern Dodecanese) this morning and sank a 100 ton caique. The ships were engaged by and silenced the shore batteries, but LIDDESDALE received 3 hits and had a few casualties.

b. The S/M VOX sank an Este Lighter this evening out of a south-bound convoy of 4 coasters with E.M.S. escort about 70 miles south of Salonika.

c. Beaufighters today set fiercely on fire a 400 ton vessel and a 150 ton caique in Port Gavrion and consider both vessels destroyed. A small vessel attacked yesterday was seen well down by the stern in Port Kastro (Andros) and further cannon strikes were made on it.

Australia and New Zealand

Morotai

10. About 200 Japanese landed by barges at three points on the east coast of Morotai Island today. P.T. boats sank two of three barges located off the west coast of Morotai last night. A few enemy aircraft dropped bombs on southern Morotai last night but caused no damage.

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28.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Coast defences.

A.M. 252209 Sept.
(1) It is also proposed to reduce the following batteries to Care and Maintenance:-
Bristol Channel - Flatholme North, Flatholme South.
(D. of L.D. 281709A to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements

U.S./L.T.
2, 152,
363.

Ships addressed pass the gate at 1266A/28 and proceed by standard route to Falmouth for towage of U.S. Army equipment.
(2) S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. 1600A.
(3) Constant watch on 2300 Kcs.
(C. in C. Plymouth 281000A to U.S./L.T. 2, 152, 363.)
Your 281000A* arrived less U/S L.T. 152.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 281605A to C. in C. Plymouth)
*U.S./L.T. 2, 152, 363.

KING GEORGE V.

Ref. A.M. 220416 and 252111 the following programme is proposed for KING GEORGE V. October 6th to arrive Plymouth drawing not more than 32 feet 6 inches. October 7th prepare for trials October 8th carry out trials October 9th spare day October 10th a.m. proceed up harbour preparatory to docking.
(C. in C. Plymouth 281628A to Adty.)

T.G. 61.9

Keep 10 miles to port of route ordered until reaching latitude 49° N. to clear S.W. bound traffic.
(D.O.D.(H) 281944A to T.G.61.9)

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval

Cositintrep No. 176 Part two Naval.
(A) General.
U.S.S. MIANTANOMAH was sunk by mine near entrance to Le Havre at 1430/25.

(B) British unloading figures for 25th September.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>POL</u>
Arromanches	782	151	2866	nil
Dieppe	119	33	1835	nil

(Ramsay Sgd. Eisenhower, 280032A)

Cositintrep No. 177 Part Two Naval.

(A) Intelligence. F.F.I. at Sables d'Olonne report having spoken under a flag of truce at La Rochelle to the Germans who are determined to fight on.

(B) Unloading figures for 27th September.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>POL</u>
British				
East Calvados	1340	478	1329	2268
Dieppe	948	Nil	6566	Nil

/United States ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval (Contd.)	Place	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	POL
	United States				
	Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	8976	10207
	Beaches	6907	2170	Not yet recd.	129
	Brittany Ports.	Nil	6	2785	Nil
	Small Ports	Nil	Nil	2481	Nil
	Total British and U.S.	9195	2654	22137	12604
	(A.N.C.X.F. 282215A)				

Military Sitrep 26 Calais expected to fall in 2 days.
Noire Motte Battery captured. Assault on Gris
Nez tonight.
(N.L.O. 1st Canadian Army 280929A)

Air A.O. 1080 29th September 1944.
Details of operations: Calais Area (Strong Point)
342 Lancasters 1768 tons very good. 8th Air
Force: nil.
(Leigh Mallory, Sgd. Eisenhower, 282326A)

Operations

French Coast (north)

Patrol off Dunkirk (A) Unit F.T.1 M.T.B's 361, 358 is to sail to
assume Patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at
2000 today Thursday.
(2) Object interception of Enemy small craft
encountered.
(3) Unless in contact with the enemy unit is to leave patrol at
0530/29 and return to harbour.
(4) Communications:- 1700 kc's and 8200 kc's T.C.S.
(A.C. Dover 281235A)

Force T. Intend to divide my H.Q. into 2 portions.
Advanced H.Q. will be with First Canadian Army
short title N.C. Force T rear H.Q. at SQUID, short
title N.C. Force T Rear. More, C.C.O. pass to
Commander L.C.B.
(N.C. Force T 282333A to A.N.C.X.F.(Adv.))

Operations

Channel

Patrol Pins Cover night 28th/29th September.
G.H.1 WATCHMAN. G.H.2 KINGSMILL.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 281524A)

/Operation ...

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ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Operation "Nestegg" In order to leave berths available for own shipping it is intended to sail as soon as practicable German ships with reduced German crews on board suitably escorted to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 281822A to Adty.)

"Nestegg". Your 071745 and my 091309 it is understood that attempted parley has failed for the present. It is therefore proposed to extend the time that ship and "Nestegg" Representatives from Plymouth will be available to leave Cherbourg from 12 hours to 24 hours.

(2) Request your early concurrence.
(C. in C. Plymouth 281824A to S.H.A.E.F. (Fwd.))

OperationsFrench Coast (west)

Force 28. All stores and personnel disembarked successfully.
(2) Intelligence situation at Sables d'Olonne unchanged. Opas 17 (A) West Ile d'Yeu proceeds to patrol between Belle Ile and Iles de Glenan.

Fuel remaining 0800 28th URANIA 87 KELVIN 84%.

Weather Report 4381 2674.
(S.O. Force 28. 281552 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Adty, A.N.C.X.F., Force 27.)

Boats from Port de la Mule Ile d'Yeu closed ship at 1830. Representative F.F.I. states of 3 S/Ms in St. Nazaire 2 have been exercising diving.
(2) (?Also) F.F.I. are in Pornic getting ready to attack St. Nazaire but lack arms as none are received there from Les Sables. Experiment suggests Army be shipped Ile d'Yeu and (? transported) by fishing craft to (?Giane) as no Germans between them and Pornic.

Consider this practical proposal.
(3) Your 281702 received.
(S.O. Force 28. 281914A to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Adty, A.N.C.X.F., Force 26, Force 27.)
Opas. para. 17.

My P.C.S. at 2000A 047° 31' N. 004° 04' W. 130° 16 knots.
(B) 045° 27' N. 001° 45' W.
(C) Sables d'Olonne. Intend further movement to northward to conform with your 281715A. Have no intelligence to report.

Weather report 9280 1771.
(S.O. Force 27. 281945A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) A.N.C.X.F., Force 28.)

Forces 27, Force 27 is to patrol between Belle Ile and Ile
26. de Glenan on night 29th/30th and is to examine Audierne Bay at first light 30th. Thence Force 27 to return Plymouth.
(2) Force 26 IROQUOIS, BRISSENDEN sail Plymouth

0001A 29th routed through -
(A) 048° 28' N. 005° 25' W.
(B) 048° 00' N. 005° 21' W.
and thence reaching vicinity Sables d'Olonne by 2000A/29th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 281715A to Force 27 (R) Shore Authorities concerned in the U.K., C.T.F. 125, Force 26, Force 28.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Escort
Group 31.

If not in contact 31st E.G. is to detach from A.F.D. 17 at 0001 29th and sweep areas E.1 and A.3 and is then to operate in area B.2 until further orders.

(2) On detaching report P.C.S of A.F.D.17.
(C. in C. W.A. 281510A to S.O. E.G.31 (R) S.O. E.G.2, S.O. E.G.15, NORTHERN SPRAY, Cdre.(D) W.A., Adty, 15 Group O.C.)

Operations

Norway

Patrol

Your 272226/. E.T.A. 1830A 28th.
(S.O. E.G.18 280001A to C. in C. Rosyth)
/ E.G.18 to proceed to new position.

Operation
S.C.

Ramose Opportune (My 242031A, 242032A, 260946A and 271056A) sailed HITRA at 0800A today Thursday.
(2) Air escort on return journey is not especially desired.
(A.C.O.S. 280814A)

Allied Air Activity

A/C route
to Paris.

Your 261600 no objection.
(C. in C. Plymouth 281012A to H.Q.A.E.A.F. Stanmore.)

A/C target
ship.

C. in C. Rosyth 272152A not F.O.N.A.S. Request replacement for ROCKINGHAM may be allocated immediately to reduce interference with T.B.R. training to a minimum.
My 201645B August and 131740A September both refer.
(R.A.N.A.S.(N) 281127A to Adty)

Attacks
off Dutch
Coast.

P.C.S. of enemy 53° 15' N. 4° 35' E. 040° 8 knots (?number) small craft 4 medium vessels. Have attacked enemy with bombs dive, result of attack hits probable.

(A/C C/S UKDH 282125B to 16 Group)

P.C.S. of enemy 4 E/Boats 52° 36' N. 4° 29' E.
based on a Gee fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2200 210° 25 knots.

(A/C C/S SSSG 282200 to 16 Group)

P.C.S. of enemy 20 unknown vessels 52° 27' N. 4° 21' E.
based on a Gee fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2200 200° 10 knots.

(A/C SSSG 282218B)

My 2218. Have attacked enemy with bombs level, result of attack hits observed hits probable, position 52° 32' N. 4° 27' E, position based on a Gee Fix obtained within half-an-hour of 2200.

(A/C C/S SSSG 282230A)

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ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

German minefields Baltic Approaches. (1) Skaggerak. Controlled mines have been laid out in area bounded by lines joining following points.

(a) 57° 42' N. 10° 27' E.
 (b) 57° 48.8' N. 10° 24.9' E.
 (c) 57° 48.5' N. 10° 37.2' E.
 (d) 57° 45.5' N. 10° 43.0' E.
 (e) 57° 43.0' N. 10° 35.5' E.

(2) Kattegat Aalbaek Bay.
 My 271814. Ordinary contact mines are also reported laid in this area in addition to anti-invasion mines.
 All B. 3.
 (N.A. Stockholm 281206)

U-Boats

S.S. YUKON torpedoed 22 Sept. My 221946* area has been swept for both moored and ground mines with negative result. All evidence goes to prove that ship was torpedoed. (A.C.I.C. 281028A to Adty)
 * Concerning American S.S. YUKON mined or torpedoed 1715 Friday 22nd September.

U-Boat off Greenland. Reported by U.S. Authorities from Greenland that U-Boat was sighted by local schoolmaster off Kulusuk 65 degrees 35' N. 37° 07' W. on night of 25th September. U-Boat was displaying a white light towards shore. (A.C.I.C. 281252A to Adty)

Post 'Neptune' Port Facilities

Seine Your 272035. 42nd M/S F. My only Fleet Flotilla being employed daily Ambitious Channel, at present only swept 3 times L.L./S.A. 422 position 049° 50' 15" N. 000° (705') 54" E. Magnetic mines still being swept. (Ambitious 280053A to Capt. M/S Seine.)
 Survey of Rouen now complete shows the following sunk alongside quays and in basins. -
 54 Barges, 19 Tugs and 67 unidentified wrecks 40% of quay space intact but 129 cranes and elevators demolished and fallen overside. Full report being sent by despatch rider today. (F.O.B.A.A. 281203 to A.N.C.X.F.)
 Local intelligence now suggest that a controlled minefield exists at Berville near the ferry. Request Vernon officer may make an immediate examination of area. I intend anchoring off Berville this evening. (Capt. M/S Seine 281420A to F.O.B.A.A.)
 F.O.B.A.A.'s 271601/ passed to C.T.F. 125. Could 31st M/S F. be conveniently spared for this purpose. (A.N.C.X.F. 281650A to C.T.F. 125).
 / Request a Flotilla of Bangors be allocated to Capt. M/S Seine.
 Capt. M/S Seine reports:-

/Your ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Seine (Contd.) Your 231627 not to all addressees. Operation "Hoover". Channel has been searched by E/S Yacht from beginning of Passe du Nord Ouest to 500 yards from Mole at harbour entrance. Channel so searched is 100 yards wide. So far 24 possible mines have been located. Of these 4 have been attacked individually each foreign pattern and 9 depth charges with following results. One no result. If a mine, it was rendered safe. One appeared to have partially detonated. One swept afterwards by S.A., indicating an A.P mine with percussion switch jammed on by depth charge. One mine detonated 23 seconds after first charge of pattern was dropped and before depth charge exploded - slightly damaging M.T.B. and indicating possible presence of acoustic Oyster. After this all depth charge attacks were discontinued. These have now been resumed and further (? report) will be rendered as soon as results are available. American minelayer MIANTONOMAH sunk at side of channel details not yet received. Operations during last 3 days hindered by autumn adverse weather conditions. 261415A ends.
(D.T.M. 281918A to VERNON)

Arromanches Pass to C.O.R.E.P's concerned.
Water Tanker EMPIRE ALDERNEY is to be sailed to Arromanches on completion of repairs about 1st October.

(2) She should be fully stored and filled with water before sailing.

(3) On arrival she will relieve EMPIRE CRICKETER to proceed to Southampton or other port selected by C.O.R.E.P.

(4) 261620A from N.O.I.C. Arrow to D. of S.T. refers.

(D. of S.T. 280506A to S.T.O.I.C. Barry)

Havre-Dieppe Channel - Seine. Fleet sweepers continuing clearance of Havre-Dieppe channel swept two magnetic mines in position 49° 34' 34" N. 00° 05' 50" W. 49° 35' 12" N. 00° 04' 50" W.
1 magnetic sweep in position 080°. H.J. 1 buoy
3 miles negative results from operations in Seine river and Havre alternative approach channel latter now swept 16 times. Summary (A) (2) 3.
(Capt. M/S. 280830 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Ostend Request the following Salvage plant be despatched to Ostend at earliest possible date:- 10 in number 80 ton lifting camels complete lifting craft number 12.

3 coils of 7 inch wire 100 bottles of oxygen 3 6-inch salvage pumps 25 bottles of acetylene 3 4-inch salvage pumps 25 bottles of hydrogen 4 3-inch salvage pumps 4 diving panels.

(P.S.V.O. 281116A to Adty)

Sitrep. (1) 2 coasters sailed a.m. tide.

(2) Carried out L.L. sweep of harbour. Negative result. Carried out wire sweep between fishing boats. Sweep fouled wreckage on bottom. A negative result.

/(3) ...

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Ostend (Contd.) (3) "P" Party cleared 300 feet of oil quay. Discovered wreck of (corrupt group) tug. Salvage operation will commence as soon as possible. (4) Unable to work on block ships owing to weather. (5) 6 coaster berths now available. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 282040)

Brest Brest survey discloses extreme demolitions and mining. Refer to this (?as) 281255A. Quay Walls and harbour facilities in practically all areas totally useless. Estimate possible to render water side of harbour usable for very limited unloading cargo and troops in 75 days. To develop Port to useful proportions would require extended construction projects sweeping and salvage work beyond economic undertaking under any probable time allowance. Obstructions and weather preclude use of beaches. Approach Channel and outer harbour being swept as weather permits. Report of survey being forwarded by mail. (C.T.F. 125. 281253A to A.N.C.X.F.(Fwd.), F.O.B.A.A.)

Casualties and Defects

~~U.S.~~ S.S. NORDAHL ~~U.S.~~ Tanker NORDAHL GRIEG and U.S. OCEAN MAIL sustained slight damage to forepeak and super-structure respectively in collision. Both proceeded. Will require repairs at New York. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 281016A)

M.L. 216 Sunk. Regret to report that due to heavy weather M.L. 216 sank whilst in tow by POSTILLION at 0725 today in position 129° South Falls Buoy 3¼ miles. No casualties. (C. in C. Nore 281217A)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoy H.X.S.309 following received from rescue ship begins - / Z.R. 9 - CDJNOK - 2 - G.R. 86 T.O.O. 0112 ends. (S.O. C.4. 280145Z to C. in C. W.A.)
/ Have obtained bearing by H/F D/F believed to be enemy S/M transmitting a Naval enigma signal. Third class (German) 066° near (considered ground wave) distance not estimated reciprocal bearing 227° frequency 3800 kc/s groups 86 0112.
My 280145Z. P.C.S. at 0112Z - 48. 07 N. 23. 53 W. (Fix) 094 ° 8 knots.
Weather report 4380 3251. (S.O. C.4 280355A to C. in C. W.A.)
Correct my position at 0112Z to read 48° 05' 23° 00' W.
My 280355A refers. (S.O. C.4 280612A to C. in C. W.A.)

/C.U. ...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys

C.U. 40 - U-Boat report. By D/F on 4020 kc/s at 0434Z U-Boat within 100 miles of 45. 30 N. 21. 30 W. (D.D.I.C. 280629A to Escorts C.U. 40, Info. C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, H.Q.C.C.)

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Alter course forthwith for new position A 43° N. 20° W. thence to W. (D.O.D.(H) 280849A to S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH)

? C. in C. Portsmouth 271808A (not to all), to expedite turnaround it is requested ships sail empty from U.S. Assault area independently and unescorted via Channel 14. (C.T.F. 125 281141A to A.N.C.X.F. (Main), C. in C. Portsmouth.)

W.G.L. Convoys. (1) My 151000. U.S. Army authorities now state there is no longer a requirement for L.S.T. to load with special stores for St. Michel-en-Greve. (2) No further W.G.L. convoys are therefore required for time being. (A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) 281156A)

Shuttle services. Your 272330A para. 1A is concurred in. para. 2 (C) is confirmed. Para. 4. L.C.T. and maintenance staff can be accepted at Dover as soon as enemy batteries in the Cap Gris Nez area have been silenced. Authorities concerned will be informed accordingly. (A.C. Dover 281241A to A.N.C.X.F. (Buco)

R.A. 60. (1) R.A. 60 Kola portion.
(10) 10½ CLARK HOWELL.
10½ ELIJAH KELLOGG M/F D/F 527 kc/s.
10 OAKLEY WOOD.
10½ FRANK GILBRETH.
10 THOMAS H SUMNER.
10 CHARLES A. MCALLISTER.
10½ LEO J. DUSTER.
10 J.S. LOWELL. - JOSEPHINE SHAW LOVELL
? 12 ZAMALEK H/F D/F.
11 THOMAS DONALDSON.
10½ CHARLES DAURAY.
10 NORRIS M/F D/F 365 kc/s.
10 ~~PLANE~~ L. GRANT.
(12) Loch Ewe.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 281313A).

U.S.S. WAKEFIELD. Alter course forthwith for new position W. 44° N. 38° W x 41. 30 N. 46. 01 W. thence to T. (D.O.D.(H) 281806Z to U.S.S. WAKEFIELD).

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Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SS. SAN
BLAS.

Argentine tanker SAN BLAS exploded and caught fire a.m. today when entering La Plata fully loaded with fuel oil. Vessel total loss and fire extended to port installations. No British or Allied ships in port.
(Rio de Janeiro, 282006)

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28.9.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Aegean S/M operations. At 2200A fired 2 torpedoes at 6 craft resembling F. Lighters escorted by one R-boat steering 100° at 7 knots in $028^{\circ} 51' 024^{\circ} 12'$. One sunk. Remainder retired at 10 knots and at 2359 disappeared up Gulf of Kassandra. 2 torpedoes remain.
(VIGOROUS 280027A to Captain (S) 1)
Sailed Casteloriso in accordance with your 271247.
(Curie 280805A to Capt. (S) 1st., (R) 1st S/F., F.O.L.E.M.)
At 0758 29th Proceed from Casteloriso thence 3 miles south of Symiclos (as received) to Cape Krio about 2258/29th thence Drepano through Turkish territorial waters, to arrive in $037^{\circ} 50' 027^{\circ} 01'$ about 2159/30th.
(2) Thence on the surface by day at your discretion through
(a) ($?038^{\circ}$) $09^{\circ} 025^{\circ} 47'$.
(b) $039^{\circ} 47' 024^{\circ} 19'$, at 2359 1st October to patrol in areas ZZ and SS.
(Capt. (S) 1, 281140A to NEREUS, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M. S.O. Force A., S.O. Force 51, S.O.(I) Izmir, C.F.B. Casteloriso, F.O.E.C.)
Bourgas 1 Corvette and 1 trawler sighted 1015/28th.
 $038^{\circ} 42' N. 023^{\circ} 17' E.$ heading north-west.
(F.O.L.E.M. 281714C to (S) 1 (R) 1 (S))

Aegean operations F.O.L.E.M.'s 271349C. Join me at 1330C 28th September in position $036^{\circ} 55' N. 026^{\circ} 25' E.$
Weather report 9080 1051 $36^{\circ} 27^{\circ}$
(BLACK PRINCE 280052C to TUMULT, GARLAND (R) F.O.L.E.M., F.O.E.C. Force A.)

Return of escort carriers to U.K. A.M. 242331. Not to F.O.G.M.A. SEARCHER and PURSUER will be sailed on 1st October from Alexandria unescorted to Gibraltar.
(2) There are no Mediterranean escorts available to escort these ships beyond Gibraltar.
(3) Alternatives are either that they should
(a) Join M.K.S.63 from Gibraltar or
(b) Be escorted as far as $43^{\circ} N.$ by KEMPENFELT, WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER.
F.O.G.M.A.'s 231249 not to R.A.E.C. refers.
(4) Unless otherwise ordered intend to sail ships as in para. 3A. (C. in C. Med. 280834A to Admt.) See further messages.
F.O.E.C. 291323C and C. in C. Med., 291440A.

SS. GUINQE (group missing) Request your remarks on B.N.A. Lisbon's 261218.
(? Caserta), 281048 to F.O.L.E.M.) Report sending merchant ship GUINQE to Haifa with Jewish refugees to return to Lisbon with Egyptian.

RICHELIEU (Extract) Reference C. in C. Med. 021904 and F.O.G.M.A.'s 061545, arrangements should be made to undertake refit including Radar alterations in

/RICHELIEU...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

RICHELIEU (Contd.) RICHELIEU at Casablanca and for docking at Gibraltar on completion. The period of refit, (including docking), is to be limited to two months, with extension to three months if absolutely essential. The arrangements for docking to be made as convenient between the French Authorities and F.O.G.M.A.

(V.C.N.S. 281302A to C. in C. Med.)

A.M.192343 August and 281302 September. Future service of RICHELIEU has been under consideration and it is proposed that after Radar modernisation, docking, adjustment of complement and leave, she should rejoin Eastern Fleet with a view to her eventual employment with a British Fleet in the Pacific. It is desired that she should be completed in time to leave the Med. at the beginning of January, 1945. (2) Request you will discuss these proposals with Admiral Lemonnier. Formal action will then be taken with C.C.S.

(1st. S.L. 281902A to C. in C. Med.)

Joint Naval, (Extract) (3) Aegean shipping summary. Ph.R/C Army R.A.F. 27th Sept. revealed following. Samos. Karlovassi Intelligence Nil shipping. Harbour demolished. CX confirms Appreciation departure garrison for Leros. Marathocampos. 24 hours to Samos. Spilaion Harbour demolished. Symi not 0900/28. Rhodes. Not covered but CX reports convoy 7/9 craft departed westbound, a.m. 27th Sept. and further convoy at noon. Comment. Probably included Pioneer landing craft evacuating further stores and/or personnel. Source reports fires and explosion on island presumably dumps being blown (C. in C.M.E. 281310C.)

C.C.R.pistols Details of defect in C.C.R. pistol removed from F.S.CURIE for periodical examination in MEDWAY II. Previous unexplained prematures reported in my 171601B August and 081658B Sept. may have been caused through same defect. (3) Intend to set all C.C.R.pistols to impact only operation pending further investigations. Written report follows by air. (S.1, 281540A to C. in C. Med.)

Passage of With the reduction of enemy threat in the Med. there fast convoys is now no longer any objection to fast convoys passing through Straits of Gibraltar in daylight and the Straits. only special consideration which need be imposed is that the passage of the Tunisian War Channel should be made in daylight.

(2) Intend, therefore, to amend my 241250 May not to Admiralty.
(3) In the case of K.M.F. convoys the time of the Oran R.V. will be signalled by C. in C. Med. 24 hours before convoy is due to pass Europa and will be based on your situation reports.
(C. in C. Med., 281658 to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Situation...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 446. On 26th September a party with stores was successfully landed at Katakolo (037° 40' N., 021° 20' E). Convoy was escorted by LEDBURY and swept in by B.Y.M.S.
(2) Night 26th/27th Coastal Forces attacked 3 targets estimated 2 merchant ships 2000 to 3000 tons and a corvette off Sestri Levante. One Merchant Ship blew up and second was probably hit.
(3) VIGOROUS reports torpedo hit on small merchant ship in position 039° 48' N., 023° 45' E., at 0120/27th. Ship considered sunk.
(C. in C. Med., 282320A).

Summary G2 No. 41. Balkans.
One. Yugoslavia. (a) Dalmatia Hvar now reported clear of enemy and also all Peljesac West of Ston which partisans attacking.
Thus all Southern Islands of importance free of enemy.
Para. 2. Albania. Allied Commando which landed North Sarande reports garrison this town 400 strong. Enemy 10.5 centimeter guns located Northeast Saklrde.
(3) Greece and Aegean.
(a) Some evidence Corfu may be evacuated near future. This probable in view departure German Troops from North Epirus.
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. 28th).

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Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat All areas. No fresh information. Scales remain
dispositions. unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F., 280357Z).

Destination Proposals confirmed. Ultimate destination is
of Gen Blaizot Kandy. Your 260927 and F.O.W.M. 251236 not to
and staff. C. in C. Ceylon refers.
(S.A.C.S.E.A., 280651Z to C. in C. E.F.).

Air Herewith Part 2 of my A.C.44 Sept. 28.
report. 1 Catalina detailed investigate radio S.O.S. off
S.E. Africa no further details.
(A.C.S.E.A., 280955Z).

Hospital Your 270901Z January.
ships for Any task force despatched from Indian Ocean to
Pacific in the near future must it is estimated be
force. accompanied by two hospital ships providing at
least 750 beds.
2, 3. Proposals to implement above.
(C. in C.E.F., 281444A, 302059A to Admty.).

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28.9.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281427Z, Cominch, 281620Z)

Disposal of Spoils of War. Asking for instructions.
(J.S.M. Washington, 281900Z to A.M.S.S.O.)
Text of draft directive to L.M.A.B.
(J.S.M. Washington, 281903Z)
Text of proposed agreements with the Governments concerned.
(J.S.M. Washington, 281905Z)

U-Boat incidents. Mariner Radar Contact Cominch 271955/ refers now evaluated as friendly A/C. Para. A. 280146 following Radar Contact Mariner A/C sighted U-Boat which fired on the plane 08.17 S. 24.17 W. all times Z. Para. D. 271435 Panam Plane sighted

U-Boat off Laguaira moving N.E. and at 271510A plane reported sighting U-Boat course 280 in same vicinity.

(Cominch, 282015Z) See also Cominch, 292037.

* Ref. 271955Z Para. B. 271333Z Marine A/C had Radar Contact 34.28 N. 68.09 W.

* Reporting Radar Contact 271333.

Stragglers report No.70. 3 returned New York from H.X.F.310. JOHN PETER POE (U.S.) VOCO (Nep.) and EMPIRE GARRICK. All September 21st in collision. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.S.309. NEMAHA (U.S.) Sept. 23rd auxiliary machinery defects.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 282107Z)

Planning for war against Japan. (1) C.C.S. have instructed C.AD.C. to prepare papers on - (a) redeployment of forces after end of European War and (b) relation of available resources to agreed operations.
(2) Americans desire to treat the two subjects separately as their problem is primarily one of redeployment involving mainly shipping. My view is that both problems are so closely interrelated that they must be treated *pari passu* in one paper. Also if two papers submitted there is possibility that Americans will press for early completion of redeployment paper which they will refuse to vary even if we on our part find such variations necessary as result of subsequent study of factors in resources paper. Initially we are treating each subject separately but I hope that development of events will overtake us and force Americans to our way of thinking.
(3) We cannot yet proceed with resources paper as we have little or no information. Understand shipping planners will come out fully briefed for final preparation of shipping study. I hope Adm. Planners will accompany them with firm Adm. requirements to assist in final preparation of resources paper.
(B.A.S. Washington, No.T.O.O)

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28.9.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
981.

Digest for 27th Sept. (Extract).

(2) Same time Navy (corrupt group) bombed and hit large transport heavily laden near / Vlo Island in Sulu Archipelago: fires swept ship and and explosions followed and vessel last seen burning stern medium merchantman with (?firm) escort in same vicinity also attacked and damaged.
(4) Midday R/C Liberator scored near miss thus further damaging already wrecked merchant ship in Lembeh Strait also scored direct hit on mine craft under repair there.
(15) Night 26th Sept. landing craft gunboat exchanged intense fire with two Japanese barges vicinity Ternate off Central West MPTSJ Halmahera: barges escaped after being hit. Three inch and 20 millimeter fire experienced from shore.
(G.H.Q. S.W..P.A. 281110) / As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C S/206 sighted U-Boat at 0739Z/27 in 58 degs. 42' N. 00 degs. 26' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C had A.S.V. contact a.m. 27/28th Sept. (as received) in 54 degs. 55' N. 11 degs. 50' W.

Para. C. (1) Force 32 attacked U-Boat at 1853Z/27 in 58 degs. 10' N. 05 degs. 40' W.

Para. D. (1) Unknown ship made SSSS U-Boat on surface at 08845Z/27 in 07 degs. 08' N. 79 degs. 16' E.

(2) Unknown ship made SSSS at 1610Z/27th Sept in 35 degs. 46' N. 16 degs. 15' E.

Ref. A.M. 271141A Para. A(2) attack on periscope was by P/220 at 1644Z/26th Sept. Para. A. (3) sighting on Schnorkel was by U/220 at 1502Z/26th Sept.

(D.D.I.C. 281203A)

U-Boat

Estimates.

dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 281402A. 281407A)

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29.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. The cumulative total of prisoners taken in France since June 6th now exceeds half a million.

North Sea.

2a. At Ostend 4 ground mines were detonated by single ship static sweep and a fifth exploded mysteriously but ineffectively. Work on the blockships is still held up by the weather, but 230 ft. more of the oil quay has been cleared and N.O.I.C. hopes to accept three L.S.Ts. daily from October 2nd.

b. At Antwerp 2 more mines were detonated in the wet docks.

Channel

3a. The cross-Channel batteries at Griz Nez have been captured, as have also the Calais batteries west of the harbour.

b. In the Seine 18 controlled mines were discovered and detonated at Berville ferry.

Orkneys &
Shetlands.

4. A.C.O.S. complains that as the result of competition between the Admiralty and the War Office to reduce the coast defences the northern operational base of Lerwick is apparently to be rendered almost defenceless.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

U-boat
sunk.

5. The U.S. authorities report that a Liberator sank a U-boat today in 10.45 S. 25.30 W. (about 660 miles west of Ascension). Survivors were seen in the water.

Mediterranean

Levant

6a. Reinforcements consisting of a further Commando and the 2nd H.L.I. with supporting arms have been sent by sea and landed in the Cape Pappas area (north-west Peloponnese). A small

/Commando...

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29.9.1944

FridayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanLevant
(Contd.)

Commando party of 60 has been despatched from Kithera and landed at Kalamata on the main land of the northern Peloponnese.

b. BLACK PRINCE and TUMULT bombarded Syra (Cyclades) today. They sank 5 F lighters and a medium sized merchant ship, and hit other shipping and harbour installations.

c. A Greek Civil Commissioner and B.L.O. arrived at Khios today.

East IndiesU-boat
sunk in
Malacca
Straits.

7a. The S/M TRENCHANT is returning from patrol in the Malacca Straits. She laid 12 mines successfully and sank on 23rd September in 05.46 N. 100.04 E. a large U-boat and has 11 German prisoners on board. The survivors state that the U-boat was named SAMBARA.

TRENCHANT also successfully carried out a special operation to destroy a bridge at Pendada in Northern Sumatra.

b. In the same area THOROUGH set on fire and probably destroyed a coaster and carried out two special operations. THOROUGH also sighted a large U-boat on 23rd September, thought to be different from that sunk by TRENCHANT later in the day, with a speed in excess of 16 knots.

c. TANTALUS during her patrol in the Malacca Straits found only small vessels to attack, and two 800 ton coasters.

Australia and New Zealand

8. Hobart, Melbourne and Adelaide have been reduced in status to non-defended ports.

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29.9.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicy

Nomenclature of "Overlord" ~~convoys and~~ ports. Ref. No. Fwd. 16265. Subject is designation of "Overlord" convoys and this is in reply to your 211558A. Suggest that the time is opportune to designate ports by uniform naval/military code letters. War Office has recently issued new set of code letters for British and Continental ports and it would be advantageous if conformity could be achieved. (S.H.A.E.F., 291030A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Flag of F.O.C.R.F. Flag of F.O.C.R.F. is to be transferred from DOUGLAS to SCARBOROUGH at 0900 on 1st October 1944. (F.O.C.R.F., 291315.)

Rescue tug for Solent. C. in C. Portsmouth has asked for second rescue tug for Solent. This is desirable but tug situation does not allow of additional tug being provided from cross-Channel pool solely for rescue duties. Propose either (A) that F.O.B.A.A. detach one salvage tug permanently to C. in C. Portsmouth (my 161135A Septembers refers) or (B) that facilities be given to C. in C. Portsmouth to call upon rescue tugs stationed on Far Shore when required. (A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug), 291626A to A.N.C.X.F. (Main))

U.S. Naval tugs, Lee-on-Solent. As of 0001 October 1st U.S. Naval tug facilities at Lee-on-Solent will be closed. Administrative control of U.S.N. tugs ALGORMA, CORMORANT, KEWAYDIN, OWL, A.T.R.4 transferred to Comphib-sukay. (Com. 12th Fleet, 291847.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Coast Defences. ? Your 252210A to C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. Rosyth's 262350A (as received) in reply. Concur in reductions in respect of Tyne Sub-Command. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 290955A to Admty.)

Lerwick defences. Admiralty and War Office each appear to be issuing directions on an ascending scale for the coast defences of Lerwick to be reduced to care and maintenance. Your 271714 para. 1. (2) Request confirmation that it is intended that all the coast defences should be given up and so leave this operational naval base defenceless except for one minefield in the southern entrance and dummy boom at each entrance with gates incapable of being closed. (A.C.O.S., 291207 to Admty.)

/Balloon ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom - Contd.

Balloon barrages Orkneys & Shetlands. Following received from Admty., begins: All balloon barrages except any which may be authorised in future against diver are now to be withdrawn. (Re disposal of R.A.F. equipment and lifting moorings). 271810. Ends. Intend that Mark VI balloon barrage, both water-borne and land sites, shall cease to be operational from 0800A/1st October. (A.C.O.S., 291441A.)

A.M. 271810. Request early disposal instructions for following 13 balloon trawlers released from sites at Scapa: ANNABELLE, BERENGA, CEDRIC, CHRISTIANA PURDY, CHRYSSEA, ECCLESHILL, EDITH PURDY, LORD NORTHCLIFFE, MARY PURDY, OSTA, SARAH PURDY, THE TOWER and WILLIAM PURDY. (2) None of these vessels is fit for escort duty in open sea or duty such as local patrol for harbour defence without considerable refit or without continuous maintenance due to recurrent defects. (A.C.O.S., 291458A to Admty.)

Dover S/Ls. A.M. 252214A and my 261216A. In view of the large amount of traffic that is passing through the Dover Strait and which will increase when the cross-Channel routes to Boulogne and Calais are opened it is considered to be desirable to retain searchlights during the winter months as aids to assist ships in difficulties as follows:- (A) Pier Turret - One light. (B) Lydden Spout - One light. (C) Folkestone - Two lights. (D) Dungeness - Two lights. (A.C. Dover, 291332A to Admty.)

Movements

Defective but repairable prizes. There is one defective R-Boat and one defective craft of similar size at Boulogne. These could be repaired and sailed in tow in about 14 days. (2) Should this work be undertaken? (F.O.B.A.A., 291828 to Admty.)

"Overlord" Situation Reports

Air. 300200A hours September Cositintrep 177 part 3 Air, sunset 26th September to sunset 27th September. Details of operations: Calais area (strong point) 342 Lancasters 1768 tons very good. (A.E.A.F., 290020.)

Military. Sitrep 27. Assault on Gris Nez progress slow. Calais was granted armistice until 1000 today. Terms now being discussed. (N.L.O. 1st Canadian Army, 291052A.) Cancel my 291418A. Gris Nez batteries captured and Calais batteries west of harbour. (N.L.O. 1st Canadian Army, 291943.)

/Naval ...

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29.9.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

"Overlord" Situation Reports - Contd.

Naval. Cape Gris Nez batteries captured by Canadians at 1500 today.
(2) Port Calais has been granted 24 hours to evacuate civilians. Siege recommences 1200 hours tomorrow 30th.
(3) Request M/Sweepers for Boulogne as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Boulogne, 291525A to Capt. M/S.148, F.O.B.A.A., F.O.C. Dover.)

Operations

France - North Coast

N.C. Force T Further to my 282333 request all signals except planning may be addressed or repeated to N.C. Force T rear.
(N.C. Force T, 291207 to A.N.C.X.F. (Adv.))

Patrol off Dunkirk. (1) Unit F.T.1 M.T.Bs. 359, 24 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy at 1945 today Friday.
(2) Object: Interception of enemy small craft encountered.
(3) Unless in contact with the enemy unit is to leave patrol at 0540/30 and return to harbour.
(4) Communications: 1700 k/cs and 8200 k/cs (TCS).
(A.C. Dover, 291244A.)
My 291244A.
Unit F.T.1 is to remain in harbour at one hour's notice.
(A.C. Dover, 291545A.)

Operations

Channel

Patrol. Pins cover night 29th/30th September.
G.H.1 WATCHMAN Z.9 south. G.H.2 KINGSMILL Z.109.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291127A.)

Operation "Pluto". Your 232215A. "Pluto" cable will now run to Plage des Bains Boulogne. Request you will consider mine clearance of outer harbour north of latitude 50° 44' N. and clearance of reception beach as of highest priority.
(2) L.C.O.C. Unit No.4 will be sent to Boulogne as soon as practicable to assist with beach clearance.
(3) Request also you will endeavour to give me at least 48 hours notice of the date on which you expect to be able to receive "Pluto" cable.
(A.C. Dover, 292026A to N.O.I.C. Boulogne.)

/Operation ...

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29.9.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.- Contd.

Operation
"Nestegg".

258166 C.T.F. 125 cipher 28th Sept.
"Nestegg". In order to leave berths available for own shipping it is intended to sail as soon as practicable German ships with reduced German crews on board suitably escorted to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, No T.O.O. to Admty.)

Operations

France - West Coast

Unknown ships.

Nr.1. 02 unknown ships stationary 47° 14' N., 02° 14' W., visibility limited. (A/C C/S UYH.45, 291405A to 19 Group.)
Nr.2. One vessel 600 tons stationary 46.10 N., 01.16 W. (A/C C/S UYH.45, 291500A.)

Force 27.

No fresh intelligence from Sables d'Olonne, Ile d'Yeu or Penmarch. Am patrolling in accordance with your 281715A. Weather report 7418 2872. (S.O. 27 Force, 292015A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations

N.W. Approaches

Operation
C.X.

Request you will sail 5th E.G. a.m./30th to relieve Force 32 (HART, LARK, RUPERT, WHITAKER) in Cape Wrath area to carry out Operation C.X. (2) On relief HART and LARK to Greenock. RUPERT and WHITAKER to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A., 291243A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

Operations

Norway

Patrol reports.

Report is to be signalled daily at 1300A indicating number of A/U attacks carried out during the preceding 24 hours as follows:-
(a) Time and approximate position. (b) Method and detection. (c) Number of attacks carried out and weapon. (d) Remarks.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291543A to E.G.17.)

I.S.O.H. 30. F.S. RUBIS report: 24th September 1000 in approximate position 270° Jaederens 2.5 miles sighted 2 unescorted M/Vs about 1500 tons course 180°, 8 knots. 1141 laid 12 mines on course 315° from 058° 45' N., 005° 25.4 E. 1152 laid 11 mines on course 280° from 058° 45.1 N., 005° 24.6 E. 1213 laid 8 mines on course 040° from 058° 45.9' N., 005° 24.2' E., one mine not laid.
(S.O.(D) Lerwick, 291732A to F.O.S.)

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Friday

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

A/S Offensive East of Faeroes

Proceed to position 062 degs. 00' N. 002 degs. 30' E. and establish Gammaly this position and 061 degs. 40' N. 001 degs. 00' E. PEACOCK and MERMAID are to join you adjusting speed to R/V in daylight tomorrow 30th. W.A.G.M. 872 N para. 12
(B) 160 degs.

(C. in C. Rosyth 291049A to S.O.E.G.18, (R) Adty, A.C.O.S., C.S.10, FENCER, H.Q.C.C., No.18 Group C.C. TRUMPETER, C. in C. H.F., S.O. E.G.6, E.G.18.)

On leaving ST. ROGNVALD 17th E.G. are to patrol in Area B and C.

(C. in C. Rosyth 291146A to LOCH KILLIN)

On completion of fuelling R/V with E.G.17 patrolling area B and C.

(C. in C. Rosyth 291212A to ASCENSION)

Allied Air Activity

Convoy attacked off Hague.

P.C.S. of one enemy convoy - position 52 degs. 12' N. 4 degs. 13' E. course 210 degs., speed 10 knots. Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Result of attack unobserved.
(A/C C/S UKDM 290105 to 16 Group)

Mining

Havre to Dieppe. Seine.

Sitrep. M/F 42 continued clearance Havre to Dieppe Channel swept 2 Magnetics in 049 degs. 37' 09" N. 000 degs. 03' 48" W. 049 degs. 34' 36" N. 000 degs. 05' 06" W. Operation "Hoover" continues Negative Result.
Sweeping of Seine River continues.

18 Controlled Mines discovered at Berville Ferry were detonated. Dieppe reports 1 Magnetic Swept 180 degs. 8 cables from J. 9 Buoy. Summary A (2) Minus 3.
(Capt M/S Seine 290830A)

Routes to Boulogne and Calais.

1(one). A.C. Dover is requested to keep me and information addressees, informed of progress and intention regarding M/S of routes to Boulogne and Calais.
(2) N.L.O. first Canadian Army should keep A.C. Dover informed state of batteries in Pa(?s)-de-Calais.
(?A.N.C.X.F. 291520A to A.C. Dover, N.L.O. First Canadian Army, Info. F.O.B.A.A., Capt. M/S East.)

Ostend

Ground mine report my 251807 not to Adty. All positions in Ostend harbour are taken from Chimney (between Bassin de la Marine and Avant Port) as shown on inset to Chart 125.

(A) 1358A 25th September 44.

(B) M.M./S 138. Single ship static sweep L./A.S.

/(D) ...

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMining - Contd.

Ostend (Contd.) (D) M.M./S. Secured alongside east side of harbour 329 degs. Chimney 3 cables heading 341 degs. with end of tail 268 degs. Chimney 1/2 cable.
(E) 1. Red 178 degs. 2½ cables.
2. Red 174 degs. 2⅓ cables Red. 170 degs. 2¼ C.

(F) On, Blue to port.

(G) Beginning of pulse.

(H) 12th Sept. 44.

A full cycle of 15 pulses of 10 seconds with interval of 2 minutes, single polarity (Red to port, blue to starboard) has been completed and a second cycle of 5 seconds pulses with 1 minute intervals was commenced. At the beginning of the 3rd pulse 3 mines detonated without any appreciable interval. All normal ground mines. The cycle of Red and Blue pulses was then completed without further result and with ship in same position the end of the tail was hauled over to the west side of the harbour and a 3rd cycle similar to the 2nd was commenced. At the beginning of the 2nd pulse a mine was detonated, cycle was then completed without further result.

(A) 1439A 25 Sept. 44.

(E) Red 179 degs. 1 cable.

(F) On Blue to port.

(G) Beginning of pulse.

(L) 12th Sept. 44.

It should be noted that the end of the short electrode could not have moved far between the 1st and 3rd series of cycles. See also report of ground mine on 27th Sept.

(S.O.M.S.F.(B) 291853A to C. in C. Nore.)

Explosion presumed ground mine occurred in Ostend harbour at 0735A 27th Sept. in position 324 degs. Chimney 2½ cables. (2) Merchant vessels had turned near this position 30 mins. before and an M.L. started up main engines 1 cable distant 3rd 4 secs. before. No sweeping was in progress at the time.

(S.O.M.S.F.(B) 291854A to C. in C. Nore.)

Off Dunkirk. M/S Report No. 5(A) 1344/29.
Details of mine detonated by PLUCKY in 051 degs. 39' 48" N. 001 degs. 51' 30" E., course 154 degs. (M.S.7. 291828A)

Navigational

Irish Sea Approach Lanes. Request following amendments to my 231227A.
(1) Both paras. Width to 10 miles.
(2) Positions as follows:
Para 1 (A) 51 degs. 44' 30" N. 07 degs. 30' 00" W.
(B) 180 Tuskar 9.5 miles.
Para 2 (A) 51 degs. 52' 30" N. 06 degs 15' 00" w.
(B) 51 degs. 35' 00" N. 07 degs. 26' 00" W.
(C. in C. W.A. 291833A to Adty.)

Post "Neptune" Port Facilities

Ostend Your 282212/. I estimate can accept 3 L.S.T's daily from Monday 2nd October.

/(2) ...

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29.9.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPost "Neptune" Port Facilities - Contd.

Ostend (Contd.) (2) 4 L.C.T.(I)'s can be unloaded by crane at same time.
(3) Have now 6 coaster berths available.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend. 290931A to A.N.C.X.F.(Main))
/ N/T in W.R.

Your 281910A. (corrupt group) 6 coaster berths available now. Request FAGERBRO, CEDAR WOOD and VAMASTORG (?VALBORG) be sailed arriving a.m. tide Saturday 30th October can accept 3 additional ships at same time. Present spring tide allows increased draught my 270845 refers.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 291227A to A.N.C.X.F.(Buco))

(1) 2 Tankers entered harbour from anchorage and commenced discharge 1200.
(2) Convoy 11 P.B.R's. D.B. Schedule. 2 T.I.D's and 6 Seamules arrived off entrance at low water. Seamules and 7 P.B.R's entered remainder unable to enter owing to draught.
(3) Carried out L.L. and Oropesa sweep up harbour 1 contact mine detonated in sweep total mines destroyed 12.
(4) Unable to work on block ship owing to (?) Weather.
(5) P Party cleared 233 feet of oil quay.
(6) Wreck dispersal party destroyed barge (?) sunk off railway quay.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend 292330A to Com. Belgium.)

Antwerp. Two further mines detonated with portable Pulser. Working in wet dock, making total 4. Request high priority be given shipment as present Unit took 10 days on journey. Staff for maintenance and operation will be required for any Units sent.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 291301A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Arromanches Your 261157A. First class moorings not available.
(2) Three Liberty Ship type moorings can be provided, risk of Phoenix breaking adrift being accepted.
(3) Positions for moorings should be selected having regard to this possibility.
(4) Request proposed positions and depth of water be signalled to enable loading of required moorings to commence.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 291329A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Seine Following received begins:-
"From: Capt. M/S Seine. Date: 28.9.44.
Addressed: F.O.B.A.A.
Local intelligence now suggest that a controlled minefield exists at Berville near the ferry. Request VERNON Officer may make an immediate examination of area. I intend anchoring off Berville this evening." Ends.
Please comply.
(D.T.M. 291744 to VERNON (C.M.))

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29.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

L.C.P.(R) 822. M.C.D. reports.
Your 231222. L.C.P.(R) 822 is damaged beyond repair and should be brought to produce 271406 ends.
Request approval to cannibalize the craft.
(Com. L.C.B. 291737A to Adty.)

PRINCE LEOPOLD wreck. It is requested that priority be given to dispersing wreck of PRINCE LEOPOLD sunk in 50 degs. 34' 23" N. 00 degs. 55' 36" W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291859A to Adty.)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoy R.A. 60. Inconclusive D/F of transmission on 3750 kc/s at 0428Z suggests that convoy R.A. 60 has been reported by a U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 290805A to A.I.G.47, Info. S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Westbound convoy R.A.60 covered by main units left Kola inlet 0100A 28th September 9½ knots routed south Bear Island.
(F.O.S. 291527A, to Submarines operating N. of 51 degs. N.)

L.S.T's for Ostend. Exfor Buco 281850.
Anticipate Ostend can accept 3 L.S.T's daily from Monday 2nd October if weather is calm.
A.N.C.X.F. Buco is authorised to sail L.C.T. to Ostend with Weasels if L.S.T's are not available.
(A.N.C.X.F.(Main) 291039A)

Sailings from B.A.A. to U.K. Your 271801A no objection so far as this command is concerned.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291137A to F.O.B.A.A.)
Your 271801 in view of C. in C. Portsmouth's concurrence new routine should be introduced as soon as convenient.
(2) Arrangements should be made so that present routine can be re-introduced at short notice if necessary.
(A.N.C.X.F. 291935A to F.O.B.A.A.)

GADILA. My 191403A. Owing to engine trouble M.A.C. Ship GADILA will not be available until 4th October.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 291710A to Adty.)

Shuttle Services. Your 272330A concur in para (1) B.
(2) L.S.T. can be accepted in London now.
(3) Hard parties are available at Tilbury and London Docks.
(C. in C. Nore 291717A to A.N.C.X.F. (Main))
A.N.C.X.F.(Buco) 272330. When the 44 L.C.T.(3) are sent to Dover, it is also proposed to transfer remaining operational L.C.T.(3) to Nore.

/ (2) ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Shuttle Services. (Contd.) (2) This will provide a reserve for Dover and will concentrate L.C.T. (3) in area where they are likely to be most useful.
(3) Total operational L.C.T. (3) today is about 70 so Nore would require to accommodate about 30.
(4) With L.C.T. (3) would be transferred appropriate Flotilla and maintenance Staffs. One Squadron Officer and Staff would be sent to Dover and one to Nore.
(5) Question of organisation of Flotillas transferred and composition of Staffs will be raised separately.
(6) With transfer Eastward of L.C.T. (3) it will be possible to concentrate remaining landing craft of Isle of Wight Shuttle service in sheltered water which is necessary if this service is to continue.
(7) Detailed proposals follow by letter.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 292001A to Adty, A.N.C.X.F.)

M.L's for Meditn. A.M. 212109 para. 7.
M.L's 246 and 247 are to sail in the Coastal Force convoy leaving Milford Haven on 12th October.
(3) N.O.I.C. Lowestoft is requested to sail M.L's stated in para. 2 so as to arrive at Milford Haven not later than 6th October.
(D.D.O.D. (C) 291817A)

MANXMAID R.A.N.A.S.(N) 291302. Concur most strongly that a temporary relief is required for MANXMAID. As far as can be foreseen the movements from and to Northern Ireland are likely to be continuous during the next few months.
(F.O.C.T. 291839 to Adty.)

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29.9.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ARGONAUT. C. in C. Med. 271246. You will be required to fuel on arrival Gibraltar and to sail on completion routed through position 16,82,12,63, QBB. 237.
(2) S. of A. 23 knots arriving Naples p.m. 2nd October.
(F.O.G.M.A. 291114B to ARGONAUT)
Your 291114B. paragraph 1 amend E.T.A. 8 hours early.
(ARGONAUT, 292000A to F.O.G.M.A.)

U-Boat Made sound contact position 42.23 N. 36.21 W. at
in mid- 291630Z and attacked. Results negative.
Atlantic. Searching area.
(U.S.C.G. CONIFER, 291837 to C.T.F.24)

South Atlantic

U-Boat sunk U.S. Authorities report Liberator sank U-Boat
660 miles to-day in position 010 degs. 45' S. 025 degs. 30'
W. of W. Survivors seen in water.
Ascension. (B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro, 291315Z)

Gold Coast On the representation of the Governor Gold Coast
Naval intend to concur in the disembodiment of the Gold
Volunteer Force, its services as a
Force. minesweeping force having become redundant. It
is intended that a skeleton organisation should
remain in being in case of future requirements.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 291721Z to Admty)

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29.9.1944.
Friday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Aegean Sailed in accordance with your 281140A.
 S/M. patrol. (NEREUS, 290803A to Capt. (S) 1).
 At 0745A ZEUS and one corvette in 039 degs. 53' 023 degs. 18' passed just out of range northbound at 8 knots. At 0819A in same position unsuccessfully attacked one Este lighter escorted by 2 U-J boats and one EMS northbound at 6 knots. Torpedoes expended 140 rounds 3 inches remaining.
 (VIGOROUS, 291023A to Capt. (S) 1)
 Leave patrol forthwith passing through:-
 (A) 039 degs. 42' 023 degs. 45'. (B) 039 degs. 33' 024 degs. 17'. (C) 038 degs. 06' 025 degs. 37' at 1202A/30th.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 291445A to VIGOROUS).
 Proceed with despatch to patrol in area ZZ.
 (2) ZEUS and LOLA reported sailed from Piraeus for Salonika 2301A/28th.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 291430 to VISIGOTH, (R) 1st S/M F. NEREUS, F.O.L.E.M., Force A.).
 Your 261105.
 (2) Fuel remaining insufficient reach Malta require 800 gallons more plus 30 gallons extra for every 10 miles above direct route via Scarpanto Straits. S. of A. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
 At 2314 sank Este lighter out convoying 4 coasters southbound with EMS escort. Position 039 degs. 28' 023 degs. 14' at 0430 unsuccessfully attacked target probably LA(MN?)ON in convoy northbound with one unknown 200 tons (?) R-Boat 2 EMS position 039 degs. 33' 023 degs. 19'. 1 Torpedo remaining.
 Am 6 hours late on your 261105.
 (VOX, 291521 to Capt. (S) 1, (R) F.O.L.E.M.).
 P.R.U. a.m. today shows 3 PARTENOPE, destroyer ZEUS, ASSAB, ENGERAU and 6 Siebel ferries departed Piraeus.
 (2) 1 U-boat (German), 2 destroyers still present Piraeus.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 291820A to 1st S/M.F., NEREUS).
 (1) From position 038 degs. 07' 025 degs. (?06') at 0001A/30th proceed Gulf Skala Nuova in Turkish territorial waters passing close to Cape Krio and 3 miles south Symi to Cape Alupo thence direct Castelorisio reporting your E.T.A.
 (2) You are to dive by day whilst in Turkish territorial waters.
 (3) Cancel my 291000A not to all.
 (4) You will pass G.S. NEREUS northbound during daylight 30th.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 292030 to VOX, (R) 1st S/M.F. NEREUS, F.O. Ceylon (sic), Force A, Comaro 1 (one), C.F.B. Castelorisio).
 Proceed with despatch passing through position 039 degs. 33' 024 degs. 40' to patrol in area SS.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 291630 to UNSWERVING, (R) 1st S/M.F., NEREUS, F.O.L.E.M., S.O.I. Izmir, Force A, S.O. Force S.1.).

Return of C. in C. Med., 280834 presume KHEDIVE is also intended to sail. My 242331 not to F.O.G.M.A. refers.
 escort carriers (F.O.E.C., 291323C to F.O.L.E.M.).
 to U.K. KHEDIVE should have been included in ships mentioned in para. one of my 280834 (F.O.E.C.) 291323 refers
 (C. in C. Med., 291440A to Admty.).
 Sailing of SEARCHER and PURSUER unescorted to Gibraltar.

/ SS....

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

SS. GUINQE

Consider visit to Alex. undesirable at present no objection to Haifa or Port Said Naval Attache Lisbon 261218+.
(C. in C. Levant, 291325C to C. in C. Med.).
+ Proposed programme for GUINQE with Jewish refugees.

Landing at Poros.

Operation "Edgehill" intentions.

- (1) Land personnel and stores on beach in 037 degs. 30' N. 020 degs. 27.8' E. Chart 1517 at 0515A Sunday 1st October.
(2) Route Kapsali.
(a) 036 degs. 26' N. 023 degs. 19' E. (b) 036 degs. 58' N. 023 degs. 20' E. (c) Position 704 thence direct.
(3) Sailing orders Group A L.C. 420, 554, L.C.I.119, 318, L.C.F.17 and NASPRITE sailed 1500A/30th left harbour at 7½ knots escorted by 29th M.L. Flot. and H.D.M.L. 1251, 1227.
Group B 5th M/s. F. less danlayers with 28th M.L. F. and M.G.B. 646, 647 sailed at 1800A speed 10 knots.
Group C, M.G.B. 660, 645, M.T.B.667 patrol north west of route covering group A.
BICESTER and OAKLEY patrolling 5 miles ahead of group A. Coastal craft sweeping ahead from position 704.
(4) Loading 9th, Commando in 5th M/S. Flot. Greek troops in L.C.I.119, stores in remainder of L.C.
H.M.S. LARNE G.H.Q. ship.
(5) Communications.
Kithera W/T station closes down at 0600A tomorrow Saturday at which time LARNE takes guard on broadcast L.V. and M.T.B. wave for Snokit using call sign G.X.L. until Poros W/T Station is established. Force internal communication on passage M.T.B. wave.
(6) Subsequent intention LARNE H.Q. ship while required 5th M/S. F. and 28th M.L.F. local sweeping during first October then 5th M/S Flotilla return Kapsali, 28th M.L.F. local sweeping Poros.
(7) 24 hours postponement possible cancellation southern weather continues or loading is delayed.
(S.O. M/S 5, 291515A)

Mine clearance in Danube.

My 061116 para.3.

Information on British mines laid in Danube urgently required by Russians. They are using river up to Calafat and expect to go further as Red Army advances.

- (2) Following information on Russian mining activity in Danube.
(a) In 1941 42 mines laid at Tulcea and exit to Chilia mouth.
(b) In late 1943 and early 1944 194 mines laid at Guichaoiu Cernovoda Topal Reni and Sulina mouth.
These are thought to be either now nonactive or swept except at Sulina mouth where only casualty so far has occurred, one tug having been sunk there.
(3) Other than Sulina mouth river is assumed to be cleared by all routes up as far as Galatz.
(4) Russians expect that British mines may still be active and are apprehensive of this despite use made of river as in para.1

/ above...

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Friday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mine clearance in Danube. (Contd.)

above.
 (5) The "Windhoek" operations carried out mainly by Roumanian river craft backed up by few Soviet vessels Soviet stated that some 380 Roumanian barges already taken over for river traffic. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M., B.N.A. Ankara.
 (Admiral Archer 291520A to Adty.)

Z craft

(Extract)
 First. "Z" craft may be required for (A) Balkans Rankin C conditions, (B) clearing mines Danube. (C) India. In each case craft must be strengthened in order make journey.
 (W.O. 291615A to C. in C. M.E.)

EASTWAY, HIGHWAY.

H.M.S. EASTWAY is being sailed in M.K.F. 35 your 271734 refer.
 (2) Investigation has proved substitution of electric drive for ballast pumps of HIGHWAY from station resources to be impracticable my 171402 refers and date by which ship is operational is dependent upon delivery of turbine drive from United States.
 (3) If HIGHWAY is sailed to U.K. as soon as operational it may preclude lift of Z.Z. craft referred to in my 101255.
 (C. in C. Med. 291704 to Adty.)

Situation Report No. 447.

LIDDESDALE, ZETLAND and BRECON entered Pegadia Bay (Scarpanto) at 281055 and sank 100 tons caique. Ships were engaged by shore batteries, fired and silenced enemy. H.M.S. LIDDESDALE received 3 hits and had a few casualties.
 (2) On 29th September BLACK PRINCE and TUMULT bombarded Syra. 5 Fox Lighters sunk, medium sized merchantship other shipping and Harbour installation hit.
 (C. in C. Med. 292210A)

Peloponnese landings.

Cositintrep No. 447., part 4.
 Para. one. Kithera. A small Commando party of 60 has been despatched from Kithera and landed at Kalamai (H8850) on the mainland of the southern Peloponnese.
 Para. two. Northwest Peloponnese. Seaborne reinforcements consisting of a further Commando and 2 Highland Light Infantry with supporting arms have landed in the Cape Pappas area.
 (A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O./29 Recd. 2115)

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29.9.1944
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesU-Boat
disposition.All areas. No fresh information. Scales
remain at W 5.
(C. in C. E.F. 290332)U-Boat
sunk in
Malacca
Straits.

(U. 859)

H.M.S. TRENCHANT due Trincomalee 1st reports having
sunk U-Kreuzer and has eleven German prisoners
on board,
(2) Request that arrangements be made for specialist
interrogator to be flown out from Middle East
to arrive as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.F. 290407Z to Admty)TANTALUS,
patrol
report.TANTALUS 4th Far East Patrol. All times F.G.
(2) 31st August, 1736. Off Buntins Island Sank
30 ton Junk by gunfire and damaged another at 1804.
(3) First September 0701. 10 miles south of
Penang. Minor damage caused by patterns of
six and three depth charges dropped by efficient S/M chaser using
asdic.
(4) 1352/3 position 3 degs. 8½' N. 99 degs. 59½' E. fired three
torpedoes at escorted convoy of six coasters. Consider two hits
obtained and two 800 ton coasters sunk.
(5) On 3rd and 4th respectively two tugs attacked by gunfire off
Sungi Asahan. One was hit but both escaped into shallow waters.
(6) 7th 0206. Six miles west of Dindings missed patrol vessel
with three torpedoes.
(7) 10th on passage between Butang and Sabang persistent anti-
S/M patrols by S/M chaser and A/C were encountered. Several
depth charges and bombs no damage.
(C. in C. E.F. 290447)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Russian S.C.'s. F.O.N.F. reports: Arrivals ST. HELENA with Fourth Group Russian S.C.'s. (St. John's C.C.O. 290110Z)

O.N.S.254: A/S Contact attacked by LOTUS in 045 degs. 52' N. U-Boat 051 degs. 20' W. X repetition X at 0840Z. report. Contact classified S/M by LOTUS who lost contact after attack. I am doubtful but intend hunting until 0300Z/30. INMAN, DIANELIA, POPPY, LOTUS in company. Weather report 9180, 3333. (CHELMER, 291120Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) See S.O. E.G.B.1, 300300Z.

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 291334Z, Cominch, 291611Z)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Attack and sighting Summary. No report since my 261457. Para. C. Liberator Y/10 disappearing Radar contact 1056Z/28th 51 degs. 39' N. 52 degs. 22' W. (N.S.H.Q. 291420Z)

SS. FORT MIAMI. SS. FORT MIAMI in collision with local passenger vessel off Vancouver 0230/28. Superficial damage four or five frames buckled in forepeak. (N.S.H.Q.291947Z)

U-Boat incidents. Ref. my 282015. Para. D. Both sightings reported related to same incident. Para. A. About 290800 A/C VB.107 sank U-Boat 10.45 S. 25.30 W. Survivors in water. 282049 Tripoli A/C attacked a surfaced U-Boat 11.23 N. 34.39 W. heavy A/A fire experienced all times Z. P.C. 290840 LOTUS attacked U-Boat contact 45.52 N. 51.20 W. 291630 U.S. C.G. CONIFER attacked sound contact 42.23 N. 36.21 W. (Cominch, 292037)

Australia and New Zealand

M.V.DUNN-OTTAR CASTLE carrying capacity. New Zealand Govt. do not agree with troop carrying capacity of DUNNOTTAR CASTLE as stated by D. of S.T. and in their opinion N.Z. troops would be overcrowded. They have ordered disembarkation of approx. 500 N.Z. personnel. Total number on board on leaving N.Z. will be approx. 2130. N.Z. govt. also consider that no embarkation would take place at Fremantle other than one Officer 7 other ranks total 8. N.Z.E.F. as already arranged. (N.Z.N.B. 290405Z to A.C.N.B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest
982

(Extract.) September 28th.

(14) Two pairs enemy aircraft and two single planes over Southern Morotai causing four alerts between dusk 27th and dawn 28th. Bombs dropped first three raids. Nil damage suffered by ack ack possibly shot one plane down.

(15) About 200 Japs. landed by barges in three points East Coast Morotai Island 28th. Nil contact reported yet. P.T. boats sunk two of three barges located off West Coast Morotai previous night.

(18) Probably same two battleships reported first para. Digest 980 believed FUSO YAMASHIRO, seen again morning 27th 200 miles northwest Manila Bay course south.

(19) U.S. submarines reported success against ten ship convoy off west coast Luzon afternoon same date. Remnants of convoy apparently heading for Lingayan Gulf.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 290810)

Port
defences.

C.B. 01618 (Q) (41) Hobart, Melbourne and Adelaide have been reduced in status to non-defended ports.

(A.C.N.B. 290916Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

Para. A.

Azores A/C sighted periscope at 1802Z/28 in 42° 38' N. 36° 12' W.

Para. B.

A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 1142Z/28 in 56° 33' N. 13° 15' W.

(D.D.I.C. 291035A.)

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 291424A, 291428A.)

30.9.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

(1) Following the eastward trend of the war S.H.A.E.F. Main will leave Bushy Park, England, for Versailles, France, on Oct. 5th.

(2) Naval personnel reaction to the Government's^u proposals for demobilisation is generally favourable.

North Sea.

3(a) Shelling has ceased in Dover Straits, and convoys need no longer make the passage at night.
(b) Dover minesweepers failed to find any mines in the Straits despite extensive sweeping.
(c) Ostend has also failed to provide any mines. Berths now available here can take 6 coasters, 2 escort vessels and 4 oilers, as well as 6 or 7 L.S.Ts. or small coasters drying out. Blockship demolition has been resumed.

Channel.

4(a) Minesweeping within Boulogne Harbour has started. It is hoped that this port will provide 18 berths for coasters up to 300 ft. long and 20 ft. draught, for 4 personnel ships, and up to 17 L.C.Ts.
(b) The Seine is now open as far as Tancarville. The first convoy of 13 L.S.Ts. has sailed for le Havre.

West Coast
France.

5(a) The 3 U-Boats at La Rochelle are being used to replenish St. Nazaire with ammunition.
(b) Ten ground mines have been detonated at Brest by the Second Minesweeping Flotilla.

Foreign Stations

Australia and New Zealand

Force X.

(6) Rear- Admiral A.^G Talbot, British Naval Commander, Force X in LOTHIAN with the landing ships GLENARM, LAMONT, EMPIRE BATTLEAXE, EMPIRE ARQUEBUS, EMPIRE MACE and EMPIRE SPEARHEAD arrived in the south-west Pacific today from the U.K. and reported for duty in the seventh Amphibious Force under U.S. higher command.

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30.9.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Orders
for
German
Navy
upon
surrender.

Immediately following signal contains text of Draft Special orders for issue to German High Command concerning immediate action to be taken by the German Navy upon surrender. Intention is they should be issued immediately upon signing of Surrender Instrument or, if no Instrument is signed, that they should be promulgated at the appropriate moment.

(2) It is most desirable that the basic orders should apply in all areas and be agreed with the Russians in order to avoid risk of conflicting instructions.

(3) It had been intended to clear these orders in European Advisory Commission, but Foreign Office and State Department agreed that in view of slow progress made in the work of the Commission, Russian and American concurrence in the orders should be obtained through Service channels.

(4) Cominch has seen the draft orders and considers them necessary and adequate. It is now intended that you and Rear Admiral Olsen should seek the concurrence of Soviet Naval Staff in these orders and Cominch is sending appropriate instructions to Admiral Olsen.

(5) You should, therefore, take necessary action jointly with Admiral Olsen, consulting H.M. Ambassador as necessary.

(6) You should inform Russians that A.N.C.X.F. has been requested to prepare an appendix to the basic orders containing his detailed requirements within the theatre of the Supreme Allied Commander. It is suggested that the Russians should prepare similar appendix setting out their detailed requirements for Russian areas.

(V.C.N.S. 300154A to Admiral Archer.)

Following is text of Draft Special Orders to the German Navy referred to in Admiralty Message 300154A begins:

The following special orders are to be complied with by the German High Command and by all German Naval Authorities.

(1) The German High Command will forthwith direct all German and German-controlled warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft to comply with the following instructions:-

(a) All warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft in harbour are to remain in harbour pending further directions from the Allied representatives.

(b) All warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft at sea are to report their positions in plain language immediately to the nearest British, U.S. or Soviet Coast W/T station on 500 kc/s (600 metres), and are to proceed to the nearest German or Allied port or such ports as the Allied representatives may direct, and remain there pending further directions from the Allied representatives. At night they are to show lights and to display searchlights with beams held vertically.

(c) All submarines at sea are to surface at once, fly a black flag or pendant and report their position in plain language immediately to the nearest British, U.S. or Soviet Coast W/T station on 500 kc/s (600 metres) and proceed on the surface to the nearest German or Allied port or such port as the Allied representatives may direct, and remain there pending further directions from the Allied representatives. At night they are to show lights.

(d) All warships and merchant ships whether in port or at sea will immediately train all weapons fore and aft. All torpedo

/tubes...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- Orders for German Navy upon surrender (Contd.) tubes will be unloaded and breech blocks will be removed from all guns
- e. All warships and merchant ships in German or German-controlled harbours will immediately land and store in safety all ammunition, war-heads and other explosives. They will land all portable weapons but, pending further instructions, war-ships will retain on board the fixed armament. Fire control and all other equipment will be maintained on board intact and fully efficient.
- f. All minesweeping vessels are to carry out the measures of disarmament prescribed in (d) and (e) above and are to be prepared immediately for minesweeping service under the direction of the Allied representatives, and are to complete with fuel where necessary.
- g. The movement of transport on the inland waterways of Germany may continue. No vessels moving on inland waterways will proceed to neutral waters.
- (2) The German High Command will forthwith direct that:-
- a. German naval aircraft are not to leave the ground or water or ship pending directions from the Allied representatives;
- b. Naval aircraft in the air are to return immediately to their bases.
- (3) The German High Command will forthwith direct that all neutral merchant ships in German and German-controlled ports are to be detained pending further directions from the Allied representatives.
- (4) The German High Command will forthwith issue categorical directions that:-
- a. No ship, vessel or craft of any description is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment.
- b. All harbour works and port facilities of whatever nature, including telecommunications and radar stations, are to be preserved and kept free from destruction or damage pending further directions from the Allied representatives, and all necessary steps taken and all necessary orders issued to prohibit any act of scuttling, sabotage, or other wilful damage.
- c. All boom defences at all ports and harbours are to be opened and kept open at all times; where possible, they are to be removed.
- d. All controlled minefields at all ports and harbours are to be disconnected and rendered ineffective.
- e. All demolition charges in all ports and harbour works are to be removed or rendered ineffective and their presence indicated.
- f. The existing wartime system of navigational lighting is to be maintained, except that all dimmed lights are to be shown at full brilliancy, and lights only shown by special arrangement are to be exhibited continuously.
- g. All pilotage services are to continue to operate and all pilots are to be held at their normal stations ready for service and equipped with charts.
- h. German Naval and other personnel concerned in the operation of ports and administrative services in ports are to remain at their stations and to continue to carry out their normal duties.
- (5) The German High Command will prepare to despatch forthwith

/to...

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Orders for German Navy upon surrender. (Contd)

to Allied Naval Authorities, both in the Baltic area and in the North Sea, responsible officers with -

a. corrected copies of charts showing all mine-fields laid by German and German-controlled vessels or aircraft, and all other underwater obstructions.

b. details of all German coastal convoy routes and searched channels, and of all buoys, lights and other navigational aids. Appropriate navigational publications are to be provided.

c. Exact information with regard to the disposition of German naval units, and to the present location of all Departments and Branches of L.K.M.

d. Detailed lists of fuel stocks, including furnace, diesel, petrol and coal.

Detailed directions are being issued separately by the respective Allied representatives concerning the places at which these officers are to report and the method by which they are to proceed to those places.

(6) The German High Command will forthwith direct that except as may be required for the purpose of giving effect to the above special orders -

a. All personnel in German warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft, are to remain on board their ships pending further directions from the Allied representatives.

b. All Naval personnel ashore are to remain in their establishments. Ents.

(Admty., 300213A to Adm. Archer.)

S.H.A.E.F. Cite SHGCT Ref. No. Fwd. 16323.

Main: S.H.A.E.F. Main closes Bushy Park 052400A October and opens Versailles at Trianon Palace Hotel same time, rejoining S.H.A.E.F. Forward that location. Thereafter S.H.A.E.F. H.Q. at Versailles will be known as S.H.A.E.F. Main, the designation Forward will not be employed until further notice.

Those elements of Supreme H.Q. which do not move to the Continent will be known as S.H.A.E.F. Rear effective same date and time. Exact composition of this group will be notified to addressees later.

(S.H.A.E.F. 301135A to Exfor. 12th Army Group, 6th Army Group, Comm. Zone, 1st Allied Airborne Army, A.E.A.F., A.N.X.F., S.F.H.Q., S.H.A.E.F., S.H.A.E.F. Mission to France, S.H.A.E.F. Mission to Belgium, S.H.A.E.F. Mission to Netherlands, S.H.A.E.F. Mission to Luxemburg.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Withdrawal of Examination Service. Intend examination service at Lerwick, Scalloway, Wick, Stromness, Scapa and Scrabster to cease as from 1200A 1st October.

(2) Examination service at Kirkwall ceased 16th September as reported in my 161132 to Admiralty. (A.C.O.S. 300934A to Admty.)

/ Examination...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom - Contd.

Withdrawal of Examination Service. (Contd.) Examination service at Loch Ryan closes down at 2359A September 30th. From that time a Naval Patrol Vessel replaces examination vessel at entrance to regulate traffic and will fly international code signal M C V by day and two white lights vertical by night in addition to signal for port closed when necessary. Incoming vessels requiring berths are to obtain them from patrol vessel or in her absence from M.W.S.S. in Finnart Bay. (N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 301601A to Admty., C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Movements.

"Z" and "C" class destroyers ZAMBESI and 6 "Z" Class will form 2nd Destroyer Flotilla and CAESAR and 7 "C" class the 6th Destroyer Flotilla as from 1st October. (V.C.N.S., 301112A to A.G.M.)

GADILA F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 291710 provisional ready for service date from Mac Ship GADILA inclusive of flying practices. 9th October. (F.O.C.T. 301201 to Admty.)

701 Flotilla. An urgent requirement has arisen for L.C.P. fitted with D. star sweep. As one of the measures to meet this Admiralty proposes to withdraw 701 Flotilla from Newlyn. In view of approaching winter weather request your concurrence. (A.N.C.X.F. 301745A to C.C.O.)

REVENGE. It is desired to tow REVENGE from Gareloch to Plymouth as soon after 5th October as is practicable. (2) Tugs operated by A.N.C.X.F. cannot be spared from the towage of Phoenix units and other priority "Overlord" work. No other suitable tugs are available in the United Kingdom except those attached to the Home Fleet. (3) Tug BANDIT is expected to complete repairs on the Tyne on 5th October and Tug DIRECTOR (1875 H.P.) can be made available for temporary duty at Scapa on completion of repairs at Greenock 7th October. Request Tugs FREEBOOTER and BUCCANEER may be detailed for towage of REVENGE on arrival DIRECTOR. (V.C.N.S., 301947A to C. in C.H.F.)

Fleet Destroyers Fleet Destroyers have been re-allocated as follows and arrangements to give effect to this will be made in due course:

/Station...

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Fleet	Station	Flotilla	Type
Destroyers (Contd.)	Home Fleet	17th D.F.	O
		23rd D.F.	S
		26th D.F.	V
	Plymouth	10th D.F.	Canadian Tribals
		Temporarily	British Tribals
			PIORUN
	Mediterranean	3rd D.F.	"M" and "L"
		14th D.F.	"J" and "K"
	Eastern Fleet	4th D.F.	Q
		7th D.F.	N
		11th D.F.	R
		24th D.F.	T
		25th D.F.	U
		27th D.F.	W
		2nd D.F.	Z
		6th D.F.	Caesar

Separate allocation will be made for FAULKNOR, IMPULSIVE and four Ps.

(V.C.N.S., 502210A to Cs. in C. H.F., Plymouth, Med., E.F.)

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval Number 178. Part II Naval. Immediate.
 A. Captured Ports.
 Ostend. Berths for 6 Coasters now available.
 Draught limitations of 10 feet 9 inches at high water neaps still stand.
 Brest. Estimated possible to render some quays usable for very limited unloading of cargo and troops in 75 days.
 B. General. Seine River. During mine clearance a controlled minefield was located and 18 mines detonated at Berville.
 C. Unloading figures for 28th September.

Place	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	POL
Cherbourg	91	Nil	8150	Corrupt
Beaches	6326	1936	11415	138
Brittany } Ports }	1	43	3226	300
Small Ports	Nil	Nil	3208	Nil
Total (U.S.)	6418	1979	25999	?

British figures not received.

(Adm. Ramsay, 300101A to Admty.)

Cositintrep number 179 Part two Naval

A. Captured Ports. Boulogne. Search of feet of quays for underwater explosives completed minesweeping started. Preliminary estimate of Port capabilities after clearance is 8 berths at quays for coasters the biggest being 300 feet in length with 20 feet draught. Also four berths for personnel ships. Anchor berths for two Liberty ships and one large coaster in Rade Carnot. There is room for 12 L.C.T. to dry out in traverse basin close northeast of Petit Port. The Pens and Slipways on the south side of the Avant Port will provide berths for three L.S.T. or 5 L.C.T.

Havre. The first convoy of three L.S.T. was sailed to Havre today.

/Seine...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval (Contd.) Seine. Minesweepers have found moored mines at Quillebeuf.
C. Unloading figures 28th September.

Place	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Petrol
Calvados	1523	286	7669	2677
Dieppe	1158	Nil	5610	Nil
Ostend	Nil	Nil	228	Nil
British total 29th September	2681	286	13497	2677
Calvados	1481	987	6305	5605
Dieppe	1170	Nil	4907	Nil
British Total	2651	987	11440	5605
Cherbourg	Nil	94	11403	909
Beaches	6420	2017	20933	596
Brittany	Nil	17	3823	320
Small Ports	Nil	Nil	4098	Nil
U.S. Total	6420	2118	40257	2025
Combined total	9071	3105	51697	7630

(Adm. Ramsay 302250A to Admty., Corrected by 011015A and see 011457A.)

Operations

North Sea

Patrols a. OFT one: M.T.B. 353 is to sail to assume patrol in vicinity of Dunkirk AW buoy at 1945 to-day Saturday.
b. Object, interception of enemy small craft encountered.
c. Unless in contact with the enemy ?unit is to leave patrol at 0540/1 and return to harbour.
(V.A. Dover, 301316A to S.O.M.T.Bs. Dover, S.O.5 M.T.B.F.)
Dover and the Nore patrol night 30th September to 1st October HOLDERNESS 57 F to 56A buoy, SHEARWATER East Tongue Buoy to Elbow Buoy THORNBOROUGH N.F.3 to N.F.6 buoy. DUFF N.F. 6 to N.F. 9 buoy.
(2) Coastal force Unit F.G.2 and F.G.3 with THORNBOROUGH F.H.2 and F.H.3 with DUFF F.B.2 off Ostend F.C.3 and F.C.4 vicinity Nieupoort Bank F.C.5 off Walcheren F.A.1 Terschelling to Tiscelfa 4 Tiscelfa to Ijmuiden F.A. 7 Ijmuiden to Hook F.T.1 vicinity of Dunkirk A.W. Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 301600A to Admty., C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., G. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Milford Haven, Falmouth, Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch b'casts HD and CN area "C".)

S.O. Force "T" H.Qs. to Bruges. Following received from S.O. Force T. addressed A.N.C.X.F. (R) addressees of this signal begins: Intend to move H.Q. to Bruges a.m. Sunday first October (?care) of H.Q. 4th S.S. Brigade.
T.O.O. 300106 Ends.
(A.N.C.X.F. 301837A to Admty., F.O.B.A.A, N.O.I.C. Antwerp, N.O.I.C. St. Laurent, N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

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Seine open to Tancarville. River Seine LL/SA sweep between Berville Sur Mer and Tancarville completed 7 actuations with LL/SA sweep yesterday and should be completed 15 times today. On completion of Oropesa sweep by two B.Y.M.S. as far as Tancarville river will be open as far as this place ML Oropesa search and L.A.AL. sweeping has been made as far as Vizuxport above Qud Zheauf. Expect to continue as far as Wuclair tomorrow Sunday. (Capt. M/S Seine, M.L.220 301210 to F.O.B.A.A.)

"Pluto" route swept. Your 291520 and my 121539 M/S swept through "Pluto" route and channel 6 to arrive off Boulogne at 0930 this morning where they are now operating. (2) Brief report of progress will be signalled daily. (V.A. Dover, 301301A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrol Pins Cover Night 30th/1st October.
GD 1 VIDETTE Z.9 South.
GD 2 HARGOOD Z.109
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301550A to Admty., C. in C. Nore, F.O.C. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Ships maintaining W/T watch on B'casts "HD" and "CN" in area "C" VIDETTE, HORNET, Capt. (S) 5, VERNON, Portsmouth AGRESSIVE, ATTACK, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, HARGOOD.)

OperationsWest Coast France

Patrols. Patrolled in accordance with your 281733A. One French fishing boat investigated during the night (5 miles?) West of Saint Gilles. Nothing to report.

(2) Intend to sweep to Southward during daylight hours returning to Les Sables D'Olonne before dark today Saturday 30th September.

(3) O.P.A.S. 17
(A) vicinity Les Sables d'Olonne.
(B) Ile d'Yeu.

(4) O.F. remaining 0800 IROQUOIS 76% BRISSENDEN 80%.
(5) Weather report 5880 2271.
(Force 26, 300940A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Proceed to reach position (B) 048° 00' N. 005° 21' W. by 2000A/30th.

My 281733 refers. Orders follow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 300954A to IROQUOIS.)
Carry out Operation "Assault".

(a) Force 27 TARTAR (S.O.) KELVIN.
(b) 1200A/1st October.
(c) Through (a) 48° 28' N. 5° 25' W. (b) 48° 00' N. 5° 21' W. and thence to Gironde area keeping west of Force 26.
(d) Patrol between Belle Ile and Gironde.

/(g)...

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West Coast France

Patrols
(Contd.)

(g) Force 26 BLYSKAWICA, IROQUOIS, as in my 301919A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301915A to TARTAR, KELVIN.)
Force 26 is to sweep north and west from Gironde on night 1st/2nd October passing Ile d'Yeu at

about 0001A/2.

(2) After speaking Penmarch and Ushant signal stations Force 26 is to return to Plymouth.

(3) Force 27 TARTAR, KELVIN sails Plymouth 1200A/1 through

(a) 48° 28' N. 5° 25' W.

(b) 48° 00' N. 5° 21' W. and thence to Gironde area keeping west of Force 26.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 301919A to Force 26.)

Landing at les Sables d'Olonne. Obtained following information:-

(i) Les Sables d'Olonne situation unchanged.

(ii) F.F.I. report from La Roche-sur-Yon stated that 3 S/Ms at La Rochelle were being used to replenish ammunition for St. Nazaire.

(iii) Garrison of Ile de Re and Ile d'Oleron being evacuated to mainland.

(iv) Written report obtained from F.F.I. in La Roche-sur-Yon describing sea defences La Rochelle, la Pallice and Pertuis Breton will be forwarded on arrival.

(IROQUOIS 302215A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sweeping of
Garonne.

F.N.G.B. have requested sweeping of Garonne and Gironde. Request your views on practicability of this project and its relative priority.
C.T.G.125.2 171217 to all refers.
(D.N.S., 301643A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Sweeping
of Brest.

Sweeping progressed today, Saturday. 10 ground mines detonated by 2nd M/S Flotilla north of centre line between position C and Basse Royale. (one) type "Z" with ??(inner) blast and 2 obstructors cut in Rade Abri. Message 301147 groups 69, code not held by any ships of this Force.
(Cdr. M/S Brest, 302036A to C.T.F.125.)

Operations

Western Approaches.

Patrol

Detach 2 ships forthwith to carry out zigzag search between

(a) 050° 34' N. 005° 10' W. and

(b) 050° 27' N. 006° 13' W. Ships are to leave

patrol line at 0130A 1st and carry out the purport of my 291559 not to all.

(2) Convoy T.A.151 escorted by IMPULSIVE and PIORUN expected to pass (A) 0200A 1st course 260° speed 20 knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 301136A to E.G.1.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

N.W. Approaches

Patrols. Until a situation as envisaged in orders for operations SJ and SK recurs following measures will be adopted. On completion of "Tenable" proceed to operate in an area between 063° N. and 064° N. and 001° W. and 004° W. taking 6th Escort Group under your orders. Arrange daylight R/V. My 301040 refers. (C. in C. Rosyth, 301106 to TRUMPETER.)

While carrying out operation CX you are to provide best possible cover for all shipping passing through the area as far south as 58° 10' N.

(2) Your object is to ensure the safe passage of all shipping through above area.

(C. in C. W.A. 301203A to S.O. E.G.5.)

Operations

Northern Waters.

JAMAICA

Sailed JAMAICA in accordance with my 291134 September.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 300348A to Admty., C. in C.W.A. C. in C.H.F., N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Patrol

Establish "Gamma" patrol between 063° 10' N. 002° 00' W. and 064° 00' N. 002° 00' W. WA GM 872 N. paragraph 12 (B) 090°. (C. in C. Rosyth, 301040 to S.O. E.G.6, (R) Admty., 9 Force, H.Q.C.C., S.O. E.G.18, No.18 Group C.C., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

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SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSAllied Air Activity

Patrol off Christian-sund. Four medium merchant vessels, one small merchant vessel, 3 escort vessels, position 63 degs. 08' N. 07 degs. 30' E., course 040 degs. speed 6 knots. (A/C KFXQ, 300840A to 18 Group)
One medium M/V, one small M/V, 2 escort vessels, in position 63 degs. 12' N. 07 degs. 40' E. course 260 degs., 6 knots. (A/C KFXQ, 301005A to 18 Group)
My 0840. Still in touch with enemy. Enemy has altered course to 070 degs. position 63.11 N. 07.40 E. speed 4 knots. (A/C KFXQ, 301006A to 18 Group)

Release of Smoke A/C Smoke A/C are no longer required. (A/C Dover, 301225A to 16 Group)

Enemy Air Activity

Launch of flying bomb. M.T.B.381 reports that at 0545/29th September when at Inner Shoal Buoy (WH 0308) returning from patrol an A/C appeared from the eastward showing starboard navigation light. A flying bomb was seen to come from this A/C on an approx. course 260 degs. Height 1000 feet. The A/C which was noticed to be appreciably higher than the flying bomb then retired to the eastward. From 0500 onwards whilst returning to harbour from 3B Buoy (WN.1195) several flying bombs were observed to be flying on a westerly course. These were picked up by Radar. It is considered that an aircraft as distinct from a flying bomb was detected by Radar 6000 yards to the eastward of the swept channel. (F.O.I.C. Et. Yarmouth, 301638A to Admty)

Reconnaissance of Scapa Flow. Prep. X. was made at 1918/30 on unidentified A/C bearing 090 degs. A buoy 25 miles, flying west at 1000 feet. A/C altered course to south on reaching South Ronaldsay Coast. Plots faded in Sinclair Bay at 1930. Dusk patrol of fighters did not make contact in fading light. No visual reports received. It is thought light good enough for R/C of fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S. 302330 to Admty)

Mining

Clearance of Antwerp. Consider clearance of Antwerp would be expedited by use of additional portable pulsers which may also be required for Ghent and Terneuse - Ghent Canal.
(2) Operation would be responsibility of Com. Belgium but it would be appreciated if you could supply two more units with officer in charge and party to operate them.

/ If ...

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of Antwerp.
(Contd.)

If you concur, request units and party each with prime mover and store lorry may be shipped to Ostend for onward routing as arranged by Comic Belgium.
(A.N.C.X.F. 301700A to C. in C. Nore.)

Proposed re-
organisation
of Western
Area mine-
sweeping.

In view of withdrawal of British M/S Forces from Western area establishment of M/S base at Cherbourg is not now considered necessary and the following re-organisation is proposed on completion of Brest clearance. Commander Y Squadrons to become area M/S Officer and to remain in Chimo. Local running repairs of Y Squadrons to be carried out by Chimo as at present. Maintenance of French trawlers to be carried out by own flotilla staff and make repairs at Cherbourg. Large repairs for Y.M.S. and boiler cleaning and repairs for French trawlers to be carried out at Plymouth until French can undertake this at Cherbourg. British P.M.S.O. and Assistant to be retained at Cherbourg for (?local) sweeping. This will release Lieut. Comdr. Symonds R.N.V.R. and majority of personnel at present allocated to R.N.M/S base at Cherbourg.
(C.T.F.125, 301937A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Dover mine-
sweeping
report.

Dover Forces. Minesweeping report Saturday Sept. 30th my 121159B September refers.
(A) Pluto route swept from 10 fathoms line across northern end of Bassure de Baas then southward to Boulogne Harbour entrance one third LL, SA and Oropesa. Two full days sweeping required to complete.
(B) Channel six completed LL, SA and Oropesa from East Bullock Buoy to 10 fathoms line two miles west of Boulogne.
(C) Channel four swept from approx. 337 degs. Cap Gris Nez 8 miles to 195 degs. Cap Gris Nez 3.3 miles LL and SA only.
(2) No mines swept.
(V.A.Dover, 302343A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy IntelligenceGerman
Main units.

German main units. (A) LUTZOW off Swinemunde September 26th.
(B) HIPPER. 30 miles north east of Hela Sept. 22nd
(C) LEIPZIG off Swinemunde September 26th.
(D) NURNBERG 30 miles north east of Hela September 24th.
(E) EMDEN off Sande Fjord Sept. 19th. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 301651 to Admty) O.I.C. Comment: Para. (A) probably SCHEER. (C) Believed correct. (E) Sande Fjord in Oslo Fjord. EMDEN was seen in Horten area by P.R.U. on 28.9.
German main units. My 271207/ and 281717/. It is now learnt that squadron consisted of ADMIRAL SCHEER and PRINZ EUGEN. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 301657 to Admty). / Squadron consisting of SCHEER, LUTZOW and destroyers reported off Aaland. / Second warship was Cruiser HIPPER proceeding south from Kemi.
Comment: SCHEER has been reported several times recently in Bornholm area. Squadron off Aaland Islands on 24/9 was probably LUTZOW and EUGEN with destroyers.

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HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities

Mooring
vessels for
Havre.

Admiralty 251912A BARBERRY, DRAGONET, CHERWELL
detailed.
(B DO GOSPORT 301150 to Admty)

L.C.M.(I)
for
Boulogne.

A requirement has arisen for 3 L.C.M.(I) for carrying salvage and diving pumps in Boulogne.
(2) Request earliest date at which these can be made available.
(3) All special gear will be loaded at Boulogne
(4) Request these craft may be assembled at Dover as suggested in N.O.I.C. Boulogne's 291525A.
(F.O.B.A.A. 301217A to V.A. Dover.)

Ostend.

Reference proposal by D. of S.T. made at Cao. S.H.A.E.F. weekly shipping meeting on Friday 29th September to beach Coasters at Ostend, beaching of Coasters at Ostend is considered practicable in calm weather, but is not recommended at this time of year, as beaches are very exposed and chances of calm weather are small. In anything but calm weather ships are likely to be seriously damaged if not lost.

(A.N.C.X.F. 301703A to S.H.A.E.F., Admty.)

(1) 2 Tankers sailed. (2) Carried out LL and O sweep of harbour negative result.
(3) Beach to west of harbour entrance clear of obstructions. Can accept landing craft in fine weather.
(4) Resumed demolition of block ship. Can now accept ship drawing one foot more draught than the height existing H.W. given in Admiralty's tide table (page 209).
(5) "P" party cleared 200 feet of oil guay. (my 271045 refers).
(6) Berths now available. 6 coasters 2 escort vessels 4 oilers 1 L.S.T. ramp plus 6 L.S.Ts. or small coasters berth in Shuldok which dry out.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 302325A to Com. Belgium.)

Casualties and Defects

MIRABELLE.

F.O.I.C. London's 181018/September (not to Tilbury) understand MIRABELLE has been raised. Request no fittings, other than Admiralty fittings be removed pending inspection by Director of Sea Transport's surveyor.
(Admty, 301442A to F.O.I.C.London)

Shipping and Convoys

Sailings from
Far Shore.

A.N.C.X.F's 291935. (1) F.T.C. Convoys sailing From East Calvados area include on the average only 2 or 3 ships for Nore. Propose these should be sailed independently to Wight for inclusion in convoy from there.

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Sailings from Far Shore. (Contd.)

(2) In view of the relatively narrow channel strong cross tides and approaching winter conditions it is considered essential that all ships whether in convoy or not should burn navigation lights at full brilliance.

(3) If this is not acceptable separate shipping lanes for North and South bound traffic should be introduced.
(4) Instructions are requested as to reporting independent sailings. To minimise signals propose comprehensive signals should be made once or twice daily for approval.
(N.O.I.C.Arrow, 301047 to F.O.B.A.A.)

C.T.F.125's 281141. Request you will deal with this. I concur in proposal.

(A.N.C.X.F., 301135A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

A.N.C.X.F. 291935A not to all.

As from 1200 Tuesday 3rd October, amended routine for sailings from Dieppe and East Calvados Areas is to be brought into force in accordance with F.O.B.A.A. 27 1820A which is being passed to all

(2) Procedure is to be regarded as for trial only and principle of sailing all ships and vessels in convoy will be re-introduced if it proves unsatisfactory.

(3) Ships other than properly accredited Hospital Carriers if carrying casualties and unescorted should be accompanied by craft to act as Rescue Vessels as heretofore.

(4) Request for air protection need not be made for ships sailing independently.

(5) Following procedure for reporting independent sailings is to be followed.

(A) A forecast of ships sailing during the ensuing 24 hours is to be signalled by N.O.'s i/c at 2000A daily.

(B) Forecast is to include names of ships, E.T.D. destination and E.T.A.

(C) In addition comprehensive sailing signals are to be made at 1400 and 2000 daily giving the names of ships which have sailed since the previous sailing signal. An amended E.T.A. is to be included for any ship if it differs by more than six hours from that given in the forecast. Similarly ships included in the forecast which have not sailed should be specified if their E.T.A. is thereby delayed by more than six hours.

(D) Forecast of sailing signals are to be addressed to the Commanders in Chief Portsmouth and Naval Authorities at every port included among the destinations and repeated to Admiralty A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) and F.O.B.A.A.

(E) If carrying casualties or P.O.W. the sailing of L.S.T. or of other vessels sailing independently is to be reported separately. This report is to include details of casualties etc. in the form already in use for ships sailing in convoy. When thus reported ships need not also be included in the comprehensive sailing signal (Sub. Para. (D) above).

(6) First forecast should be made at 2000 on 2nd October but should not include ships sailing in convoy before noon on 3rd October when the new routine comes into force. Similarly first comprehensive sailing signal made at 1400/3rd October will include only ships sailed independently since noon on that day.

(F.O.B.A.A. 302300A to N.O.I.C's Arrow and Dieppe)

Admiralty's 171938A May. All merchant ships from Far Shore bound for Ports on East Coast North of Thames are assembled and re-routed at Southend. It is not therefore considered that they require to hold routes for ports North of Thames, and consequently

/ S.R...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Sailings from Far Shore. (Contd.) S.R. route books need not be held by these ships. This will result in the saving of considerable work by N.C.S.O's.
 (2) Request all N.C.S.O's may be informed accordingly.
 (C. in C. Nore, 302307A to Admty)

Dover Straits now safe. Night passage through Dover Strait is no longer a requirement for reasons of shelling.
 (2) Westbound traffic should be routed via Q Z S 518 and 519 and Eastbound traffic Q Z S 513 and 517.
 (V.A.Dover, 301305A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Comdre. i/c Southend F.O.B.A.A., N.O.I.C.Arromanches, N.O.I.C.Newhaven.)

Shuttle Services. 272330 concurrence of C. in C. Nore and A.C. Dover now having been obtained it is requested that directions may be given to effect the necessary transfer of ships and craft and of shore organisations the requirement to open a shorter cross Channel route to more easterly Continental ports is an urgent need at the present time and it is hoped that it will be capable of fulfilment in the near future.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 301435A to Admty)

Convoy R.A.60. There has been an indication from a shore station repeat back that R.A.60 may have been reported by a U-Boat at about 1300Z.
 (D.D.I.C.301530A to A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North Russia)
 A.M.301530A - 2 further similar indications within 30 minutes before 1500Z suggest at least 2 U-Boats in contact with convoy.
 (D.D.I.C. 301700A to A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Convoy J.W.60. Kola Inlet 30th September. Departure SS. RAYMOND STEVENS, GEORGE T. ANGELL, ARUNAH S. ABELL, JOSHUA THOMAS, THOMAS U. WALTER for Molotovsk, SAMARITAN, ADOLPH S. OCHS, CARDINAL GIBBONS for River Dvina. Commodore in SAMARITAN. Speed 10 knots.
 E.T.A. 0900A/2nd October. Russian Report.
 (2) Admiralty pass to M.W.T.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 301702A to S.B.N.O.Archangel)

Nomenclature of "Overlord" Convoys. & Ports. Your 270010 consider V should be allocated to Havre and Rouen and L to Hull (and Humber Ports) for H Convoys. would then become spare.
 (2) If you concur request the sense of my 211558 amended as above may be promulgated as an AZ message with additional distribution to include addressees of my 211558.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 301800A to Admty)

/ Convoy...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoy
J.W.61.

Request you will provide the escort carriers and escorts referred to in C.in C. H.F's 271721 para. 3. and sail them to comply.
(D.O.D.,301805A to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy
H.X.F.310.

Following received from Cmdre. H.X.F. 310 begins: 14 ships report hurricane damage on 26th September including: (A) Number 31 EDWARD EVERETT, after gun out of action, platform broken and emergency steering gear broken.
(B) Number 81 REINHOLT, oil fuel tank leaking will require dry docking after discharging.
(C) Number 82. DONALD W. BAIN, 2 Locomotive tenders damaged.
(D) Number 103 H.T. RICKETTS has 3 foot crack in deck plates forward of amidships deck house.
(E) Number 101 C.P. HUNTINGTON, gangway lost.
(F) Number 142 G.H. (CURRY?) gangway broken.
(G) Number 114 SAMUEL CHASE, 134 H.W. RICHARDSON and 142 G.H. CUR-GRIP have total 13 gilders badly damaged.
(H) Total 12 lifeboats damaged amongst other minor damage to deck cargo and fittings. Ends.
(S.O.B.2. 301903A to Admty & C. in C. W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Aircraft
fired at
off S. Cruz.

Gibraltar General Recce Opsum 29th September
ZD (A) B112/132 (B) 1227 (C) 1626 (F) A/U (G)
Canaries sweep. ZF 4 A/A shells 300 yards astern
of aircraft which was $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles off Santa Cruz
(all times B).
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 300230B).

Radar
contact.

F/114 obtained Radar contact at 21 miles which
disappeared at three miles. Considered suspicious
Sono buoy used results negative. Position of
contact 41.53 N. 36. 23 W. at 0250Z/30.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 301156Z to C.T.G. 22.2)

ARGONAUT

My 291114. Sailed. E.T.A. 1145A October 2nd.
(F.O.G.M.A., 301615B to Capt. (D) 35).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Future employment of French Fleet.

Your 111350 / para. 4. Long term policy is being examined London and proposals will be put to C.C.S. through B.A.D. in due course. B.A.D.'s 191951Z refers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 300104A to C. in C. Med.) / Former T/S.

Return of Escort carriers to U.K.

Your 280834 September. Request you will sail carriers as in your para. 3 (b) (R) 3 (b). Escorts from U.K. will be provided to relieve "W"s in 43 degs. N. Further signal will be made. (2) Destinations. SEARCHER and PURSUER to Clyde. KHEDIVE to Belfast to disembark squadron stores and personnel, then to Clyde. (A.C.N.S.(F) 300145A to C. in C. Med.)

French wish to work from Brest/Cherbourg.

Your 271616. Brest will be unusable for some time and Cherbourg is fully employed as a transport and supply base. (2) Regret therefore that French request cannot be met at present but it will be borne in mind. (A.C.N.S.(F) 300240A to C. in C. Med.)

Daily Opsum No. 521.

(Extract)
29th September. Smoke and explosions seen in Heraklion Harbour area thought to be probable demolition activity. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 300922Z)

Aegean S/M Operations

From position 039 degs. 33' 024 degs. 16' at 2003A 30th proceed through 038 degs. 46' 025 degs 55' to Khios.
(2) Cancel para. 3 my 271247 not to all addressees.
(3) Cancel reference to P.65(UPSTART) in my 271545 not to all addressees.
(4) Report E.T.A. Khios to S.O. Force 51.
(5) After arrival Khios report in accordance with para. 2 my 300935 not to all addressees.
(6) S.O. Force 51 is requested to keep M.T.B's clear of above route.
(Capt. (S) 1. 301029A to UPSTART (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M., NEREUS, F.O.E.C., S.O. Force 51, Force A, S.O. (I) Izmir.)
At 0301A 1st October UNSWERVING shift patrol to areas Z.Z. and Y.Y. west of 023 degs. 45'.
(2) VISIGOTH leave patrol to pass 039 degs. 32' 024 degs. 17' at 0302A 1st thence on surface to 038 degs. 07' 025 degs. 37' at 1702A 1st.
(3) NEREUS proceed to patrol in S.S.
(4) Permission is requested from S.O. Force A for VISIGOTH to pass through Force A central area on passage to Kaso Straits.
(5) S.O. Force 51 is requested to keep coastal force clear of VISIGOTH route.
(Capt. (S) 1. 301132A to UNSWERVING, NEREUS, VISIGOTH, S.O. Force A, S.O. Force 51, (R) 1st S/M F, Force A, S.O.(I) Izmir.)

/This ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean
S/M
Operations.
(Contd.)

This is a repetition my 301716 addressed as above - begins:
"P.R. Piraeus 1200C 30th - departure one U-boat."
Ends.
(F.O.L.E.M. 301720C to Force A, Capt. (S) One, All Naval and Air Authorities concerned with U-boat disposition signals 020 degs. east to 030 degs east, S. and A. afloat (except S/Ms) operating in Aegean, Force 51, S.N.O.K.I.T., (R) 1st S/M F., NEREUS, V.A.M.)

Mining of
Salonika.

Admiralty has approved mining of Salonika if operational necessity requires provided.
(A) (?No) safe conduct ships is in port.
(B) Sufficient notice is given to arrange necessary diversion of safe conduct ships on passage to Salonika. BORKAND and NAGRA leave St. John N.B. October 2nd for Salonika and Piraeus respectively.
(2) Swedes being asked to expedite unloading of VASAOLM so that she may leave Salonika at early date.
(3) Request your early remarks.
(C. in C. Med. 301207A to F.O.L.E.M.)
/ Repetition requested.

Enemy
vessels
on Danube.

From Intelligence reports to date.
Following vessels reported on Danube on September 29th: between Vienna and Bratislava berths BECHELAREN and TCHERNOD: at Budapest S/M Chaser No. 1010, F Lighter No. 144 and 4 special purpose auxiliary vessels: Iron Gates 4 special purpose auxiliary vessels. Gunboat ALBERICH when LIANG repaired and Bratislava September 28th and ALEXANDRA between Belgrade and Baia September 25th.
(2) Photographic R/C of Salonika carried out September 24th. (N.L.O. Black Sea 301220)
/ or TCHEPAMEOD. / or SIDKIIA.
Note: This message received twice, via Alex. W/T and B.P.: both versions corruptly received.

Joint Naval
Army, R.A.F.,
Intelligence
appreciation.

(Extract)
All times G.M.T.
Three Aegean shipping summary. P.H. R. 29.
September revealed following.
Tigani breakwater blown. Leros. Portolago.
Arrived 2 pioneer landing craft 1 magda barge
1 ferry 2 Ems escorts all probably from Samos.
Comment. Return of this shuttle convoy plus demolition all Samos ports suggests evacuation possibly completed.
Crete. Suda. Arrived 1 trawler escort vessel and 3 caiques making total 10 caiques now present. C.X. reports Hospital ship shortly expected Suda to embark troops. Comment. Probably GRADISCA arrived Piraeus by 29th September.

/C.X. ...

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Joint Naval Army, R.A.F., Intelligence appreciation. (Contd.) C.X. reports arrival Canea 22nd September of an escort launch with harbour staff from Kissamos Kastelli which now evacuated and quays demolished. (C. in C. M.E. 301315C)

Shortage of tugs. Your 251145. As has been previously stressed the particular shortage in this theatre is of berthing tugs of 600 to 1000 H.P.

(2) The requirement for this type of tug is still increasing with the acquisition of new ports in spite of the addition of some salvaged tugs to the resources. In default of more tugs of this type being available, it continues to be necessary to divert ocean going tugs to this service.

(3) The present and future known commitments which allows no margin for breakdowns are -

(A) 600-1000 H.P. berthing tugs - 15.

(B) Sea Rescue and Assault tugs - 12. There is thus already a station deficit of five excluding American tugs which may be withdrawn without notice.

(4) Any further allocation of harbour tugs above five would release an equivalent number of ocean going tugs.

(5) On cessation of hostilities in Europe three of the sea rescue tugs in para. 3(B) could be immediately released.

(6) Shortage of berthing tugs in Canal Area, and demands for salvage in the Red Sea, make retention of PAULINE MOLLER in that area highly desirable.

(7) Above appreciation does not include tugs mentioned in para. 3 of number 4033/Med. 56/5/13 of 12th June 1944. (C. in C. Med. 301408, Caserta C.C.O. 031506A)

Mine clearance of Danube. Admiral Archer's 291520 para. 1. Request you will make early reply. (Hd. of M. 301820A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Yugoslav Naval C. in C. Request information when Yugoslav Naval C. in C. may be expected by Mr. Broad's Telegram D.O. 204 12 Sept. 1944 to Foreign Office para. 7 and my 231524 not to V.A.M. and F.O.T.A.L.I. para. 2 refer.

(2) If the Officer selected for the appointment does not arrive soon any movement of R.Y.N. vessels into the Adriatic will be delayed. (C. in C. Med. 302051 to Adty.)

Adriatic operations overplayed. The following Army News Service Bulletin was issued from Washington 27-28 Sept. "Air and sea borne troops of the newly formed Land Force of the Adriatic made first big penetration of the Balkans by the Eastern Islands with landings in Albanian and Yugoslavian Islands in the eighth major invasion of the European War. Land Forces Adriatic are in position to

/knife

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Adriatic operations overplayed. (Contd.).

knife 145 miles eastward to Aegean Coast and lop off Nazis estimated 50,000 men in Greece." B.B.C. London same date gave almost identical statement.

Both above Press/Radio stories apparently emanated from faulty editorial handling in combining and over-playing excerpts from A.F.H.Q. communique 27 Sept. and Axis D.N.B./Transocean same date. These were: Balkan Air Force release: "Seaborne and airborne troops of Land Forces Adriatic are at present operating on a wide front in Adriatic country which includes Albania and the Islands of Yugoslavia. Tactical air support has been given by the Balkan Air Force." Naval announcement, Adv A.F.H.Q. 27 Sept. "It was revealed today that the amphibious assault which destroyed the garrison of Himara, Albania, more than a month ago, had made the use of the Albanian coast road so precarious that German forces had been supplied by sea."

Transocean and D.N.B. from Berlin, 1225 hours 28 Sept.: "Allied forces have landed on a broad front along the Dalmatian Coast. German military sources report Wednesday noon that landing operations are spread out along entire Dalmatian Coast from Albania to the north. Combined land and naval forces are participating in the operations."

Steps taken here immediately to call attention of Washington and London to this faulty overplaying of news with request to keep future released in proper balance and perspective. As a result of all these broadcasts, Talbutin, Russian commander Bucharest, saw Weisner, local O.S.S. representative, and enquired as to the scope and scale of these landings as they would affect his operations and plans, and pointed out that they had not been informed of these operations from any other source. Weisner has been instructed to reply that these reports were merely exaggerations of the normal harassing operations in which we are engaged, in fact our operations in the Adriatic do not exceed the scale of a Command (?Commando) Brigade with an attached Battalion and other raiding detachments.

Am sending you the full story as Talbutin may have asked Moscow who, in turn, may have asked London similar questions.

Suggest that you should give the Russians the facts, but say to them that this appears to be a good example of failure to provide a real interchange of information and intentions, which we are fully prepared to enter into on a reciprocal basis.

(A.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O./30)

Situation report No. 448.

(1) Night 26th/27th coastal forces engaged 2 to 3 thousand ton tankers (as recd.) off Rapallo. 2 torpedo hits observed and enemy blew up with heavy explosion.

(2) Night 27th/28th L.C.F. (L) and landing craft G. operating off Ploca Point (043 degs. 30' N. 015 degs. 58' E.) attacked convoy of I Boats. 2 were sunk one possibly sunk and others damaged. No casualties or damage to our craft.

(3) (?FORBIN) and U.S.S. H.P. JONES bombarded guns and troops on 28th September in (?Ventimiglia) area. All targets well covered some return fire causing no damage.

(4) P.74 (VIGOROUS) reports sinking F lightner 60 miles West of Lemnos (?on) 27th September and P.73 (VOX) also reports sinking motor lighter.

(C. in C. Med. 302258A)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat
dispositions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas
unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 300332Z)

S.S. CAPE
SAN DIEGO,
"Q" report.

QQQQ position 78 R. 08 E. long. 01 R. 54 N.
Suspicious vessel failing to carry out manoeuvring
procedure about to close.
((W.S.I.W.) CAPE SAN DIEGO 300520Z)

TERRAPIN,
patrol
report.

(TERRAPIN) 2nd Far East Patrol was blank.
(2) Special operation was unsuccessful.
(3) Carried out air sea rescue duty during
operation "Light."
(C. in C.E.F. 300548)

S.S PETER
SILVESTER
U-Boat
attack.

SSSS position latitude 5 R. 46 S. longitude
76 R. 07 E.
Two torpedoes wakes crossing stern and bow
within last half-hour.
((K.F.N.K.) PETER SILVESTER, via Colombo W/T,
301500Z).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

O.N.S.254. My 291120Z. Operation "Scabbard" has been carried
A/S hunt out and area thoroughly searched without result.
by E.G.B.1. From further evidence from LOTUS I consider it
unlikely that her contact was a S/M. My P.C.S.
046 degs. 08' N. 051 degs. 43' W. 340 degs. 12
knots to St. Johns.

INMAN, POPPY, DIANELLA, LOTUS in company.
Weather report 8281 1742.
(S.O.E.G.B.1, 300300Z)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 301334Z, Cominch, 301600Z)

N.S.H.Q. S/M. Para. D. H.M.S. LOTUS Asdic contact and attack
attack 0840Z/29th 45 degs. 52' N. 51 degs. 20' W.
and sighting (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 301453Z)
Summary.

Russian Both Russian Attache's Capt. Dorakhov and Cdr.
S.C's Mirov have stated fifth and sixth groups Russian
for U.K. S.C's will be proceeding U.K. via Bermuda and
Azores.
(2) Request early clarification Your 300353. /
(F.O.N.F. 301507Z to B.A.D.) / Not identified.

H.S. BORDEAUX will be turned over to French as in para.
BORDEAUX. 2 of your 261415.
(2) Para. 3 (b) of A.M. 130803 was intended to
apply policy in letter of guidance referred to by
Cominch to special circumstances of this case.
It was believed U.S. would not wish to operate BORDEAUX in view
of their acceptance of her as a hospital ship.
(Hd. of M. 301808A to B.A.D.)

SS. AQUITANIA. Diversion order.
(Cominch C. & R. 292020Z to SS. AQUITANIA)

U-Boat Para. C. 300250Z Liberator Radar contact
incidents. 41.53 N. 36.23 W.
(Cominch, 302045Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack Para. B. (1) A/C E/224 obtained A.S.V. contact
and sighting at 0112Z/29, 62 degs. 50' N. 04 degs. 10' E.
summary. (2) A/C E/224 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0203Z/29

in /...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M in 62 degs. 48' N. 04 degs. 42' E.
attack (3) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1518Z/29 in
and sighting 56 degs. 15' N. 08 degs. 28' W.
Summary. (4) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1918Z/29 in
(Contd.) 55 degs. 19' N. 06 degs. 57' W.
(D.D.I.C. 301118A)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 301415A, 301417A)