

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

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

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

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

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

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Wednesday.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
to clear
Scheldt.
Attack on
Walcheren.

1. (a) Operations have been in progress by the Canadian Army to clear the Scheldt which forms the approach to Antwerp. Both banks of the Scheldt were held by the enemy. The operations culminated today, according to plan, with an attack on Walcheren Island, the most heavily defended area, at the mouth of the river.
- (b) This operation, which was known as "Infatuate" consisted of a triple assault as follows:
 - A. "Infatuate 1" - Assault across the Scheldt from Breskens to Flushing.
 - B. "Infatuate 2" - Landing at West Kappelle mounted from Ostend, and
 - C. An attack across the South Beveland causeway.
- (c) Operations "Infatuate 1 and 2" were undertaken by Marine Commandos, with engineer troops supporting the landing at West Kappelle. The landings were to be supported by the guns of WARSPITE, EREBUS and ROBERTS.
- (d) The assault on Flushing from Breskens, went well; but although the assault on West Kappelle Dyke from Ostend, was also successful, casualties in personnel and landing craft were heavy during the forenoon, when our aircraft were grounded by low visibility. The bombarding squadron was later assisted by air spotting, however, and close support was given in increasing measure. By sunset the Corps Commander was satisfied with progress generally.
- (e) Farther north, STEVENSTONE drove off two groups of E-boats which had presumably come out to lay mines, and sank one of them, and an aircraft of 16 Group claims probable hits on a group of 3 enemy M.T.Bs.

North
Western
Approaches.

2. The Frigate WHITAKER, whilst escorting convoy S.C.159 off Loch Swilly, was badly damaged by an explosion which detonated her hedgehog magazine and destroyed everything forward of the bridge. GORE, later relieved by tug EARNER, successfully towed the after part into Derry. S.O. Escort Force, in AFFLECK, after a very thorough but barren U-boat hunt, leans rather to the view that the explosion was caused by a stray British mine, of which four have been sunk in this area in the last 48 hours. 105 survivors have been brought in, none of them officers.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

U.S. 56.

3. The Commodore of convoy G.U.S.56 protests against the unsafe trim of many vessels joining
the...

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SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

G.U.S. 56.
(contd).

the convoy. Such ships are unsafe to cross the Western Ocean at this season.

Mediterranean.

4. The German hospital ship BONN reported this morning that she was being chased by enemy gunboats but she escaped into Sibenik.

Greece and
Aegean.

5. Milos I. The Germans at Milos show no sign of surrender. Our landing parties are satisfactorily established ashore and are receiving assistance from the Greeks.

Australia and New Zealand.

Philippines.

6. Enemy air attacks today caused some damage to Allied ships in Leyte Gulf.

Moluccas.

7. A patrol Liberator last night blew up a 7,000 ton tanker off Tawi Tawi.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Formation of 10th M.S.F. Following Algerine Class minesweepers will form 10th M.S.F. CHEERFUL, COURIER (2nd S.O.), HARE, JEWEL, LIBERTY (S.O.),
(2) Three additional ships will be allocated later.
(3) TAHAY and TOCOGAY are attached as danlayers.
(4) On completion of trials all ships are to proceed to Granton for M/S work up. Arrangements for A/S work up will follow.
(5) Flotillas will form at Granton and operate under and be administered by C. in C.Rosyth.
(6) Accounts of all ships will be carried in BOSCAWEN.
(D.M.S., 011048A to A.S.C.B.S., C. in C.Rosyth).

Naval Control at Ramsgate. It is intended to re-establish at an early date Naval Control at Ramsgate to deal with the following shipping passing through the Downs:-
(a) Coastal shipping between east and south coast U.K. ports.
(b) Shipping from east coast ports and London to and from the Pas de Calais area.
(c) Shipping from south coast ports and ocean convoys for Ostend, Antwerp etc.
(2) Naval Control staff will be appointed. Request you will report what small vessels will be required and whether they can be supplied from local resources.
(A.C.N.S.(UT) 011145A to V.A. Dover).

Transfer of 3 A/S trawlers from the Nore to Plymouth. Request you will transfer three A/S trawlers to C. in C.Plymouth. A.M. 011608 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 011729A to C. in C.Nore).

Movements.

STRIKER, FENCER. UNDAUNTED sailed to R/V with STRIKER and FENCER. My 311704 refers. Speed of advance 30 knots to Tuskar Rock thence as requisite to R/V at daylight 2nd November.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 011034A to Admty., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Plymouth, STRIKER).
Sailed MUSKETEER, MARNE and KELVIN to R/V with STRIKER, FENCER. N.O.I.C.Greenock 301648 not to all addressees refers.
(N.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 011239 to C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.G.M.A. C. in C. Med., STRIKER).

VINDICTIVE. Intend to sail VINDICTIVE at 0800/5th for Scapa, adjusting speed to arrive a.m. 7th.
(C. in C.Nore, 011214A to A.C.O.S.).

UGANDA. From position D steer for new positions:
F. 53 degs. N. 20 degs. W. G. 58.04 N. 14.15 W.
H. 59.45 N. 11.10 W. J. 000 degs. Butt of Lewis
10 miles thence to Scapa.
(Admty., 011915A to UGANDA).

/INDEFATIGABLE...

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INDEFATIGABLE. It is not practicable for INDEFATIGABLE to leave John Browns before the p.m. tide of November 7th. Ship will then have to fuel time required approx. 5 hours. On arrival destination approx. five hours will be required to trim ship prior to docking in consequence ship cannot reach docking port in time to dock before 10th November as stated in INDEFATIGABLE'S 251403 October. With the prevalence of existing foggy conditions no definite assurance of times of departure can be given. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 011943 to Admty.).

E.G.17. E.G.17 will be required to sail November 7th to relieve E.G.14 in Rosyth Command. (C. in C.W.A., 012150A to Capt. D.Greenock).

OCEANWAY. On completion of embarking craft pass Spithead Gate 0930A/2nd and proceed to Dover. (2) Route by Q.Z.S.383, 384, 488, 513 and 517, speed 15 knots E.T.A. 1700A/2nd. (C. in C.Portsmouth, 012200A to OCEANWAY).

OperationsNorth Sea.

Walcheren Expedition. Proceed from Small Downs at 0400A to N.F.5 buoy carry out Oropesa search, followed by LL/SA search of Channel between N.F.5 and N.F.8 buoy. Then carry out Oropesa search of channel between N.F.8 buoy and O.D.2 buoy and anchor off Ostend for night. (C. in C.Nore, 010053A to M.S.1.).

My 312330. Most unlikely that air will take part. (A.N.C.X.F., 010631A to S.O.Force T.).

"Infatuate" Sitrep No.1.

"Infatuate 1" going well in bridgehead established at Flushing. Only slight retaliatory action against Breskens Bay. Air reported that they were unlikely to take part in "Infatuate 2" but weather here looks more hopeful now.

(A.N.C.X.F., 010720A to Admty., C. in C.Nore.).

Following from Squadron Leader Fleming Tangmere begins:- all forward bases closed in by weather unable to operate. Sufficient improvement unlikely before noon.

(C. in C.Portsmouth, 010730A to Force T).

"Nelson" 010945.

(S.O.Force T, 010847 to D.S.O. Force T, A.N.C.X.F., Admty., Com. Belgium, N.O.I.C.Ostend, C. in C. Nore).

Following received from N.O.I.C.Antwerp. Begins:- Chart captured from enemy hospital carrier yesterday Tuesday shows minefield enclosed by following points:-

/ (A)...

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Operations

North Sea.

Walcheren Expedition (Contd.) (A) 51 degs. 33.5' N. 3 degs. 28' E.
 5 degs. 35.7' N. 3 degs. 34' E. 51 degs. 37.5' N.
 3 degs. 28' E. 51 degs. 37.5' N. 3 degs. 34' E.
 (B) 51 degs. 28.5' N. 3 degs. 20.5' E. 51 degs.
 28.5' N. 3 degs. 25.5' E. 51 degs. 30.5' N. 3
 degs. 25.5' E. 51 degs. 31.5' N. 3 degs. 21.5' E.
 (C) 51 degs. 24.2' N. 3 degs. 22' E. 51 degs. 25' N. 3 degs. 31' E.
 51 degs. 26.5' N. 3 degs. 31' E. 51 degs. 26.5' N. 3 degs. 22' E.
 (D) 51 degs. 23.5' N. 3 degs. 22' E. 51 degs. 24.5' N. 3 degs.
 30.2' E. 51 degs. 22.1' N. 3 degs. 22' E.
 (E) All waters south and west of point 51.37 N. 03.10 E. have
 placed naval guard on hospital carriers, report follows D.T.G.
 010107. Ends.

(A.N.C.X.F., 010915A to N.O. Force T.).

Mine detonated in sweep 219 N.F. 6 buoy 6 cables.

(S.O.1 M.S.F., 011030A to C. in C. Nore).

"Infatuate" Sitrep No.2.

"Infatuate 1". Landing of assault and follow up completed at
 0810. Casualties to craft and naval personnel small.

"Infatuate 2". Naval Commander Force "T" confirmed intention
 to assault as planned at 0945 codeword "Nelson".

(2) Commandos now reported ashore. Spotting aircraft still
 grounded but some close support aircraft have been up.

Weather here cloudy variable 2/10th to 9/10th 1500 to 2000 feet.

(A.N.C.X.F., 011044A to Admty., C. in C.Nore.).

Request destination of WARSPITE, EREBUS and ROBERTS on
 completion of operations.

(C. in C.Nore, 011045A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Clear northern half of channel between N.F.5 and N.F.8
 bouys immediately.

(C. in C.Nore, 011137A to S.O.M.S.1).

"Infatuate" Sitrep No.3.

"Infatuate 1". 2 Battalions and 1 Commando enlarging bridgehead
 in Flushing. Craft now being shelled whilst crossing river
 but casualties still small.

"Infatuate 2". Reported beaching now going successfully but
 heavy casualties to craft largely caused Battery W.13. Our
 escorting ships are however now approaching this. Weather here
 cloudy 9/10 about 1000 feet. Limited air support still being
 given.

(A.N.C.X.F., 011235A to Admty., C. in C.Nore).

Your are not to commence sweeping from N.F.13 into Schelde
 till ordered by C. in C. Nore. A.N.C.X.F. is requested to
 inform me when

(a) batteries on Walcheren have been captured

(b) controlled minefield posts in river entrance have been cap-
 tured and fields rendered safe.

(C. in C.Nore, 011350A to Capt. M/S. Force A).

Sitrep. Situation on beaches easier. All L.C.Ts. unbeached.
 One left damaged on beach. One store L.C.T. at least mined.
 Military situation completely obscure and opposition still heavy
 with lack of close support and air spotting keenly felt. Regret
 casualties among personnel and craft heavy.

(S.O. Force T, 011512A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/ Sitrep...

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North Sea

Walcheren Expedition (Contd.) Sitrep. 41 Commandos 500 yards north of W.15 Battery under fire from Domburg. 48 Commandos still N.W. of W.13 Battery. (S.O. Force T, 011531A to A.N.C.X.F.). "Infatuate" Sitrep No.4. "Infatuate 1" Landing of 537th Battalion of 155 Brigade delayed by shelling of Breskens Harbour. "Infatuate 2". All 3 commandos ashore and operation developing well but some batteries still giving trouble. Hope 26 Squadron will return for ships this afternoon from airfields this side. Air (co-operation) worked WARSPITE a.m. Weather at command post cloudy 5/10 at about 3 thousand to 4 thousand. Increased air support. (A.N.C.X.F., 011540A to Admty., C. in C.Nore). Sitrep W.13 battery attacked at 1500 by 12 Typhoons (rocket firing). (2) Too accurate fire on beach to unload store carrying L.C.T. until dark. (3) 2 Avre managed to touch down successfully. The other 2 unable to unload because of damage have to return to Ostend. (S.O. Force T, 011614A to A.N.C.X.F.). Sitrep. Air spotting now begun with heavy bombardment. (2) WARSPITE firing at W.17 and W.238 ROBERTS at W.288. (3) Damaged craft being sailed back to Ostend. (4) Nothing fresh known of military situation. (5) Spitfires have been bombing in support of our troops. (6) Bombarding squadron sailing shortly. (S.O. Force T, 011706A to A.N.C.X.F.). A large number damaged (?craft) one in tow between West Kappelle and Ostend mostly unescorted. (S.O. Force T, 011720A to C. in C.Nore). "Infatuate" Sitrep No.5. "Infatuate 1". 3rd Battalion 155 Brigade landed without incident. 8 L.C.A. out of action. "Infatuate 2". WARSPITE and monitors all engaged this afternoon with aircraft spotting. Casualties to landing craft squadron reported to be 80%. Air support this evening very good in improved weather. Corps Commander is satisfied with progress of operation generally. (A.N.C.X.F., 011840A to Admty., C. in C.Nore). Sitrep. Military situation 2000/1st. No.41 Commando in W.17 Battery number 48 Commando W.13 Battery number 47 Commando in rear of W.13. Over 400 prisoners of war. Future army intentions not yet known. (2) It is intended to employ remaining close support force tomorrow except in case of emergency as only 2 L.C.G.(L) and 2 L.C.S.(L) remain operational. (3) Monitors are being held in readiness in case they are required. (4) Bombarding squadron engaged following targets today W.17, W.5, W.15, W.13, W.288, W.238, W.11, W.154, and W.285, mostly unobserved shooting during forenoon and air spotted p.m. (5) All hospital carriers have returned to Ostend fully laden. Have ordered them to return as soon as possible with additional L.C.Ts. to embark either wounded or prisoners.

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North Sea.

Walcheren
expedition
(Contd.)

(6) If situation permits will hand over to D/S O.A.G. p.m. tomorrow 2nd November and return Ostend in KINGSMILL.
(S.O. Force T, 012121 to A.N.C.X.F.).
Your 011045 Portsmouth subject to Admiralty concurrence.
(A.N.C.X.F., 012204 to C. in C. Nore).

Proceed at daylight tomorrow Thursday and carry out Oropesa search from O.D.2 Buoy to N.F.8 Buoy if this has not been done today Wednesday then clear Southern half of channel between N.F.8 Buoy and N.F.5 Buoy extending south of channel where depth of water allows. Return to Ostend anchorages for night.

(C. in C.Nore, 012340A to M.S.1).

Action off
Ymuiden.

Operations last night 31st/1st.

STEVENSTONE on patrol 15 engaged and drove off one or possibly two groups of 3 or 4 E-Boats each between N.F.5 and N.F.8 buoys at 2200 and 2315. These had previously been detected on radar by

RETALICK on patrol 19. STEVENSTONE claims one E-Boat sunk. Wreckage and lifefloats found at daylight.

(2) Minelaying probably the intention. No further details at present available but owing to presence of STEVENSTONE accurate minelaying in convoy route not thought likely.

(3) 4 M.T.Bs. ordered to cover Ymuiden for returning E-Boats fought inconclusive action with M class sweepers southwest of Ymuiden.

(C. in C. Nore, 011122A to Admty., V.A. Dover).

Operations

West Coast France.

Patrol.

Patrolled in accordance with your 301908A. Contacted Ile de Yeu, St. Gilles and Les Sables.

(2) Position 1900 vicinity Ile de Yeu. Course 180 degs. 16 knots.

(3) German aircraft have been operating between 0200 and 0300 to supply arms and newspapers to St. Nazaire. Some dropped in F.F.I. territory, copy of newspaper obtained.

Unconfirmed information indicates that there are now no U-Boats St. Nazaire. Three armed trawlers moored near Paimboeuf, M.Bs. 15 feet length patrol area.

O.P.A.S.IV (B) vicinity Bayonne. Fuel remaining 0800/1st 82%. Weather report. Wind N.E. force 3. Pressure 1015 M.Bs.

9/10ths cloud at 1-2000 ft. Visibility 2 -4000 yards. Weather drizzling.

(BLYSKAWICA, 012057A to C. in C.Plymouth).

Operations

Western Approaches.

Patrol.

Your 312115 if not in contact return to patrol

/forthwith...

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Patrol forthwith ordered in my 311919.
(Contd.) (C. in C.Plymouth, 010011A to E.G.31).
E.G.31 proceed forthwith at Asdic sweeping speed to patrol in rectangle sides 080 degs. 40 miles 170 degs. 12 miles from 49.57 04.30.
Force 27 patrol in rectangle sides 050 degs. 25 miles 140 degs. 17 miles from 49 degs. 32' N. 05 degs. 52' W. sweeping through position 125 degs, Bishop 15' before entering area.
(2) Convoy C.U.44 due to pass Lizard eastbound from N. of Scillies at about 1630/1 speed 14 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth, 011010A to E.G.31, Force 27).
E.G.31 maintain Z.G. search between 49.54 N. 03.48 W. and 50.17 N. 02.30 W. distance apart of ships 2 miles.
Force 27 zigzag search between 49.52 N. 04.20 W. and 49.13 N. 05.05 W. distance apart of ships 3 miles.
(2) E.G.31 is to proceed automatically to an A/C. report with 1 hours steaming from patrol line east of 4 degs. W. Force 27 west of 4 degs. W.
(C. in C.Plymouth, 011906A to S.O.E.G.31, Force 27).
BRISSENDEN pass Gate at 0600A/2 and proceed to take over stationary contact located by NORTHERN WAVE in position 250 Lizard 6 at 1530 today.
(2) BRISSENDEN report situation at 1000.
(3) On relief NORTHERN WAVE resume passage.
(4) Communications. Constant watch B.N. and 2300 kc/s. Loud speaker 2410 kc/s.
(C. in C.Plymouth, 012212A to BRISSENDEN, NORTHERN WAVE).

Suspected Report by signal prefixed immediate initial
U-Boats. method of detection of U-Boat referred to in your 311150 October and reasons which led contact to be classified as submarine.
(C. in C.W.A., 011145A to NORTHERN SUN).
U-Boat attacked by NORTHERN SUN may now be in approx. latitude 49 degs. 30' N. longitude 06 degs. 25' W.
Numerous contacts the latest at 0920Z/1st November, may indicate one moving up Channel in approx. latitude 49 degs. 40' N. longitude 04 degs. 10' W.
(D.D.I.C., 011435A to Cominch, S. and A., Area C).
My 011530. Carried out further attack in same position 1709. Underwater explosion followed at 1724.
(NORTHERN WAVE, 011730 to C. in C.Plymouth).
/ Attacking doubtful contact.
My 011730 amend position 250 degs. Lizard Head 6 miles. Contact is stationary on bottom. Propose remaining till after dark. Request instructions.
(NORTHERN WAVE, 011900 to C. in C.Plymouth).
Your 011605A not to Admiralty. Initial method of detection by A/S contact at 1800 yards. Reasons for classifying contact as submarine in 1st attacks (1) Doppler changing from slightly low to marked low.
(2) Low relative speed of approach decreasing to 5 knots.
(3) Small extent of target indicating end of submarine.
(4) Plot giving contact proceeding same course and increasing from 2 to 6 knots.

/(5)...

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Suspected U-Boat (Contd.) (5) Contact held to 150 yards. In second attack:-
(1) Doppler slightly high charging to same.
(2) High relative speed of approach at first.
(3) Bearing moving left.
(4) Extent of target greater indicates beam on submarine.
(5) Plot giving contact altering to 090 degs. to starboard at 2 knots.
(6) Contact estimates at 350 yards indicating submarine bottoming.
(7) Clear cut recorder distinct in both attacks.
(NORTHERN SUN, 011905A to C. in C.W.A.);

Action to be taken when a ship in convoy is torpedoed. Orders for Operation C.E. (W.A.0202/7 dated 11th October 1944) as amended by W.A.G.M. 080 N (D.T.G. 231946/October) and W.A. 0202/7 dated 25th October 1944 (now in course of distribution) are to be brought into force forthwith.
(2) Specific orders for carrying out operations C.E.1, C.E.2, or C.E.3 will be passed by signal to forces and authorities concerned as and when required.

(3) Complete distribution of charts has not yet been made, and they are not therefore to be used until further orders.
(4) Orders for Operation C.E. have not yet been received by all ships.
(5) Orders for operations C.W. and C.X. (W.A. 00770/104 of 24th February 1944 and W.A. 0770/106 of 30th March 1944) not to all addressees are cancelled and are to be destroyed. Destruction certificates are not required.
(6) Cancel W.A.G.Ms. 045 N, 050N, 051 N. (C. in C.W.A., 011610A, W.A.G.M. 087 N).

Spanish fishing vessels in prohibited areas. My 311936A October. If after a short period of trial, the measures outlined in my 241837 October (084 N) do not prove effective, it is intended to instruct ships in my command that if they encounter fishing vessels which have been previously warned against working in the prohibited area, such vessels are to be sunk after the crew have been removed. With this in view, a record of vessels encountered and warned will be kept. (C. in C.W.A., 011845A to Admty.).

Operations

Northwestern Approaches

Patrol. Your 311811. E.T.A. 0501S/2nd.
(2) Weather report 0954 3072 suitable. (E.G.18, 010015A to C. in C.W.A.).

/My...

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Patrol (Contd.) My 311811 para.1 not to all. Carry out operation C.E.1 as in memorandum W.A. 0202/7 dated 11th October 18th E.G. will form force 32.
(2) Convoys are to be supported until further orders between parallels 58 degs. 40' and 59 degs. 05' and meridians 05 degs. and 06 degs. 30'. Patrols between passage of convoys are to be limited to this area.
(3) C. in C.Rosyth, A.C.I.C., and N.O.I.C. Aultbea are requested to inform escorts of W.N./E.N. and U.R./R.U. convoys that C.E.1 is in force.
(C. in C.W.A., 011859A to S.O.E.G.18).

U-Boat hunt. Ship torpedoed in position 055 degs. 30' N. 007 degs. 39' W.
(S.O. Force 33 in AFFLECK, 010220A to C. in C. W.A.).
My 010235 not to all addressees.
WHITAKER was torpedoed while in position Fox on close screen. 1st E.G. carried out Gooseberry datum point 180 degs., wreck 6 miles, side 9 miles. 26th E.G. carried out "Observant" from close inshore to 000 degs. Fanad Point 20 miles.
(S.O. Force 33, 010250A to C. in C.W.A.).
Join Force 33 with despatch in position 055 degs. 30' 007 degs. 39'.
(C. in C.W.A., 010257A to S.O.E.G.9).
My 010257 not to all. Join Force 33 consisting of 1st E.G. (S.O. in AFFLECK) and 26th E.G. searching for U-Boat which torpedoed ship Ex S.C.159 in 55 degs. 30' 07 degs. 39 at 0220. Report E.T.A.
(C. in C.W.A., 010307A to S.O.E.G.9).
Am closing position detaching LOCH ALVIE to Merville to replace Oscillator.
(S.O.E.G. 9, 010337A to Com.D.W.A.).
WHITAKER still afloat having lost all forward of bridge. GORE is endeavouring to tow wreck to North Channel. Request tugs.
Survivors to date. 7 plus 2 seriously injured in GORE, 22 in wreck 4 in NYASALAND. Doctor from rescue ship transferred to GORE to attend injured. No officer survivors.
(3) Conditions suitable.
(S.O. Force 33, 010435A to C. in C.W.A.).
E.G. 9 joined Force 33, sharing square search with 1st E.G. and taking western half.
(S.O. Force 33, 010440A to C. in C. W.A.)
Request maximum air effort over Lough Swilly area.
(S.O. Force 33, 010610A to C. in C. W.A.)
Situation at 0930A/1st.
BEACON HILL attacking contact in position 055 degs. 36' N., 007 degs. 24' W. with no results so far. E.G. 9 attacking contact in position 055 degs. 27' N., 007 degs. 50' W. has raised oil but no wreckage. Remainder of groups continue observant and box sweep as in my 010250A. GORE with WHITAKER in tow making 5 knots abreast Inishtrahull. AFFLECK investigating both contacts under attack. If nothing promising

/comes ...

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Northwestern Approaches

U-Boat comes from them intend carrying out blitz with
hunt. all ships firing 20 charges each, to cover an
(Contd.) area 5 miles shorewards and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles either side
of torpedoing.

(S.O. Force 33, 010935A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 010930⁺ to C. in C. W.A. EARNER (incomplete group) should
have WHITAKER in tow by 1315A. Intend proceeding Londonderry
to land survivors and carry out repairs. E.T.A. will be
signalled later.

(GORE, 011150A to Com. (D) W.A.)

+ WHITAKER has 7 dead on board.

Arrival GORE.

(Com. (D) W.A., 011447A to C. in C. W.A.)

Situation at 1600A/1st. No results from blitz. 9th E.G.
sweep close inshore from Fanad Point to Horn Head. 1st E.G.
sweep inshore from Fanad Point to Malin Head. 26th E.G. carry
out observant.

After dark intend carry out 30 miles radar sweep between Tory
Island and Inishtrahull groups spread from east to west with
4 miles between each group, ships spread in line abreast 4
miles apart.

(3) Submit proximity of Lough Swilly to attack gives enemy
excellent Schnorkel haven and sweeping therein by M.L.S. might
pay.

(4) Conditions suitable.

(S.O. Force 33, 011602A to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived LOCH ACHANALT and WHITAKER in tow of EARNER.

(Com. (D) W.A., 011741A to C. in C. W.A.)

Have combed immediate area for U-Boats in average conditions
finding established wrecks easily. Only area untouched is
within Lough Swilly. Intend leaving a holding down party in
attack vicinity at daylight, sweeping further afield with
remainder of escort.

(2) Conditions at moment of explosion were flat calm, clear sky,
full moon bearing 190 degs., convoy course 85 degs. Visibility
was at least 6 miles down moon and 12 miles up. Position D, F,
H and I were filled on starboard side.

(3) As I consider submarine would have fired more than one
torpedo at such a target request information if fatal explosion
could have been caused by stray British mine. 4 have been sunk
in this area in 48 hours, the last one at 1000A today.
Survivors stated hedgehog magazine was exploded.

(S.O. Force 33, 011820A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

Patrols. V.P.73 forced returned owing to engine trouble
in M.T.B. 688 at 0715A/1st November.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 010735A to A.C.O.S.)
V.P.77 postponed expected time of departure now
0830A/3rd November.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 012103A to A.C.O.S.)

/Request ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Request for
escort
carriers.

In view of F.O.C.T. 301845 request one escort carrier preferably equipped with Avenger A/C may be allocated temporarily to Home Fleet until return of TRUMPETER. This would enable mine-laying operations to be continued during November. (C. in C. H.F., 011105A to Admty.)

Intended
shipping
strike on
Vingvaagen.

The following operation is to be carried out.
(1) Force One consisting of EURYALUS (S.O.), PURSUER and 4 destroyers as detailed by Com. (D) leave Scapa p.m. on D day to carry out a fighter sweep on the Norwegian coast with PURSUER's aircraft.
(2) Objective is the shipping anchorage at Vingvaagen 63.31 N., 09.19 E. If there is no shipping in the anchorage, a 40 mile sweep of the leads to the westward of the above position should be carried out.
(3) Necessary intelligence will be supplied to ships concerned.
(4) Any shipping seen may be attacked subject to certain restrictions which will be forwarded.
(5) EURYALUS is requested to plan the operation in conjunction with PURSUER who is to prepare the air plan.
(6) Outline of plan should provide for the strike being carried out a.m. on D+2. Strike may be postponed up to 24 hours only after which the Force is to retire towards Shetlands.
(7) If conditions are favourable on D+2 a second strike may be carried out on that day.
(8) EURYALUS is to report by signal as soon as all strikes have been completed. Subsequent movements of the Force will be ordered by signal.
(9) D day and codeword follow.
(C. in C. H.F., 011203A to EURYALUS, PURSUER, Com. (D) H.F.)

Bouquet to
IMPLACABLE.

Their Lordships note with satisfaction the highly successful attacks on shipping carried out by naval aircraft of IMPLACABLE which made a good start to the ship's first commission. (1st S.L., 011702A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy
R.A. 61.

Kola Inlet 1st November.
Arrived Group 15 from White Sea to join R.A.61 sailing for Loch Ewe 1000A/2nd November. S.B.N.O. Archangel 281742A and S.B.N.O. Murmansk 291250A and 311704A (not to C.S.10) refers. (S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 011046A to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Patrol.

It is intended to continue searching to south west until a.m. Friday 3rd November. 14th E.G. will then proceed to Scapa for fuel. Report

/forthwith...

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Patrol forthwith if fuel situation permits.
(Contd.) (C. in C. Rosyth, 011051A to S.O.E.G.14).
Your 011051A. Yes. Lowest percentage fuel remaining 0800/3rd will be 25.
(S.O.E.G.14, 011200A to C. in C. Rosyth).

If not in contact by 2200A, shift to new Gamma patrol line between 059 degs. 49' N. 003 degs. 45' W. and 060 degs. 05' N. 005 degs. 16' W. until 0800A tomorrow, Thursday 2nd, when centre of patrol is to be moved 18 miles 199 degs. without further orders.

Attention is called to Q.Z.X.170 and Q.Z.X. 233.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 011601A to S.O.E.G.14).

2000 position Wednesday. CLYDE, FIELD, KARMOY due Scapa 2030 from west 9.

E.G.14 (S.O.), FAME patrols between:-

059 degs. 56' 003 degs. 05' and 060 degs. 32' 004 degs. 20' N. and W.

Swedish SAIVO, PARAMATTA, STEGEHOLM, VINGAREN, due Faroes from east.

NOVA, LOCH NAGAR, BACHAQUERO, MACBETH, HAMLET, GRAEMSAY, OKSOY. 059 degs. 38' N. 001 degs. 20' W. to Aberdeen 10½.

BACHAQUERO detaches to Scapa.

CHESHIRE COAST Duncansby Head to Aberdeen 10.

J.W.61A, S.O. CYGNET. 059 degs. 00' 005 degs. 10' to 059 degs, 26' 004 degs.24' N. and W. where BERWICK, CAMPANIA and six destroyers join from Scapa thence to northward 15.

(A.C.O.S., 011158A to Cs. in C. Rosyth, W.A. H.F.).

Situation Add to my 011240. U.S.S. EASTWIND and U.S.S.
report. SOUTHWIND 066 degs. 30' N. 021 degs. 00' W. bound Reykjavik 9.
(A.C.I.C., 011452A to Ships north of 60 degs. north between longitudes 10 degs. and 30 degs. west, Admiralty, C. in C.W.A., A.C.O.S., C. in C.H.F.).

Allied Air Activity

Patrol off Position, course and speed four unknown ships
Ymuiden. 52 degs. 16' E. 3 degs. 53' E. position based on Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 0001 030 degs. 25 knots.
(A.C. TYDH, 010024 to 16 Group).

Position of 3 enemy minesweepers 10 escort vessels 52 degs. 53' N. 4 degs. 35' E. position based on Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 0200 course 190 degs.

(A.C. TYDH, 010215 to 16 Group).

Have attacked enemy with bombs level result of attack hits probable.

(A.C. TYDH, 010310 to 16 Group).

Convoy previously reported course north east 8 knots.

(A.C. TYDH, 010325 to 16 Group).

Position of enemy 3 unknown vessels 52 degs. 27' N. 4 degs. 11' E. based on a Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 0100.

(A.C. TYDH, 010326 to 16 Group).

Position course and speed of enemy thee M.T.Bs. 52 degs. 29'

/North...

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Allied Air Activity

Patrol off north 3 degs. 51' E. based on a Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 0100 060 degs. 25 knots. (A.C. TYDH, 010345 to 16 Group).
Ymuiden
(Contd.) Position course and speed of enemy four unknown vessels 52 degs. 13' N. 4 degs. 05' E. based on a Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 0300
150 degs. 15 knots.
(A.C. TYDH, 010345A to 16 Group).

Enemy Air Activity

ULSTER Headquarters, Fighter Command, 201920 October.
QUEEN (2) Detection Range of G.C.I. in STUART PRINCE
type V on twin-engined aircraft is:-
flying bomb. 8 miles at 100 feet 13 miles at 200 feet 20
miles at 500 feet.
Equipment is operated as C.O.L. with aerial height of 53 feet.
(3) STUART PRINCE is expected in U.K. on about 3rd November.
(4) Ship has all necessary H.F. and V.H.F./R.T. communications.
(5) Arrangements have been made for senior F.D.O. to be flown home. He is expected very shortly.
(6) Request you will discuss with Headquarters, Fighter Command, whether this ship can usefully assist in meeting requirements. (A.C.N.S.(H), 011208A to H.Q.F.C.).

Mining

Deep Mining C.F. Serial A.3 completed.
in St. (APOLLO, 010047A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Plymouth,
George's N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
Channel.

Situation Sitrep 42nd M.S. Flotilla Operation "Pilgrim".
Report. 40th M.S. Flotilla replenishing Portsmouth. 31st
M.S. Flotilla operation progressing. One M.K.1
cut in position 050 degs. 09' 04" N. 001 degs. 02'
05" E.
119th M.S. Flotilla 150th M.S. Flotilla 181st Trawler Group, operation postponed owing to weather.
150th M.S. Flotilla Oropesa sweep river Seine continuing. It is expected to complete operation "Pilgrim" on November 3rd. (Capt. M/S East, 010922 to C.T.F.125).

Enemy Chart captured from enemy hospital carrier yesterday
minefields. Tuesday shows minefields enclosed by following points:-
(A) 051 degs. 33.05 N. 003 degs. 28' E. 051 degs. 35.07' N. 003 degs. 26' E. 051 degs. 37.05 N. 003 degs. 28' E. 051 degs. 37.05 N. 003 degs. 34' E.
(B) 051 degs. 28.05 N. 003 degs. 20.5' E. 051 degs. 28.05 N. 003 degs. 25.05 E. 051 degs. 30.05 N. 003 degs. 25.05 E. 051 degs. 31.05' N. 003 degs. 21.05' E.
(C) 051 degs. 24.02' N. 003 degs. 22' E. 051 degs. 25' N. 003 degs. 31' E. 051 degs. 26.05 N. 003 degs. 31' E. 051 degs. 26.05 N. 003 degs. 22' E.

/(D)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Enemy minefields (Contd.) (D) 051 degs. 23.05 N. 003 degs. 22' E. 051 degs. 24.05 N. 003 degs. 30.02' E. 051 degs. 22.01 N. 003 degs. 22' E.
(E) All waters south and west of point 051 degs. 37' N. 003 degs. 10' E. Have placed naval guard on hospital carrier. Report follows.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 010107A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Enemy
Minefield West of Terneuzen, *clearance*
Controlled mining party has detonated 4 mines in channel 1½ miles west of Terneuzen. Other mines secured failed to detonate although explosive charge appears to be complete. Consider mines may be active and constitute danger to shipping.
(Com. Belgium, 011126A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Minesweeping off Low Countries. Cancel my 312346. Operation "Calendar". Capt. M/S. F.A. and Section I (corrupt group) 165 M/S Flotilla are to leave Sheerness at 1600 tomorrow Thursday and proceed direct to N.F.10 Buoy. Further orders following.
(C. in C.Nore, 011347A to Capt. M/S Sheerness).

Enemy Intelligence

German Warships - Oslo Fjord. (1) Cruisers. See my 291227 October.
(A) EMDEN reported in Horten on October 16th and believed in Moss on October 21st and October 23rd.
(B) KOLN in Horten on October 18th and October 19th.
(2) Destroyers. 7 destroyers were reported in Oslo Fjord late October. These included:-
(a) Z.30 towed into Oslo on October 21st severely damaged after mine explosion off Jomfruland. Bow damaged and stern severely damaged. Reported stern is to be cut away and bow section towed to Germany. Many casualties on board B.2.
(b) Z.6 undergoing minor engine repairs in Akers Ship Yard October 23rd. Expected ready for sea shortly. B.2.
(c) Another report states on October 19th or October 20th a destroyer (number unknown) called at Oslo and landed dead and wounded. She had a whole in her bow. B.3.
(d) KARL GALSTER, FRIEDRICH IHN and THEODOR RIEDEL all called Horten October. B.2.
(3) RICHARD BEITZEN is also believed still stationed in Oslo Fjord area. B.2.
(4) Following U-Boats have been reported in Horten: U.773 on October 11th. U.1009 in mid October. B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 011159A to Admty.).
O.I.C.Comment: Believed good report Z.6 is the same as THEODOR RIEDEL which makes 5 destroyers in Oslo Fjord.

U-Boats

U-Boat ashore, Baldayo Spain. Corunna's 011155 U-Boat reported driven ashore in same position. Please investigate and report.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 011810A to Brit. Agent Corunna).

/My...

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ashore,
Baldayo
Spain.
(Contd.)

My telegram 011555A+ German submarine ashore
Lema Baldayo Beach.
Hope to telegraph further details tomorrow night.
(Brit.Agent Corunna, 012030A to Admty.).
+ ?011155 refers: Submarine attack opposite
Baldayo Beach.

NavigationalSwept Channel
Le Havre-
Dieppe -
Boulogne -
Dunkirk.

Your 231153 not to all addressees. A channel
has now been swept half a mile wide each side of
a centre line joining P.B.5 and D.B.3 buoys for
the use of through traffic between Dieppe and
the Nore and East coast ports.
(2) Channel between D.B.3 and D.C.2 buoys is
now completed and it is suggested that these two
channels in conjunction with the Dieppe Boulogne
channel as far as P.B.5 should, when the latter has been swept,
be declared as one Q.Z.S. Eventually this can be extended
through to Dunkirk when that port is in our hands and the
channel swept.
(3) If possible information as to anticipated date of completion
of the Dieppe-Boulogne channel would be appreciated.
(V.A.Dover, 011848A to F.O.B.A.A.).

Port Facilities

Antwerp

N.O.I.C.Antwerp 301925. Request D. of S.T.
will take necessary action. It would be much
appreciated if Admiralty could make Commander
Manning available to advise N.O.I.C.Antwerp.
(A.N.C.X.F., 011021A to Admty., D. of S.T.).

Calais.

Calais will be developed as follows:-
(a) 1 Twickenham train ferry terminal by British.
(b) 2 vehicle L.S.T. hards by British for joint
use as allocated by P.E.C.
(c) 2 personnel ship berths by British for joint use as allocated
by P.E.C.
(d) Facilities for overside discharge and clearance direct by
canal of 1000 tons a day pitprops from 15th December by U.S.
also provision for occasional alongside discharge if necessary.
This traffic and clearance of canal is U.S. responsibility
but will be handled and worked forward by French. It may rise
later to 2000 tons a day.
(e) Provision for 4 small tanker berths preferably in west
Bassin a'Flot. by British for use only in event of emergency
diversion from Ostend.
(f) Extension of Pluto pipe line to Calais by British.
(g) Road exits including one class 70 road by British.
(h) Rail exits by British. S.N.C.F. reckon track through by
15th November if given military assistance.
(S.H.A.E.F., 012030A to 21 A.G.).

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects.

JACYNTH. The following received from R.N.O. Ayr begins:-
JACYNTH ashore at Nicholas Rock refloated and
berthed Ayr Harbour 010121A/November ends.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 010815 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

L.C.T.7084 L.C.T.7084 refloated and towed up harbour. . Ship
will be returned to U.K. at first opportunity.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 011632A to Cmdre. Belgian, C.
in C.Nore).

WHITAKER. Intend to sail WHITAKER in tow of EARNER escorted
by LOCH ACHANALT to Belfast at 0800/2nd. Nov.
Speed of advance expected to exceed 6 knots.
Progress and E.T.A. to be reported at noon by
LOCH ACHANALT.
F.O.I.C.N.I. is requested to sail LOCH ACHANALT and EARNER to
Londonderry on completion of this duty.
Survivors at present at Londonderry will proceed to Belfast by
road p.m. tomorrow.
(Com.D.W.A., 012343 to C. in C.W.A.).

Shipping and Convoys.

L.C.T. con- "Appian" L.C.T. convoys are expected to sail from
voys to Falmouth for Gibraltar about every 10 to 14 days
Gibraltar. commencing about 15th November. Sailing will be
dependent on weather conditions. Some six convoys
in all will be sailed.
(2) C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to
provide an escort of 1 corvette and 3 trawlers to each convoy to
arrive Falmouth as required by C. in C.Plymouth.
(3) On arrival at Gibraltar, F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail
escorts with a minimum of delay to destinations required by
C. in C. W.A.
(4) One trawler at least in each group should be fitted for
rescue work.
(5) C. in C.Portsouth is requested to transfer NORTHERN PRIDE,
NORTHERN GEM and one Military Class trawler to C. in C.W.A.
to assist with this commitment.
(V.C.N.S. 011008A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Ports., F.O.G.M.A.).

Proposed Admiralty message 282341 not to F.O.I.C.
U.K. Southampton. Four factors must be considered.
terminal (1) Approach route. Possibility of stray ground
change for mines in depths under 42 fathoms exists through-
QUEEN MARY out. There are three choices.
and QUEEN (a) Existing searched channels which have been
ELIZABETH from swept and well traversed by heavy shipping
Clyde to (Q.Z.S. 590, 472, 490, 494).
Southampton. (b) New ocean convoy through route. Latter could
not be swept by L.L. and S.A. but heavy traffic
will have used it before Monsters. Existence
of ground mines in this route considered remote. It has been
swept for moored mines.

/(C)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Proposed U.K. terminal change for QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH from Clyde to Southampton (Contd.)

(C) Route proposed in C. in C. Plymouth's 311132 October. This would have to be searched as for (B).
Choice (C) is preferred for reasons given by C. in C. Plymouth.

(2) Southampton approaches. No later information available than in para 3 of A.M. under reply. Consider test survey necessary from West Bramble to Southampton Docks including lower swinging ground close west of Ocean Dock. Command surveying officer can carry out work which will be expedited by contacting Marine Superintendent Cunard Company.

(3) Temporary anchorage. Space can be found off Cowes or Gilkicker.

(4) Berth at Southampton. F.O.I.C. Southampton has already approached Port authorities who agree Ocean Dock as most suitable. Swinging ground at Gymp Head alongside new docks probably silted and dredging would cause delay.

(5) Eastern approaches to Solent proper route, but in an emergency Needles Channel could be used, but at selected high water springs only.

(6) Berthing in emergency if drawing more than 39 feet would require consideration also.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011123A to Admty.).

New L.C.T.(4)s to Troward not Troon.

Until further signal request you will sail L.C.T.(4) as they complete new construction or tropicalisation to Toward+not Troon.
(R.A.L.S.C.U., 011209A to F.O.I.C.N.I.).
+ Troward intended.

Sailings for Granville.

Commencing with B.E.C.23 and in subsequent alternate convoys F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail a section of vessels bound for Granville.

(2) This section is to be detached to Plymouth for onward passage. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail this section so as to make the seaward end of Q.Z.S.566 at daylight.

(3) C.T.F.125 is requested to sail return section at daylight. On convoys meeting escort is to transfer to the homeward bound section and escort it to Falmouth.

(4) F.O.I.C.Falmouth is requested to sail this section as requisite to join the next E.B.C. convoy.

(5) Three additional escort trawlers will be transferred from Nore Command to Plymouth Command as soon as possible.
(D.T.D. 011608A to C. in C. Plymouth, C.T.F.125, F.O.I.C.Cardiff, F.O.I.C.Falmouth).

L.C.I. (L) 216.

L.C.I.(L) 216 transferred from U.S.N. to R.N. p.m. today.
(Comdr. M/S Ipswich, 011700A to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

A/U
operations.

Gib. GR opsum 31/10 all A/U sorties were recalled base due weather.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 010240ZA).

SETTEMBRINI.

Your 271637Z. F.O.G.M.A. 300959A FRACENT~~†~~ detached 0900Z/1 position 33.16 N., 36.19 W. Proceeding Gibraltar direct. S. of A. 18 knots Gibraltar 0700Z/5.
(C.T.F.65, 010950Z to N.S.S., C. in C. Lant).
~~†~~as received.
~~†~~Detach escort for Italian Sub. SETTEMBRINI.

G.U.S.56 -
unsafe
ships.

Must protest against unsafe trim many vessels joining this convoy especially Oran joiners from Southern France. Many ships have little or no ballast and have maximum speed of 9 knots in smooth waters using maximum revolutions due to screws being half out of water. Such ships are unsafe to cross Western Ocean at this season. They cannot be safely handled in convoy in the best weather to be expected. Urgently recommend 1200 tons of ballast as minimum for Liberty ships at this season.
(Commodore G.U.S.56, 011327A to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R).

KING GEORGE
V.

KING GEORGE V sailing at 1700/2 S. of A. 21 knots E.T.A. position 260, 0730A/5. C. in C. Med., 011143 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 012250A).

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece and Aegean.

G.2
summary No.
62. FX. 46550 cipher 31st October. (Extract).
 (2) Greece. Final demolitions reported Salonika
 Harbour 30th October and town now probably clear
 of enemy. Enemy rear-guards driven out Arnissa,
 West Edessa, on same date and appears likely last
 German columns now passing through Florina for
 North. Apart from small bodies of troops who may be cut off by
 Guerillas whole of Greece should be clear within next 2 to 3
 days. In Aegean enemy has recaptured Piskopi. X All informed.
 (A.F.H.Q., No. T.O.O. Recd. 0630/1).

VAMPIRE,
UNSWERVING. Sail from Khios at 1402A 2nd to Samos 10 thence
 by standard route north of Rhodes (Rodi) to
 arrive in position (D) 034° 28' 026° 40' at
 0658A/4th.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 010956 to VAMPIRE, UNSWERVING,
 (R) S.O. Force 51, Force A, F.O.L.E.M., Comec,
 C.F.B., Casteloriso.)

ARGONAUT,
BLACK
PRINCE. Request you will arrange quick docking of
 ARGONAUT and BLACK PRINCE at Alexandria in time
 for you to sail ships to comply with A.M.311210A.
 (2) Presume you will wish ARGONAUT relieved of her
 present duties and request you will replace.
 (C. in C. Med., 011238 to F.O.L.E.M.)

Your 01??38 and Admiralty 311210 October ARGONAUT does not
require docking having just done (corrupt group) and can comply
with Admiralty 311210 October by leaving Salonika on 19th November
and spending 3 days at Alexandria to complete and store.
2. Intend AJAX should proceed with all despatch to Piraeus and
accompany ARGONAUT with Kel force to Salonika subsequently taking
over from ARGONAUT as naval force commander. This arrangement
should enable ARGONAUT to complete after sailing turning over
with ample time to spare.
3. BLACK PRINCE should be able to continue present operation
against Melos being relieved by AURORA and/or SIRIUS as desired
by F.O.L.E.M.
4. Consider it essential that ARGONAUT retains command of
initial stages of operation Kelso since D day is likely to be not
later 7th November.

(C.S. 15 012309B to C. in C. Med., as amended 020902B).

Salonika. 265030. FX. 46693 cipher 1st Nov. Cositintrep
 No.480 Part 4.
 Part 4 Cositintrep No. 479 not issued. Greece.
 Our patrols entered Salonika on 30th October and
 are maintaining contact with the enemy north of
 the town. A small British force is following up
 the enemy withdrawals in the direction of Florina.
 (A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O. Recd. 1545).

/Gulf...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece and Aegean. - Contd.

Gulf of
Corinth
sweeping.

With the opening of Itea. Request an early indication of future intentions for sweeping force operating at (?Patras).

2. Propose continuing to widen channel either side of Corinth Gulf Narrows to remove as many mines as possible.
3. If it is intended that the force continues operations here intend boiler cleaning ships in sequence. Machining of parts can be done locally.
4. But at least some of the (?Admiralty) compound oil and petrol indicated in my 262245 and 291831 not to all addressees must arrive within the next 5 days. Other oils not so urgent. (S.O.M/S.F. 13, 011855B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Monolith situation report 8.

1. An area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide to northwards of searched route to Gulf of Krissa from position (E) in Situation Report 7 West to $021^{\circ} 54' 00' E.$, has today been 75% searched to a depth of 13 fathoms with negative result. Full width was not obtained off Cape Andromakhi.
2. Further LL sweeping in Itea Approaches produced negative result.
3. One lap swept today to south westwards of Narrows completed clearance of all waters between Capes Ersia and Rion to 10 fathom line. 4 CK Star swept close to south westwards of Cape Rion and 3 more dummy mines. The Narrows channel has been swept LL with negative result.
4. Intend tomorrow widening swept area on either side Narrows and further LL sweeping there.

(S.O.M/S. 13, 012015B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

1.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

German Hospital ship BONN. No longer being chased. Enemy has withdrawn. ((DYHY) BONN, No T.O.O./1st).
Chased by enemy gunboats.
(BONN, No T.O.O.)
Position 43.26 N., 15.37 E.
(BONN, No T.O.O.)
German Hospital ship BONN (DYHY) at 0830 G.M.T. arrived Sibenik.
(Venezia Radio, No T.O.O./1st).

Escort carriers and destroyers. Taking TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS under your orders. Request you sail in TROUBRIDGE p.m./1st to pass 309 at 1800B and proceed to Malta.
(Arrangements).
(F.O.L.E.M., 010949A to Capt. (D) 24).
Onward route from 034° 58' N., 019° 55' E., at 0600A/2nd direct to position 227 F.O.E.C. detaching ATTACKER and STALKER as necessary to arrive Malta daylight 3rd approaching by QBB 422 C. in C. Med., ?141237 refers.
(2) ROYALIST with HUNTER proceed (?to) Gibraltar by basic west-bound route omitting positions 120 and 100 and direct from 89 to 70.
(3) F.O.E.C. report E.T.A. at (?Naples) and S. of A.
(4) Codewords.
(5) It is intended to sail Carriers from Malta p.m./3rd. (V.A.M., 011058).
Request you will sail ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER, RAJAH and BRUISER escorted by D.24 in TROUBRIDGE with TEAZER, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS p.m./6th November to U.K. Your 311640 October not to all refers.
(C. in C. Med., 011909A to F.O.G.M.A.)

KING GEORGE V. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail KING GEORGE V as convenient p.m. 2nd to (?Port Said) for onward routeing for E.F. escorted by Capt. (D) 27 KEMPENFELT throughout with URSA and METEOR until relieved off Malta.
2. Route through 12, 40, 79 basic eastbound to 275, 274, 235, to 260 for onward routeing by F.O.L.E.M.
3. V.A. Malta is requested to sail WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER to R/V as convenient off Malta to relieve URSA and METEOR.
4. WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER to continue with Capt. (D) 27 as escort to KING GEORGE V to E.F.
5. URSA, METEOR to enter Malta on relief.
(C. in C. Med., 011143).

MOY, MAPLE. Intend to sail MOY (S.O.) and MAPLE at 0700A/2 to Gibraltar. For onward routeing to U.K. (route and arrangement).
(V.A. Malta, 011236).

1.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TUEBINGEN Request you will reply to F.O.L.E.M's 311913. Admiralty should see Mr. Deast's A56396 of 31st October to A.F.H.Q. Info. Troopers and N.A.F.809. (C. in C. Med., 011244 to Admty).

F.O.L.E.M's 311913 which has been passed to B.A.D. TUEBINGEN has been expressly recognised as hospital ship by both U.K. and U.S. Govts. and must as such be accorded immunity from capture. Definite undertaking has already been given to Germans that she will be released as soon as possible provided no abuse of the Conventions is discovered.

2. Ship should be detained at Alexandria pending C.C.S. instructions to S.A.C.M.E.D. concerning disposal of sick and wounded.

3. Meanwhile, every effort should be made to find replacements for French Arabs from captured enemy merchant seamen. Request earliest possible report whether these are available within your command. Men selected should preferably be of low military value.

4. F.O.L.E.M. inform French N.L.O. F.O. are informing H.M. Ambassador, Paris.

(1st S.L., 012019A to C. in C. Med).

Transport of Danarm. My reason for proposed transport to remain Istanbul, my 271155* October refers, was to avoid re-entry from Middle East by railway and consequent endless delays.

2. If transport could be taken close to eventual destination by sea I have no objection to Danarm 311120* October except that railway destination should be Aleppo or other places over Syrian frontier, not Alexandretta (Iskenderon). His para. (4) refers. (B.N.A. Ankara, 011718C to F.O.L.E.M.) * N.T. in W.D. Not asked for.

Situation report No. 477. 1. Two schooners with R/C party arrived at Salonika on 30th October.
2. NAVARINON destroyed German H.Q. at Livadia Bay before leaving Piskopi.
3. Germans at Melos show no sign of surrender.

Our landing parties are satisfactorily established ashore and are receiving assistance from Greeks.

4. There have been two inconclusive actions in Adriatic between coastal craft and convoy escorted by Destroyers.
5. 88,068 tons cargo 15,562 troops and 12,155 vehicles have been discharged so far at Toulon.
(C. in C. Med., 012143A).

Enemy destroyer in Northern Adriatic. An engaging one enemy destroyer in 044° 36', 014° 32'.
(WHEATLAND, 012205 to F.O.N.A.M.)

1.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
dispositions. (C. in C. E.F., 010337Z).

Mining Following passed for information begins:
off S.A.C.S.E.A. repeated Cmr. Allied Naval Forces,
Singapore, Cmr. T.F.71 from G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. Cite No. CX 19738
Malaya, (760) signed MacArthur. Mining the close eastern
and Borneo. approaches to Singapore your 1455 is considered by
Cmr. 7th Fleet extremely hazardous and impractic-
able because of British minefields probability of
enemy minefields and lack of navigational aids. Submarines or
the 7th Fleet have laid minefields in the following general
locations between Pulo Tenggol and Malay Coast four fields between
South Natuna Islands and Borneo Coast additional fields off
Northeast (?) Borneo Coast are planned 201210Z/October. Ends.
My 100254 October refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 010349Z to Admty., (R) A.C.N.B.)

8th S/M.F. In order Admiralty may be kept informed of
weekly activities of 8th Sub. Flotilla it is requested
summary. Capt. (S) 8 may be authorised to signal a weekly
situation summary direct to Admiralty.
(C. in C. E.F., 010931Z to Comsouwestpac).

21st and Formation of 21st and 22nd M/S Flotillas A.M.
22nd M/S.F. 261606 and A.C.N.B. 280840 refers.
2. H.M.A.S. LISMORE, H.M.A.S. BURNIE, H.M.A.S.
MARYBOROUGH and H.M.A.S. TOOWOOMBA allocated 21st
M/S Flotilla. It is intended they should sail in company about
18th Nov. after boiler cleaning at Colombo.
3. H.M.A.S. BATHURST is allocated 21st M/S F. vice H.M.A.S.
PIRIE.
4. The transfer of PIRIE and H.M.S. LAUNCESTON from Australian
waters for training with 22nd M/S F. at Ceylon is not considered
economical. Subject to Admiralty concurrence A.C.N.B. is
requested to arrange for these ships to train in company in
anticipation of arrival of the remainder of the flotilla.
5. S.O. ships of the 22nd M/S.F. will be reported when training
has started.
(C. in C. E.F., 011010Z).

N.O.I.C. and Closed Naval Offices at Bandar Sharpur on 31st
N.C.S.O. October. Appointments of N.O.I.C. and N.C.S.O.
Bandar- | - lapsed on that day. My 261431/October to
Sharpur. C. in C. E.F. only refers.
(S.N.O.P.G. 011525Z).

*Keel
Composition.*

*Admty. 012006. (Top Secret - Hush - no copy in W.D. See
reference in Admty. 252236 November).*

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1.11.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U/B search. My 310203 not to all addressees. Preliminary bearings on preamble at 2328/31 and 2341/31 on 5090 k/cs. indicated units again transmitting. Position as yet uncertain. Continue to guard series - 3 line one also.

Request bearings.
(N.S.H.Q., 010011Z to E.G.25, E.G.27, COATICOOK, S.E. O.N. 261.)
N.S.H.Q. 010011 no transmissions heard.
(S.O. E.G.27, 010211Z.)
Repeat of preamble at 2341/31. My 010011 was on 5600 k/cs. not on 5090 k/cs.
(N.S.H.Q., 010244Z.)
Your 010011Z. Date and time group only heard strength 2 to 3 naval enigma. No bearings obtained.
(S.O. E.G.25, 010300Z to N.S.H.Q.)
Intend commencing Gamma search between 043° 30' N., 053° 30' W. and 044° 10' N., 052° 50' W. at 0430Z/1. Weather report 5471 3274.
(S.O. E.G.27, 312055Z.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q., 011400Z, Cominch, 011528Z.)

Russian S.Cs. Soviet Naval Mission has asked for 5th and 6th Groups of Russian S.Cs. to be sailed to U.K. as soon as practicable for onward routeing either to N. Russia or Black Sea, depending on result of Dardanelles negotiations. A.M. 132201 refers.
(2) F.O.N.F. is accordingly requested to sail 5th Group to Londonderry as soon as escorts are available.
(3) B.A.D. is requested to ask Cominch to sail 6th Group to St. Johns for onward routeing as soon as ready.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 011416A.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 251321. Para. (D) H.M.S. ANTICOSTI attacks submerged U-Boat in 415° (sic) N., 40° W.* at 1830Z/31st.
(N.S.H.Q., 011601Z.)
* The position given by ANTICOSTI was 41.50 N., 62.40 W.

U/B sighted 15th October by A.R. LUIS. Request you ask Aluslo Durban interview Master Uruguayan ALMIRANTE RODRIGUEZ LUIS and dispatch all details possible U-Boat sighting 15th October. C. in C. S.A., 211219B refers.
(Cominch, 011849Z to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

ATOLIA and ATHELNEY. Your 312311 October. Cancel reference to U.K. in A.M. 241653 October. Destination of tugs should read Gibraltar via Azores.
(D.O.D.(H), 011912A to B.A.D. Washington.)

/CLEOPATRA ...

1.11.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

CLEOPATRA. Delay in completion of CLEOPATRA is being caused by defects in port outer main turbine gearing similar to C.A.F.O. 1926/44 para. 3.
 (2) Gearing requires further running and adjustment before engine can be worked at full output. It is anticipated that after completion of adjustments scheduled for 8th to 10th November ship will be able to steam at least 25 knots.
 (3) Intend ship proceed independently to Clyde via Bermuda and Azores immediately on completion refit observing Admiralty requirement is for ship to arrive U.K. about 18th November. Commanding Officer, however, represents that a few days electrical and fire control practices at Bermuda are most desirable as ship has been in dockyard hands for 15 months.
 (4) Request latest date for arrival U.K. which can be accepted. (B.A.D., 011943Z to Admty.)

T.F. 60. Task Force 60 reconstituted PHELPS, VANCE, Cortdiv 45 GILLETTE, UNDERHILL, HENRY R. KENYON, KENNEBEC. Escort convoy U.G.S.60 departing Hampton Roads 11th November to Europa Point then escorts to Oran. Return escorting G.U.S.60 when directed by C. in C. Med.
 (? 011958Z to C.T.F. 60.)

U/B incidents. Para. (D) About 311830Z H.M.S. ANTICOSTI attacked submerged U-Boat 41.50 N., 62.40 W. (Cominch, 012035Z.)

Nitrate vessels from Chile to M.E. Cancel A.M. 191840 August 1943, para. (1). Request ships now be routed via Panama and U.G.S. convoys. (D.T.D., 012336A to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (Extract) October 31st.
 No. 1015. (2) Probably seven enemy aircraft over Morotai at dawn bombing strafing short targets and ships with little effect. Shore A/A shot down three planes, ships got fourth.
 (3) Three ships proceeded high speed from Manila Bay South through Vgrrspdsland* Passage early afternoon followed half hour later by 14 ships including four ships slow speed. Observer described all other ships as cruisers or destroyers but these considered probably smaller escort or special transports. Previous day nine sea trucks, 12 float-planes reported anchored Paluan Bay on north-western Mindoro Island.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 1015.
(Contd.)

- (4) R/C plane over northern Palawan early hours saw four heavy cruisers three destroyers anchored Bicut Bay. These may be units reported Digest 1014 para. (3) and 1012 para. (11). Date also Third Fleet carrier based planes reported hits on two heavy cruisers Maotnaiwa 29th and submarine saw one heavy cruiser AOBA class westbound, 80 miles out of Manila Bay that same day.
- (5) Early daylight search planes sighted 7 warships described as cruisers or destroyers forty miles north of Brunei Bay course 300° at 25 knots also single tanker stationary at Western entrance Balabac Strait and one possible light cruiser (?10) miles further south heading south-west. Mid-morning R/C aircraft sighted one large transport in Maruda Bay northernmost tip Borneo.
- (13) Surfaced submarine seen off north coast Soepiori Island midday 30th and possibly same unit contacted surface craft nearly 300 miles north of Biak 33 hours later.
- (19) Forenoon 29th October Jap submarine contacted and claimed sunk by surface units 160 miles east-south-east Tacloban this is third submarine contacted Asaoe general area since 25th October.
- (20) Considerable enemy air activity reported Leyte area evening 31st October but nil damage reported.
- (22) Natives report 1000 Jap troops landed Ormoc Bay 25/26 October.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 010855Z.)
* As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

- Para. A. (1) At 0120Z/1 H.M. ship attacked by torpedo in lat. 55.30 N., long. 07.39 W.
- Para. B. (1) At 0625Z/31st October A/C C/502 obtained disappearing contact in lat. 62.00 N., long. 02.48 E.
- (2) At 2359Z/31st A/C obtained A.S.V. contact in lat. 61.25 N., 15.35 W.
- (3) At 1328Z/31st A/C obtained disappearing contact in lat. 56.01 N., long. 07.36 W.
- (4) At 1051Z/31st H.M. Tr. NORTHERN SUN attacked U-Boat in lat. 49.24 N., long. 07.04 W.
- Para. C. (1) At 1003Z/31st A/C I/114 obtained disappearing contact in lat. 49.10 N., long. 05.42 W.
- (2) At 2020Z/31st A/C Q/110 obtained disappearing contact in lat. 48.43 N., long. 05.05 W.
- (D.D.I.C., 011052A.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 011433A, 011437A.)

/Cominch ...

1.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Cominch
U-Boat
trends.

Biweekly No. 53.

During October only 1 Mership was reported sunk by U-Boat. This attack occurred on 30th to north-east of Hawaii. No marked changes since last trends in estimate of enemy dispositions.

However some U-Boats again appear to be moving into U.K. approaches and others into North Atlantic via Iceland-Faroes passage. It is probably that some of the latter will head for the Canadian Area as the U-Boats which have been operating there are currently estimated homebound. The enemy is again returning to the English Channel where 1 U-Boat recently has been located. 2 others not recently fixed are estimated patrolling west of Reykjavik and Gibraltar respectively. In the South Atlantic 1 U-Boat probably bound for the Far East is estimated about 600 miles south-west of Ascension and a second one not well fixed may be just entering the Indian Ocean. Restrict information contained herein to those who need to know. With no Merships in the Atlantic reported attacked during October U-Boat activity reached all time low. Fewer U-Boats were estimated operating than at any time since U.S. entered the war which was due primarily to the dislocation of enemy operations caused by the fall of French ports and the necessity of transferring U-Boats to Norwegian and Baltic bases. It appears evident however that with this latter operation completed a renewal of the U-Boat offensive may be expected in the near future. In view of the desperate straits in which the enemy finds himself together with the large number of U-Boats he now has available it is anticipated that the initial phase of the U-Boat offensive will be of considerable magnitude. Yet to be determined is the efficacy of the new high submerged speed type 21 which may be expected to appear shortly in operating areas.
(Cominch, O11945.)

2.11.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1 Operation "Infatuate". (a) "Infatuate I", 70 tons of stores, and follow-up troops were ferried to Flushing last night. Ferrying continues to-day. The Army are making good progress and cleaning up Flushing.

(b) "Infatuate 2", WARSPITE has sailed for Portsmouth, but EREBUS and ROBERTS continued their bombardment to-day, and after 1230 silenced W.11, the most troublesome fort. The support Squadrons of Landing Craft have been self-sacrificing but successful, and after sustaining 80% casualties were withdrawn to Ostend p.m. We hold the coast from Domberg to Zoutel. Our attempts at mine-sweeping the Schelde were turned back by shore batteries.

*Actions off
Zoutel
+
Hook*

(c) Farther north the 4th M.T.B. Flotilla had a brush with 4 enemy minesweepers in the course of which M.T.B. 467 was put out of action; but the 29th M.T.B. Flotilla fell in with an escorted 3,000 ton merchantman, broke through the screen, and torpedoed her. Four M.T.B.'s and a number of R-Boats were damaged by gunfire.

? or Zoutel

(d) A human-torpedo attack was made on Ostend anchorage. The danlayer COLSAY and the small tanker RIO GRANDE were sunk. COLSAY is a danger to navigation. BRAVO

Channel.

2(a) Under threat of U-Boat activity all cross-Channel shipping except coasters is now sailed in convoy.

(b) The 6th and 31st Escort Groups have been transferred to the Channel where two U-Boat hunts are in progress, one of them as far east as the Start. 3 A/S trawlers have also been transferred to Plymouth from the Nore.

(c) Port en Bessin has been closed down and returned to the French. (Base de la Seine, 49° 21' N, 00° 45' W)

West Coast
France.

3. BLYSKAWICA has increased our pressure on trespassing Spanish fishing vessels by firing a few wide shots towards a number of them found in the Biscayan prohibited area. They retired towards Spain.

North-
Western
Approaches.

4. On completion of her deep mining in St. George's Channel, APOLLO is to lay two lines in North Channel.

Norway.

5(a) Patrol V.P. 76 has returned from Norway and reports two patrol vessels destroyed by gunfire. (b) Escort Carrier PREMIER has been temporarily transferred to the Home Fleet with a view to mine-laying in the fjords.

2.11.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands - Contd.

Northern
Waters.

6(a) The frigate MOUNSEY has been torpedoed 20 miles off Murmansk, but returned to Kola under her own power. Convoy R.A.61 of 33 ships, sailed from Kola without her.
(b) Eleventh Escort Group, less SKEENA, have made good temporarily their defects, referred to on Oct. 26th and sailed for Merville, Northern Ireland.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

7. Allied warships continue to bombard objectives near the Franco-Italian frontier.

Engagement
in Adriatic,
2 or 3
enemy
destroyers
sunk.

8(a) The destroyers WHEATLAND and AVONVALE operating in the northern Adriatic last night west of Pag Island, Yugoslavia engaged and sank two enemy torpedo boats in 44.34 N. 14.44 E. A third enemy torpedo boat was later engaged in 44.36 N. 14.32 E. and is believed to have been sunk. Three officers and 68 ratings were taken prisoners. WHEATLAND was undamaged, AVONVALE has numerous splinter holes.
(b) The enemy vessels were subsequently reported as the Italian torpedo boats AUDACE and Nos. 202, 208 under German control.

Sibenik.

9. It is reported that partisans entered Sibenik to-day.

Greece and
Aegean.

10. Milos I. BLACK PRINCE reports that neither EMPEROR's aircraft nor her own guns have any effect on the enemy's 150 mm. battery, other than to keep their heads down.

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Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

U-Boat
in St.
Lawrence R.

11. SS. FORTN THOMPSON was torpedoed at
2128Z in the St. Lawrence River, 45 miles below
Father Point.

2.11.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Cessation of Plymouth minewatching. Your 251906 October. It is considered that mine-watching at Plymouth can now be completely abolished (V.C.N.S. 021103A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Movements.

WARSPITE. Anchor in Small Downs and be prepared to proceed to Spithead with ACTIVE and BEN MY CHREE by 1030 today Thursday.
(C. in C. Nore 020028A to WARSPITE.)

BACHAQUERO. Scapa arrival BACHAQUERO.
(A.C.O.S. 020722 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

ROYALIST,
ATTACKER,
HUNTER,
STALKER. A.M. 281517A October. Regret it will not be possible to berth any of these vessels in Nore Command without serious inconvenience and prejudice to existing refitting and repair commitments.
(C. in C. Nore 021037A to Admty.)

DESPATCH. Your 312040A October, arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 021214A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LARGS. A.M. 021251 October. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange for my flag to be transferred to PRINCE ALBERT during period of passage of LARGS to London.
(2) F.O.I.C. London is requested to arrange for my flag to be rehoisted on arrival of LARGS in London.
(F.O. Force W 021704A to F.Os. i/c Greenock, London.)

ARBITER,
SLINGER,
SPEAKER. It is anticipated that E.R. 3059, SLINGER and SPEAKER will start working up with their squadrons about mid December. Admiralty 281045 October refers.
(2) In order to exercise assault force communications it is requested the mock-up headquarters ship at C.T.T. Dundonald be manned (a) by mid December for preliminary exercises, (b) by 1st January for exercise based on requirements of divisional assault force.
(F.O.C.T. 021744A to Admty.)

MYNGS. Intend to sail D.26 in MYNGS at 1600A/7th November for Scapa, E.T.A. 1100A/8th November. Cdre. (D) H.F's 301040 October not to all refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 021946A to Com. D.H.F.)

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

OCEANWAY. Departure OCEANWAY for Arrow E.T.A. 0800/3.
(V.A. Dover 021950A to N.O.I.C. Arrow.)

ROYALIST, HUNTER. Your 011936 request you will report names of ships affected and delay involved if two ships are berthed at Portsmouth observing that ROYALIST and HUNTER are manned from Portsmouth.
(D.O.D. (H) 022215A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Naval. Cositintrep No. 211 part 2 Naval.
A. Operation "Infatuate".
"Infatuate 1" going according to plan. Little damage to Naval craft reported.
"Infatuate 2". Weather prevented air spotting for bombarding ships until 1700. Enemy batteries consequently troublesome and casualties to landing craft and particularly to support craft reported severe.
B. Captured ports. Ostend. The first sunken hopper barge in Meylock has been raised it is expected that the lock will be cleared by 4th November.
Port en Bessin. Port was turned over to the French on 31st Oct.
St. Brieuç. Port was closed on 30th October.
C. General. Night of 31st/1st STEVENSTONE sank one E-Boat off Nieuport in an engagement with a number suspected of attempted minelaying.

D. Unloading figures.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
British				
E. Calvados	311	23	1,383	-
Dieppe	-	16	5,470	-
Boulogne	-	5	1,041	-
Ostend	311	97	2,732	1,606
<hr/>				
Total	622	141	10,626	1,606
<hr/>				
United States.				
Cherbourg	-	-	9,383	8,691
Beaches	-	-	270	-
Brittany Ports	-	28	3,849	158
Le Havre	931	32	5,933	-
Rouen	-	-	3,987	2,964
<hr/>				
Total	931	60	23,422	11,813
<hr/>				
Combined total	1,553	201	34,048	13,419

(A.N.C.X.F. 020035A to Admty.)

Cositintrep No. 212. Part 2 Naval.
As a result of U-Boat reports in the Channel convoys from West Country ports to Cherbourg and beaches are being routed by Channel

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval.
(Contd.)

14. All personnel ships returning to U.K. from Arromanches are sailing in escorted convoys also ships other than coasters for ports between Wight and Dungeness.

(B) Operation "Infatuate". (1) General. Some enemy minelaying by aircraft took place last night on north side of bombarding ship channel to west of Walcheren.

(2) "Infatuate 1". 70 tons of stores were ferried to Flushing during last night also follow-up troops. Operation proceeding satisfactorily.

(3) "Infatuate 2". L.C.T. have continued to ferry stores and wounded. Support Squadron have been withdrawn to Ostend p.m. today. The close support they have provided has been a notable feature of the operation. Unsuitable flying conditions have necessitated much short range activity by them against batteries and coastal strong points and this has inevitably resulted in severe losses. Evacuation of casualties and prisoners was stopped at 1230 by enemy fire but battery responsible was bombarded successfully by EREBUS and later attacked by Typhoons. Bombardment has been generally intermittent due to lack of targets, monitors are withdrawing tonight but are returning to give further support tomorrow as required.

(C) Minesweeping. A minesweeping force off Zeebrugge engaged in sweeping towards the mouth of the Schelde was forced to retire owing to shelling by enemy coastal batteries located on south shore. Main minesweeping forces will start operation of Schelde clearance tomorrow provided batteries on south shore are silenced.

(D) Captured ports. Ostend. Clearance of Meylock expected to complete today which will provide nine more berths in Vlot dock with 200 feet draught.

(E) Intelligence. German aircraft have been operating at night to supply garrison at St. Nazaire.

(F) Unloading figures 1st November.

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
U.S. figures:				
Cherbourg	-	-	12,223	2,250
Beaches	11,547	630	665	8
Brittany ports	-	-	4,075	1,625
Le Havre	-	12	5,381	-
Rouen	-	-	3,153	979
Total	11,547	642	25,497	4,862
British figures:				
East Calvados	5	399	1,049	-
Dieppe	1,278	22	4,706	-
Boulogne	322	130	1,005	-
Ostend	Figures not yet received			
Total	1,605	551	6,760	Nil

(A.N.C.X.F., 022345A to Admty.)

/Military ...

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Thursday. _____

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Reports - Contd.

Military.

Communique No. 208. Allied forces landed yesterday morning on Walcheren Island and have made good progress. Two beachheads are firmly established. Some miles of the coast and a large part of the town of Flushing are in our hands.

At Flushing an Army Commando was successfully landed under cover of bombardment from the south shore of the Schelde estuary. At Westkapelle Royal Marines secured a beachhead under cover of long range bombardment by H.M. ships WARSPITE, EREBUS and ROBERTS and close bombardment by a squadron of support craft.

Preparing the way for these landings light bombers during the night of Tuesday - Wednesday attacked enemy gun positions and strong points on Walcheren. At daylight yesterday fighter bombers renewed the attack on gun positions and strong points and struck at enemy troop movements while fighters provided cover for our land and sea forces. No enemy opposition was encountered in the air and none of our aircraft is missing from operations. Heavy fighting continues at the western end of the Beveland - Walcheren Causway.

In the Schelde pocket our troops are fighting in Knocke. Sluis and Westkapelle have been cleared of the enemy.

(S.H.A.E.F. 021100 to Agwar.)

Allied attacks across Beveland - Walcheren causeway forced to withdraw; enemy opposition mainly from anti-tank and machine gunfire. Allies control southern half of Flushing where opposition stiffened. Bridgehead at Westkapelle (D.03) widened and Allied line roughly north-south from Domburg to Zouteland. South of Schelde Sluis captured by Allies and Knocke (C.91) almost clear: Lieutenant General Eberding commanding 64 Infantry Division captured and 2,500 other prisoners of war. Remaining enemy in fortified positions north of Cadzand and in Heyst.

(S.H.A.E.F. 021600 to War Office, Agwar.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Walcheren Assault.

"Infatuate" Sitrep No. 6.

"Infatuate 1". Ferrying of stores continued during last night. Fighting still going on in Flushing.

"Infatuate 2". Commandos hold west coast from Domburg to Zoutel and column 119 are advancing

south east. Monitors now bombarding with air spotting. Heavy fighting all yesterday on South Beveland Causeway. Our troops again hold bridge at Western end. Supporting squadron has with drawn to Ostend.

Reported casualties as follows.

Heading	Total available	Sunk	Damaged
Landing Craft Gun (L)	6	2	1
Landing Craft Gun (M)	2	2	0
Landing Craft Tank (R)	5	-	2
L.C.S.(L)	6	3	1
Landing Craft F	6	2	4

/Some...

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ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth SeaWalcheren
Assault.
(Contd.)

Some L.C.T. still ferrying stores and wounded. On mainland our posts are now west of Knocke. Many prisoners have been taken including Divisional General. Enemy still hold small defended area north of Cadzand.

(A.N.C.X.F. 020954A to Admty.)

Please convey to all in Force T my congratulations on their splendid work yesterday. The Army were landed as they required and according to plan and landing operations are developing very well. Your decision to attack despite lack of air support and air spotting was proved wholly correct and by assaulting simultaneously in the west and south you ensured the quickest achievement of our object to open the Schelde. Naval casualties were not light but the defences were strong and I always anticipated a hard fight. Walcheren 1944 adds a worthy chapter to the history of Combined Operations.

(A.N.C.X.F. 021015A to S.O. Force T.)

Sitrep. EREBUS, ROBERTS recommenced bombardment with air spotting at battery W.19, W.288, W.18.

(2) No targets yet offered for air support.

(3) Military situation. Advancing southward towards Zouteland. Northern troops in Domburg are halting. 48th Commando suffered heavy casualties.

(S.O. Force T. 021016A to A.N.C.X.F.)

My 010107A and your 012119A+. Area D (for Dog) is confirmed largely in shoal water. Chart despatched to you to-day.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 021144A to Admty)

Details of a captured chart from an enemy hospital carrier showing minefields.

+ Requesting original chart mentioned in 010107A.

Your 311757. Commenced, O and I.G. M.S. south of centre line. When leading ships in position 2 miles north of Heyst Force came under fire from Southern shore. Two ships hit above waterline and under-casualties 1 killed, 1 seriously injured, 1 slightly injured. Sweep abandoned. Five ground mines detonated 1 mile east of N.F. 10. M/S 132 ordered to return.

(Capt. M/S Force B 021500A to C. in C. Nore).

Your 012340. (1) Oropesa search O.D. 2 to N.F. 8 completed. Negative result.

(2) 2 laps in G formation average width swept 5 cables. Mines swept in following positions. A.180 N.F. 6 cables cut and sunk. B. 230 N.F. 6 one mile detonate in sweep 4 Dan Buoy remain eastern end.

(S.O. M.S.F. 1, 021624A to C. in C. Nore.)

4 S.S. Brigade have requested further support from Monitors tomorrow Friday, intend ROBERTS and EREBUS should withdraw from Assault area at 1745 and steer to westward returning at 0715/3rd ammunition remaining ROBERTS 50%, EREBUS 40%. N.O.I.C. Ostend pass to Force T Rear.

(S.O. Force T 021650A to C. in C. Nore.)

Reference 011877 5 M.M/S of 132 Group together with M.L. 212 and 465 of Ostend local force sailed a.m. to-day for Breskens, but turned back at Wielengen Buoy due to shelling from shore. No casualties nor damage to ships.

(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 021754A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Sitrep ...

War Diary.

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.Walcheren
Assault
(Contd.)

Sitrep. "Infatuate 2". Support Squadron and L.C.H. 187 withdrawn. Hospital and prisoners evacuation proved impossible at 1230 due to fire from W.11 battery on beaches. Ammunition dump blown up on "Green" beach.

(2) Very intermittent bombardment has taken place due to lack of target p.m. 2nd November. EREBUS engaged W.11 at 1230 and obtained 21 possible hits. ROBERTS engaged W.19 and A/A defence to south of it.

(3) Attack by Typhoons on W.11 between 1500 and 1515.

(4) Military hold Domburg. Have captured W.288 battery and advancing southward to W.11. Unconfirmed civilian report 600 Germans have landed at Vrouwen Polder map reference 54 38 327 investigated by spotting aircraft. No activity seen.

(S.O. Force T 021821A to A.N.C.X.F.)

EREBUS, ROBERTS, GARTH, COTTESMORE, S.O. M/S Flotilla 18 and M.Ls. in Q.Z.S. 581 tonight returning bombardment area at 0715 (C. in C. Nore 021941A to V.A. Dover, and ships on patrol.)

Request arrangements be made for escort and M/S 207 bombarding force for "Infatuate", EREBUS 021515, 021819 also refers.

(2) R.C.M. fitted motor launch not now considered essential.

(3) Bombarding force are required to be in position to open fire at 0715.

(4) Request air spotting sorties be briefed as follows:-

A. Franklin with Platerack for targets W.3, W.4 and W.11.

B. Eyebrow with Railfence for target W.18 and W.19.

Air spotting required from 0715.

(S.O. Force T 022232A to C. in C. Nore.)

"Infatuate" Sitrep No. 7 "Infatuate 1". Ferryings of stores continued. Army are making good progress and cleaning up Flushing. "Infatuate 2". 1 Monitor will be retained for bombardment tomorrow Friday. Advance south eastwards toward Flushing progressing. On mainland army hope to overcome remaining enemy resistance near Heyst during night. Command post now closing down. No further Sitreps will be issued by A.N.C.X.F.

(A.N.C.X.F. 022330A to Admty.)

Defences for
the Schelde.

Your telephone enquiry of 27th October regarding underwater defences of Schelde Estuary. Following defences are recommended observing that they could only be laid after clearance of enemy mines.

A. Anti-Midget Indicator Loops on line approx.

192° from Fort de Nolle near Flushing to south shore. Loops could later be backed with L. Mark VI type controller mines, if desired.

B. G type A/B defence with gap NOT gate and H star type anti-Human torpedo nets on line from Koopmans Haven (Flushing Harbour) to Hooge Platen Sand.

C. Six or preferably eight H.D.M.Ls. fitted Asdic type 134C from which to provide patrols. Request your comments.

(D. of L.D. 021246A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Action...

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea - Contd.

Action off The Hook. S.O. Unit F.A. 7 (Lt. Cdr. C.A. Law D.S.C., R.C.N.V.R.) reports proceeded in accordance with C. in C. Nore's O11209A, other units F.A. 8 M.T.B. 486, 485, 481. F.A.9 M.T.B. 491, 464 unit arrived in position of southern end of R.B. 10 at 1930A. At 1931A unit sighted convoy apparently forming up, consisting of one 3,000 ton merchant vessel, escorted by trawlers, gun coasters and R-Boats. Unit altered course to 030° and went in to attack, but enemy was apparently aware of unit's presence, and put up star shell. Unit engaged R-Boat screen with gun fire and at 1955A M.T.B. 491 sighted one 3,000 ton merchant vessel and followed by M.T.B. 464 broke through enemy escort screen to deliver torpedo attack.

At 2005A M.T.B. 491 fired 2 torpedoes, range 800 yards, 8 knots, torpedoes were seen to run true, no explosion was felt aboard M.T.Bs. but one flash and a large pall of black smoke was seen. This is confirmed by boats of the first division. During run in M.T.B. 464 was hit forward and started to make water. Unit F.A. 9 again breaking through enemy screen disengaged on opposite side of convoy, at the same time engaging targets with gunfire. Meanwhile Unit F.A. 8 on opposite course to convoy engaged enemy with gunfire closing to between 400 and 700 yards, one R-Boat was seen to be on fire but this report lacks confirmation. Both 20 m.m. and 6 pdr. hits were observed on other vessels.

At 2215A unit F.A. 8 altered course to 180° to overtake convoy, while seeking a possible torpedo target unit was again engaged with heavy gunfire by the escort. The only torpedo target observed was a medium size gun coaster but unit was unable to get into firing position and another heavy gun action again ensued.

At 2247A unit disengaged and was joined by Unit F.A. 9. When last seen convoy had turned round and was apparently returning to The Hook.

At 2249A unit stopped in position 255° 4.8 mins. from patrol position. At 2250A S.O. ordered M.T.B. 464 to return to base. During this first action M.T.B. 485 suffered one fatal casualty from a piece of shrapnel.

At 2305 unit proceeded on a course N. 80 E. at 8 knots. At 2310A gunfire was observed on a bearing S. 70 E. at 0012A unit was illuminated by star shell from a patrol of 4 trawlers, for the following 2 hours unit endeavoured to close to torpedo range but each time unit closed they were met with heavy and accurate fire. It appeared that the enemy were patrolling the same patrol as unit. In all, three attempts were made to drive the enemy off.

At 0315 in position 51° 59' 24" N. 03° 59' 24" E. by Q.H. fix, unit sighted what was thought to be 2 E-Boats on a southerly course. Unit F.A. 7 challenged and on receiving reply Z, unit altered course to close, still believing craft to be friendly. When at 400 yards range they were recognised as E-Boats, unit opened fire and immediately increased to full speed, E-Boats promptly took evasive action, making smoke, direction in which enemy made off is not known as they were still altering course when contact was lost.

At 0327A unit lost contact with the enemy and returned to patrol position.

At this time an action was going on 4 miles to the north.

At 0500A unit left patrol and set course for base.

/Casualties...

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Action off
The Hook.
(Contd.)

Casualties. 1 rating killed. Weather. Wind N.N.W force 4. Visibility good. Sea and swell 32. Action damage. M.T.B. 464 hole in hull. M.T.B. 486, 485, 491 superficial damage only. (BEEHIVE 021608A to C. in C. Nore.)

Action off
Ymuiden.

Operations off Dutch coast night 1/2 November.
(II) 4th M.T.B. Flotilla (S.O. Lt. Cdr. J.S. Price D.S.C., R.N.V.R.) M.T.B. 458, 467, 469, 492, 457, 455.

(III) Weather wind northerly force 3-4. Sea moderate heavy swell. Visibility good. Occasional cloud and rain showers.

(IV) At 0112A in position 252° Ymuiden 8 miles radar contact 8000 yards 4 ships course 030°. Later sighted 4 M-Class mine-sweepers. Unit altered to parallel course at range 3000-4000 yards, increased speed to gain bearing, turned towards to carry out torpedo attack. Heavy fire range 3000 yards during which M.T.B. 467 suffered direct hit in engine room and disengaged. Remainder of unit made smoke and closed. At 0147 enemy altered towards when range was 1600 yards. Unit withdrew at high speed to N.W. followed by one of the enemy ships for about a mile until unit dropped depth charge. Unit then withdrew and set course for base towing M.T.B. 467 until relieved by M.T.B. 741. No guns or torpedoes fired.

(V) Casualties - 1 rating killed, 1 serious wounded, 1 slightly wounded.

(VI) Damage, extensive damage to M.T.B. 467.
(C. in C. Nore 022225A to Admty.)

Operations - Channel.

E.G.6
to Channel.

Cdre. (D) Western Approaches is requested to sail E.G.6 for Longships when ready. Thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(C. in C. W.A. 020957A to Com. D. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth)

Intend to sail S.O.E.G.6 with OUTREMONT, ANNAN, LOCH MORLICH from Lough Foyle at 1600/2nd November to Longships. S.O.A. 15 knots. S.O. E.G.6 is to indicate E.T.A. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to issue further instructions and Admiralty is requested to divert mails to Plymouth. Admiralty's 312252A October. Not to all refers. NEW WATERFORD will be sailed on completion of defects.

(Com. D. W.A. 021226A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Group 6 (S.O.) OUTREMONT, ANNAN and LOCH MORLICH sailed.

(Com. D. W.A. 021818A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Suspected
U-Boats.

Known (corrupt group) submarine in your vicinity are in following positions drawn from Start Point
118° 23 miles. 099° 19.5 miles. 095° 27.5 miles.
110° 29 miles. 116° 22.5 miles.

(2) Your contact appears promising. Continue to attack.

(C. in C. Plymouth 021154A to S.O.E.G.31.)

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.Suspected
U-Boats.
(Contd.)Aircraft report U-Boat in position 050° 13' N.
002° 19' W. course 090° at 1507A/2nd. E.G. 31
proceeding to investigate.
(C. in C. Plymouth 021555A to C. in C. Portsmouth,
S. & A. in Plymouth Command.)Made 5 hedgehog attacks and dropped 7 depth charges
on target position 50° 12' N. 002° 14' W. on third and fourth
runs obtained definite oil and air bubbles after hedgehog explo-
sions subsided. Poor recorder traces may indicate target broken
up by repeated attacks. All craft made previous attack. Will
remain in vicinity. Have now lost contact. Odour of oil is
noticeable.

(MALOY 022131A to C.T.G. 125.2.)

U-Boat
suspected
in Channel.Request you will mutually concert the operation
of E.G.6 and E.G. 31 with the object of destroying
the U-Boat reported in the Channel.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 022225A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth,
Plymouth.)Patrols.Pins cover night 2/3 November.
G.A. 1 VESPER, G.A. 2 WALDEGRAVE, G.A.3 MAYFLOWER,
G.A.4 L'ESCARMOUCHE - 5 miles west of How Channel
between 50° 05' N. and 50° 25' N.
G.B.1 3 M.T.Bs. 2 miles south of Q.Z.S. 490
between Shambles Light Vessel and A.3 Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 022058A to A.I.Gs. 38, 393.)Operations.West Coast France.Patrol.P.C.S. 1700/2nd 305° Arcachon 40 miles 360° 16½
knots.

- (2) During the night met number of fishing vessels
south of 045° N. steering north, turned them south
by illuminating and few wide shots.
- (3) Area close Spanish coast empty except for few fishing trawlers.
Arcachon nothing to report.
- (4) During the night 2/3 intend patrolling alongside 002° W.
then Ile d'Yeu and northwest towards Penmarch.
- (5) Fuel stocks remaining 0800 63%.
- (6) Weather report :- Barometric pressure 1010 wind N.W. 10 m.p.h.
2/10 cloud at 2500 feet. Visibility 6 miles. Weather cloudy.
(BLYSKAWICA 021547A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

War Diary.

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Western Approaches.

Suspected U-Boats. Lost contact since 020100A.
(NORTHERN WAVE 020331A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Your 012159A. Have searched wide area without result. My position 0330A is 049° 02' N. 005° 27' W. Am carrying out zigzag search at 15 knots up line given in your 011906A.
(S.O. Force 27 020350A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Regained contact vicinity marker considered same.
(NORTHERN WAVE 020500 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Maintain zigzag search between 049° 15' N. 004° 00' W. and 050° 00' N. 004° 25' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth 021236A to Force 27.)
BRISSENDEN 021039 not to all addressees. MINALTO is to watch contact until further orders at 1600.
BRISSENDEN form part of Force 27 and proceed to act under orders of FAULKNER my 021236 refers.
TANATSIDE and ALBRIGHTON leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 1830.
BRISSENDEN report situation before leaving.
(C. in C. Plymouth 021454A to Force 27, BRISSENDEN.)

3 A/S trawlers from Nore to Plymouth. Admiralty's 011729A not to Com. Sheerness or Southend following trawlers will be transferred to C. in C. Plymouth and sailed on the dates indicated
A. ULVA November 5th. B. SKOMER November 4th subject to return from escort duties. C. GWEAL November 5th subject to return from escort duties.
(2) Com. Sheerness is requested to sail ships to Southend for onward routing accordingly.
(C. in C. Nore 021224A to Admty.)

Operations.

Northwestern Approaches.

Suspected U-Boat. Situation at 0930A/2nd, 9th and 26th E.Gs. little Gamma sweeps by divisions containing an area 20 miles to seaward and 30 miles 065° 245° between Inishtrahull and Horn Head.
1st E.G. carrying out asdic sweep inside this area.
Condition suitable. Visibility varying from 8 miles to 1000 yards. Intend persisting on these lines, reverting to my night radar sweep during dark hours (my 011602A refers) until enemy surfaces.
(S.O. Force 33 020940A to C. in C. W.A.)
At 1040A MONTREAL obtained an asdic contact in position 055° 42' N. 007° 20' 30" W. after following up a disappearing radar contact which had appeared at 700 yards. She and JONQUIERE attacked 4 times and buoyed position. Target never had movement. MONTREAL obtained good echo sounder trace of object on sea bed with highest point 18 feet, consider possible submarine. AFFLECK closed position and obtained contact at 1500A. Object has been attacked accurately with hedgehog and depth charges and further echo sounder trace obtained. There are apparently signs of wreckage or oil in water but thick fog makes observation extremely difficult. AFFLECK and MONTREAL are remaining in contact,

/remainder...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northwestern Approaches.

Suspected
U-Boat.
(Contd.)

remainder of ships carrying out radar sweep as in my 011602A as amended by your 021711A.
(2) E.G. 9 obtained contact in position 055° 28' 18" N. 007° 15' 36" W. which he classified as wreck after raising fuel oil and waterlogged wood. E.G. 26 attacked 2 wrecks and after raising fuel oil classified them as non-submarine.
(S.O. Force 33 022020A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 022020A. Depth charge attacks by AFFLECK at 1915A and MONTREAL at 1930A produced an increasing oil slick reaching several miles at 2200A. Samples do not appear to be diesel. Have left GORE and MONTREAL in contact and am rejoining radar sweep.

(S.O., Force 33 022325A to C. in C. W.A.)

10th E.G.

Arrived 10th E.G.
(Com. D. W.A. 021202A to C. in C. W.A.)

4th E.G.

On completion of group training request you will sail 4th E.G. to Bangor for fuel and mails. When ready 4th E.G. is to proceed to position 56° 30' 10" 00'.
(C. in C. W.A. 021301A to PHILANTE.)

9th E.G.

If not in contact 9th E.G. is to be detached at daylight tomorrow 3rd to Londonderry to lay over.
(C. in C. W.A. 021655A to S.O. Force 33.)

Operations.

Norway.

Patrol.

V.P. 76 returned at 0815A today 2nd November.
(2) 2 patrol vessels destroyed by gunfire.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 020925 to A.C.O.S.)

Escort
Carrier
to H.F.

Request you will transfer PREMIER temporarily to command of C. in C. HF. C. in C. H.F.'s 011105 not to all refers.
(2) Mines will be supplied at Greenock as requested F.O.C.T's 011253 not to all refers.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 021717A to C. in C. W.A.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Suspected
U-Boat.

MOUNSEY suffered damage and casualties from either torpedo or internal explosion p.m. yesterday 1st November when on patrol in position 145°, M.U. 20.
(2) Ship has arrived Kola Inlet and is being berthed at Rosta Dockyard.
(3) 11 casualties names unknown.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 020836A to Admty.)

Convoy
R.A. 61.

Operation "Trial". Kola Inlet 2nd November departure R.A. 61 33 ships speed 9½ knots.

(2) MOUNSEY did not sail.
(3) Admiralty pass to M.W.T.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 021102 to Admty.)

From N.C.S.O.

(1) R.A. 61. (2) My 1100A/2nd November.
(4) 9½ knots. (5) My 291250 of October paras. 3 and 4.
(7) 10 columns 5 4 4 2 1 1 2 4 5 5.

(13) A. Commodore M.W.S. Boucher R.N.R. in EDWARD A. SAVOY.
B. Vice Commodore of convoy Master EMPIRE CELIA.

C. Rear Commodore Master JOHN J. ABEL. All for Loch Ewe.

(14) S.P. 2406 (777) S.P. 2272 (32) and (33).

(15) 7A.

(16) NOREG and LAURELWOOD. Admiralty pass to Ministry of War Transport.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 021510A to Admty.)

From N.C.S.O. R.A. 61.

10½ DEXTER W. FELLOWS. 10 JULIUS OLSEN. 10½ EDWARD E. SPAFFORD.
10 FREDERICK A. KUMMER. 10½ RICHARD M. JOHNSON. (corrupt group)
LEWIS EMERY JUNIOR. 10 FRANCIS SCOTT KEY 10 LUCERNA (T) M/F D/F
300/500 k/cs. 10½ FREDERICK W. TAYLOR. 10 JOHN J. ABEL. 10½
HAWKINS FUDSKE. 10 HENRY LOMB. 11 SYRIAN PRINCE (Rescue ship)
H/F D/F. 10½ GEORGE T. ANGELL. 10 NOREG (T). 10 SAMARITAN
M/F D/F 527 k/cs. 10 EDWARD A. SAVOY. 10½ DANIEL WILLARD. 10
LAURELWOOD (T). 10 ARUNAH S. ABELL. 10 EMPIRE CELIA. 10½
BRITISH PATIENCE (T) M/F D/F 446 k/cs. 10 RAYMOND B. STEVENS.
10½ ADOLPH S. OCHS. 10½ DAVID STONE. 10 NERITINA (T) M/F D/F
365 k/cs. 10 JOHN WOOLMAN. 10½ NATHANIEL ALEXANDER. 11
THOMAS U. WALTER. 10½ JOSHUA THOMAS. 10 JOHN VINING. 10½
CARDINAL GIBBONS. 10½ F.T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

(2) (P) Passengers from Archangel as in S.B.N.O. Archangel's 301559A.

(12) Loch Ewe. Admiralty pass to Min. of W.T. Chief Officer BRITISH PATIENCE in command for homeward passage.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 021809A to Admty.)

Icelandic
situation.

2102A position 2nd November.

U.S.S. SATURN and JOHN D. EDWARDS 062° 03' N.
029° 53' W. to 062° 30' N. 028° 50' W. thence 060°
14½.

U.S.S. EASTWIND and SOUTHWIND off Skagi bound
Reykjavik 9.

E.G. 11 QU'APPELLE and three destroyers departing Reykjavik 2000A/
2nd November through 063° 34' N. 022° 38' W. thence 136° 14.
STARWORT, CHARLOCK searching vicinity of Reykjanes.

(A.C.I.C. 021310A to Admty., C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S., C, in C. W.A.)

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Faroes arrivals. Faroes arrivals CYGNET, BEAGLE, NENE, WESTCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 021331A to C. in C. W.A., BERWICK)

E.G. 14. E.G. 14 are proceeding Scapa to refuel arriving daylight 3rd November this group is being relieved on 7th and in view of short period available prior to lay over suggest they join E.G. 18 or as required by you. If you concur request you will issue necessary orders direct. (C. in C. Rosyth 021616A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 11. Sailed QU'APPELLE, ST. LAURENT, CHAUDIERE and ASSINIBOINE. E.T.A. Merville 0230A/5th November. My 011202 refers. (A.C.I.C. 022124A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

Mining.

Situation report. 42 M/S Flotilla - operation "Pilgrim" continuing. 31 M/S Flotilla - operation "Progress" continuing. 150 M/S Flotilla - Q.Z.S. 595, 585. 2 ground mines detonated in position 049° 29' 36" N. 000° 01' 42" E. 049° 29' 35" W. 000° 03' 12" E.

181st Trawler Group - Q.Z.S. 587, 539 and 541. B.Y.M.S. 2002, 2004 Oropesa sweep River Seine continuing. Bottom line sweep of floating dock basin at (?Rouen) completed. (Capt. M/S N.F. 020943A to C.T.F. 125.)

Reference V.A. Dover 011848A. It is expected that operation "Progress" covering Dieppe - Boulogne channel will be completed by November 14th. (Capt. M/S N.F. 021028A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Deep mining of St. George's Channel. Carry out operation. C.F.A. 2 at 1800/3rd November. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 021047A to APOLLO.) Carry out operation "C.D.2Z 9" at 1745/2nd November. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 021057A to PLOVER.)

Deep mining in N.W. Approaches. Further consideration has been given to the laying of deep A/S minefields in the N.W. Approaches. (2) It is desired to avoid undue delay in taking APOLLO in hand in accordance with A.M. 291023 October but on completion of present series she should lay two parallel lines of mines the initial line being laid in a direction 320° from position 55° 27' N. 07° 30' W. The initial position of the second line to be 5 miles 250° from the position quoted above. Spacing 200 feet. Depth 150 feet. Mines as in operation "C.F." available at Milford Haven.

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Deep mining in N.W. (3) On completion of these two lays ship should be sailed for Devonport.
Approaches. (4) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven pass to APOLLO.
(Contd.) (A.C.N.S.(H) 021215A to C. in C. W.A.)
Admiralty Message 021215 Nov. Operation is to be referred to as operation "C.G." eastern line of mines is to be line A.1. western line A.2.
(2) Orders for the operation are to be as in W.A. 00657/10 of 20th October (corrupt group) amend para. 1 for south read north para. 3 and 14 delete C. in C. Plymouth and add F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. N.I., Cdre. (D) W.A. to repeat addressees para. 12 any necessary warnings concerning the operation to be issued by C. in C. W.A. para. 13 communication as for operation "C.F." (W.A. 00657/10 of 20th Oct.) para. 4, 9, 10 position depth and spacing of mines to be as in A.M. 021215 Nov.
(3) A.M. 021215 Nov. is passed to F.O.I.C. N.I., F.O.I.C. Greenock and Cdre. (D) W.A. and copies of W.A. 00657/10 of 20th Oct. 1944 are being forwarded by courier.
(C. in C. W.A. 021830 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Granton Para. Request report on success or otherwise of Granton sweeps. Para. sweepers in Havre Approach Channels. Particulars and disposal of mines recovered (if any) should be stated and repeated to Admiralty and A.N.C.X.F. for information.
(C.T.F. 125 021339 to Capt. M/S N.F.)

Your 021339. Granton Para. sweep has recovered 1 (C) type mine marked 2 which was towed to North Beach, rendered safe and burnt out. Further sweep disclosed a large number of heavy anchors and it has been found necessary to employ an (A) sweep to clear them from Channel. This has now been completed as far as possible and 10 anchors removed. Intend commence Granton sweep again tomorrow Friday 3rd November. When Channel has been thoroughly (?cleared) by Granton sweep it is proposed that 182nd M/S Flotilla should carry out a re-survey with echo sounding plot. 2 magnetic mines were detonated in Pas du Nord Ouest on Oct. 31st. (Capt. M/S N.F. 022237A to U.S. Cmdre. T.F. 125.)

U-Boats.

Suspected U-Boats. One probably moving into Channel from attack 1050Z/31st October but probably not yet east of long. 04° 00' W. Nothing further to confirm presence of any other U-Boat in the area.
(D.D.I.C. 021336A to A.I.G. 331.)

At 1113Z and 1512Z U-Boat transmissions were intercepted on 7045 k/cs. D/F bearings were inconclusive but in each case one cross bearing suggested that the transmissions may possibly have been from your general area.
(D.D.I.C. 021804A to S/Ms, SEADOG, VARNE.)

/Yesterday's...

2.11.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

Yesterday's Spanish U-Boat report now cancelled. My telegraph 012030. Object ashore instead of submarine is ESPARAVAN some 7 metres long. Coastal Authority telegraphed Admiral Ferrel saying was submarine hence my report. (CORUNA 021840A to Admty.) German submarine ashore Lema Baldayo beach.

Navigational.

Swept channel into Ostend. A.N.C.X.F.'s 111803A to Commodore Belgium, repeated N.O.I.C. Ostend. A channel 6 cables wide has now been swept Oropesa and Lusa, 2 actuations, with centre line as follows A. N.F. 8 Buoy. B. Position 051° 18.6' N. 002° 51.4' E. C. Ostend Harbour entrance. Request Q.Z. Message be promulgated. For information, actual position of Ostend Bank Buoy is 326 $\frac{1}{4}$ ° 5 miles from East Breakwater light. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 021855 to Commodore Belgium.)

Port Facilities.

Calais. Request wreck dispersal ship ARY be sailed to Calais forthwith. (S.O. X.F. 021106A to N.O.I.C. Sheerness.)

Antwerp. Your 011021 November. Commander Manning should return Friday 3rd if possible. Thereafter he can probably be spared to advise N.O.I.C. Antwerp for short periods but not continuously or permanently. (D. of L.D. 021245A to A.N.C.X.F.)

It is reported that buoys in Schelde have been sunk by military firing at them. Request Army authorities be emphatically informed that sinking or damage to buoys can only lead to delay in supplies reaching Antwerp. (C. in C. Nore 021316A to 21 A.G.)

Morlaix. Will sail KIRRIEMORE and BARBERRY and DRAGONET for Portsmouth a.m. 4th November for stores and water. After consultation with B.D.O., F.O.B.A.A. request Lieut. Com. Cook be sent Morlaix by air to report what additional gear should be brought by KIRRIEMORE to Morlaix. Your 311834 and my 011729 refer. (C.T.F. 125 021651A to Admty.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Audibility of Para. 6 of my 132150A and para. 4A of my letter submerged S/Ms dated 19th October concerning attack trials with SERAPH. A further trial has been carried out to test audibility of SERAPH when travelling at high speed submerged weather was calm and asdic conditions good. Two runs were carried out one at 60 feet and one at 210 feet in each run SERAPH proceeded at max. speed for ten minutes during which time the range was opened from an average of 3000 to 5500 yards from all ships.

(2) SERAPH was firmly held on H.E. by all ships throughout both runs. From the strength of H.E. still being heard at 5500 yards it is estimated that SERAPH would have been detectable up to about 8000 yards. There was little difference between intensity of H.E. when shallow or deep.

(3) Oscillator frequencies in use were Y.C.D.F.

(4) These results confirm previous opinions that H.E. detection at 5000 yards can reasonably be expected under average conditions. (Training Comdr. ROCKABILL 021913A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

COLSAY. Regret COLSAY sunk by underwater explosion in approx. position 133 O.D. 4 1.5 miles at 0048. (S.O. M/S 1st 020102 to C. in C. Nore.) JASON reports wreck of COLSAY danger to navigation in position 051° 14.7' N. 002° 48.0' E. marked by double flagged Dan 1 cable to eastward of wreck. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 021235A to C. in C. Nore.)

WHITAKER. My 021343 sailed. (Com. D. W.A. 020926A to F.O.I.C. N.I.) Regret to report that WHITAKER was damaged by underwater explosion early a.m. 1st November whilst supporting a convoy; forepart of ship was blown off and remainder is being towed to Belfast. (2) My 021841A November which follows in plain language is a list of ratings who are missing presumed killed. (3) R.N.A.H. Londonderry 012305A and 021201A also refer. (4) It is believed that there may be several bodies still on board WHITAKER. (5) Next of kin have not been informed. (Capt. (D) Belfast 021832A to Combrax Devonport.)

RIO BRAVO. Tanker RIO BRAVO struck by torpedo in engine room at 0134/2nd October, when at anchor in Ostend Road. (2) Ship capsized and remained floating bottom up at 16.10 2nd. Derelict now marked with buoy and fixed Green Light. (3) 11 picked up and taken to Tilbury by L.S.T. 238. Names not known. 1 survivor Alexander Smith R. 137606 Chief Officer landed at Ostend, slightly injured. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 021100A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

EMPIRE
HOMESTEAD.

EMPIRE HOMESTEAD holed in engine room by under-water obstruction. Vessel is beached at Omaha will require towing to U.K.
(C.T.F. 125 021115 to Admty.)

MOUNSEY.

My 020836. MOUNSEY has hole in starboard quarter just below waterline 112 to 120 station. 108 bulkhead leaking slightly and distorted. 128 bulkhead intact. Slit distortion upper deck.

- (2) Ship entered harbour under own steam on both engines with 18° list.
(3) Much superficial damage in compartments owing to oil fire.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 021724A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Route for
Cherbourg.

Request all convoys and ships for Cherbourg and American beaches may be routed Q.Z.S. 490 to A.6 Buoy thence by channel 14 to 14 E Buoy thence by Q.Z.S. 616 or 506 and reverse on passage from Far shore.

(2) Commands pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 021706A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.Os. i/c Milford Haven, Cardiff, Falmouth, Portland, C. in C. W.A., C.T.F. 125, F.O.I.C. Southampton, C.T.G. 125.11, C.T.G. 125.12, C.T.G. 125.2, N.C.S.O. Southampton, N.C.S.O. Cowes, N.C.S.O. Portsmouth.)

My 021706 should come into force forthwith.

- (2) In para. 1 read Q.Z.S. 490 to position 50° 25' 40" N. 01° 05' 48" W. thence by Channel 14.
(3) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.H. 559.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 021933A to C. in C. Plymouth, etc.)

Arromanches
ships to sail
in convoy.

Until further notice personnel ships are to be sailed from Arrow in convoy.
Escorts are to wait for return convoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 021709A to F.O.B.A.A.)
C. in C. Portsmouth 021709.

Until further notice all ships are to be sailed in escorted convoys except coasters proceeding to ports between Wight and Dungeness.
(F.O.B.A.A. 022057A to N.O.I.C. Arrow.)

Ships from
France to
sail in
convoy.

In view of U-Boats sighted in Portsmouth Command request you will sail all personnel and M.T. ships from France to U.K. in escorted convoys.
(2) LA DECOUVERTE F.S. escorting W.F.P. 25 has been instructed to escort ships ex W.F.P. 24 to Portsmouth immediately on arrival at 0900/3rd.

- (3) Unloaded M.T. ships from previous W.F.M. convoy should be escorted to Portsmouth by SNOWBERRY arriving Cherbourg 2000 with W.F.M. 24.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 021900A to C.T.F. 125.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Release of
dredging
plant at
Arromanches.

Your 271600A Tn. 758 not to all.

(2) War Office have no further use for dredging plant now at Arrow with the possible exception of the reclamation unit WISSEY and unless you require any of this plant elsewhere, it is proposed to de-requisition and return the craft to owners.

(3) LEVIATHAN and BURBO now in the Solent will accordingly be returned to Liverpool.

(4) If owing to the condition of the WISSEY and LINCOLN WITHAM you consider it is advisable and are able to make arrangements to ship them by L.S.D. request you endeavour arrange delivery to nearest convenient port for Richborough and Kings Lynn respectively to reduce subsequent towage.

(5) Request you will arrange for battening down and towage of remaining plant as follows:-

To the Thames. Dumb reclamation unit TILBURIAN.

Dumb hoppers MILLWALL and BLACKWALL.

To Falmouth. Dumb hoppers FALMOUTH 4 and FALMOUTH 5.

To Leith. Dumb reclamation barges H.A.M. 632, 633, 634 and 635.

(6) Captain S.J. Shippick, M.N., Mr. F.E. Whittome and crews of WISSEY and TILBURIAN are to be returned to Southampton when their services are no longer required.

(7) Request you confirm movements are being initiated on these lines or indicate other action being taken.

(D. of S.T. 022354A to Exfor Rear.)

War Diary

2.11.1944
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

KING
GEORGE V.

My 012250. Codeword "Rugger"(334).
(F.O.G.M.A.021111A)

SETTEMBRINI.

Request ocean route for Italian S/M SETTEMBRINI sailing on November 8th to Bermuda calling at Horta for fuel en route.
(F.O.G.M.A. 021205A to Admty)

KING
GEORGE V.

Arrived and sailed KING GEORGE V. KEMPENFELT for Port Said.
URSA METEOR for Malta.
(F.O.G.M.A. 021853A)

T.G.27.3.

November 2nd arrivals - U.S.S. KASAAN BAY, DOUGLAS A. MUNRO, DUFILHO.
(C.M.S.F.022200).

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Milos I. My 012359 para. 1 and 2 position was found still occupied. Attack has been postponed 24 hours and surrender demand will now probably be made at about (70600B) tomorrow Friday. F.O.L.E.M. pass to T.A.C.H.Q. Force 142.

(BLACK PRINCE 020415 to F.O.L.E.M. (R) F.O. 15th C.S., AURORA, EMPEROR, T.A.C. Hq. Comec. Force 142).

Melos Sitrep 2259 2nd, once again M.T.B. projected dusk attack on 88 millimetres position at 952007 has not materialised. Communications between Lapraik Dennis and myself are chaotic.

3. Understand Brigadier Turnbull arriving a.m. tomorrow Friday and hope to meet him.
4. EMPEROR continues to do magnificent work with his A/C and as an oiler but neither his heavy attacks, nor my pea-shooters have any effect on the 150 millimetre battery (tracings) than to keep their heads down.
5. Cannot reply to your 021220* and 021221* until your 021110* is received.
6. F.O.L.E.M. pass to T.A.C., H.Q. Force 142. (BLACK PRINCE 022323B). *Not received.

Movements. Alexandria Nov. 1st 1944. Arrivals - ZOEA, SYLVIA, OCTAVIA, WELFARE, AURORA, TETCOTT, GARLAND, TEAZER (a.m.) Departures - CHIDDINGFOLD, OAKLEY, PROTEA, TROUBRIDGE, TERMAGENT, TENACIOUS, TEAZER (p.m.) (R.A. Alexandria, 020701).

EMILE BAUDOT. Destination of Cable Ship EMILE BAUDOT is Gib. where from F.O. Bombay's 300909 Oct. it appears she can arrive by mid December.
(2) Para. 2 F.O.W.M. 161636 Aug. and C. in C. E.F. 050250 Sept. neither to F.O.L.E.M. F.O.W.M. is requested to ensure French are ready to take over ship on arrival.
(3) F.O.G.M.A. requested to arrange transfer of ship to French and return of British crew to U.K.
(C. in C. Med., 020945A).

CURIE F.S. CURIE sailed from Malta 1103A/2nd routed north of Rodi and through Turkish territorial waters to arrive Khios 1301A/6th. Speed 10 knots. (Capt. (S) 1, 021141).

Convoy Tasa II. Request you will sail LIDDESDALE to arrive Taranto noon 4th November to escort Tasa II. (C.S.15, 021247B to S.B.N.O. Greece).
Kelso. Request you sail convoy Tasa II, escorted by LIDDESDALE p.m./4 to arrive Poros 0800B/7 and inform me names of ships therein.
Expect to send operation order for Kelso in LIDDESDALE. (C.S.15, 021351).

UNSWERVING The following from Comaro One. If UNSWERVING is not urgently required at Malta she is of great value at Khios for W/T duty. Request she may remain until further orders. (UNSWERVING, 021530B to Capt. (S) 1).

VIGOROUS Return to Khios reporting E.T.A. Alexandria C.C.O. recode and pass to VIGOROUS. (KIMBERLEY 021641B to VIGOROUS).

/Leave...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece and Aegean.

VIGOROUS
(contd).

Leave patrol forthwith and proceed direct to Mitylene reporting E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Lussin Piccolo. F.O.L.E.M.'s 021258 refers. Alexandria C.C.O. recode and pass to addressees not holding S/M tables.
(Q.N. 51, 021805 to VIGOROUS).

General

TUEBINGEN

Request you comply with para. 3 A.M. 012019 reporting whether replacements can be found from Mid-East theatre.

(C. in C. Med., 020931A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Admiralty's 012019 para. 3. A.G.5 Cairo state they have approximately 50 German merchant seamen. Suitability as firemen not yet known.

2. A.G.5 not prepared to release any of these men without orders from P.W. 2 War Office.

(F.O.L.E.M., 022116B to C. in C. Med).

Escort
carriers.

Your 011058. 1. Detached. 2. Proceeding. 3. 0700A/3 18 knots. Intend ROYALIST detach as in my 301645A not to all addressees.
(R.A.E.C., 021011 to V.A. Malta).

BONN

German Hospital ship BONN/DYHY left Sibenik for Trieste at 0830 G.M.T.

(Venice Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 021051).

Position at 1100 G.M.T. latitude 43.25 N., longitude 15.56 E., course 256 speed 8 knots.

(BONN, No T.O.O.)

Danube
Intelligence.

From my intelligence report up to 1st November.

1. Only gunboat reported on Danube since 24th Oct. is BECHELANEN now above Budapest. 3 mine-sweepers M.L. at least still remain at Iron Gates.
2. Mines. 19th Oct. one destroyed on Danube at 1094 km. post and Oct. 24th one magnetic mine at 1153 km. post. 1st Nov. 4 mines type U M A swept in Feodosia Bay.

3. In view of present dearth of information in intelligence reports propose (?discontinuing) these dubious summaries by signal.

(Naval M.A. Black Sea, 021225A).

/JEANNE...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. - Contd.

JEANNE D'ARC, Flare JEANNE D'ARC A, GEORGES LEYGUES B, both at
GEORGES Toulon at 1400A/3. C.T.G.86,7 pass to C.G.
LEYGUES. A.B.T.F., N.G.L.O.
(C.T.F.86, 021237A to T.F.86).

FREIBURG Propose to approve requisitioning of ship for
(German purpose in F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 291217 October and
hospital later for use as Troop Carrier by P.S.T.O. Med.
carrier). pending completion of Prize Court proceedings.
(C. in C. Med., 021240A to Admty).

GLOIRE Propose F.S. GLOIRE brings back RICHILIEU
Libertymen leaving Marseilles 25th November and
arriving Casablanca 27th November.
(2) Then to Brest leaving with Libertymen on December 7th for
Casablanca.
(3) PD C M S F pass to RICHILIEU.
(F.O.W.M., 021554A to C. in C. Med).

Danarm The Combined Staff of Danarm and S.O.(I) Istanbul
S.O.(I) consists of 31 officers, ratings and civilian
Istanbul. employees of these 3 officers and 12 ratings have
entered Turkey since mid August this year.
2. S.O.(I)'s reduced staff can easily cope with
the work of that department now and consists of 2 officers, 4
communication ratings and 2 civilian employees.
3. With the exception of studying their future work there is
no useful employment in Istanbul for the 7 officers, 13 ratings,
(10 communication) and 3 civilians comprising Danarm party.
4. The abortive attempt to enter Bulgaria has given Turkish
official circles an impression that relations between Russia and
ourselves are not very good, an impression they are only too
anxious to absorb and exaggerate at any time. Further-more the
Ambassador is anxious to reduce British personnel generally in
this country. Your 311844 refers.
(B.N.A. Ankara, 021613C to C. in C. Med).

DUGUAY- Anticipate Fr. Cruiser DUGUAY-TROUIN will leave
TROUIN. Casablanca November 6th and arrive Brest 8th
leaving 13th for Casablanca. My 261142 October
not to all addressees.
(2) Propose DUGUAY-TROUIN then carries out round trip Casablanca-
Dakar Pointe Noire with Naval and civilian reliefs for French
colonies leaving Casablanca November 19th and returning about
December 18th.
(3) Brest liberty men would be collected by Fr. Cruiser GLOIRE.
My 021554 not to all addressees refers.
(F.O.W.M., 021720A to C. in C. Med).

/Palermo...

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Palermo, Your 251632 September. Concur subject to
turning following conditions.
over to 1. Palermo to be used primarily for repair and
Italians. refits of Merchant Ships thus reducing necessity
for using Gibraltar and Malta for this work.
2. Control of priorities and supervision of work
to be under Mediterranean Shipping Board.
3. Your para. 4 (b) Technical Staff to be M. of W.T. commitment,
and any Naval Technical Staff thus released to be surrendered
from Mediterranean.
Agreed M. of W.T.
(V.C.N.S., 021909A to C. in C. Med).

GARLAND, 231251 Oct. not to all F.O.L.E.M. reports
EMPEROR. GARLAND P.S. should proceed to U.K. at an early
date.
(2) Intend sailing her as escort to EMPEROR to
arrive U.K. by 1st December A.M. 341134 Oct. not to all refers.
(3) Request one of ships in para. 4 of first quoted signal may
be sailed as relief.
(C. in C. Med., 021934A to Admty).

COCKCHAFFER. Subject to Admiralty approval COCKCHAFFER is to
be taken in hand at low priority at Taranto for
conversion for use as S.B.N.O.'s ship Danube for
which purpose she will be required to be ready early February.
Ship will be sailed about mid November for Taranto on satisfac-
tory completion of trials after present repairs.
(C. in C. Med., 022014).

U.S., Ordering the return to U.S. of certain landing
L.Cs. craft.
(Cominch, 022036Z to Com. 8th Fleet).

Destroyer Situation report number 478.
engagement On night of 1st November WHEATLAND and AVONVALE
off Pag I. operating west of Pag Island engaged and sank 2
enemy destroyers in position 044° 34' N., 014°
44' E. A third enemy destroyer was later
engaged in position 044° 36' N., 014° 32' E. and is believed sunk.
Three Officers and 68 ratings taken prisoners. WHEATLAND un-
damaged. AVONVALE received numerous splinter holes.
(C. in C. Med., 022102A).

Riviera Mission report Part one November 2nd.
operations. (a) Enemy guns and troops.
(b) 823907-834896-844895.
(c) From 0937 to 0955A and 1635 to 1652A and 1701
to 1711A.
(d) 18 rounds - 15 rounds - 40 rounds.
(e) Air spot - FC. 12 - FC. 12.
(f) With airspot unobserved because bad weather with FC.12 last
salvo started a big fire.
(g) 160° true 10 miles from Cap Martin 140° true 8 miles from
Cap Martin.

/(h)...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Riviera
operations.
(contd).

(h) None and when firing on the last target three
salvoes of light guns.

(i) None.

Part Two.

(A) 73 rounds.

(B) 94%

(C) 72%

Part Three

Three floating mines sighted.

(MONTCALM, 02222A to C.T.F.86).

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ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

F.D.School (Extract). In anticipation of Admiralty's approval the Fighter Direction position at China Bay is being expanded to provide training for the Fleet.

R.N.A.S.
China
Bay.

(2) It is proposed officially to recognize the combination as "The Fighter Direction School R.N.A.S. China Bay". (Amended to "R.N.A.S. Dingwall" (C. in C. E.F. 020328) (513162))

PORPOISE. PORPOISE transferred to 4th S/M.Flotilla, 28th October, 1944.
(Capt. (S) 8, 020600Z)

Flag of R.A.A.E.F. transferred to ILLUSTRIOUS 1st November.
(R.A.A.E.F.021013Z)

SUFFOLK, Comsouwespac is requested to arrange sailing of U.S.S. GENERAL BUTNER from Melbourne and H.M.S. SUFFOLK from Fremantle so that these ships R/V off South West Australia on 13th November. My 231253 and Comsouwespac 260946 refer.
(2) Route to Bombay.

(3) WESSEX and WAKEFUL will R/V with the above ship in position F.004 degs. 50' S. 084 degs. 29' E. at 0800Z/18.

(4) U.L.(?when) destroyers have joined SUFFOLK is to part company and proceed to Trincomalee.

(5) SUFFOLK and destroyer set watch on 4740 K/cs for 12 hours before time of R/V for intercommunication.

(6) Comsouwespac is requested to confirm and repeat back date time and position of R/V in para.3.

(C. in C. E.F.021303Z)

A.F.D.17. (Extract)
Sailed MASTERFUL at 0800Z/2nd November to Suez to meet A.F.O. (?A.F.D.) 17 to comply with F.O.L.E.M's 271225.
(Com. Aden, 021615Z)

Reserve A/C for carriers. Reserve A/C being ferried from U.K. and Ceylon to Australia as in A.M's.021805 and 021806 will arrive before planned arrangements for their reception can be completed.

(2) It is essential that high percentage of these A/C should be in flying condition as soon as possible after their arrival to ensure that adequate reserves are available for the four Fleet Carriers. Requisite handling equipment is being despatched in THANE and should be transferred to ATHELING.

(3 - 5) Re: servicing personnel.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 022107A to C. in C. E.F.)

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Russian S.Cs. Fifth Group Russian S.Cs. now ready to proceed to U.K. vide N.S.H.Q.'s 272253/6 and 6th Group expected to arrive St. Johns Nfld. for onward routeing within 10 days.

(2) Request dates when next 4 escorts will be available. (F.O.N.F., 021309Z to S.B.N.O. W.At).

Cancel Cominch 282108 October, sail 6th Group Russians same route as fifth.

(Cominch 022135Z to Comeastseafron).

T.F.60. 011958Z reconstituting Task Force 60. (C. in C. Lant (Adcmd) 021314Z to C.T.F.60).

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 021325Z, Cominch 021526Z).

H.X.317 Groups C4 WENTWORTH (S.O.) PETROLIA both H/F D/F WHITBY, NORTH BAY sails St. Johns N.F. at 1400Z/3 to relieve you in Westomp 044° 19' N., 048° 40' W. at 1500Z/4.

2. Chop 1500Z/5th.

3. Further orders follow for group WW. (F.O.N.F., 021442Z to S.E., H.X. 317).

Palisadoes. Your 272045. Concur in proposed arrangements provided there is no objection by Colonial Govt. who should be consulted. Actual date of transferring temporary control of Palisadoes to military should be reported.

2. Arrangement will be reviewed in twelve months time or on conclusion of hostilities, which ever is the earlier. (Hd. of Air Branch, 021723A to S.B.N.O., W. At.)

SEYCHELLES, ATOLIA, ATHELNEY. Is it desired that SEYCHELLES act as escort to Gibraltar. Your 011912 refers, or only as far as Azores.

2. SEYCHELLES will now complete short work-up about November 11. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 022016Z to Admty).

Stragglers report No. 74. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.259. REMBRANDT October 26th. Lost convoy in heavy weather.

One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.316, VILLE DE MAJUNGA November 1st. Condenser defects. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 022131Z).

U/B in St. Lawrence R. S.S. FORT THOMPSON torpedoed at 2128Z in 048° 58' N., 067° 33' W. (C. in C. C.N.A., 022223Z).

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREING STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Logistic support of R.A.N. Units. (Extract). Present lack of suitable refrigerated vessels for logistic support of R.A.N. Units operating with American Forces in South West Pacific area and difficulty resulting from difference in nature of items stocked and messing standards between U.S. Navy and R.A.N. are causing U.S.N. and A.C.N.B. much concern.

4. Comservfor 7th Fleet anticipates similar R.N. problem arising with advent of Force X and has asked that an R.N. or R.A.N. V.S.I.S. be provided to supplement MERKUR no additional R.A.N. V.S.I.S. is available but TAIPING would be suitable.

5. Although Comservfor 7th Fleet has accepted responsibility for logistic support of Force X it is not known whether any special arrangement in this regard has been made by you with U.S. Navy Dept.

6. Subject to para. 5. above A.C.N.B. strongly recommend a R.N. V.S.I.S. be allocated temporarily forthwith to Comservfor 7th Fleet to supplement MERKUR in supplying refrigerated and dry stores to R.A.N. and (Force X?).
(A.C.N.B., 020505Z to Admty).

Digest No. 1016. (Extract). November 1st.

2. Three large ships observed southbound between West Coast Leyte and North Eastern Cebu Island at high speed midday. Five hours later 12 ships thereof four large Merchant ships, eight Destroyers in smaller escort types, seen same vicinity heading Southeast into Ormoc Bay. Above may be same ships reported Digest 1015 para. 3.

4. Single small freighter discharged troops Northeastern Panay before dawn having arrived there earlier that night.

5. Two strongly pressed enemy air raids on shipping Leyte Gulf during forenoon following occasional snoopers overhead since early hours: first raid involved minimum 10 torpedo and dive bombers but details later raid not yet available. Some damage suffered by Allied ships. During day combat air patrols over Gengoal Layti Gulf area together with Ack-Ack shot down (?17) planes: previous day 11 were shot down.

6. Our forces advancing northwards from Jaro reached position six miles from Oarigara on North Coast against stubborn rear-guard action. Sharp clashes occurring vicinity Carigara but elsewhere little enemy contact reported by active patrols.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 021149).

2.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. A. 1. ZWABRDFISCH attacked German U-boat on 6th October in 06° 20' S., 111° 28' E.
B. 1. A/C Z/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0155Z/1 in 60° 40' N., 01° 14' E.
C. 1. Sailor from trawler CIMARRON reported S/M attack on 31st October in approx. 43° 18' N., 08° 41' W.
2. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0200Z/1 in 49° 46' N. 05° 03' W.
3. A/C/M/110 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0920Z/1 in 49° 40' N. 04° 12' W.
4. A/C/L/114 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1145Z/1 in 49° 43' N. 04° 31' W.
5. H.M.S. NORTHERN WAVE attacked doubtful contact at 1430Z and 1609Z/1 in 49° 56' N., 05° 23' W.
6. A/C E/228 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2000Z/1 in 49° 19' N. 05° 21' W.
(D.D.I.C., 021136A).

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 021334A, 021335A).

3.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. The only major reaction to our strategic air raids, for a considerable time past, was provoked by the air raid on the oil targets in the Merseburg area, which provoked 350 to 400 sorties.

North Sea.

2(a) Progress continues on Walcheren, and the forces of "Infatuate 2" from West Kappelle are within two miles of "Infatuate 1" at Flushing, where, however, fighting still continues fiercely in the docks area. All resistance in the areas of Knocke and Zeebrugge has ceased, and all organised resistance east of the Leopold Canal south of the Schelde. 12,000 prisoners have been taken. Royal Marine commandos were withdrawn from Walcheren at 1000. EREBUS and ROBERTS have returned to the U.K.

(b) Six minesweepers have reached Terneuzen. They were fired on from Flushing, but unhurt.

(c) A Dutch pilot at Flushing is prepared to take ships up to Antwerp at any time now.

(d) Farther north, the 30th M.T.B. Flotilla, 5 boats strong, made contact with an enemy force of 4 trawlers, 4 T.L.Cs. and 4 R-Boats off Noordwijk and torpedoed and sank one of the trawlers. M.T.B. 471 was hit in her petrol tank and set on fire, but returned to base.

West Coast
France.

3. The French desire to take part in any operations undertaken for the liberation of the Gironde, and some of their ships will probably come round from the Mediterranean for the purpose.

Foreign Stations

Australia and New Zealand

4. 24 Liberators from Darwin bombed the waterfront and wharf area at Makassar at midnight 2nd/3rd November and started large fires.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Minor defects of operational craft v. Admiralty - assigned work at Chatham.

A.S. Chatham has represented to me that current minor defects such as repairs to asdic, propeller shafts, propellers, brackets, lubricating pipes, rudders, electrical defects etc. cannot be undertaken during boiler cleaning periods without serious interference to Admiralty assigned work in the yards.

(2) There are now more Destroyers, Frigates, Corvettes, Minesweepers, Escort Trawlers and Combined Operation craft based in this Command than ever before. All these must be kept running to the maximum possible extent if minesweeping commitments, opening up of Continental Ports and

safe-guarding of Army supplies and Trade Convoys are to be accomplished.

(3) Many of these vessels are overdue for refit and have been run hard for most of the war. Moreover, in some cases their maintenance has been grossly neglected for months past.

(4) It is essential that allowance should be made for urgent defects to be undertaken when these vessels are in hand for boiler cleaning at Chatham and Sheerness Dockyards. Request this may receive consideration when allocating work and priority to these dockyards and that Superintendents be authorised immediately to undertake essential minor defects to keep vessels running.

(C. in C. Nore, 031648A to Admt.)

Future of 1st D.F.

I have just received a farewell call from Commander Mundy, late of BLEASDALE, who informs me that he has been relieved at the Nore by an R.N.V.R. officer. I do not know whether this presages the disbanding of the 1st Destroyer Flotilla with

its long record of good service and fine esprit de corps. I feel strongly that the entity of the Flotilla should be preserved even if it has to be lent to other Commands to fulfil requirement. I feel I am concerned in the matter of the 1st Destroyer Flotilla and so would be grateful if Their Lordships' intentions could be conveyed to me.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 032211A to Admt., Capt. D.I.)

Movements

ROBERTS

My 030746 detach ROBERTS to proceed Sheerness to complete with ammunition subsequently proceeding to Portsmouth.

(C. in C. Nore, 031110A to EREBUS.)

CAPETOWN and DESPATCH

CAPETOWN reduced to Category "C" Reserve p.m. Monday 30th October. DESPATCH will reduce to category "C" reserve p.m. Friday 3rd November. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 031148A to C. in C. Plymouth, etc.)

EREBUS

Add to my 031200 EREBUS for Portsmouth due Dumpton 1315 ROBERTS proceeding Sheerness expected time of arrival 1730.

(C. in C. Nore, 031201 to N.O.I.Cs. Sheerness and Southend).

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements - Contd.

- NABOB. My 141127 October and C.A.F.O. 2330/44. Request that a board of survey may be convened to consider the case of NABOB.
- (2) Early decision to turn the ship over to shipbreakers would:
(a) Reduce Dockyard commitments in making her fully watertight.
(b) Free a first class mooring which would enable the complement of a Category B ship now lying in Firth of Forth to be considerably reduced.
(F.O.C.R.F., 031230A to Admty.)
- NEWFOUNDLAND. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail NEWFOUNDLAND when ready about 18th November to Scapa.
(2) On completion of sufficient preliminary work up, for which about two weeks is estimated, C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to sail ship for Gibraltar for onward routing by C. in C. Mediterranean.
(3) C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to make arrangements to complete work up in his command.
(4) Further signal will be made as to final destination of ship. A.M. 012006 not to all addressees refers.
(V.C.N.S., 031259A to Cs. in C. H.F., Med., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- EMERALD, H.M. Ships EMERALD and ENTERPRISE accepted into
ENTERPRISE. reserve category B at Rosyth on 1st November.
(2) Ships reduce on 3rd November to provisional reserve complement. Proposals for final reserve Fleet complement will be forwarded.
(3) It will be necessary for some additional A.Bs. and Ords. to be retained in EMERALD for cleaning of tanks to enable defects in inner bottom to be surveyed and as far as possible made good.
(F.O.C.R.F., 031836A to Admty.)
- UGANDA. E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 1320A/4th.
(UGANDA, 032300Z to C. in C. H.F.)

OperationsSituation Reports

- Military. Communique No. 209.
Progress on the Island of Walcheren continues. Allied Forces moving from West Kappelle have now by-passed Domburg, while others have reached a point within 2 miles of Flushing. Fighting continues in Flushing itself and at the western end of the Walcheren Causeway. All resistance in the area of Knocke and Zeebrugge has ceased. Fighters and fighter bombers attacked enemy troops and positions in the region of Knocke during yesterday morning. Coastal guns and strong points on Walcheren Island were also attacked, and close support was given to our ground forces north of Breda. In southern Holland, bridges, locomotives and barges were attacked and rail lines cut.
(S.H.A.E.F., 031100 to Agwar.)
Heavy resistance on Walcheren Causeway unable to check Allies who now hold area one mile by half mile on Walcheren.

/Flushing ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Situation Reports

Military. Flushing cleared but heavy resistance continues
(Contd.) from elements 1019 Grenadier Regiment of 70
Infantry Division in dock area. West Kappelle
bridgehead expanded. Dishoek reached.
South of Schelde all organised resistance ceased
at 2000 hours east of Leopold Canal. Total prisoners for
operation 12,000.

(S.H.A.E.F. 031645 to Agwar.)

By last light all enemy resistance east of Leopold Canal
had ceased. By 0830 hours 7th Canadian R/C Regt. had cleared
area Zeebrugge thus completing operations clearing south bank
of Schelde.

(S.H.A.E.F., 032300A to Agwar.)

Operations

North Sea

Walcheren Am now returning to bombardment area by 0715.
Expedition. S.O. Force "T" 022142 refers.

(EREBUS, 030034A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 022232 and C. in C. Nore 030142.

(2) Military have cancelled requirements for

Monitors. Request these ships be returned to U.K.

(S.O. Force "T", 030250A to C. in C. Nore.)

S.O. Force "T" 030250A proceed to Spithead informing C.
in C. Portsmouth direct of your E.T.A.

(2) Order destroyers to Sheerness and M.L. and H.D.M.L. to
Ramsgate.

(C. in C. Nore, 030746 to EREBUS and ROBERTS.)

Force "T" has now been withdrawn West Kappelle area. Cdr.
Prior P.B.M. has been established as N.O.I.C. Tare in W/T
communication with Breskens W/T.

(2) Intend to use all L.C.T.(3) available shuttle service and
evacuation of casualties.

(3) Lieut. Cdr. Ford, R.N.V.R. F.O. 4th Flotilla under N.O.I.C.
Ostend will arrange loading and sailing from Ostend.

(4) Further signal will be made about arrangements at Breskens.

(S.O. Force "T", 031000A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., C. in C.
Nore, N.O.I.C. Ostend, V.A. Dover.)

My 030746 detach ROBERTS to proceed Sheerness to complete
with ammunition subsequently proceeding to Portsmouth.

(C. in C. Nore, 031110A to EREBUS.)

Following from 3rd Canadian Division begins: D.R.F.2.
Operation "Switchbook" now completed. T.O.O. 031045.

(S.O. Force "T", 031115A to A.N.C.X.F.)

My 031129. Intend support squadron to reform at TURTLE.

(S.O. Force "T", 031257A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Sheerness 2nd November. Departure of following ships to
anchor in Small Downs, thence proceeding Schelde p.m./3rd Nov.
M.L. 221 Capt. M/S.F.A. on board.

157th M/S. Flotilla - B.Y.M.S. 2076, 2230, 2038, 2221, 2142.

159th M/S. Flotilla - B.Y.M.S. 2211, 2071, 2048, 2051, 2189, 2188.

M.M.S. 267, 92, 109, 81, 175, 57, 137, 26, 69, 149, 216, 113, 71,
16, 226, 234, 237, 73, 211, 269, 1083.

FICHT, M.Ls. 250, 236, 243, 919, 491, 138, 139, 275.

(C. in C. Nore, 031405A to Admty.)

/Action ...

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Action off Noordwijk Operation off Dutch coast night 1/2 November by 30th M.T.B. Flotilla (S.O. Lt. Hon. F.M.A. Shore, D.S.C., R.N.V.R.)
(2) Div. I. M.T.Bs. 474, 472, 471.
Div. II M.T.Bs. 480, 476.

(3) Weather. Wind N.W. to N. Force 2 - 3, sea and swell 24. Visibility good. Rain showers.

(4) At 1920A unit arrived in position 270°. Noordwijk Lt. 15 miles at 2110A received signal from Coastal Force Unit off Hook giving enemy convoy's course, unit searched but found nothing. At 0150A commence sweep south. At 0200A Radar contacts 8000 yards, enemy sighted as 2 large, 2 small trawlers, 3 to 4 T.L.Cs. 3 to 4 R-boats and plotted until 0329A. At 0227A Div. II detached to attack from north and create diversion. At 0329A Div. I. closed to 1000 yards and made zone torpedo attack, two explosions seen one trawler hit and considered sunk. Enemy fired continuously from 0230A as unit withdrew from attack M.T.B.471 received direct hit in petrol tanks set on fire but extinguished in 10 minutes.

At 0227A Div. II proceeded north at 0328A made 4 gun attacks up and down enemy's starboard quarter enemy returned continuous and fairly heavy fire. At 0405A Div. II closed penultimate trawler for torpedo attack unit fired zone of torpedoes at 900 yards as Unit disengaged target observe to alter course towards unit disengaged to N.W. Div. I. and Div. II reformed and set course for Base.

(5) Casualties. Lt. Stanley, R.N.V.R. C/O M.T.B.471 wounded, two ratings wounded.

(6) Damage. M.T.B.471 hit by large calibre shell.
(C. in C. Nore, 031052A to Admty.)

Intercepted German hospital ship. Your 011614. No action should be taken for disposal of TRD.10 until further instructions are received from Admiralty.

(2) Request early report stating:-

(a) tonnage of vessel.

(b) any further details now available regarding her identity and nationality, and

(c) whether there is any evidence of activities which would amount to abuse of hospital ship status in the case of a genuine hospital ship.

(Admty., 031407A to Com. Belgium.)

Movement up Schelde. Report received that six minesweepers under Commander M/S Belgium have arrived Terneuzen from Ostend. They were fired on but not damaged. No further information yet available.
(A.N.C.X.F. 031715A to C. in C. Nore.)

N.O.I.C. Ostend's 022334 paragraph one arrived. Motor M/S Flotilla 131 was engaged by enemy shore battery at Flushing but no casualties or damage.

(Com. Belgium, 031723A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore, Capt. M/S F.A.)

/Information...

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FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Movement
up Schelde.
(Contd.)

Information obtained from German port Commandant Flushing and from a Dutch river pilot states that there is no repeat no controlled minefield in vicinity of Flushing.

(2) German port Commandant stated there was a controlled minefield off Hansweerd and this was confirmed by Dutch pilot who added that control is in or near Custom House Hansweerd.

(3) Dutch pilot asserts he is prepared to take ships up to Antwerp at any time now.

(D.S.O. Force T. 032033 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Eagle Ships
for Schelde
Defence.

My 201917A October. Report has been received that DOUWE AUKES will not be suitable for this duty owing to condition of propeller shafts and that GOATFELL will require refitting before proceeding. GLENMORE is considered next most suitable.

(2) My 011822A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp. Details for GLENMORE are same as GOATFELL and SCAWFELL, except that only 5 Oerlikons are fitted.

(C. in C. Nore, 031828A to Admty.) ROYAL EAGLE, KOPANES, ARISTOCRAT, GOATFELL, SCAWFELL, MOOSEJAW considered most suitable for Schelde.

Tay
Sanctuary

Ref. Admty., 261540B May, 1944 and my 011809B May 1944 consider frequency of use of Tay Sanctuary now warrants its permanent imposition and request that it may be included in category of Sanctuaries that are permanently in force.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 031903A to Admty.)

OperationsChannel

Patrol

E.G.6. After passing Longships at approximately 2000A/3 carry out zigzag search through following positions:-

(a) 180 Lizard 12. (b) 180 Start 35.

(c) 180 Portland Bill 20 then to rendezvous with E.G.31 who is searching in vicinity of (c) temporarily under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth. S.O. E.G. 31 to inform S.O. E.G.6 of final R/V.

On relief by E.G. 6, E.G.31 is to return to Plymouth for short lay over.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031259A to E.Gs. 6 and 31.)

Carry out Zigzag search between 50.15 N. 02.42 W. and 49.54 N 03.50 W. Ships to be 3 miles apart.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031623A to Force 27.)

Pass The Gate at 0845A tomorrow Saturday and proceed to R/V with Force 27 as arranged by FAULKNER.

(2) TANATSIDE and ALBRIGHTON are to relieve FAULKNER and IMPULSIVE who are to return to Plymouth. TANATSIDE to assume duty as S.O. Force 27.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031710A to TANATSIDE and ALBRIGHTON.)

/Your...

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3.11.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

Patrol (Contd.) Your 031225A. ANNAN is to be detached so as to arrive Plymouth at 0730/4th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031813A to S.O.E.G.6.)
Night A/S Patrol 3rd to 4th November.
Ships in line abreast 1 mile apart on courses approximately N. and S. carry out anti-gnat zigzag at 8 and 12 knots and search area bound by (A) 31st E.G. H Channel 002° 10' W. 050° 06' and 050° 26' N. (B) L'AVEVENTURE, VESPER, L'ESCARMOUCHE, WALDEGRAVE 001° 15' and 001° 34' W. 050° 00' and 050° 20' N.
(2) MALLOY maintain contact with target.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031848A to E.G.31, MALLOY.)
Day A/S patrol 4th November. At 0730 patrol as follows:
(2) 31st E.G. as in my 031848.
(3) L'AVEVENTURE, VESPER, L'ESCARMOUCHE, WALDEGRAVE as in my 030825 not to all addressees. WALDEGRAVE pass to L'AVEVENTURE.
(4) VIDETTE is to relieve WALDEGRAVE.
(5) WALDEGRAVE return to harbour on relief.
(6) MALLOY maintain contact target.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031918A to 31st E.G. MALLOY, VIDETTE.)
Have obtained a bearing by H/F D/F bearing is believed to be of enemy S/M transmitting a naval enigma signal second class (German) bearing 060° near (considered ground wave) distance not estimated sense determined. My position 050° 22' N. (?002°) 12' W.
(S.O.E.G.31, 032108A to Admty.)

Operation "Nestegg". My 181519 October. Request 2 fuelling trawlers for 73 Octane petrol may be allocated to sail with force. On arrival of L.B.O. in "Nestegg" area these trawlers will be returned.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031659A to Admty.)

OperationsWest Coast France

French participation in liberation of Gironde. It is desired to meet the wishes of French Admiralty that French Navy should take part in any operations which may be undertaken to liberate Gironde and other Biscay ports.
(2) It is, therefore, requested that you will arrange, in conjunction with C. in C. Mediterranean for as many as possible of the Naval supporting forces required for such operations to be French.
(3) It is understood that plenty of ammunition is available for LORRAINE and 8 inch cruisers. C. in C. Med. is requested to confirm.
(4) Before withdrawing French ships from Mediterranean for Biscay operations, C.C.S. approval will be necessary.
(V.C.N.S., 032224A to A.N.C.X.F.)

3.11.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern ApproachesSuspected
U-boatReference A/C JAFX's 1115A. Am proceeding to
hunt.
(S.O.E.G. 031302A.)Anti-U-boat
dispositions
in convoy.(Special orders for Support
Groups. O.P. E.E.)

Your 302302 October, para. 3 in amplification of the exception quoted I am of the opinion that if only one support group is present at night, such ships are best disposed as a separate body astern of the convoy in positions H.I.S. X and R in order to be in the best position to kill after a torpedoing. In this position these ships are moving toward the U-boat area if there is any delay in establishing the fact of a torpedoing has occurred. Ships are also facing in the right direction to sight the incident ahead and without risk of wooding. Furthermore these ships close the wreck with a clear path and on a rough line of bearing so there is little chance of confusion.

(2) The average time taken to form the minimum necessary observant square is only 20 minutes.

(3) If two ships of the support group are disposed astern and the remainder supplement the close escort on the wing as Asdic screen, the foregoing benefits of simplicity are less and the time taken to form up on the observant square is far greater. This means that the square becomes longer and takes more ships to fill it. Any delay in appreciating the earliest time for executing "Gooseberry" greatly jeopardises the kill.

(4) I am, however, of the opinion that if a second support group is present that one support group should be disposed astern and the other should supplement the close escort as Asdic screen taking wing positions. Then if a torpedoing occurs the latter ships form the outer observant square.

(C. in C.W.A. 031533A to Admty.)

OperationsNorth Western Approaches

E.G.4.

Sailed 4th E.G. comprising BENTINCK (S.O.), PASLEY, BYARD, CALDER and DRURY in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 021301A. Speed of advance 14 knots. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 030015A to C. in C.W.A.)

Patrols

Force 33 E.G.1, AFFLECK (S.O.) 4 Frigates and E.G.26, BEACON HILL, 4 Frigates operating between Barra and North Irish Coast. E.G. 4 BENTINCK, 4 Frigates operating vicinity 056° 30' 010° 00'.

Force 32 E.G. 14 FAME, (S.O.) DUNCAN, FORESTER, HAVELOCK with CYGNET, WESTCOTT, BEAGLE, NENE patrol general area Cape Wrath to Butt of Lewis. Add to my 031143.

(C. in C. W.A. 031339A, Sitrep.)

PASLEY oscillator damaged and cannot house dome. Has been detached to Belfast speed of advance 11 knots. My position 056° 05' N. 009° 44' W. Weather report 6481 0265 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G. 4, 031400 to C. in C.W.A.)

Suspected
U-boat

Ground wave bearing of naval enigma message at 2010Z appears to indicate U-boat in this area.

3.11.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Western Approaches

Suspected U-boat (Contd.) No reliable fix obtained. Request confirmation. My position 055° 22' N. 007° 57' W. (S.O. Force 33, 032145A to Admty.)

Operations

Norway

Patrol My 301619 Oct. VENTURER is to sail 1800 4th Nov. (F.O.S.M. 031251A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
 (a) Request you will sail P.66 (ULA) 4th November 6 hours after P.68 (VENTURER) via route Orange until reaching 065° 20' N. thence to position V.F. 065° 01' N. 008° 01' E. thence to patrol Fro Havet north of 063° 50' N. V.F. is not to be passed before 1800/8th November.
 (b) If presence in Fro Havet is compromised ULA should shift patrol to Approaches to Folden Fiord.
 (c) If ULA is forced out to sea she should remain east of 009° 05' E. patrolling vicinity of 064° 30' N. 009° 25' E. U-boats are most likely target in this area and in Fro Havet.
 (d) Attention is called to enemy minefields listed in FSK. (F.O.S. 031626A to S.O. S/Ms Lerwick.)
 My 301619 Oct. VENTURER may proceed on surface by day at C.O.'s discretion between 065° and 068° N. (F.O.S. 031921A to S.O. S/Ms Lerwick.)
 (e) VENTURER leaves Lerwick 1800/4th on surface 10 knots to 61° N. thereafter diving by day 120 miles per day route Orange.
 (f) ULA leaves Lerwick 0001/5th 10 knots route Orange. (F.O. S/M 032148A to Admty.)

Operation "S.C." Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetlands
 (1) 0200A/5th November from Scalloway.
 (2) 089° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.
 (3) 1900A/5th November.
 (4) Between 1930A/5th November and 0600A/6th

November.
 (5) 269° to Sumburgh Head 14 knots.
 (6) p.m. 6th November.
 (7) 089° Sumburgh Head.
 (8) No.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 031347 to A.C.O.S.)
 (1) 059° 54' N. 005° 04' E.
 (2) Ramose Genial (My 031347)
 (3) Blank.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 031349 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrol On completion of fuelling at Scapa 14th E.G. is to proceed to Cape Wrath Area.
 (2) CYGNET, BEAGLE, WESTCOTT and NENE are also to proceed to Cape Wrath Area from Faeroes and relieve 18th E.G. as arranged by S.O. E.G.18.

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Operations

Northern Waters

Patrol (Contd.) (3) On relief, 18th E.G. is to proceed to Scapa for fuel and 48 hours' rest.
(4) 14th E.G. and CYGNET's Group are to form Force 32 and carry out operation C.E.1 in Area bounded by parallel 58° 30' and 59° 00' and Meridians 04° 30' and 06° 30'.
(5) Orders for C.E.1 are held by FAME, CYGNET, BEAGLE, NENE and 18th E.G.
(6) S.O. E.G.14 and CYGNET report expected time of arrival in area.
(C. in C.W.A., 030016A to S.O. E.G. 14, S.O. E.G.18, CYGNET etc.)
Your 030016A E.T.A. Cape Wrath Area 1930A.
(S.O.E.G. 14, 031542A to C. in C.W.A.)
Scapa departures S.O.E.G.14 FAME with DUNCAN, FORESTER, HAVELOCK.
(A.C.O.S. 031555 to S.O.E.G.7, S.O. Force 32.)

Norwegian Token Force to N. Russia. Request you will sail 2 destroyers p.m. today Friday after embarking Norwegian personnel requiring passage to North Russia in accordance with Admiralty's 022220. Destroyers to raise steam by 1600 today.
(2) Route as follows from Scapa to Z.066° 20' N. 000 02' W. thence by route down to R.012 00' N. 006° 40' E. S.073° 40' N. 018° 30' E. T. 073° 35' N. 028° 20' E. H. 071° 26' N. 036° 10' E. thence to (?) Andfiord and Kola Inlet. Speed of advance 18 knots weather permitting to longitude 015° E. thence best speed.
(3) Instructions for return passage will be signalled.
(4) Codeword in my 031150.
(5) Admty. pass to Admiral Archer. R.A.(D) H.F. pass to destroyers concerned.
(C. in C.H.F. 031134A to Com. D.H.F.)
My 031134. Codeword "Freeman".
(C. in C.H.F. 031150A to Com. D.H.F.)
Scapa departure SCORPION, SAVAGE.
(A.C.O.S. 031724A to Admty., C. in C.H.F., C. in C.Rosyth, S.B.N.O. Murmansk, BERWICK.)

Convoy J.W.61 Kola Inlet Friday 3rd November 1944. Departures SS. FORT CREVECOEUR (Commodore) DOLLABELLA (T) HAROLD L. WINSLOW, WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT, JOYCE KILMER, KEITH PAGMER for White Sea. Speed 9½ kts. E.T.A. North Dvina buoy 1200A, 5th. Russian Escort. Admty. pass to M.W.T.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 031440A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy's anxiety for his oil supplies The VIIIth Air Force raid on Oil targets in the Merseburg area produced the first major S.E.F. reaction to strategic raids for a considerable time. S.E.F. effort provisionally estimated at 350 - 400 sorties approximates to the scale of opposition to the raid on the same targets on 22nd September. In addition, about 10 Me. 163s and about 20 - 30

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Enemy's anxiety for his oil supplies (Contd.)

Me. 262s are thought to have operated. Bomber Command's raid on Homberg met no fighter opposition nor did the U.S. bombers attacking tactical transport targets in Western Germany. (Air Ministry O31734 to H.Q. S.H.A.E.F.)

Mining

Operation "Calendar"

Operation "Calendar" D-day Saturday 4th November. (2) M.S.F. A Section 1 with Captain M.S.F.A. in M.L.221 is to sail from Small Downs to arrive N.F. 10 buoy at 0800A tomorrow Saturday. Captain M.S.F.A. report time of sailing.

(3) N.O.I.C. Ostend is requested to sail ships and craft of 131st M.S.F. and 704th L.C.P. (L) Flotilla now at Ostend to join Captain M.S.F.A. at NF.10 buoy at 0800A tomorrow, Saturday.

(4) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, O31003A to Capt. M.S. F.A., N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

Situation Report

Situation report M/S F.31 completed Oropesa search of operation "Progress". M/S F.42 engaged in ground mine sweep of operation "Pilgrim" B.Y.M.S. 2062, 2001 Q.Z.S.595, 585. Motor M.S.213, 204, Q.Z.S.600. 181st M.S. Group Q.Z.S. 536, 58 G. to 58 E. and L 7 buoy. B.Y.M.S. 20 (O2?), 2004 Oropesa sweep River Seine. M.L.202, 220 bottom line sweep completed in 5 basin at Rouen. (Capt. M/S East O31015A to C.T.F.125.)

Sweeping approaches to Le Havre

It is hoped that CYRUS will be ready for operations about the middle of next week.

(2) When ready CYRUS should be sailed to Havre in tow of tugs GRIPER and JAUNTY and escorted by ELFREDA.

(3) C.T.F.125 is requested to advise C. in C. Portsmouth whether CYRUS can be accepted as soon as she is ready observing that she will now be able to secure to the special buoy laid off Havre and there await favourable tidal conditions for sweeping Q.Z.S.595

(4) In view of towing difficulties previously experienced CYRUS should only be sailed when weather conditions are favourable. (D.M.S. O31047A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C.T.F.125.)

Deep mine-field in North Channel.

Your O21830. Intend following approximate programme which is dependent upon early delivery of mines from other depots to Milford Haven Monday 6th load Tuesday 7th p.m. depart Milford Haven Wednesday 8th 0800 lay p.m. arrive Milford Haven Thursday 9th a.m. load p.m. depart Milford Haven

Friday 10th 0800 lay Saturday 11th 0900 arrive Plymouth.

(2) Agreed S.A.S.O. Milford Haven.

(APOLLO O31139A to C. in C.W.A.)

Deep Mining in St.George's Channel.

My O21047A. Sailed APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, O31445, to C. in C.W.A.)

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Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy ship- Following vessels have recently been reported sunk
ping casual- or damaged. A. German.
ties in Nor- ADELE TRABER 2575 tons sunk off West Coast no
wegian Waters. details.
CLARE HUGO STINNES 5295 tons total loss off Jaeren,
September 28th. DUBURG 2675 tons grounded off
Rorvik. DESSAU 5933 tons torpedoed North Norway.
BOCHUM 6121 tons grounded, October 14th Bokn Fjord Stavanger.
WALTER 2301 tons grounded at Tananger near Stavanger with cargo
Pyrites. MILOS 2702 tons sunk off Lister October 20th. Lighters
B.S.L. I 3,000 tons sunk off Bergen October 9th. LEVANTE 4769
tons military transport reported off Nos Joen October 18th with
cargo Straw on October 28th. Whole of mid ships reported burnt.
Minelayer 190 mined and sunk off Lista mid September.
B. Norwegian. STANDARD 1286 tons total loss off Bodo. INGER
JOHANNE 1202 tons tanker believed loaded with petrol for Germany
total loss off Lindesnes October 16th. IRANIA 2249 tons tanker
observed on fire off Forder and later brought to Grimstad.
BIRI 940 tons grounded at Gamle Hellesund. CHRISTIANIA damaged
by mines off Aalesund. VESTA 1310 tons sunk in Hjelt Fjord about
September 22nd. ANNFIN 429⁷ tons sunk off Hustaviken in September.
Average grading B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 031147 to Admty.)
Note. CLARE HUGO STINNES may have been mined.
LEVANTE probably set on fire A/C from IMPLACABLE.
STANDARD probably sunk by VIKING.
INGER JOHANNE was sunk by Beaufighters and Mosquitoes.

U-Boats.

Suspected Attack by MALOY at 1610Z/2nd November probably non-
U-Boats. sub. One U-Boat is estimated eastbound in Channel
and report in 50° 13' N. 02° 19' W. by F/110 at
1400Z/2nd November may possibly be the same but it
is more likely that the U-Boat has not yet crossed
eastwards of long. 03° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 031343A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)
D/F bearings on 5895 k/cs at 1729Z indicate U-Boat within 20 miles
of 59° N. 04° 20' E.
(D.D.I.C. 031958A to S/Ms north of 51° N.)

Navigational.

New Channel Consequent on alteration of buoyage (Q.Z.H. 559
from Far refers) shipping between Arrow and Havre and ports
Shore to E. east of Wight should now be routed via Channel 58
of Wight. and Q.Z.S. 510 to Z light and bell buoy (new
position) thence direct to E.A. 5 buoy (new
position) thence to C.3 buoy and then as before.
(2) Wight joiners will join at E.A. 5 buoy.
(3) Same route in reverse direction but Wight joiners will join
at Z light and bell buoy.
(4) Commands pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 031325A to F.O.B.A.A., C.T.F. 125, N.O.I.C.
Arrow, C.T.G. 125.15, C. in C. Nore, Com. Southend, V.A. Dover,
N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

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Navigational.

New Channel
from Far
Shore to E.
of Wight.
(Contd.)

V.A. Dover 011848 and my 171535 Oct.
Para. (1) V.A. Dover is requested to apply now for promulgation of channel P.B.5, D.B.3, D.C.2.
(2) This channel will then be responsibility of C.T.F. 125.
(3) Seaward limits of F.O.B.A.A's responsibility for approach channels will be junction with coastal channel in each case. Present limits are:-

Newhaven Dieppe - J.9 buoy.. Portsmouth Boulogne P.B.5 buoy.
Dover Boulogne D.B.3 buoy. Dover Calais D.C.2 buoy.
(A.N.C.X.F. 031625A to V.A. Dover, C.T.F. 125, F.O.B.A.A.)

Needles -
Cherbourg
Channel.

Your 271508A October, and your No. 7088/0/0122/84 of 22nd October. Proposals approved except as follows:-

(2) Needles - Cherbourg route (H Channel). The proposed removal of H.5 light-buoy would leave gap of nearly 30 miles between H.2 and H.8. In view of cross tide and lack of shore lights and fog signals at Cherbourg, it is recommended that H.5 buoy be retained. In this connection it would be of great assistance if temporary lights e.g. searchlights could be exhibited at Cherbourg when ships are known to be approaching in thick weather or at night.

(3) KANSAS light vessel. As she will be over 20 miles from the nearest land it is for consideration that some protection by patrol craft be provided (as was done until recently with HUMBER light vessel) if only to keep up morale of crew. If protection cannot be provided when required, the use of an unwatched light is suggested.

(4) Reference para. 2 of your signal quoted, it is hoped use of new Channel for ships from west could be delayed as long as possible owing to increased distance involved. H Channel should not in any case be "abandoned" but only temporarily suspended.

(5) Presume you will request issue of necessary Q.Z.S. messages as and when required.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 031702A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Port Facilities.

Calais,
Ostend.

There are 15,000 pioneer personnel to be moved forward coastwise from Arromanches as soon as possible as they are urgently needed.

(2) P.S.T.O. N.W.E. is requested to advise whether they can be accepted in Calais or Ostend and to give a programme of acceptance.

(3) When this is known D.S.T.O. Southampton in concert with A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) is requested to arrange a shipping programme. (D. of S.T. 031003A to D.S.T.O. Southampton.)

Ostend.

Ref. Com. Belgium's 271250 and 311316 October, C.Z.M. Netherlands states that hydrographic launch FINELLA will be ready for transhipment from tomorrow 4th November. Dimensions: length 28 feet, beam 7 feet 6 in. weight about 8 tons. Crew: 1 No. officer, 1 No. P.O., 4 No. ratings, lying Shadwell Dock near D.S. ORANJE NASSAU. Cradle and slings are on board D.S. SOEMBA.

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Port Facilities.

- Ostend. (Contd.) (2) Request arrangements may be made for trans-shipment of FINELLA to Ostend. She is not suitable to make own passage cross Channel. (F.O. Naval Party 1731 031345 to C. in C. Nore.)
- Antwerp. It is necessary to make available five EMPIRE class tugs of 500 I.H.P. preferably not fitted with Kort nozzles, for service at Antwerp immediately the port is opened.
- (2) Two in number are being provided by Ministry of War Transport ex commercial ports but the remaining three must be found from Naval resources.
- (3) EMPIRE WILLOW now in armament supply service at Bull Point has been nominated and will be relieved by tug SPARKLER temporarily allocated to that depot in April last but now to be retained.
- (4) To enable selection of remainder to be made, addressees concerned should report urgently on the implication of withdrawing the following, observing that reliefs are unlikely to be available
A. EMPIRE TOBY from Scapa. B. EMPIRE MAPLE from Harwich.
C. EMPIRE SPRUCE or EMPIRE PLANE from Greenock.
- (5) Tugs selected must be made available at once for preparation. (A.C.N.S.(H) 032237A to A.S. Devonport, A.S. Lyness, F.O.I.C. Harwich, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Casualties & Defects.

- WHITAKER. Arrived WHITAKER in tow of EARNER escorted by LOCH ACHANALT sailed ACHANALT E.T.A. Merville 0500. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 030005A to Cdr. (D) W.A.)
- L.C.T. 936. My 301642A October. Lowestoft 3rd November arrival in harbour stern half of L.C.T. 936 in tow of tug DIVERSION and tender WATCHFUL at 1145. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 031243A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- Salvage craft to be based on The Nore. From P.S.V.O. It would now be more convenient if wreck dispersal vessels and store carriers could be based at The Nore. Information is requested as to whether this can be arranged. Total number of ships is 12 wreck dispersal vessels and 3 store carriers. (F.O.B.A.A. 030954A to C. in C. Nore.)
- M.T. ships for Far Shore American ports. Concur with C.T.F. 125 231131, but if sufficient ships are kept in Solent to fill nominations the number of empty M.T. ships waiting in Solent must be reduced. Also suggest that loaded ships not called forward within two weeks should be withdrawn for servicing and recreational facilities. Action on independent sailings delayed, due current increase in submarines reported to be moving into Channel. (A.N.C.X.F. 031019A to H.Q. Com. Z.)

/A.M....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

M.T. ships
for Far
Shore Ameri-
can ports.
(Contd.)

A.M. 311907A October. Confirmed that 5 Liberty ships can be accepted.
(2) Owing to congestion at all ports, early information of date of arrival of these ships is requested so that arrangements can be made.
(C. in C. Plymouth 031135A to Admty.)

A.M. 311907 October. The following reply was made to a similar enquiry from A.N.C.X.F.

"Acceptance of loaded Liberty ships would be facilitated if number in M.T. Shuttle Service Pool was reduced. Present high ration of Pool to Daily Sailings results in much anchorage space being occupied by empty vessels.

Presume U.S. authorities will undertake control and servicing of these vessels. Servicing facilities are limited particularly in winter and it is therefore recommended ships should visit northern ports for any requirements and for recreation before coming to Solent.

In view of limited recreation facilities ships that are not called forward within a week or two should be withdrawn from Advance Group. The intention of the proposal is likely to be defeated if ships are held at short notice for a protracted period."

(2) Subject to the above, 45 ships can be accepted in Solent.

(3) A.N.C.X.F. 031019A refers and is being passed to Admiralty for information.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 032028A to Admty.)

Allocation
of Landing
Craft.

S. 65341. Release of landing ships and craft engaged on "Overlord". Reference minutes of meetings of 20th and 27th October held at S.H.A.E.F. (Main). The following releases will take place
L.S.T. A. Now, seven rail fitted under repair, three U.S. non rail fitted under repair.

B. 15th November, seven rail fitted under repair.

C. 1st December, seven rail fitted under repair. 12 U.S. non rail fitted under repair.

Of above 21 rail fitted 14 will be U.S. and seven British.

L.C.I.(L) A. Now 12 U.S., 12 British. B. 15th Nov. 12 U.S.

L.C.T.(3 and 4) up to 36 L.C.T.(4) for manning by the French and subject to availability of crews.

L.C.T.(5) and (6) 18 under overhaul in U.K. which have hitherto been subject to recall by S.H.A.E.F.

Position will be revised again about 20th November.

(S.H.A.E.F. 031130A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping be-
tween U.K.
and Far Shore
American ports.

Your 021900 personnel ships should be sailed with same escorts since the escorts should be retained to protect ships while in exposed anchorage. When no escorts available, personnel ships will be sailed independently to avoid undue risk to ships anchored in exposed anchorage off Le Havre and Omaha Beach. M.T. and unloaded stores ships

are to be sailed independently if escort not available.

Coasters, L.S.Ts. and L.C.Ts. and tugs will be sailed in accordance with instructions now in force. Ships and convoys to be routed from Cherbourg via Q.Z.S. 526, 616 and Channel 14 from Beaches via Q.Z.S. 506 and Channel 14 from Le Havre Q.Z.S. 595,

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Shipping 588 and Channel 58. This in accordance with
between U.K. your 021900. Convoys to Morlaix and Granville in
and Far Shore accordance with latest plans Admiralty Dis. 011608
American ports. and my 021711.
(Contd.) (C.T.F. 125 031141A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
C. in C. Portsmouth's 021706 and my dis. 031141
since H Channel is closed ships from beaches for
ports outside Portsmouth Command will be sailed to
Saint Helens Roads instead of Cherbourg for onward convoy. Ships
for M.T.C. convoys may join at Arromanches attention is called
to operation memorandum Number One para. 3 (not to British
Authorities.)
(C.T.F. 125 031825A to C.T.G. 125.11.)

Urgent need of coastal tonnage. The Military operations on the Continent and the
domestic needs of the U.K. require a high rate
of turnaround on the part of the coastal tonnage
available to feed them.
(2) In the event of renewed U-Boat activity in
coastal waters the maintenance of this vital turn-
round will entail accepting risks.
(3) While, therefore, controlling authorities should continue to
take all practicable measures to safeguard traffic in their
areas special care must be taken not to resort to measures such
as convoy or suspending sailings when these measures may prove
more costly in shipping lift than would be the possible losses
that they are designed to avert.
(V.C.N.S. 032106A to A.I.G. 21, A.N.C.X.F.)

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Trawlers for U.K. This repeats F.O.G.M.A's 271120 begins: Addressed C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., Capt. M/S. Med. From F.O.G.M.A. Your 251826* para. (2). Agreed (corrupt group), FILEY BAY and GREGORY detailed.

Will be sailed p.m. October 30th. Reference para. (3) five trawlers remain. Ends.

(2) Your 020138 not to Caserta refers. (Gibraltar C.C.O., 031054A to Admty.)

* 3 trawlers of 20th and 77th M/S Trawler Groups could not be returned to U.K.

SS. JOHN BANVARD. American JOHN BANVARD went ashore whilst shifting anchorage at Praia Bay on 31st October. Vessel is fast aground and holed. Will keep you informed of prospect of refloating and salvage of cargo. (S.T.O.I.C. Azores, 031752Z.)

SEYCHELLES. SEYCHELLES should escort tugs to Gibraltar. S.B.N.O. West Atlantic 022016 refers. (2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail SEYCHELLES to U.K. without delay. (D.O.D.(H), 031931A to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. BAYOU CHICO. Horta arrival at 1537Z/3 SS. BAYOU CHICO in tow of H.M.R.T. TENACITY and escorted by ATHOLL. (2) BAYOU CHICO straggler from O.N.S. 34. Original destination New York A.M. 192154 April refers. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 032104Z.)

SETTEMBRINI. Your 021205 (route to Bermuda via Horta). (Admty., 032226A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

R.N.A.S. Hastings. Your 281715 October, 031933 October, 291338 August and 291309 August. (i) Approved to reduce R.N. Air Station, Hastings to C. and M. as soon as this can be arranged. (ii) Concur in your proposal that Hastings should ultimately be developed as the post-war Naval Air Station and Aircraft Maintenance Yard in the Freetown area. (Civil Lord, 031128A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

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- BONN. On arrival at Ancona a.m. to-day Friday Hospital Ship BONN is to coal and then be sailed Bari under escort ALDENHAM.
(F.O.T.A.L.I.030031)
- VIGOROUS. Following is repetition of my 030026B/ addressed VIGOROUS repeated KIMBERLEY, Capt. S/M.I. S.O.51 Force from F.O.L.E.M. Act on S.O.51 Force's 021805 being passed to KIMBERLEY and not on KIMBERLEY's 021641/. Ends.
(F.O.L.E.M.030232B to VIGOROUS).
/ Leave patrol forthwith and proceed direct to Mitylene.
/ Return to Khios reporting E.T.A. E.T.A. Mitylene 1300B/3rd.
(VIGOROUS, 030329B to N.O.I.C.Mitylene, (R) A.H.Q.E.M., S.O. Force 51, F.O.L.E.M.Capt. (S) 1, S.O.15th C.S.)
- Assault forces W.X.Y. *(East Indies + Pacific)* All L.C.H. for Assault Forces W, X and Y will be provided from U.K.
(2) Re As. and As.
(3) The L.C.I.(L) concerned are not to be redesignated L.C.H.
(D.C.O.M.030441A)
- SETTEMBRINI. Sailed escorted by INDOMITO at 030930A for Gibraltar.
(Comncb Oran, 030802)
- A/S defence stations Ras-el-Krim and Port Said. Agreed, your 301059.
(F.O.L.E.M.031120B to C. in C. Med.)
- TEAZER, TERMAGANT, TENACIOUS. Take TEAZER, TERMANGANT and TENACIOUS under your orders and sail at 1700/3rd. S. of A. 21 knots to Gibraltar.
(2) - (4) Route and arrangements.
(V.A.M.031125)
- G.11 Summary 64. (Extract). B. Balkans. (1) Yugoslavia. Zara, Biograd and Nin evacuated by enemy but Sibenik not yet entirely free. Area west bay of Kotor also abandoned except for Risan where fighting continues.
(2) Albania. Germans evacuated San Giovanni Di Medua and partisans control coastal area to south. Road Tirana-Scutari still being used by enemy despite Partisan interference and troop concentration reported Lesh 30th October.
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. Recd. 1230)

South /...

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

South Aegean Summary up to 0900/3rd. (Extract). (1) Shipping. (From) Ph. R/C 2nd November. Crete. Conclusions. Indications enemy preparing resume Leros-Rhodes supply traffic recent vigorous re-action Piskopi probably connected with this. (C. in C. M.E. 031300B)

Harbour defence. The use of small charges for harbour defences MS GO 23 Para.5, is to be discontinued in all ports south of latitude 41 degs. N. except as necessary in Grecian and other ports where local authorities consider specific attack by Limpeteers are still possible. This is Med. Station 216B. (C. in C. Med. 031502 as amended by 072305A)

Kastel Bay Split. To-day Friday swept into Kastel Bay. Channel 4 cables wide from Dalmatian shore established through entrance. 2 German mines and one Yugo-Slavian mine cut. Extensive search of Kastel Bay completed negative result. (Capt. M/S Adriatic, 031605A)

Situation report No.3. Survey of Kastel Bay shows one quay 430 feet at Sucurac 24 feet depth alongside. 2 float planes 1½ ton crane. Road exits only. Split power station adjoining and working. Cmdr. M/S will sweep this area to-morrow. Remainder of this area unsuitable. (2) Solin and Vranjio not useable. (3) Bulldozer essential to clear exit from quay at Split. Coaster berths, one berth 160 feet long 29 feet depth, one berth 100 feet long 21 feet depth. (4) Weather fine clear light N.W. Barometer 29.7 one uncorrected rise. (L.C.H.97 032045A to F.O.T.A.L.I.(R) N.L.O. B.Af.)

STRIKER, FENCER. A.M. 242015. For security reasons it is desired that STRIKER and FENCER should proceed if possible direct to Cochin without calling at intermediate ports. Request also that passage of Suez Canal may be expedited so as to avoid opportunity of contact with shore. (WC.N.S. 031624A to C. in C. Med. F.O.G.M.A., F.O.L.E.M.)

KING GEORGE V. A.M.260025 para. 5, KING GEORGE V is not now required to arrive Colombo so urgently. (2) Pending further instructions ship is to remain in Mediterranean carrying out such practices as may be desired including a visit to Malta. (3) WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER are to remain with KING GEORGE V, KEMPENFELDT is to continue passage to Ceylon. (4) KING GEORGE V is to transfer as much as possible of personal effects of C. in C. E.F. to KEMPENFELDT. (V.C.N.S. 031838A)

War Diary

3.11.1944
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

TUEBINGEN. My 022116. A.G.5 Cairo state they have only 10 German merchant seamen suitable as stokers or firemen out of total number available. (F.O.L.E.M.031927 to C. in C. Med.)

Riviera Operations. Sitrep no change front lines. Active patrolling. WOOLSEY sank one mine. Fired one mission.

(A) Large troop concentration and barracks.
(B) 891 864. (C) 1555 to 1608. (D) 134.
(E) F.C.13. (F) Mission very successful several direct hits on barracks area well covered F.C.13 reported this mission best he ever observed.

(G) 813, 740 to 852, 745.
Ammo fired 134 rounds, on hand 88%, fuel 68%.
(C.T.F. 86. 031944A)

Situation Report No.478. (1) Ships sunk by WHEATLAND and AVONVALE were AUDACE and (?Destroyers) 202 and 208.
(2) Enemy resistance on Melos remains active.
(3) Allied Warships continue to bombard objectives near Franco-Italian Frontier.
(C. in C. Med. 031955A)

Leros. M.E. Balkan Sitrep No.354. (Extract)
One. Air Ops. N.T.R.
Two Leros. Force 142 report 25 Oct. 120 German left for Calino Grn of which to be raised to 500.
Arcangelo Island North of Leros now being manned. Cos. 30 Oct. Gen. Cmdr. Capo Meyer. Force 142 believe transferring 800 Troops from Leros.
Four. Land Ops. Islands. Milos no further developments.
Five. Sea Ops. N.T.R.
(C. in C. M.E. 032005C)

Flanfor. Amend para. 3 of 172 B/ Bombardment force and support and striking force will be combined and known as flank force short title Flanfor.
(2) Following call signs and D.G. allocated from local spare key numbers Mauve section in S.P.2489.
(3) Key numbers 91, 92 and 93 flank force. Numbers 94 and 95 S.O. Flank force. Numbers 96 and 97 S.O. present afloat Golfe Juan area.
(4) The above coming into force 2359A/4th.
(C. in C. Med. 032059A).
/ Changes in Organisation in Southern France.
S.P.02489 - D.G's and W/T Call signs for Major War Vessels, Part I.

Escort Carriers. Expect to arrive U.K. in ROYALIST p.m. 6th
ATTACKER, HUNTER and STALKER will arrive about 9th.
(2) Request desinations and leave to be given be signalled now. A.M. 281312 October para. 2 refer
(3) Request also intentions regarding following matters before
/leave ...

War Diary

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Escort
Carriers.
(Contd.)

leave starts.

(A) Whether escort carriers will return to Mediterranean for refit with full ship's company.

(B) Whether exchange of T.124 X ratings is intended during leave period.

(C) Intentions regarding refit of ROYALIST in view of A.S. Levant's report that essential structural alterations are beyond capacity of Alexandria.
(F.O.E.C.032313A to Admty)

War Diary.

3.11.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

SS. RADBURY
(sunk 13th
August).

Reference E.F. 716H/71/27 para. 12.

- (a) RADBURY.
 - (b) 25° S., 42° 30' E. approx. 1842Z August 13th.
 - (c) Submarine German 1200 ton type modified armament painted light grey.
 - (d) Torpedoed ship sank. (e) Two torpedoes.
 - (f) 35 all boats (?one) accounted for. (g) No. (h) Believed not made. (i) 3 noises as of ship striking submerged object heard prior to explosion of first torpedo at 2010, 2040 and 2100.
 - (j) Not accounted for believed sunk with ship.
 - (k) See J. (l) Deep water. (m) Believed not compromised as ship sank immediately after second explosion. (Remainder corrupt repetition requested).
 - (n) Chief Engineer. (o) Not known.
- My 031208 is a list of survivors.
(F.O.E.A., 031219Z.)

3.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

CLEOPATRA

Latest date for arrival of CLEOPATRA at the Clyde is November 20th.

2. Your 011943 para. 3 refers.
(D.O.D. (H), 031147A to B.A.D.)

W.5, C.3,
Groups.
H.X.317,
O.N.262.

My 021442 para. 3 not to C.3 group W.5, COLBALT (S.O.) is to detach from H.X.317 when relieved in Westomp (044° 19' N., 048° 40' W., at 1500Z/4) and proceed to join O.N.262 estimated P.C.S. at 1000Z/5 042° 00' N., 050° 40' W. 277° 9½ knots.

2. W.5 is to fuel if possible from H.X.317 before detaching and on joining O.N.262 obtain convoy papers and onward route from S.O. C.3 in KOKANEE.

3. When relieved by W.5 group C.3 negative LA MALBAIE, BITTERSWEET is to proceed direct St. John's N.F. one escort being detailed to escort S.S. TEMPLE YARD to vicinity Cape St. Francis whence ship will proceed independently to Wabana. LA MALBAIE, BITTERSWEET remain with convoy until ordered W.B. detach by C. in C. C.N.A.

4. Chop O.N.262 1000Z/4.

5. S.O. W.5 instruct Rescue Ship MELROSE ABBEY to keep H/F D/F guard both lines series 3.

(F.O.N.F., 031314Z to W.5, C.3).

H.X.317 noon P.C.S. 043° 25', 054° 02', 080° 9.5. S.S. CORNERBROOK joined Somp H.M.C.S. THREE RIVERS detach for St. Johns course and speed 018° 14 knots.

Weather report 6571 4411.

(S.O. W.5, 031610Z).

U/B

Estimates.

dispositions. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 031344Z, Cominch, 031525Z).

ILE DE
FRANCE.

Diversion order.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R, 031456Z to ILE DE FRANCE).

N.S.H.Q.

No report since my 011601.

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. S.S. FORT THOMPSON damaged by torpedo 48.58 N., 67.33 W., at 2128Z/2nd.
(N.S.H.Q., 031600Z).

A/U

search.

Intend E.G.25 continue search until first light 4th November thence join and support H.X.317 refuelling as necessary when group will be chopped to you my 312036*refers.

2. In view of reduced strength C.4. propose

E.G.25 support H.X.317 until ATHOLL rejoins.

3. DOLPHIN (corrupt group) Asdic is inoperative.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 031630Z to C. in C. W.A.)

* E.G.25 diverted to search area of enemy H/F transmission.

My 031630. Cease Gamma Search ordered my 011543 not to all Addressees at 0300Z/4 and carry out Radar and A/S sweep 045° until 0900Z/4 thence proceed to support H.X.317 S.O. C.4 in H.M.C.S. WENTWORTH estimated P.C.S. 1500Z/4 44.19 N., 48.40 W 072° 10 knots reporting E.T.A. convoy.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 031712Z to S.O.E.G.25).

/M.M.S...

3.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

M.M.S.1069,
1053. 1630Z/3rd Nov. sailed motor M/S 1069 (S.O.),
1053 in company to Horta (route etc.)
(4) Upon arrival Horta request you sail 30th M/S
to U.K. or as directed by Admiralty..
(C. in C. C.N.A., 031718Z to S.B.N.O. Azores).

ANTIGONISH. (Extract). Effective to date 3rd November.
Allocation from new construction to E.G.16 H.M.C.S.
ANTIGONISH.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 031723Z).

Spanish ships loading at Nova Scotia. We have received enquiries whether Spanish ships may be permitted to sail to Nova Scotia to load pitch. Request early signal whether you have any operational or security objections. If you agree, what port or ports may be visited?
(Hd. of M., 031836A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

LEASIDE, attack on U/B 22 October. Reference 0.259 of 23rd May 44.
(A) 2356Z October 22nd. 50.43 N., 08.53 W.
Weather D/5 Sea 11. Wind West 2-3.
(B) Evasive tactics employed.
(C) Nil.
2. Contact made by asdics 2200 yards, A/S attack procedure used.
3. Nil. 4. Nil.
(D) 2. Torpedo heard on asdic on bearing green 20.
3. 4. Nil. (E) None.
(LEASIDE, 031901Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Congratulations on Philippines victory. Following is a repetition of 030739 to Cominch for action in passing. Begins. Your 292315 your congratulatory message on the Philippine successes is most heartening. By keeping unremitting pressure on the Japanese our combined efforts will hasten their downfall. I follow with keenest interest the concern and disturbance which the increasing activities of your Eastern Fleet cause the enemy.
(Cominch, 031947Z to Admiralty for action).

Escort vessels. Apart from H.M.S. SEYCHELLES, detailed by Admty. to escort Tugs to Azores the only escort vessel at Bermuda is H.M.S. MONTSERRAT who is expected to be ready to sail about November 10th.

F.O.N.F. 021309 refers.
(2) In view of Admiralty's 042355 October the question of provision of escort vessels requires clarifying. Request B.A.D. may advise.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 032126Z to F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)

SALVONIA, TENACITY Whilst SALVONIA is in U.K. it is considered operationally advisable that TENACITY should remain under S.B.N.O. Azores. SALVONIA should be ready to leave U.K. for Azores about 15th

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

SALVONIA,
TENACITY.
(contd).

November. TENACITY should be sailed for St. John's when SALVONIA arrives in vicinity. (C.C.R.T. 032154A to F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O. Azores).

T.F.69.

Task Force 69 hereby constituted PARKER, KENDRICK, MCLANAHAN, ORDRONAU, ELOKOMIN. Escort Convoy U.G.F.17 departing Hampton Roads 13 November for Med. Ports. Return escorting G.U.F.17 when directed by C. in C. Med. (C. in C. Lant, 032211Z).

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
No.1017.

November 2nd. (Extract).

U.S. Army forces occupied Carigara on North coast Leyte shortly afternoon having driven out remaining Japanese opposition.

2. Probably same ships as reported in Digest 1016 latter part para. 3 seen off shore near Ormoc ? shortly after daybreak described as 2 - 4 transports (probably new landing craft type special transports) five escorts mainly small which laid smoke while barges plied between ships and shore. Leyte based fighter bombers attacked enemy shipping approaching Ormoc Bay previous day, hit one vessel and shot down two of the three covering Japanese fighters.

3. Details enemy air activities during day Leyte incomplete but two formation involving aggregate 30 - 35 Japanese planes intercepted by Leyte based Lightnings just west of Tacloban and 17 Japanese fighters shot down. In addition another 10 enemy planes destroyed in various interceptions over Leyte.

4. Seven ships observed forenoon passing through Verde Island passage and heading into Manfoa Bay at high speed and 3 hours later another two ships seen on similar route. Description vessels includes several large warships but identification doubted local sources report 9 midget submarines (length 30 metres) based Cebu recently.

6. Forenoon recce planes saw 2 northbound convoys near northern end Palawan passage whereof first group comprised one small freighter one small escort and second group consisted of two large Whaling factory type ships two medium merchant ships two sea truck two escort vessels. Same time two other convoys observed off northeast Borneo whereof first involved 3 sea trucks 3 gunboats off Sandakan course 8 degrees and second included two sea trucks two medium freighter transports off Hog Point course northwest.

7. Reconnaissance previous day, first November, saw one warship described as NACMK* class heavy cruiser in Ulugan Bay on north-west coast Palawan Island apparently (?confirming) report later saw one net tender near northern end southeast coast Palawan course 30°

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 031103Z) * As received.

3.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B incidents.

Para. A. 1. H.M.S. torpedoed and damaged p.m./1 in 69° 32' N., 36° 10' E.

Para. B. 1. H.M.C. Ships MONTREAL and JONQUIERE attacked stationary target at 0940Z/2 in 55° 42' N., 07° 20' 30" W.

2. AFFLECK obtained contact in same position at 1400Z/2 and later attacked.

Para C. 1. BRISSENDEN attacked stationary contact at 1321Z/2 in 49° 52' N., 05° 05' W.

2. A/C F/110 attacked possible U-boat course 090° at 1400Z/2 in 50° 13' N., 02° 19' W.

3. U.S.S. MALOY attacked U-boat at 1610Z/2 in 50° 10' N., 02° 11' W.

(D.D.I.C., 031123A).

U/B

Estimates.

dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 031354A, 031413A).

4.11.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. On Walcheren Island the forces from West Kappelle have joined up with those landed at Flushing. General Eisenhower refers to "the most gallant action on the part of light naval forces and assault troops," and stresses the importance of this operation for the clearance and development of Antwerp. The build-up of supplies is being maintained satisfactorily, but there is still a little resistance in the north of Flushing and in the docks area. Minesweeping is in active progress in the Schelde and already some 12 moored and 40 ground mines have been swept.

Norway.

2. Foul weather impeded Norwegian diversions, but an aircraft of 18 Group shot up an enemy merchantman of about 2000 tons off Vaagsø.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

S. French coast.

3. U.S.S. WOOLSEY, BENSON and ALCYON bombarded shore objectives on the right flank today.

Adriatic.

4. (a) Sibenik. H.Q. Balkan Air Force reported this afternoon that Sibenik had definitely fallen (c.f. 2 Nov.).
(b) BONN. ALDENHAM has intercepted the German hospital carrier BONN and brought her into Ancona. (c.f. Situation Report 16 Sept., para. 9).

Greece and Aegean.

5. (a) Greece is now clear of the enemy except for a few isolated detachments.
(b) Milos. Enemy resistance on Milos Island is reported to be determined and the situation has become less favourable.
(c) Dodecanese. It is reported that the enemy is strengthening some of the smaller island garrisons in the Dodecanese.

4.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

T-E. FORT LEE
torpedoed, 2/11.

6. A lifeboat from the U.S. tanker SS. ^{T-E.}FORT LEE made a submarine distress report this afternoon (B.S.T.) in the southern Indian Ocean in 24 S. 84 E. The lifeboat made a further submarine distress report at 1144Z/5 in 28.17 S. 84.03 E. and stated that the crew were in the boats. The tanker ~~SS.~~^{T.E.V.}TUMACACORI, who rescued survivors in one of the boats reported that the ship was torpedoed on 2nd November.

Australia & New Zealand.

Leyte.

7. Enemy air attacks are being pressed against shipping off Leyte, but mainly by small formations of about 10 aircraft.

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4.11.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMovements

- ROBERTS. Leave Sheerness at 1330A today 4th and proceed by swept channel in force and Q.Z.S. 518 and 519 to Spithead.
(2) Weather permitting speed of advance is to be 8 knots.
(3) Corvette SNOWBERRY from Portsmouth will R/V with you at C.2A Buoy and escort you to destination.
(4) Fighter protection arranged, codeword "Farlow" help messages on appropriate port wave.
(5) Communication constant watch on broadcast C.N and 1700 k/cs shifting to 2450 k/cs off Hastings.
(6) Acknowledge and report your E.T.A. before sailing.
(C. in C. Nore, 041050A to ROBERTS.)
- EASTWAY. My 041212A. Propose EASTWAY be sailed to Portsmouth after disembarking craft at Liverpool to embark L.C.V.(P) and L.C.A.(H.R.) for Liverpool to meet future commitments.
(R.A.C.O.B.(W.A.), 041222A to Admty.)
- VINDICTIVE. Additional Nore movements 4th to 5th November. 5th VINDICTIVE sailing from Sheerness 0840 for Scapa 16 knots.
(C. in C. Nore, 041226A to Admty.)
- UGANDA. Scapa arrival UGANDA.
(A.C.O.S., 041320A to C. in C. C.N.A.)
(1) Leave Scapa passing Hoxa Gate at 1800A Sunday 5th November and proceed by standard route to arrive off Tyne Pierhead at 0830A Monday 6th November.
(2) Admiralty 281809 not to C.N.M.O. refers.
(3) Fighter protection will not be provided.
(4) Admiralty divert mails to Newcastle.
(C. in C. H.F., 041543A to UGANDA.)
- SOUTHERN PRINCE. When ready about 10th November C. in C. Nore is requested to sail SOUTHERN PRINCE independently for Montreal where ship will be converted to Dockyard labour accommodation ship.
(2) Escort down Channel and in S.W. Approaches is to be provided as arranged between Cs. in C. concerned.
(3) C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to provide necessary escort up the St. Lawrence arranging R/V direct with SOUTHERN PRINCE.
(4) Admiralty will promulgate route. C. in C. Nore, is requested to report speed of advance.
(V.C.N.S., 041410A to Cs. in C. Nore, C.N.A., Portsmouth, Plymouth.)
- ROYALIST, HUNTER. A.M. 022215A November. Berth second ship will occupy is that allocated for repairs to destroyers, frigates, L.S.T. or other "Overlord" commitments.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041437A to Admty.)

/LARGS ...

4.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

LARGS. Intend sail at 1300/5th Nov. LARGS to Milford Haven. Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 1600/6. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 041156 not to all refers. (N.O.I.C. Inverary, 041849A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

NABOB. Your 031230. Action has already been taken with Comnavu. (Hd. of M., 042227A to F.O.C.R.F.)

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval. Cositintrep No. 213 part 2 Naval.
(A) General. (1) E-Boats were active off southern Dutch coast during night of 1st/2nd and 2nd - 3rd November. They were however driven off by our forces.
(2) Ostend anchorage was attacked by about seven human torpedoes during night of 1st/2nd November which resulted in the sinking of a danlaying trawler and a small tanker.

(B) Unloading figures for 2nd November. United States.

Place	Personnel	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	14,038	2,620
Brittany Ports	Nil	Nil	4,441	140
Beaches	7,109	1,011	1,277	522
Le Havre	Nil	Nil	4,074	6,818
Rouen	Nil	Nil	3,270	2,975

Total 7,109 1,011 27,100 13,075

British:

East Calvados	166	294	1,366	500
Dieppe	1,152	18	6,129	Nil
Boulogne	77	56	2,765	Nil
Ostend	Figures not yet received			

Total 1,395 368 10,260 500

Combined total 8,504 1,379 37,360 13,575

Ostend Figures for 1st November
1,053 Nil 1,885 3,609

(A.N.C.X.F., 040025A to Admty.)

Military. Communique No. 210.
On Walcheren Island Allied troops have cleared Domburg of the enemy. The regimental command of the enemy troops in Flushing was captured yesterday but there still is some resistance in the northern part of the town and mopping-up continues in the docks area. To the west of Flushing our troops have joined with forces advancing along the coast from West Kappelle. Early yesterday morning Allied units from Zuid Beveland landed on the east side of the island and have made good progress. Gun positions and strong points near Middelburg were bombed and strafed by fighter bombers.

/The ...

4.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Military.
(Contd.)

The build-up of supplies on Walcheren Island is being satisfactorily maintained. During the earlier stages of the landing operation, H.M. ships gave support to the land forces by bombardment of enemy guns and positions and the landings were successfully completed in spite of severe opposition from enemy batteries.

(S.H.A.E.F., 041100 to Agwar.)

On Walcheren little opposition to Allied landing south of Causeway. Allied troops from West Kappelle within five hundred yards of linking up with Flushing troops. Domberg (D.03) captured. Lieut. Colonel Reinhardt, Commander 1019 Grenadier Regiment, 70 Infantry Division taken prisoner.

(S.H.A.E.F., 041830 to War Office.)

Approaches to Antwerp have been entirely cleared. The operation involved the most gallant action on the part of light Naval forces and assault troops. Minesweeping is proceeding with the maximum possible number of sweepers deployed on the task. We are arranging to take special measures for the protection of the harbour and approaches including the installation of a Balloon Barrage, Naval Mine-detecting Personnel along the river, and thickening the A/A barrage as much as we possibly can. Initiation of actual working of the port will mark a great forward step in our operations and will enable us to receive maximum amount of troops and supplies in a great effort to win the victory here at the earliest possible moment.

(S.H.A.E.F. No T.O.O./4 to Agwar.)

Operations

North Sea

Walcheren Expedition.

Owing to possibility of adverse weather conditions at 1500A, attack will now take place at 1330A. My 030911A refers. Paras. (D) and (E) are amended accordingly.

Your 031551.

(C. in C. Nore, 040931A to WALLACE and VIVIEN.) L.C.G.(M) were sunk by shore defences after a gallant fight during which they seem to have withstood considerable punishment. From first reports, however, performance of their 17 pounder guns appears to have been disappointing. Presume C.O.H.Q. observers will report fully in due course.

(A.N.C.X.F., 041933A to Admty.)

Alleged one-man torpedo attack on Ostend.

Your 020226 November and A.N.C.X.F. Cosintrep 040025A November confirmation that the attack was made by one-man torpedoes is required as there is no other evidence that these craft are present in your area.

(D.N.I., 041809A to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

4.11.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Suspected U-Boat. Maintained contact throughout night, oil still coming up at source this morning. Made two more attacks. No evidence available. Contact stationary.

(U.S.S. MALOY, 040939A to C.T.G. 125.2.)

Position of contact this ship 50° 11'45" N., 02° 14'3" W. oil still rising. One explosion obtained today using two mark 8 charges on magnetic setting. Oil appears to be diesel or light lub. oil. Request permission to remain position until 051530A.

(MALOY, 041659A to C.T.G. 125.2.)

Instruct MALOY join British vessels to investigate submarine contact.

(C.T.F.125, 042007A to C.T.G. 125.2.)

Return of Landing Craft from Far Shore. My 041501A.
(2) If not fully loaded at U.S. Beaches, advise N.O.I.C. Arrow and me and call at Arrow to complete the maximum lift. Return to Portsmouth to off load these additions.
(3) Otherwise, you will return to Dartmouth.
(4) From Dartmouth you will return to Arrow for further lift to Portsmouth.
(5) Comphibsukay 301001 October (not to all) refers.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041503A to OCEANWAY.)

Patrols. On returning 31st E.G., 6th E.G. proceed and patrol between 050° 05' N., and 050° 25' N. on a line 001° 50' W.
(2) Constant W/T watch on 2450 k/cs and broadcast C.N. to be maintained while in Portsmouth Command.

(3) S.O. 6th E.G. acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041325A to E.G.6.
Pins cover night 4th/5th November.

G.H.1 L'AVENTURE, G.H.2 VIDETTE, G.H.3 L'ESCARMOUCHE on 01° 35' W., between 50° 09' N. and 49° 49' N.

5th E.G. on 1° 09' W. between 50° 25' N. and 50° 05' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041850A to A.I.Gs. 38, 393.)

Day A/S patrols 5th November. At 0730 patrol as follows:
(2) 6th E.G. and MALOY on 01° 50' W. between 49° 49' and 50° 09' N.

(3) L'AVENTURE, L'ESCARMOUCHE on 01° 35' W. between 50° 05' N. and 50° 25' N.

(4) VIDETTE maintain contact with target in position 50° 11.6' N., 01° 43.4' W.

(5) M.T.Bs. of 66th Flotilla if weather is suitable leave Portland at 0900A join and patrol with L'AVENTURE.

(6) ACTIVE pass Gate 0900A join L'AVENTURE and take over Senior Officer of that patrol.

(?7) L'AVENTURE arrange R/V for ACTIVE and M.T.Bs.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041917A.)

4.11.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWest Coast FranceLiberation
of Gironde.

Operation to liberate Bordeaux is under examination by 6th U.S. Army Group with Naval Staff assistance. It is intention that it should be completed by 1st January. The extent to which Navy will be required to participate is not yet known but should not be great except in regard to minesweeping.

(2) C. in C. Med. is requested to inform me what French ships could be made available particularly minesweepers of which the maximum number is desirable.

(3) I intend that as far as possible only French ships should be employed. Admiralty message 032224 refers. (A.N.C.X.F., 041710 to Admty.)

OperationsWestern ApproachesIrish Sea
prohibited
area to be
amended in
favour of
fishermen.

F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 301541 October. The only way adequately to enforce control is by a surface patrol which is not practicable. The control exercised by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is a considerable deterrent but is not 100 per cent. To open the area to fishing might cause an unacceptable congestion of fishing vessels in an important traffic area. Also, there would be delays if it was necessary to reimpose the restriction for operational reasons.

(2) An area to the south-westward of the Smalls could, however, be opened, subject to cancellation at short notice and this concession would be beneficial to the Fishing Industry. It is therefore, proposed that the N.E. limit of the prohibited area should be amended to read:-

By a line joining the following positions: (A) Tuskar Rock. (B) Thence 090° to 05° 40' W. (C) The Smalls. (D) 51° 36' N., 06° 14' W. (E) Hartland Point. (C. in C. W.A., 040113 to Admty.)

OperationsNorth-western Approaches

Patrols.

If not in contact at 0800/4th Force 33 is to search an area between parallels 055° 20' and 056° 45' and meridians 007° 30' and 009° 00'.

(2) The whole force is to search as a single unit and is to carry out line abreast asdic searches with ships at double asdic range apart.

(C. in C. W.A., 040031A to S.O. Force 33.)

Your 040031A quotes no contact. Am complying and will be sweeping north and south shifting from western edge eastward. (2) Have checked that our contact (see my 022020A para. 1) is still in situ.

/(3) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North-western Approaches

Patrols. (3) Capt. (D) Belfast's 031622A. No WHITAKER
(Contd.) survivors remain with Force 33. It is believed
4 men rescued by NYASALAND were from carley.
8 figure weather report 4856 8856 4129.
(S.O. Force 33, 040930A to C. in C. W.A.)
Force 32, 14th E.G., FAME S.O., DUNCAN, FORESTER, HAVELOCK,
with CYGNET, BEAGLE, WESTCOTT, NENE patrolling off Cape Wrath
and Butt of Lewis.
4th E.G., BENTINCK, 3 frigates operating vicinity 056° 31'
009° 50'.
Force 33, 1st E.G., AFFLECK S.O., 4 frigates and 26th E.G.,
BEACON HILL, 4 frigates operating between North Irish coast
and Barrahead. Add to my 041206.
(C. in C. W.A., 041227A to Admty.)

Operations

Norway

Patrols. V.P.77 cancelled - further signal will be made
when weather permits.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 040014 to A.C.O.S.)
VENTURER left Lerwick 1815A/4th Nov. proceeding
by route 0 to patrol off shore diving by day between 061° and
065° and (? north of) 068°.
(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 041817A to S/Ms. north of 51° N.)

Operation Ramose Mischievous HITRA returned at 0915A/4th
S.C. November.
(2) Operation successful.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 040917A to A.C.O.S.)
Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetland.
(1) 0300A/6th November from Scalloway.
(2) 086° from Sumburgh Head, 13 knots. (3) 1900A/6th November.
(4) Between 1930A/6th November and 0600A/7th November.
(5) 266° to Sumburgh Head, 14 knots. (6) p.m./7th November.
(7) 086° Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 041231A to A.C.O.S.)
My 041231A.
(1) 060° 05' N., 005° 06' E. (2) Ramose Trophy. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 041233A to A.C.O.S.)

Minelaying It is understood that RUBIS will be available for
off a minelaying operation about 15th November.
Ekersund. (2) It is proposed that she lays in the vicinity
of position 58° 27' N., 05° 48' 20" E.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 041044A to F.O. S/M.)

Operations My 011203 not to N.O.I.C. Lerwick. After
for PURSUER completing operation "Steak" PURSUER will be
with Forces required to provide fighter cover for C.S.1 in
1 and 2. KENT with BELLONA and destroyers who will be
withdrawing from operation off south-west coast
of Norway.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operations for PURSUER with Forces 1 and 2. (Contd.)

(2) (A) If operation "Steak" is carried out on D plus 2, Force 1 is to return west of Shetlands to Scapa.

(B) If strike is postponed until D plus 3 Force 1 is to proceed to anchor in Sullom Voe when destroyers are to fuel from PURSUER.

(3) In either case Force 1 will subsequently be sailed to arrive R/V a.m./10th November as

required by C.S.1 N.E. of Q.Z.X. 395.

(4) R.A.D.H.F. pass to destroyers of Force 1. N.O.I.C. Lerwick inform R.A.F. Stn. Sumburgh Head.

(C. in C. H.F., 041751A to EURYALUS, (R) PURSUER, R.A.D.H.F. etc.)

Operation for Force 1.

Intend following operation.

Force 2 consisting of C.S.1 in KENT with BELLONA and four destroyers to leave Scapa p.m. X day.

After passing west and north of Shetlands Force to proceed to carry out a sweep for enemy shipping on Norwegian coast between Lister and

Stavanger during the night of X + 1 to X + 2 on completion Force 2 to return to Scapa north of Shetlands.

(2) Force 1 (EURYALUS, PURSUER and 4 destroyers) after completing operation "Steak" to R/V with C.S.1 and provide air cover for Force 2 from daylight X + 2.

(3) C.S.1 requested to plan the operation.

(4) Codeword and X day follow.

(C. in C. H.F., 041831A to Admty.)

Paragraph 4 of my 041831 X day Wednesday 8th November.

(C. in C. H.F., 041901A to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy J.W. 61A.

(1) Estimated convoy J.W.61A approx. position 072° 45' N., 011° 30' E. at 1200A today 4th Nov. speed 15 knots on route brown.

(2) If situation permits request you detach 3rd E.G. to join route brown to south-east of position (T) and act in support of J.W. 61A to Kola.

(3) If J.W.61A not met 3rd E.G. to continue by route brown to Kola.

(C. in C. H.F., 041043A to C.S.10.)

Expect Catalina today Saturday and Catalina and fighter protection tomorrow Sunday.

(2) If not sighted by Catalina today report E.T.A.

(3) Berths on arrival BERWICK number 5 where oiler will be sent. CAMPANIA number 48. Transports numbers 3 and 4. Pilots will be sent.

(4) Destroyers fuel 2 at a time alongside at Rosta fuelling jetty and subsequently Polyarnoe. Destroyers waiting to fuel anchor as convenient off Rosta.

(5) Request if available CAMPANIA will provide 2500 gallons petrol to Russian account. Lighter will be sent.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 041159A to BERWICK, J.W.61A.)

/Patrol ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Patrol. Position at 2101A/4th November. STARWORT and CHARLOCK patrolling Reykjanes - Skagi. (A.C.I.C., 041306A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity

Patrol. Nr.1. Have attacked enemy merchant vessel 2000 tons with cannon or machine gunfire. My position is 61° 36' N., 05° 02' E. (A/C KORU, 041330A to 18 Group.)

Mining

Deep mining in St. Georges Channel. C.F. Serial A.2 completed. (APOLLO, 040404A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.) Arrived APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 040959A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation "Calendar": clearance of the Schelde. In Operation "Calendar" it is not expected that the mines encountered will be coarser than 20 m.g. or that they will have a clock capable of being set to more than 6 days from the time of laying. (2) For this particular operation, it is therefore recommended that in order to effect further saving of time, the following station-keeping distances be used and the area covered outside the tails be considered as effectively swept according to the following table:

Amperage	Station keeping Distances in yards	Total Swept Path in yards (inside and outside tails)
2,700	450	750
2,200	400	620
1,800	350	540
1,500	280	440
1,200	220	380
1,000	200	320
700	150	220

(3) The dead space for a 20 m.g. mine is small and may be neglected in view of the fact that the area is being swept 16 times. In view of the decreasing current these sweeping distances do not involve any additional danger to the sweepers. (4) In Column 2 allowance has already been made for an error of $\frac{1}{2}$ a cable in the station-keeping distance, i.e. a field of 20 m.g. will still be achieved inside the tails provided the station-keeping is not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a cable in error. (5) In Column 3 no allowance has been made for errors in the paths followed by successive formations sweeping the same or adjacent channels and a reasonable allowance should therefore be made for overlap. This will naturally vary with the conditions of sweeping but every endeavour should be made to reduce station-keeping errors in order to take full advantage of para. (2).

/(6) ...

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining

Operation "Calendar": clearance of the Schelde. (Contd.) (6) The above procedure is not recommended when the channel is so narrow that a casualty would cause a serious obstruction. In these circumstances, procedure should be in accordance with Appendix III of your 5508/525/36 of 27th October, Operation Orders "Calendar". (D.M.S., 041728A to C. in C. Nore.) Consider 126 foot M.M.S. less suitable than 105 foot M.M.S. for Belgian waters in following respects:- (A) Draught. (B) Safe depth against ground mines. (2) Request therefore a 105 foot Flotilla may be allocated in lieu of 205th M.S.F., 131st or 132nd Flotilla is suggested. A.L.M. 010297/44 of 16th October (not to C. in C. Nore or Com. Belgium) and X.F. Message 201550 October refer.

(A.N.C.X.F., 041750A to Admty.)

Operation "Calendar" Force A arrived. 5 B.Y.M.S. anchored Fonte, B.Y.M.S. and all M.M/S. in Terneuzen Road, M.Ls. in basin. No casualties. Mine bag not yet checked, approx. number ground 40 moored 12. Navigational information and complete report of mine barrage sweep will follow later.

(Capt. M/S. F.A., 041900A to C. in C. Nore.)

Deputy S.O. Force T's 032033. Controlled Mining Party proceeding Hanseerd tomorrow 5th.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 041903A to A.N.C.X.F.)

My 041702. 5 red magnetics detonated in Walsoorden Channel. No sweeping beyond owing to damaged sweeps. Negative results Oropesa.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 042052A to A.N.C.X.F.)

U-Boats

Suspected U-Boats. One in central English Channel east of 03° 00' W. possibly contact attacked by H.M.S. VESPER 1922Z/3rd November. (D.D.I.C., 041358A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

Navigational

Channels Le Havre - Dieppe, and Dieppe - Boulogne. Reference A.N.C.X.F. 031625 and V.A. Dover 011848. (2) Channel Le Havre - Dieppe H.V.3 to J.9 Buoys established and sweeping completed. (3) Dieppe to Boulogne Channel, J.9 to P.B.5 Buoys, Oropesa sweeping completed and channel covered one actuation LL/SA. (4) Expect to complete sweep with 15 actuations by (?14th) November. (C.T.F. 125, 041137 to A.N.C.X.F., V.A. Dover.)

Buoyage in Le Havre approach. Request programme for buoyage in the following positions may now be brought forward. (1) 049° 39'42" N., 00° 01'12" W. (2) 049° 50'15" N., 00° 04'54" E. (3) 049° 54'00" N., 00° 18'14" E. (4) 049° 57'45" N., 00° 31'30" E. (5) 050° 01'25" N., 00° 44'52" E. (C.T.F. 125, 041351A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

Buoyage in Schelde. N.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to sail Trinity House ship loaded with N.F.11 to 18 Buoys and escorted by 1 fast minesweeper to be detailed by M.S.6 to arrive Ostend p.m. tomorrow Sunday.

(2) T.H. ship is to lay N.F.11, N.F.12, N.F.13 buoys when required by M.S. F.B. (headquarters ship SQUIRREL at Ostend) and on completion is to return to Ostend to await orders from M.S. F.A. (headquarters ashore at Terneuzen), for laying of N.F.14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 buoys. When these have been laid T.H. ship and escort are to return Harwich.

(3) When east of N.F.15 Buoy ships are to use slowest navigable speed.

(4) Communication. Escort constant watch on 2333 k/cs. C. in C. Nore will assume guard on C.N. from time of sailing.

(5) M.S. F.A. and M.S. F.B. acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 041058A to N.O.I.C. Harwich, S.Os. M/S.F.A., F.B., 6.)

Tugs for Antwerp. Your 032237. If no relief tug is available this will leave only 3 tugs at Fleet Base for general duties. One of these will often be refitting etc., so that delays must sometimes occur in dockings, berthing tankers and Fleet services. Salvage operations during and after winter gales may be prejudiced. EMPIRE TOBY is now refitting at Grangemouth and is fitted with Kort muzzles.

(A.S. Orkneys, 041111A to Admty.)

A.M. 032237A. Observing that a greater number of major war vessels are based at Harwich than at any time during the war it is submitted that release of EMPIRE MAPLE is not possible.

(2) Attached destroyers and frigates have more than doubled the number of ships under the Command of D.16, and 4 Fleet Minesweeper Flotillas are at present based at Harwich.

(3) In Addition to this WOOLVERSTONE has now become maintenance base for operational L.C.T. from Dover for ferrying duties and it is anticipated that many of these arriving for repair will require assistance.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 041123A to Admty.)

A.M. 032237A, para. 4C.

Tugs EMPIRE SPRUCE and EMPIRE PLANE have been in service about 18 months without overhaul and both require dry-docking.

(2) Arrangements have already been made to take EMPIRE SPRUCE in hand for refit in 10 days time to be immediately followed by EMPIRE PLANE who is at present employed on important target towing duties from Lamlash.

(3) If refits can be carried out without interruption estimated time is about 3 to 4 weeks per ship but as tugs are not given priority the usual period is 6 to 8 weeks per ship.

(4) Of the 11 tugs allocated to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 3 are in service at Greenock, 1 at Aultbea, 2 at Oban, 1 at Corpach, 1 target towing from Lamlash and 3 are under repair. With the short daylight hours and only one working tide per day the present number of tugs available at Greenock are unable to fulfil all requirements and a carry over of day to day programmes is already unavoidable.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 041617 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

Steam Drifter SUPPORTER. C. in C. Portsmouth's 031450A arrived plus M.F.V. ALICE, SUPPORTER ran aground outside Newhaven and foundered. Commanding Officer and whole crew landed by Newhaven lifeboat. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 040112A to C. in C. Nore, Portsmouth.)

L.C.T. 976. CURZON's 032330 not to all. On receipt of further information from CURZON C. in C. Nore is requested to divert Tug QUEENS CROSS from T.M.C.26 if necessary, to recover and take in tow L.C.T. 976, adrift and reported a danger to navigation in the vicinity of N.F.4 Buoy. A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug) approved. (A.C. Dover, 040321A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys

E.S.C. Convoys. Your Dis. 271508 October and 021706 November. Recommend earliest possible reintroduction of How Channel for use of sailings between Cherbourg and West Coast ports. Use of Channel 14 more than doubles distance across Channel from Cherbourg to N.1 Buoy and for many ships will result in loss of full working day in each direction. Proposed central channel will further increase distance. Owing to strong set in English Channel it is advisable that ships using 14 Channel should round 14 E. Buoy in daylight. The timing of E.S.C. convoys was adjusted to provide a daylight R/V at N.1 Buoy. This will no longer be possible. (C.T.F. 125, 041359A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Wreck dispersal vessels. Your 030954. Regret that with present berthing congestion in winter conditions it is not possible to berth these vessels Sheerness or Chatham. Suggest Newhaven be considered. (C. in C. Nore, 041627A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Major troopship movements. Following is summary 63 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period to 4th December.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
(A) In				
1	A.T.163A	U.S. WESTPOINT	Liverpool	7 Nov.
2	A.T.163	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	9 "
3	A.T.162	QUEEN MARY	"	9 "
4	-	EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND	Liverpool	9 "
5	C.U. 45A	Composition as notified		10 "
6	A.T.164	PASTEUR	"	11 "
7	A.T.165A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	"	17 "

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Major troopship movements. Summary 63 continued.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
8	S.D. 59	Ships not yet allocated	Clyde	About 17 Nov.
9	C.U. 46A	Ships not yet allocated to ports		18 "
10	A.T.166	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	"	18 "
11	A.T.167	AQUITANIA	"	22 "
12	A.T.165	ANDES	Liverpool	About 26 Nov.
13	A.T.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	27 "
14	M.K.F.36	Ships not yet allocated to ports		28 "
15	A.T.160	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	1 Dec.
16	A.T.169A	U.S. MARIPOSA	"	2 "
17	A.T.170A	U.S. WESTPOINT	"	4 "
17A	-	EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA) SCYTHIA	"	Mid Nov.
(B) Out				<u>Sails</u>
18	U.C. 44A	U.S. Ships ex C.U.44A) plus BRITANNIC, RANGITIKI. CARNARVON CASTLE } ARAWA }	" Clyde	5/6 Nov.
19	K.M.F.36	Composition as notified		6 Nov.
20	T.A.160	ANDES	Liverpool	8 "
21	O.N.265	MATAROA	Clyde	p.m./8 Nov.
22	T.A.163A	U.S. WESTPOINT	Liverpool	10 Nov.
23	D.S. 59	Ship not yet allocated	Clyde	About 11 Nov.
24	T.A.162	QUEEN MARY	"	13 "
25	U.C. 45A	U.S. ships ex C.U.45A		14 "
26	T.A.163	ILE DE FRANCE	"	14 "
27	U.C. 45B	ESPERANCE BAY	Liverpool	18 "
28	T.A.164	PASTEUR	"	18 "
29	-	EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND	"	18 "
30	T.A.165A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	"	20 "
31	T.A.166	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	22 "
32	T.A.167	AQUITANIA	"	26 "
33	T.A.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	"	2 Dec.

(2) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 11th November when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T., 042259A to P.S.T.Os. Clyde, Scottish and N.W. Ports)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

VAN GALEN.

Sailed for U.K.
(F.O.G.M.A. 042231A.)

A/U
Operations.

Following repeats my 041153A. Begins:
Addressed S.O. Group 1 WOLVERINE, S.O. Group 2,
BLACKFLY.
(R) C.F.A.W. 15, C.M.S.F., Admty., C. in C. Med.,
S. A/S S.P. STRIKER. From F.O.G.M.A.

WOLVERINE is to slip and proceed at 1900A/4 to patrol between
Europa Point and Carnero Point until 0800A/5
(2) At 0800A/5 WOLVERINE is to proceed to join Group 1, consist-
ing of DART (S.O.), PRIMULA, KILMORE and KILMINGTON hunting U-
Boat, position 35° 32' N. 07° 28' W.
(3) DART is requested to signal re position and time.
(4) BLACKFLY is to slip and proceed at 0800/5 to relieve LORD
NUFFIELD and take over S.O. Group 2.
(5) Group 2 consisting of LOCH OSKAIG (S.O.) and LORD NUFFIELD
has orders to patrol inside hundred fathom line between lats. of
35° N. and 36° 40' N. to westward of Strait.
(6) LOCH OSKAIG is to signal R/V position and time.
(7) WOLVERINE and BLACKFLY acknowledge.
(F.O.G.M.A. 041215A.)

T.G. 27.3.

4th Nov. departures U.S.S. KASAAN BAY, DOUGLAS A.
MUNRO DUFILHO for U.S.
(C.M.S.F. 042005.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TUSCAN. Your 031921*. Intend to proceed at 0400/4th E.T.A. Khios noon.
(TUSCAN 040012B to F.O.L.E.M.)
* Former not identified.

KING GEORGE V, Admiralty's 031838A request you will re-route
KEMPENFELT. KING GEORGE V and escort to Malta subsequently sail KEMPENFELT as convenient for onward routing to Eastern Fleet.
(2) Further signal will be made regarding WHIRLWIND, WRANGLER and URSA.
(C. in C. Med. 040244A to V.A.M.)

S/MS on passage Gib. Submarines on passage between Gibraltar and Malta are to proceed on the surface and may be unescorted to Malta. with the exceptions given in para. 4 below.
(2) Submarines are to be routed clear of basic east and westbound routes except through the (?Tunisian) War Channel where these routes are to be followed.
(3) Sailing authorities are to request for total bombing restrictions if considered necessary and in any case total bombing restrictions west of long. 003° W. are to be imposed.
(4) The above instructions do not apply to submarines which are unable to dive or to Italian A/S training submarines which are to be escorted.
(5) Masters of merchant ships are to be instructed by routing authorities accordingly and Admiralty are being requested to promulgate by B.A.M.S.*
(6) These instructions are to come into force at 1200A/9.
(C. in C. Med. 041148A.)
* C. in C. Med's 041152 refers.

RICHELIEU, Para. 2 F.O.W.M. 021720*, not all, approved,
DUGUAY-TROUIN. subject to concurrence of F.O.C.W.Af. to whom reference is being passed.
(2) Amended programme for return of RICHELIEU Libertymen in F.O.W.M. 021554+ not to all addressees approved.
(C. in C. Med. 041158A to F.O.W.M., F.O.C.W.Af.)
* Fr. Cr. DUGUAY-TROUIN carry out round trip Casablanca.
+ Proposes F.S. GLOIRE brings back RICHELIEU Libertymen.

South France N.A.S.A.B. 685. Examination has been made by ports. M.E.D.B.O. of South of France port acceptance position. On 29th October, position disclosed was:-
(1) Situation regarding back piled cargo on quays in hand.
(2) Approx. 207,000 long tons cargo afloat awaiting discharge and clearance.
(3) Estimated daily average discharge and clearance at Marseilles and Port de Bouc being maintained at 16,000 tons for five days, and 10,000 tons for remaining two days weekly, to allow for bad weather during winter months.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

South France ports. (4) With cargo afloat and cargo due during November it is considered that with present facilities there will remain on 30th November, approx. 200000 tons undischarged cargo in the area.
(Contd.) (5) The situation has been carefully examined and the following steps are being taken to improve the position and obtain quicker release of vessels -
A. curtailment of intra theatre loadings to Marseilles.
B. Increase in the Southern France area of discharging and clearance facilities, such increases will include labour, truck, and improved rail facilities.
(6) It is considered that ships at present in the area will be cleared by November 13th, and that the action in para. 5 will clear the discharge and clearance in December.
(7) The position will be revised by M.E.D.B.O. towards the end of November.
(M.W.T.R. Med. 041500A.)

Sibenik. (Extract.) Special operations Sitrep No. 65.
Para. 4. Yugoslavia (one) Sibenik definitely fallen.
(H.Q. Balkan A.F. 041545A.)

Swedish Relief ships. S.B.N.O. Greece's 011531B and F.O.L.E.M's 041008B concur. By route given in my 201433A October* A.M. 021912A+ refers.
(C. in C. Med. 041600A to Admty.)
* Route for Swedish Relief Ships.
+ Swedish Govt. views re amended routes for relief vessels.

Swedes intimate safe conduct vessels FORMOSA and SAGGAT will sail from the Piraeus 0900 local time/8 for St. Johns by "Black" route as amended by your 201433 October with the following correction for 37° 01' N. read 37° 00' N.

(2) Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Hd. of M. 041949A to all concerned.)

Aircraft for FORMIDABLE. Your 301449A Oct. 9 Corsairs can be accepted number mark VII bombs available in Egypt. Request these be despatched to R.N.A.S. Dekheila by quickest means in order to implement FORMIDABLE 271400A October.

(?Non) arrival of double range of stores for Avenger will prejudice serviceability of A/C.
(F.O.L.E.M. 041640 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Escort carriers. Your 032313. (2) ROYALIST and HUNTER to Portsmouth ATTACKER and STALKER to Plymouth.
14 days leave to be given in one watch.
(3) (a) and (b) Re certain personnel.
(c) It is impracticable to undertake any work on ROYALIST in U.K., and the best possible arrangements must be made in the Mediterranean.
(V.C.N.S. 041846A to F.O.E.C.)

/BONN...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

BONN. Your 041322* following is repetition of my 031209 begins: Addressed S.N.O.N.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bari, Admty., C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Brindisi, From F.O.T.A.L.I.

Your 030934 not to all. German hospital ship BONN is to be sailed to Brindisi with escort and armed guard is to be on board. (2) 83 wounded will be disembarked at Brindisi ship will be taken in prize and crew made P.O.W. but no indication of this is to be given to BONN.

(3) N.Os. i/c Bari and Brindisi inform Army Authorities. Ends. (F.O.T.A.L.I. 041849A to Admty.)

* Originated by W.R.

Belgian Brigade. It is desired to move the balance of the Belgian Brigade, total 3,200 troops, from Middle East to Matadi (in SS. BOISSEVAIN.) (2) - (5) Arrangements. (D.O.D.(F) 041904A.)

S. France Operations. Mission report part one. A. Enemy gun emplacement area. B. 853892. C. From 1055 to 1140. D. 142 rounds. E. Cub G-50 spotting. F. Area well covered. G. Six miles bearing 220° true from Cape Amieglio. H. 88 m.m. return fire encountered. Quite accurate but no hits. I. Not observed.

Part 2. A. 142 rounds. B. 82%. C. 100%. part 3. Sank one mine in 43.35.5 N. 07.34.7 E. and two in 43.36.6 N. 07.37.4 E. (BENSON 041921A.)

One mission fired. A. Enemy battery near railroad tunnel. B. 9135 8360. C. 1224 to 1244. D. 137. E. F.C. 13. F. Area very well covered at least two direct hits. G. Manoeuvred near 944 744. H. BENSON received several near misses but no casualties while firing a mission and F.C. 13 located battery WOOLSEY received no counter battery indicating that battery silenced. I. Same as B above which is on Cape Ampeglio. Rounds expended 137 ammo. on hand 75% fuel 97%. WOOLSEY and BENSON relieved by PLUNKETT and ALCYON.

(WOOLSEY 041951A.)

Sitrep part 1. Mission 1. A. Personnel movements enemy command post. B. 826918. C. 1523 to 1542. D. 16. E. F.C. 16. F. Target well covered. G. 8177. H. None. Part 2. A. 16. B. 96. C. 80. Part 3. Nothing to report.

(ALCYON 042003A.)

TUEBINGEN, GRADISCA. This repeats my 031225 undecypherable. On receipt of A.M. 012019 F.N.L.O. has reiterated his request for the seizure of this ship. He realizes however that this is an inter-Government affair. (F.O.L.E.M. 042020B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TUEBINGEN,
GRADISCA.
(Contd.)

F.O.L.E.M's 031033 and 031927. C.C.S. have instructed S.A.C.M.E.D. to comply with Admiralty and War Office instructions. Disembarkation of German sick and wounded personnel should be recommenced forthwith.

(2) If no abuse of conventions has been detected, TUEBINGEN should be released earliest possible. If insufficient engine-room personnel are available, there is no objection to adjustment of complement with GRADISCA.

(3) It is understood from War Office that there may be insufficient accommodation at Alexandria for all wounded in GRADISCA. If A.F.H.Q. wishes to complete disembarkation elsewhere, she should be sailed accordingly with armed guard or escort as necessary.

(4) Request urgent forecast of movements of TUEBINGEN and GRADISCA for communication to German Govt., with names of German merchant seamen released to TUEBINGEN. It is proposed to ask German Govt. to repatriate equivalent number of British merchant seamen.

(V.C.N.S. 042323A to C. in C. Med.)

1st S/M F.
disposal.

As soon as useful employment for submarines comes to an end in the Mediterranean, request you will arrange disposal of 1st S/M F. as follows. Your 011044 October not to all refers.

A. To Eastern Fleet for A/S Training.

The 6 "U"s fitted Freon air conditioning:-
VOX, VIVID, VIGOROUS, VIRTUE, VISIGOTH, VORACIOUS.

B. To Mediterranean for A/S Training.
PIPINOS, and two of UNTIRING, UNSWERVING, VAMPIRE.

C. To Western Approaches for A/S Training.
UPSTART and the remaining British submarine.

(2) Possible allocation of further submarines to the Greeks is being considered separately. Your 141611, not to all.

(3) A separate signal regarding DIASPRO, PLATINO and NICHELIO will be made. Your 301107 October, not to all.

(V.C.N.S. 042024A.)

Situation
report No.
480.

(1) Situation at Melos has become less favourable enemy resistance being determined.

(2) ALDENHAM has intercepted German hospital carrier BONN and brought her into Ancona.

(C. in C. Med. 042029A.)

?Hvar Island.

Situation report 5. Partisan army demand withdrawal 2 British officers M.1 Military mission who are necessary to supervise discharge of L.C.T. cargo unless provided with personnel permit. Intend

delaying discharge until matter clarified. Hopeful settlement early tomorrow.

(2) L.C.T. 446 arrived 1430 from Ancona with portable pulser. Sailing her Ancona tomorrow.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

?Hvar Island. (3) TOWNER's survey completed. To leave tomorrow
(Contd.) for Vis in M.L. for onward passage.
(4) Anticipate Sucurac (?Sucuraj) pier being ready to receive ships at noon tomorrow.
(5) Weather fine and cloudless. Wind light easterly. Barometer rising steadily.
(L.C.H. 97 042130A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (Taranto)
(R) N.L.O. B.A.F.)

G.2 summary
No. 66.

(Extract.)

(3). Greece and Aegean. Allied patrols Florina confirm no enemy south of frontier. Enemy strengthening some of smaller island garrisons in Dodecanese. 120 men said to have left Leros for Calino and 500 transferring Leros to Kos. Arcangelo now manned. All informed.
(A.F.H.Q. 042215A.)

Flanfor.

New organization as set up by C. in C. Med. 230840A* amended by 032059A comes into force 050000A when T.F. 86 ceases to exist. All operational signals previously addressed to C.T.F. 86 should thereafter be addressed to Flanfor who is C.D.D. four (French) in MONTCALM. Info. S.O.P.A. Golfe Juan.
(C.T.F. 86 Ops. 042359A.)
* Changes in organization in Southern France.

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U-Boat dispositions. No fresh information scales unchanged except on CB.2 which reduces to X 5 P.
(C. in C. E.F. 040350Z)

8th S/M.F. Weekly Summary. (?Commander) S/Ms Allied Naval force has been directed to make the report requested by your 010931Z.
(Comsouwestpacfor, 040807 to C. in C. E.F.)

U.S.S. GEN. ANDERSON. U.S. Transport GENERAL ANDERSON sailed 4th November for U.S. via Australia with personnel.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 040819Z)

Convoy orders. Release class D ships from JC. - C.J. convoy as follows:
From Colombo 6th November
From Madras and Trincomalee Southbound 6th Nov.
Northbound 8th Nov.
From Vizagapatam 10th Nov. From Calcutta after sailing of C.J.43 on 9th November.
(C. in C. E.F. 040929Z)

A.F.D.53. Add to my 031454 arrived A.F.D. 53 in tow of AIMWELL and BOLD.
(Com. Aden, 041500Z)

SS. FORT LEE (U.S.Tanker). SSSS 1 M - Lifeboat need help now position 24 S. 84 E.
(K.K.W. FORT LEE No T.O.O./4 Rec. 1538)
c.f. FORT LEE 051144Z which gives different latitude.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

M.M.S. Departure p.m./3rd G.S.* 1069 and 1053 to Horta.
1069, (C.O.P. Halifax, 040025Z, 041303Z). * as received.
1053.

CLEOPATRA. When ready about 7th November sail CLEOPATRA
independently Philadelphia to Bermuda for onward
sailing to U.K.
(Cominch, 041417Z).

E.G.25 My 031712 on completion of fuelling proceed great
circle route to Londonderry reporting P.C.S.
and E.T.A. when clear of H.X.317, C. in C. W.A.
040024 refer.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 041423Z to S.O.E.G.25).

E.G.25 H.M.C.S. ORKNEY (S.O.) SAINTE THERESE, JOLIETTE,
LA HULLOISE, THETFORD MINES is transferred to the operational
control of C. in C. W.A. to date 4th November.

2. Pay accounts to be held in NIOBE (Londonderry).
(C. in C. C.N.A., 041940Z).

N.S.H.Q. Para. D. Swirl sighted by A/C G/160 in 43.55 N.,
S/M attack 54.15 W., at 1605Z/3rd.
and sighting (N.S.H.Q., 041434Z).
summary.

G.U.S./U.G.S. To permit necessary escort adjustments incidental
convoys. to C. in C. Med. 271250 and Com. 10th Fleet
(C. and R.) 301459 not to all, propose that
onward voyage of G.U.S. 58 from Oran to U.S. be
cancelled and that G.U.S.59 be sailed from Oran 23 November
escorted by T.F.65., (now en route Med. with U.G.S.58). Succeed-
ing G.U.S. convoys to be sailed from Oran at 10 day intervals
escorted by returning Task Forces from same numbered U.G.S.
convoys. T.F.66 now en route Mediterranean with U.G.S.59 to be
released for return to U.S. as directed by Cinclant upon arrival
of U.G.S.59 at Bizerte. Further propose that sailing dates of
U.G.S. convoys from Norfolk be advanced two days, beginning with
U.G.S.64 sailing 19 December.
(Cominch, 041530Z to Admty).

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (Cominch, 041536Z)

SS. E.CAMERON, P.T.33 SS. EMPIRE CAMERON and P.T.44 SS.
D. INGLESSIS DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS collided in thick fog at
in collision. 1157Z/4. P.T.33 reports able to proceed U.K.
P.T.44 unable to proceed. Intend detaching P.T.
44 with H.M.C.S. DIGBY as escort to St. Johns
N.F. after junction now delayed thick fog. My P.C.S. 1500Z/4
45.10 N., 54.00 W., 084° 7.5 knots six miles north of main
convoy.
(SHAWINIGAN, 041604Z).

P.T.44 SS. DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS now reports no leaks and
able to proceed with convoy when junction effected. My 041604

/refers...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SS. E. CAMERON, refers.
D. INGLESSIS Weather report wind S.E. Force 1 dense fog
in collision. barometer 30.15.
(contd). (SHANINIGAN 042358Z).

SENEGALAIS. When French SENEGALAIS completes training it is
desired she call at Norfolk for a minimum of two
days to permit loading material and spare parts.
SENEGALAIS then available as additional U.G.F/
U.G.S. escort to Casablanca where on arrival direct ship report
to C. in C. Med. for duty.
(Received via U.S.N., 041614Z).

Inshore U.S. escorts will conform to the principles
operations described in your 302302.
of U-boats (B.A.D., 041707Z to Admt).
in W.A.
Command.

U/B No report since my 012035. All times "Z". Para.
incidents. D. 040251 unidentified ship reported being
attacked by U-boat 23.50 N., 82.45 W. 041250
Blimp had Mad contact 40.15 N., 71.55 W. and
sighted oil slick same area at 041206.
(Cominch, 042007Z).

Chop for Your 042001Z/October. Confirm that it is
S/MS. intended to adhere to Trade chop for submarines.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 042102A to B.A.D.)

Australia & New Zealand.

SUFFOLK. Arrived Fremantle 3rd.
(A.C.N.B., 040437Z).

Digest No. For November 3rd.
1018. 7. Afternoon United States Submarines reported
one large aircraft carrier one light cruiser 2
or 3 destroyers 250 miles northwest Manila Bay
course south.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 040820).

GAMBIA Arrival Wellington.
(N.Z.N.B., 031843).

4.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A.(1.) A/C X/162 attacked Schnorkel with
depth charges at 0952Z/3 in 61° 50' N., 18° 02' W.
Para. B.(1.) A/C P/206 obtained disappearing
radar contact at 1307Z/3 in 59° 56' N., 02° 34' E.
(2) A/C G/330 obtained radar contact at 1636Z/3 in
61° 33' N., 01° 18' E.
Para C. (1) A/C P/103 obtained disappearing radar contact at
0843Z/3 in 49° 14' N., 03° 12' W.
(2) VESPER attacked contact from 1922Z to 2137Z 3rd Nov. in 50°
11' N., 01° 43' W.
(3) A/C G/228 obtained disappearing radar contact at 0313Z/4 in
49° 07' N., 03° 35' W.
(D.D.I.C., 041043A).

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 041329A, 041350A).

5.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1.(a) Fighting at Flushing has ceased and our troops are continuous from West Kappelle to the Causeway. The Breskens - Flushing Channel has been swept, priority is now being given to the Channel from Ostend to Flushing - up to 6.30 p.m. 15 moored and 56 ground mines had been gathered.

(b) Examination of Zeebrugge port reveals an extensive field of explosive conical floats, and at least three floating mines, visible at low water.

West Coast
France.

2. It is S.H.A.E.F. policy that no attack be made against the Germans in La Rochelle by sea, land or air.

Northern
Waters.

3. It is possible that convoy J.W. 61A, consisting of the two Russian repatriation transports, has been sighted by U-Boats off North Russia.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

U-Boats in
Gibraltar
Approaches.

4. Aircraft had several U-Boat contacts yesterday and today in the Western Approaches to Gibraltar Straits.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

5. Allied warships carrying out bombardments near the Franco-Italian frontier have obtained excellent results against guns, troops, barracks and locomotives.

Adriatic.

6.(a) 24 light bombers of the Strategic Air Force attacked shipping in Fiume harbour today and claim two direct hits on a possible cruiser, direct hits on a 3000 ton merchant vessel, and hits on harbour installations.

(b) It is reported that the Dalmatian coast from Zara to Risan (north of Kotor) both inclusive is now clear of the enemy.

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5.11.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greece &
Aegean.

7. Milos. AURORA reported the evacuation of the Naval Landing Party and the main body of Force 142 completed without casualties early this morning.

East Indies.

U-Boat in
Palk Strait.

8. SS. MARION MOLLER is reported to have been torpedoed late today (F.G. zonetime) 10.40 N. 81.10 E., in the Palk Strait Approaches. Search for the U-Boat was made by R.A.F. and destroyers, and on 8th BEGUM co-operated. The ship was later reported to have sunk; the entire ship's company was picked up.

China.

9. 53/76 Super Fortresses were despatched from China attacked the sliding caisson of the dry dock in Singapore Navy Yard and report good to excellent results.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. Aircraft of the 3rd Fleet Carriers attacked a concentration of shipping comprising a heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, 3 destroyers, 2 transports and more than 25 cargo vessels in Manila Bay this morning, and inflicted damage. No details are known.

5.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

American Commands. My Serial 002609 of 9th September 1944 is hereby modified in that the operational command of Comnavforfrance is redesignated to include all U.S. Naval activities on the continent of Europe and all U.S. Naval forces which are now or may later be placed under the operational control of S.C.A.E.F. Direct Comnavforfrance to report to S.C.A.E.F. for operational control in accordance with the foregoing. This extension of command is in compliance with the desire of S.C.A.E.F. expressed to me in a letter dated 27th October 1944. It is not intended that U.S. Naval forces and activities now under Com. 8th Fleet be included in command of Comnavforfrance. The above command set-up is to be continued during the period of active combat operations. It is planned to modify it when the post surrender control organization is established.
(Cominch and C.N.O., 051613Z to Comnaveu).

Movements.

UGANDA Your 041543A arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 050837A to C. in C. H.F.)

VINDICTIVE Sheerness departure VINDICTIVE 0807A/5th November
E.T.A. Scapa 1000A/7th November.
(C. in C. Nore, 051102A to A.C.O.S.)

R.N.N. Onwards route from D through E. 47° N., 08° W.
VAN GALEN F. 180° Lizard 5 miles thence to Portsmouth by
Swept channels.
(Admty. 051107A to VAN GALEN).

EASTWAY. As soon as ready on Thursday 9th November,
R.A.C.O.B. is requested to arrange embarkation of
craft. R.A.C.O.B. (W.A.) 041212 refers.
2. On completion of loading F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to
sail EASTWAY to Liverpool.
3. On completion of off-loading, F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested
to sail EASTWAY to Portsmouth to embark L.C.V.(P) and L.C.A.
(H.R.) R.A.C.O.B. (W.A.)'s 041222 refers.
(R.A.L.S.C.U., 051242A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

LARGS. My 041849*sailed 1410.
(N.O.I.C. Inverary, 051417A to F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven). * H.M.S. LARGS to Milford Haven.

WARSPITE, If available request any information regarding
EREBUS, anticipated dates of future employment for
ROBERTS. WARSPITE, EREBUS and ROBERTS.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051500A to A.N.C.X.F.)

5.11.1944.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

26th D.F.,
MYNGS,
SAUMAREZ.

It has been decided that the 2nd and 6th D.Fs. are not to proceed to the Eastern Theatre until their gunnery control gear is complete. The 26th D.F. and British Tribals will proceed abroad early in January in their stead.

2. As R.C.N. ships cannot proceed to the S.E.A.C., and MYNGS has an incomplete D.C.T., it will be necessary to re-organise the 10th, 23rd and 26th D.Fs. and for MYNGS and SAUMAREZ to exchange Flotillas.

3. SAUMAREZ, VERULAM and TARTAR will be refitted. NUBIAN, VOLAGE and VENUS will be taken in hand for essential defects and docking. All ships will be given 14 days leave before sailing.

4. Details of re-organisation and re-allocation of Flotillas concerned will follow.

(V.C.N.S., 052331A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Naval.

Cositintrep No.214. Part 2.

A. General Minesweeping of the Schelde has started.

Some 40 Sweepers have reached Terneuzen preliminary report indicates have disposed of 50 mines a small force has arrived Antwerp having swept five mines 20 miles below Antwerp. Sweepers operating off Walcheren were fired on but avoided damage by making smoke.

B. Unloading figures for 3rd November

<u>United States</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Cherbourg	501	Nil	17642	8665
Brittany Ports	Nil	Nil	4300	737
Beaches	3382	169	2616	60
Le Havre	Nil	3	4344	2838
Rouen	Nil	Nil	4457	2029
Total	3883	172	33359	14329
<u>British</u>				
East Calvados	9	402	728	2258
Dieppe	860	30	7345	Nil
Ostend	Figures not yet received.			
Boulogne	251	115	2406	Nil
Total	1120	547	10479	2258
Combined Total	5003	719	43838	16587

(A.N.C.X.F., 050115A to Admty).

/Cositintrep...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Naval (contd). Cositintrep No.215.
(A) General.
Sweepers in the Schelde exploded 3 mines at Antwerp.
(B) Unloading figures for November 4th.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	589	102	691	257
Dieppe	925	9	5827	-
Boulogne	46	64	2028	-
Ostend	1254	-	3915	1033
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2814	175	12461	1290
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>United States</u>				
Cherbourg	-	-	29055	1830
Beaches	4398	391	1644	390
Brittany Ports	-	5	4209	50
Le Havre	3784	477	5533	3565
Rouen	-	-	2930	1132
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	8182	873	34371	6967
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Combined Totals	10996	1048	46832	8257

November 3rd.

Ostend - - 1766 4304
(A.N.C.X.F., 052321A to Admty).

Military. Communique No. H.211.
Flushing is now clear of the enemy and Allied Forces have made some gains north of the town, our units which landed on the East side of Walcheren Island have now joined with our troops at the West end of the causeway.
(S.H.A.E.F., 051100 to Admty).

Operations.

North Sea.

Clearance of Schelde. Following received from N.C. Force T. Minesweepers have completed Breskens - Flushing channel 3 cables wide. 9 mines detonated.
2. Intend to increase channel to 7 cables tomorrow
Request instructions for disposal of 132 motor M/S Flotilla on completion.
3. As Flotilla is short of provision I am sailing 301 at 050830 to Ostend to collect for remainder - 041830A Nov. Ends.
(A.N.C.X.F., 051040A to Admty).

/There...

5.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Clearance of Shelde. (contd). There is urgent requirement for L.C.T. to run from Ostend to Flushing. Request high priority be given to sweeping channel from N.F.10 to junction with Breskens-Flushing Channel.
2. 132nd M.S.F. are available to assist and 163rd M.S.F. now at Ramsgate may be used if required.
(A.N.C.X.F. (Main). 051300A to C. in C. Nore).
A.N.C.X.F.'s 051300A clear channel from N.F.10 to N.F.18 as soon as possible and report when this is done. Capt. M.S.F. A. is to arrange assistance by 132nd M.S.F. if required.
(C. in C. Nore, 051720A to Capt. M.S.F. B., M.S.F. A.)
A.N.C.X.F. (Main's) 051300A weather permitting channel N.F.13 to Flushing 3 cables each side of centre line considered reasonable risk by p.m. Monday 6th. Full actuations completed at noon Tuesday 7th November. Request 165th ? B.Y.M.S. Flotilla be sailed Terneusen as spare Flotilla, expected time of arrival being reported.
(Capt. M.S.F. A., 052357A to C. in C. Nore).

Patrols. Coastal force disposition night 5/6th November. No patrols due to weather.
(C. in C. Nore, 051722A to Admty).
Your 051833A. Consider waste water in Ostend Roads unsuitable for destroyer patrol.
2. Little credence is attached to S/M report.
(C. in C. Nore, 052005A to N.O.I.C. Ostend).

Operations.

Channel.

Patrol. Keep outside 25,000 yards from Alderney and Guernsey. If no contact is obtained by 1600A resume patrol ordered in my 031623.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051222A to Force 27).

Facilities for fishing French herrings. Your 291105/October and F.O.B.A.A's 271913/October. Para. (3). Consider northern limit for hard roe fishing should be:
(D) 270° Cap D'Alprech 7 miles.
(E) Cap D'Alprech.
Correct navigational lights to be shown.
Para. (4). No objection.
(V.A. Dover, 051356A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

German sanctuary at La Rochelle. It is S.H.A.E.F. policy that no direct attack by sea land or air should be made against the German garrison in La Rochelle area.
2. Request this policy be followed as regards action by your forces.
(A.N.C.X.F., 051240A to C. in C. Plymouth).

5.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Suspected
U-boat.

Force 27 investigating aircraft Radar contact in position 049° 54' N., 002° 19' W., at 1050 reported by visual.
(C.O. Force 27, 051110A to Plymouth).

Patrol.

Proceed at best speed without incurring weather damage to position 51° N., 12° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 051225A to 4th E.G.)
Search area bounded by parallels 50° 30' and 51° 30' and meridians 11° 30' and 13° 00'.
(C. in C. W.A., 052318A to S.O.E.G.4).

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Collection
of non-S/M
contact data.

If not in contact by 0800/5th November Force 33 is to carry out a careful and thorough Asdic search of an area 10 miles each side of a line joining the following positions:
(a) 270° Oversay 6 miles.

(b) 55° 30' N., 09° 00' W.

2. Details of any non-S/M contacts obtained are to be recorded and reported on next arrival in Harbour. Every effort is to be made to obtain accurate positions of any such contacts.

(C. in C. W.A., 050015A to Force 33).

My 050015 not to 20th E.G. Persist in present search.

Report progress.

(C. in C. W.A., 052315A to Force 33).

Patrols.

Force 33. 1st E.G. AFFLECK (S.O.), 4 Frigates and 26th E.G., BEACON HILL, 4 Frigates operating off North Irish Coast.

Force 32. 14th E.G. FAME (S.O.) 3 destroyers operating with CYGNET 3 escorts in area Wrath (Cape) Butt of Lewis and North Minch.

(C. in C. W.A., 051314A to Admty).

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.

At 0010A/5th November ULA left Lerwick to patrol vicinity of Kya routed by route Orange to 065° 20' thence patrol.

(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 050014A to A.C.O.S.)

Pass to Norwegian Naval Headquarters. ULA sailed for patrol.
(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 050016A to Admty).

SEADOG is to leave patrol at 0600A/7th, VARUE at 1000A/7th proceeding on surface at C.O. discretion by reverse of outward route to T.A. 060° 01' N., 000° 30' E. VARUE is to pass T.A. at 2300A/7th, SEADOG at 0100A/8th thence to position Y. 090° Sumburg Head, 4 miles. Adjust speed to R/V HASTINGS at 0600A/8th for onward escort to Holy Loch as arranged Capt. (S) 3.

(Capt. (S) 9, 051201A to S/Ms north of 51° N).

/Store...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Store carrier for Norwegian operations. Your 271440. As no store carrier is available, propose H. Nor. M.S. STORD, already earmarked for this Operation, be employed for the purpose. (D.O.D. (H), 052339A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy R.A. 61 A. After arrival Kola SCORPION and SAVAGE are to be added to your screen for convoy R.A. 61 A. 2. Also take 3rd Escort Group under your orders and use them for A/S purpose in support of convoy during return passage. (C. in C. H.F., 051100A to BERWICK).

Patrol. 1. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail 18th E.G. a.m./6th to join Force 32. 2. On 18th E.G. joining CYGNET, BEAGLE and WESTCOTT are to be detached to Clyde and NENE to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 051239A to A.C.O.S., S.O. Force 32) Proceed at 0800A tomorrow Monday with group to join Force 32 in Cape Wrath Area in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 051239A. (2) S.O. Force 32 is requested to signal rendezvous. (3) Switha Gate arranged. Acknowledge. (A.C.O.S., 051622A to S.O.E.G.18).

Suspected U-boat. Russian escort report attacking submarine contacted in position 069° 05' N., 036° 40' E. at 2100A. Result not known. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 052314A to Admty).

Allied Air Activity.

Fighter-direction ship for service off Low Countries. Fighter Command has decided that STUART PRINCE is not suitable. A.M. 011208 not to all refers. 2. It is now under consideration to allocate to you temporarily Colony Class Frigate CAICOS. 3. CAICOS is now at Sunderland for engine repairs. It is anticipated she will be ready for service about 8th November. F.O.I.C. Tyne's 041005 regarding speed limitations is being passed to you. 4. CAICOS is fitted Radar Type 277 and S.A. and is also fitted for fighter direction. 5. After arrival in your command she would require a short general work up and aircraft direction practice. 6. H.Q. Fighter Command has suggested that ship selected should operate in 52° 23' N., 2° 27' E. but this is in Q.Z.X.402. 7. Request that in consultation with Fighter Command you will decide whether CAICOS can be operated in any position to prove of value and inform Admiralty as soon as possible. (D.O.D. (H), 050219A to C. in C. Nore).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Mine clearance in River Seine: Special Vessel CYRUS. Admiralty's O31047A para. (3), Affirmative. (C.T.F.125, 051019A to Adnty, C. in C. Portsmouth).

Minesweeping Le Havre to St. Vaast. 1. Intend sailing at 0700/6 M.M.S. 86 (S.O.) 84 and 280 to St. Vaast, anchoring for the night with instructions to sweep Q.Z.S.528 and 503 on 7th November anchoring Arromanches on completion. To sweep between 92 and H.V.3 buoys on 8th November, entering Le Havre on completion.
2. Speed 9 knots. Expected time of arrival St. Vaast 2000/6.
3. Constant W/T watch on 2450 k/cs.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 051645 to Capt. M/S N.F.)

Situation Report. Summary of sweeping programme for Monday November 6th 1944.
(A) 40th M/S Flot. operation "Progress".
(B) B.Y.M.S. 2062, 2002, Q.Z.S. 595 to C/3 buoy and Passe Du Nord Ouest Channel Havre.
(C) M.M.S. (?22) and 202 static sweep Rouen approaches.
(D) 119th M/S Flot. sweeping area 1 mile wide with centre line positions 049° 30' 18" N., 000° 00' 00" W., 049° 31' 18" N. 000° 02' 00" E.
(E) M.L. 206, 220 bottom line sweep of river Seine area near Rouen.
(F) 159th Trawler Group L2 to L6 buoy anchoring Arromanches. (Capt. M/S East, 051744A to U.S. Cdre. Task Force 125).

Clearance of Schelde. F.A. Operation "Calendar".
1. Sweeping completed to 1830 Sunday 5th November
"CALENDAR" SA and LL
(A) N.F.10 to N.F.18 3 actuations weather prevented further progress.
(B) N.F.18 to Eastern end of Honte anchorage 16 actuations.
(C) Eastern end of Honte anchorage to Eendrachtpolder 11 actuations
Terneuzen anchorage 16 actuations.
(D) Eendrachtpolder to Hansweerd 2 actuations.
(E) Innder anchorage in Gat Van Ossensisse 6 actuations.
Oropesa. (A) N.F.13 to N.F.16 searching sweep.
(B) N.F.16 to Eendrachtpolder cleared mined area south of channel buoys by B.Y.M.S. and motor launch.
(C) Eendrachtpolder to Hansweerd searching sweep by motor launch. LAA searching sweep Terneuzen to Antwerp.
2. Result to date. Ground mines 56 moored mines 15 owing to continuous operational requirements detailed reports of position not yet obtained.
3. Sufficient buoys are watching for mine sweeping and navigational purposes in daylight. Intensive surveying work in progress
4. One Leading Coder and 6 more Coders required, B.Y.M.S. Oropesa gear required: 24 floats, 12 otter beam slings, 6 otters, 2 left hand, 2 right hand sweep wires, 2 port 2 starboard end winches one or 2 L.B.Ws. urgently required.
(Capt. M/S F.A., 051959B to C. in C. Nore)

/Sweep...

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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Sweep, Cancel my 041125.
Cherbourg to Intend sailing PROWESS (S.O.) and PROCTOR at
Arromanches. 0700/6 to Cherbourg with orders to sweep area
channel south side between L2 and L6 on 7th
November entering Arromanches on completion.
Ships to sweep Q.Z.S. 541, 539 and 587 on 8th November entering
Havre on completion.
2. Speed 9 knots expected time of arrival Cherbourg 1600/6.
3. Constant watch on 2450 k/cs.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 052041A to Capt. M/S N.F.)

U-boats.

Suspected By D/F on 5110 k/cs at 2235Z/4. Position of U-boat
U-boats. was within 75 miles of 48° 30' N., 46° W.
(D.D.I.C., 050055A to E.G.25, H.X.317).
Navigation lights are not to be burned at night
within an area in the English Channel bounded on the East by a
line drawn from Hastings to 50° 38' N., 0° 45' E. thence to
50° 30' N., 0° 55' E. and thence to Treport and on the west from
Portland to Cap la Hague, unless risk of collision is considered
to outweigh the danger of disclosing position to the enemy.
(D.T.D., 050057A to A Message Home).
At least one U-boat in English Channel east of Plymouth
possibly contact 0606Z/5th November 49° 48' N., 02° 54' W.
(D.D.I.C., 051439A to Cominch, S. and A. Area C).
Between 1319Z and 1516Z control has been heard repeating
back six B signals. It is considered that U-boats may have
sighted an important unit, possibly J.W.61 A.
(D.D.I.C., 051639A to A.I.G.47).

Port Facilities.

Zeebrugge N.O.I.C. Zeebrugge 041842 not to all addressees
examination of Port reveals
(1) An extensive field of explosive conical floats
of anti DA. Assistance of P Party required to deal with these.
(2) 3 floating mines visible at low water in entrance of channel
to lock which is narrowed by sunken ship and 8 others in the
channel itself. Oropesa sweep cannot be used in narrow entrance
suggest use of L.C.P.(L) which with their shallow draft would be
advisable in channel itself.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 051911 to Com. Belgium).

Technical.

Respective It appears that it is intended to use the
merits of Barracuda III as an A/U aircraft.
Barracudas, 2. It is understood that the Barracuda III has
Swordfish and little advantage over the Swordfish in range and
Fireflies. speed, is unable to carry R/Ps, be catapulted from
American C.V.E's and can only be fitted with either
V.H/F or Sono-buoys but not both. Early
confirmation is therefore requested that the Barracuda III fulfils
the requirements laid down in my 151813B July.
3. Since the introduction of new tactics by U-boats, the
following additional requirements are considered highly desirable:
(a) Be able to carry Sono-buoys. (b) Be equipped with H/F and
V.H/F.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Respective merits of Barracudas, Swordfish and Fireflies. (contd).
 4. It is emphasised that the requirements in my 151813B July represent an essential minimum. Tactical experience during 1944 has shown that the introduction of a high performance aircraft to replace the Swordfish III is an urgent operational requirement which is not met by the Barracuda. I consider that this aircraft represents too small an advance on the Swordfish III to justify its adoption in Trade C.V.Es. at this stage of the U-boat war.
 5. It is therefore requested that early consideration be given to adapting the Firefly at present being fitted with A.S.(H) T.R. 1460 and S.C.R.522 to replace the Swordfish III in Trade C.V.Es. as it is understood that the production of Swordfish has ceased, and in view of the unlikelihood of any further Avenger Squadrons becoming available.
 (C. in C. W.A., 051242 to Admty).

Anti-Gnat tactics. Following refers to para. 7 of your 132150 Oct.
 (A) Safe anti-Gnat speed is now 8 knots for all classes of escorts.
 (B) Not generally applicable since very few escorts are capable of over 25 knots.
 (C) Probably up to 090°.
 (D) Estimated endurance submerged of type XXI

Speed	Approximate distance	Time
15 knots	25 miles	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours
13	45	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	90	9
7	175	25
6	240	40
5	350	70

Consider most unlikely that Type XXI will be affected by over heating as Germans are expected to have solved this problem.
 (C. in C. W.A., 051445A to Trg. Cdr. Rockabill).

Casualties and Defects.

NASHABA Require assistance Pilot and Tug.
 (SS. NASHABA 050819Z to Niton).
 S O S Aground just off Needles. Ends.
 (NASHABA 050834 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

Casualty now anchored in area 23 N., after stranding on Dolphin Bank. Water in No.2 hold now 4 feet previously 13. Numbers 2, 6 and 7 tanks open to sea. Numbers 1 and 6 Plumber Blocks out of line. Vessel loaded 5551 tons U.S. Army stores. Almost all cargo in No.2 is in cans. Pilot is remaining on board overnight, salvage vessel standing by.
 (Salvage Officer NASHABA 051935A to C. in C. Ports).

PRINCE LEOPOLD. Intend commencing wreck dispersal operations on PRINCE LEOPOLD tomorrow 6th, weather permitting will return to anchorage in St. Helens Roads each night until completion. Times will be indicated when excessive charges are to be blown and Fort Bembridge will also be notified.
 (TEHANA 051300A to C. in C. Ports).

/JAMES...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.- Contd.

JAMES L. ACKERSON. JAMES L. ACKERSON in area 22 W. aground unable to get off on own power require two tugs. All tugs and suitable salvage ships at Cowes engaged on casualties at this moment. Require you to send tugs to this casualty. (C.S.V.O. Cowes, 051715A to Tug Control No.1 Southampton).

L.C.T.(R) 457 My 041250 50 not to C. in C. Nore and S.S.E.F. (?Second) L.C.T. convoy forces to return Ostend owing to weather. L.C.T. (R) 457 lost contact and was mined and sank a.m. today Sunday 5th November in approx. position 010° N.F. 7 buoy 2 miles. 13 survivors to date. L.C.T. 609 and 960 missing last seen North of N.F.7. (S.O. Force "T" 051737 to A.N.C.X.F.)

L.C.As. 843, 1030, 1260, 713, 817, 1125, L.C.P.Ls. 133, 302. Total of minor landing craft after "Infatuate" 1 and 2. (A) L.C.As. sunk 843, 1030, 1260, 713, 817, 1125. Under repairs at Terneuzen 982, 957, 1158, 838. Casualties to personnel reported separate. (B) L.C.P.(L) 133 foundered on passage West Kappelle to Breskens. L.C.P.(L) 302 wrecked believed total loss east of Ostend. No casualties to personnel. (N.C. Force T, 051746 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Transfer of L.S.T. Proceed arrangements transfer 7 U.S. L.S.T. to Admiralty through R.A.L.S.C.U. Comnavu 311529 October. 031528 November. A.N.C.X.F. 041650 affirm none to all refer. (Comnavu, 051244 to Comphibsukay).

It is assumed that Comnavu is authorised to transfer to the British 25 U.S. L.S.T. released from "Overlord" by the 1st December, and a further 10 by the end of December. Of these two were transferred in October and 7 more are proposed by your 031528 November.

2. Regarding the balance of 26 vessels, and with reference to S.H.A.E.F's 031130 November intimating the release of a number of U.S. L.S.T. in November with the expectation of a further review on 20th November, can any expectation of further transfers during November be made now.

3. Request Admiralty message 281522 October may be disregarded. (lat. S.L., 052332A to Comnavu).

B.E.C. convoys. Ships bound for Cherbourg should arrive in daylight Both Grande Rade and Outer anchorage are congested with shipping and approach during darkness entails risk of serious accident. B.E.C. convoy routed via Channel 14 is at present arriving after dark. Request consideration be given avoiding this hazard. (C.T.F.125, 051251 to Admiralty).

/Cancel...

5.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

B.E.C. Cancel my 021706A as amended by my 021933A.
convoys. Request you will revert to normal routing for
(contd). convoys and ships to and from Cherbourg and United
States beaches using H Channel as previously.

(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to re-route
B.E.C. 26 by Q.X.S. 472 to N one buoy thence Q.X.S. 512, 526, and
527.

(3) Commands pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 051311 to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.
Western Approaches, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Commander Task Force 125.
F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Southampton, Commander Task Group
125.2, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Commander Task
Group 125.11, Commander Task Group 125.12, N.S.O. Southampton,
N.C.S.O. Cowes, N.C.S.O. Portsmouth).

Special 5 Special Rescue Ships now completing will shortly
Rescue be operated with British North Atlantic convoys.
Ships. As the silhouette of these ships closely resembles
that of a Castle class Corvette request warships
and aircraft likely to encounter them be warned
accordingly observing that Rescue ships may
sometimes be found detached from their convoys.

The first ship will sail in convoy K.M.S.69.
(D.T.D., 051320A to C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.,
F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.Af., S.B.N.O. Azores, A.O.C. in C. Coastal
Command, C. in C. Plymouth, A.C.I.C., C. in C. H.F., F.O.S/M).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Patrol
Bacon.

If not in contact leave present patrol so as to take up line abreast A/S patrol through following positions at 2100A tonight 5th November.

(A) 036 degs. 20' N. 006 degs. (740') W.

(B) 035 degs. 00' N. 006 degs. 40' W.

(C) 036 degs. (756') N. 007 degs. 10' W.

(D) 034 degs. 50' N. 007 degs. 10' W.

The above patrol will in future be referred to as patrol Bacon. (F.O.G.M.A.051130A to Group I)

Resuming patrol Bacon. Your 051130A/ refers. Nothing to report.

(DART 051728A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/ leave present patrol and take up patrol Bacon.

U.S.S.
ROCKAWAY.

U.S.S. ROCKAWAY Seaplane tender departs Baia Praia Terciera for Bristol. E.T.D. 1800Z/5th. (arrangements). (Comnavzor, for U.S.S. ROCKAWAY, 051445)

Escort
carriers.

Intend sailing ATTACKER (S.O) RAJAH, STALKER, HUNTER and BRUISER for U.K. at 1200A/6th. (2) Escort D.24 in TROUBRIDGE with TEAZER, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS. (3) - (8) Route and arrangements. (F.O.G.M.A.051706A)

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5.11.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- Operations N. of Piskopi. Have destroyed one F lighter and escorting M.L. 1 mile north of Piskopi. No damage or casualties.
(KIMBERLEY, 050145B.)
- Milos I. Evacuation of Naval landing party and main body Force 142 completed. No casualties.
(AURORA, 050445B.)
No further news of E.T.A. of motor launches in F.O.L.E.M.'s 041920B.
EASTON departs Milos at 0530B/5th to pass Kinaros Channel at 1030B/5th and thence Khios E.T.A. 1600B/5th.
Embarked in EASTON Colonel Lapraik and 98 ranks of Force 142 and 5 tons stores. This was considered too great a (corrupt) for 2 motor launches.
F.O.L.E.M. is requested to divert EASTON if necessary to R/V M.Ls. en route (2 corrupt groups)
(AURORA, 050511B to F.O.L.E.M., S.O. Force 142, Comaro 1, (R) EASTON, S.O. Force 51, C.S.15, LOOKOUT, SIRIUS.)
- Lemnos. Set Mudros isolated, no communications. Every effort being made to protect valuable equipment and selves. All 15 of my party tired out. Cannot accept further responsibility unless immediately appreciably reinforced.
(N.O.I.C. Lemnos, 050700 to Greek C. in C., Info. F.O.L.E.M., S.O. Force 51.)
- Swedish relief ships. S.B.N.O. Greece is requested to report whether programme for ships in F.O.G.M.A.'s 041809A being passed to you and III Corps is acceptable.
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail ships by route given in my 201433A October in accordance with S.B.N.O. Greece's reply to para. 1 above.
(C. in C. Med., 050948A to S.B.N.O. Greece, F.O.G.M.A., (R) III Corps, Admty., V.A.M.8, F.O. Central Med., F.O.W.Med., F.O.L.E.M., C.S.15.)
- NEWFOUNDLAND. Intend H.M.S. NEWFOUNDLAND completes work-up at Alex. A.M. 031259A* Nov. not to F.O.L.E.M. refers.
(C. in C. Med., 051105A to Admty.)
* F.O.I.C. Greenock requested to sail NEWFOUNDLAND when ready to Scapa.
- GRADISCA, TUEBINGEN. A.F.H.Q. are instructing Mideast to act in accordance with Admiralty 042323A not to all being passed to F.O.W.M.
Para. (2) Request you sail GRADISCA to Algiers in accordance with para. (3) of above signal and TUEBINGEN in accordance with para. (2).
Para. (3) F.O.W.M. is requested to release GRADISCA with minimum delay with sufficient fuel to reach Trieste. Date will be signalled later.
(C. in C. Med., 051246A to F.O.L.E.M., F.O.W.M.)

/2 French ...

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5.11.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

2 French
Air Sqdns.
for
Marseilles/
Toulon
defences.

Request has been made to S.H.A.E.F. for supplies for two French Air Squadrons 2/S (Latecoere) and 4/(Walrus) attached to aerial defence sector Marseilles/Toulon area.

(2) Request information regarding the functions of these squadrons and arrangements made for their maintenance.

(3) It is understood that they have been transferred from North Africa and they are said to be a British naval commitment.

(A.N.C.X.F., 051312A to C. in C. Med.)

EASTON.

Intend to sail to Alexandria by Turkish waters E.T.D. Khios 1630B/5th. Speed 22 knots.

E.T.A. 1700B/6th. Shifting to L.V. broadcast 0700B/6th. Have 22 prisoners on board.

(EASTON, 051505B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Greece
clear of
enemy.

Cositintrep No.484, Part 4.
No. 483 not issued.

Greece. The Greek mainland is now clear of the enemy except for a few isolated detachments. Patrolling continues.

(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./5 Recd. 1640.)

A/S defence
stations
Ras-el-Krim
and Port
Said.

F.O.L.E.M.'s 031120 November. Intend closing down fixed A/S defences mentioned in my 301059A October. F.O.L.E.M. is requested to comply. (C. in C. Med., 051659A.)

Piraeus
movements.

Arrivals ZETLAND, G.S. NIKI, F.T.24.
Departures ARGONAUT, EXMOOR, ULSTER QUEEN, THRUSTER, H.M.C.S. PRINCE HENRY, BELVOIR, G.S. CRETE, G.S. THEMISTOCLES, ENNERDALE, 4 M.Ls., 6 L.C.Is., L.C.H.240, MAINE, F.T.12.
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 051758B.)

Situation
Report
No. 481.

(1) Determined enemy resistance at Milos is attributed to recent arrival by air of (?new) German Commander with full staff. Lakida battery continues to be troublesome.

(2) KIMBERLEY has destroyed (an) F lighter and an M.L. close northwards of Piskopi.

(3) Allied warships (in) bombardments near Franco-Italian frontier have obtained excellent results against loco(?yo)s (?), guns, troops (and) City barracks.

(C. in C. Med., 051901A.)

Belgian
Brigade.

Escort will be provided as necessary.
Your 041904.

(C. in C. Med., 051927A to Admty.)

/AKKA ...

5.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

AKKA. Swedish Red Cross ship AKKA (SFMN) sails 0900A/
7th. (2) 12½ knots.
(3) Position 233, 276 lettered (A) (B) 37° 00'
thence Black route position 24° 00' lettered (C)
to (M) thence 37° 21', 23° 42' lettered (X).
(4) E.T.A. position (X) 0900A/10th. (5) 1WTO.
(6) Please pass E.T.A. to Swedish Consul Piraeus.
(V.A.M., 052024A to S.B.N.O. Athens.)

KEMPENFELT. KEMPENFELT has sustained damage to forepeak
requiring 4 days in dock. Ship is being
docked 7th November at Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 052305A to C. in C. E.F.)

G.2 Summary (2) Yugoslavia. Sibenik entered by Partisans
No. 67. 2nd November. Dalmatian coast from inclusive
Zara to inclusive Risan (north of Kotor) now
clear of enemy.
(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O. Recd. 2310.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat dispositions. Indian Ocean SSSS received from life-boat of FORT LEE asking for help at 1154Z/4th in 024 degs. south 084 degs. east. All areas no fresh (?information) scale remains unchanged. (C. in C. E.F. 050337Z)

SS. FORT LEE (torpedoed 4th Nov.) SSSS Position 28 R 17 S. 84 R 03 E. need help now men in lifeboats. (FORT LEE, 051144Z) c.f. FORT LEE's mge. No T.O.O/4 which gives different latitude.

Diego Suarez. Concur in para. 3 or your 241500/. (2) Report date on which you consider transfer could take place. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 051455Z to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez) / Diego Suarez transfer to French Navy, para. (3). It is recommended that transfer to French Station should not take place before boom and C.M. have been lifted.

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Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

Stragglers' Report. Stragglers arrived week-ending 4th November. 1st Nov. VILLE DE MAJUNGA (Br.) H.X.316 condenser defects. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 051217Z)

U-Boat Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 051340Z, Cominch, 051601Z)

Russian S.C's. Your 032126/ and F.O.N.F. 021309/ A.M. 011416 which is being passed to you is relevant. (B.A.D. Washington 051443Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.) / MONTSEERRAT and SEYCHELLES are only escort vessels at Bermuda. / 5th Group Russian S.L's ready to proceed U.K. If SEYCHELLES as well as MONTSEERRAT could be allocated as escorts for Russian S.C's vide S.B.N.O. W.At. 032126/ it is proposed that 5th and 6th groups proceed in company to U.K. escorted by above two and FLYING FISH which is completing at Halifax in about 10 days. (2) It is considered essential that these vessels proceed as soon as possible observing that 5th Group has been alongside at St. Johns for nearly four weeks. Apart from deteriorating weather and concomitant refuelling problem the fact that further delay is attributable to our lack of escort is considered to be undesirable. (F.O.N.F.051531Z to Admty.) / Question of provision of vessels to escort Tugs to Azores requires clarifying. S.B.N.O. W.At. 032126/. Anticipate H.M.S. FLYING FISH will be ready to sail Halifax about 15th November. Intend sailing to St. Johns. N.F. to be available as escort 5th Group Russian S.C's. (C. in C. C.N.A. 051615Z to Admty.) / Only escort vessel at Bermuda apart from H.M.S. SEYCHELLES is H.M.S. MONTSEERRAT.

Comnavfor-France. Cominch, 051613Z see Home Commands.

UGS/GUS Convoys. Your 041530 Concur. (D.T.D. 051644A to Cominch)

U-Boat incidents. Para. D. 0930Z/5th U-Boat reported sighted by R.A.F. A/C 37 degs. 48' N. 32 degs. 42' W. (Cominch, 051847Z)

QUEEN MARY. Diversion order. (Comnav, 052210Z to SS. QUEEN MARY)

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SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest (Extract). November, 4th.
 No.1019. (8) Leyte. Enemy air offensive continues mainly in small formations approximately 10 A/C but attacks strongly pressed particularly against shipping.
 (13) Enemy S/M. sighted of Central East Coast Luzon forenoon 3rd.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 051030)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C D/502 attacked beached U-Boat at 0740Z/4 in 65 degs. 24' N. 12 degs. 00' E.
 (2) A/C T/502 attacked beached U-Boat at 0855Z/4 in 65 degs. 25' N. 12 degs. 00' E. (A.M. 291240A para. A (1) refers.
 (3) Life-boat of SS. FORT LEE made SSSS signal on 4th November in 24 degs. 00' S. 84 degs. 00' E.
 Para. B. (1) A/C off 22 Squadron obtained A.S.V. contacts at 2350Z/4 in 35 degs. 44' N. 07 degs. 35' W. 1020Z/4th in 35 degs. 32' N. 07 degs. 28' W. and 1835Z/4 in 35 degs. 45' N. 06 degs. 50' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 051118A)

U-Boat intelligence and forecast. Points from 3rd A.U. Meeting of 1944 held on 31st October.
 (a) Since mid-August U-Boat operations on reduced scale in Atlantic and practically eliminated in Mediterranean.
 (b) Resumption of activity anticipated in near future probably including East coast of Canada and U.S.A. and approaches to Mediterranean in addition to U.K. focal areas, using new type U-Boats which are expected to be in operation shortly. 200 operational U-Boats anticipated by 1st December including 15 of new type. Fast underwater speed, improved G.S.R., less vulnerability, silent engines and increased underwater endurance are features.
 (c) Schnorkel has provided enemy with means of avoiding our air patrols and remaining submerged for prolonged periods lying in wait for our convoys in focal areas inshore.
 (d) U-Boats bottoming tactics and necessity of using anti-gnat devices militate against detection in in-shore waters where wrecks and non-S/M contact abound.
 (e) Counter measures include bombing of U-Boat bases and construction yards, mining, new anti-gnat devices which lessen Asdic interference, intensive training and consideration of marking of wrecks, coastal radar watch and Q.H. chain.
 (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 051430A)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
 (D.D.I.C. 051437A, 051438A)

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) Clearance of the Schelde continues. Three moored and 18 ground mines were swept, 4 wrecks located and where necessary buoyed, and 6 navigational dan buoys established.
(b) Landing craft losses at Walcheren were 6 L.C.As., 2 L.C.P.(L)s. and 2 L.C.Ts.
- Channel. 2(a) The up-Channel route for the QUEEN ELIZABETH and QUEEN MARY is to be mine-searched by the 16th M/S. Flotilla.
(b) The blockship OLE WEGGER has been successfully refloated in the Seine and towed up river to Rouen.
(c) Dartmouth plotting room has been closed down.
- Northern Waters. 3. Convoy J.W.61A, comprising EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and SCYTHIA, with repatriated Russian prisoners of war, has arrived safely at Kola Inlet, as also have SCORPION and SAVAGE with the Norwegian Token Force for service with the Russian armies in Northern Norway.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Adriatic. 4. Coastal Air Force were busy today at the head of the Adriatic. The ports of Marina di Ravenna and Garibaldi and small shipping south of Venice were bombed. R.P. Beaufighters hit a blockship at Venice and several small craft in the north Adriatic; and Venturas had hits on several barges between Genoa and Spezia.

East Indies

- TANTIVY, patrol report. 5. On return from patrol in the South-west Pacific TANTIVY reports sinking, off the south-west coast of the Celebes and north coast of Sumbawa, a number of schooners and some coasters.

/After ...

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

TANTIVY,
patrol
report.
(Contd.)

After one of her sinkings TANTIVY was attacked by aircraft with bombs and machine gun fire and was forced to dive 6 fathoms where her periscope standards remained showing: however no damage resulted.

China

Air attacks
on shipping.

6(a) It is reported that U.S. aircraft attacked shipping in the South China Sea today and probably sank a destroyer and a 350 ft. transport with direct hits, besides damaging a destroyer, a freighter and a tanker. One 350 ft. cargo vessel was left burning and listing from a direct hit, and a 200 ft. tanker was left smoking.
(b) On 27th in the same area of 250 ft. ship was hit causing it to settle at the stern with lifeboats launched.
(c) Considerable damage was caused on 29th to river steamers and sampans in the Yangtze.
(d) At Amoy harbour four freighters were bombed on 31st and Chinese reports say that one was sunk and one set on fire.
(e) On 2nd November Liberators attacked three convoys in the South China Sea and sank a destroyer and damaged a transport.

Australia and New Zealand

7. 6 Liberators from Darwin attacked the ship-building area of Malili in the northern part of Bone Gulf, Celebes, and caused severe damage. A small coaster at anchor was destroyed.

Philippines.

8(a) A U.S. submarine today attacked two or possibly three heavy cruisers off the west coast of Luzon between Manila Bay and Lingayan Gulf, and inflicted damage. No details are known.
(b) 12 Mitchells carrying out a sweep off northern Mindanao this morning made two hits on a destroyer. A convoy of two transports carrying troops, with small tankers was attacked in Mindoro Strait today by Naval Liberators, and one of the transports was hit by 3 bombs.

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UGANDA. Your O41543A arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, O60837A to C. in C. H.F.)

VANGALEN. E.T.A. Portsmouth No Mans Land Boom 0900Z/7th.
Shifting to CN broadcast at 1500/6th.
(VAN GALEN, O61255 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

NORFOLK, Intend sailing NORFOLK with DIADEM in company p.m.
DIADEM. 8th November by searched channels route to Scapa.
E.T.D. May Island 1915/8th. S. of A. 15 knots.
E.T.A. 0700/9th Hoxa Gate 0800/9th.
(2) NORFOLK is to request lights as required.
(3) Mail to Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth, O61515A to C. in C. H.F.)

LARGS. N.O.I.C. Inverary's O41849. Arrived LARGS and
intend sail with B.E.C. 29 at 0800A/7th November
for Portsmouth for on passage to Sheerness.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, O61559 to N.O.I.C.
Inverary, C. in C. Portsmouth)

WARSPITE, Admiralty Message O41347 and C. in C. Portsmouth
EREBUS, O51500. Further operations which require use
ROBERTS. of bombarding ships and R.C.M. fitted craft are
probable but cannot be forecast at the moment.
(2) Request WARSPITE, EREBUS, ROBERTS and 150th
H.D.M.L. Flotilla be kept available at 48 hours
notice for the time being.
(3) Future requirements for WARSPITE are under consideration
(A.N.C.X.F. O61755A to Admt, C. in C. Portsmouth.)

HUNTER, HUNTER will arrive Portsmouth. ATTACKER and
ATTACKER, STALKER will arrive Plymouth about 9th November.
STALKER. (A) 14 days leave is being given in one watch.
(B) Sufficient officers and key ratings are being
retained for damage control organisation. These
men will be left behind and rejoin their ship
in the Mediterranean on completion of their leave.
(2) F.O.N.A.S. and F.O.C.T. are requested to make arrangements
with authorities concerned for embarking reserve A/C and stores.
(D.N.A.O. O61944A to F.O.N.A.S., F.O.C.T.)

NORTHWAY. ALGOMA and NORTHWAY sailed 2100/6 for Brest.
E.T.A. position B 0700A/7.
(C.T.G.125.14 O62131A to C.T.U.125.14.7 etc.)

3rd,14th, The following re-organisation of 8th, 10th, 23rd
8th, 10th 26th D.F's is to be brought into force forthwith
23rd and 26th. 8th D.F. FAULKNER, IMPULSIVE, PIORUN, BLYSKAWICA,
Destroyer 10th D.F. TARTAR, NUBIAN, ASHANTI, ESKIMO.
Flotillas. 23rd D.F. MYNGS, SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE,
SERAPIS, STORD, ALGONQUIN, SIOUX.

/26th ...

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3rd, 14th, 26th D.F. SAUMAREZ, VIRAGO, VIGILANT, VOLAGE, 8th, 10th VERULAM, VENUS.
23rd and 26th (2) The exchange of MYNGS and SAUMAREZ to be Destroyer arranged as convenient to C. in C. H.F.
Flotillas. (3) 3rd D.F. will consist of M's and L's, 14th (Contd.) D.F. of J's and K's.
(4) A.M. 062300 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 062259A to F.O's W.M., L.E.M. C's. in C. Plymouth, Med, E.F.)

Allocation of destroyer Cancel A.M. 302210A/September.
Flotillas. Owing to the delay in completing the Director Control Towers of the Zambesi and Caesar class, flotillas have been re-allocated as follows and arrangements to give effect to this will be made in due course:-

Home Fleet 2nd, 6th, 17th and 23rd. Plymouth 8th.
Mediterranean 3rd and 14th. Eastern Theatre, 4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and the four 'P's.
(2) A.M. 062259 also refers.
(V.C.N.S. 062300A to C's in C. H.F. Plymouth, Med. E.F.)

OperationsNorth Sea.

Patrols. Your 060946A para. 2.
(1) RETALICK (F.K.1) M.T.B. 489, 487.
(FK.2) 465, 461 (FK.3)
(2) Pass Boom 1610 leave patrol 0600.
(3) STEVENSTONE (F.H.4)
(BEEHIVE, 061108A to C. in C. Nore.)
Night Dispositions - 6th/7th November 1944.
Humber Force - Nil.
Harwich Force - (Group 3) With F.S.27 DAKINS, WIDGEON.
Patrols 5. GUILLEMOT, 6 SEYMOUR, 7 SLAZAK, 8A SHEARWATER, 10 MALLARD, 17A MACKAY, 15 STEVENSTONE, N.F.2/4 RETALICK, 16 CURZON, 19 STAYNER. (Group 4) Harbour - COTSWOLD, KRAKOWIAK, TALYBONT, WALPOLE, THORNBROUGH, TORRINGTON, KITTIWAKE, PUFFIN, RIOU, EKINS.
Sheerness Force - (Group 5) with F.N.33 COTTESMORE. Patrols 3. HOLDERNESS, 4 COWDRAY, 20 FERNIE. (Group 6) Harbour - GARTH, LA COMBATTANTE, WENSLEYDALE, COSBY, CUBITT, CALGARY.
At Southend. - DRUMHELLER.
(C. in C. Nore, 061529A to Admty)

DE HOOP Your 031407.
(ZRD 10) (A) 300 tons displacement.
in prize. (B) Ex Dutch ship DE HOOP probably requisitioned by Germans, identification is ZRD 10 not TRD.
(C) No except that crew carried S.A.
(Cdre. Belgium, 061914A to Admty, (R) A.N.C.X.F. P.S.T.O. N.W.E.)

/Clearing ...

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of River
Schelde.

Operation "Calendar".

- (1) Sweeping to-day Monday 6th November SA/LL.
 (A) (N.F.) 18 to N.F.16 8 actuations.
 (B) N.F.16 to N.F.13 6 actuations.
 (C) Eastern end of Honte anchorage to Neuzenpolder Light 4 actuations.
 (D) Neuzenpolder Light to Eendrachtspolder 4 actuations (Oropesa).
 (A) N.F.16 to N.F.13 searched by B.Y.M.S. and area in vicinity of N.F.16 still foul.
 (B) Hansweerd to Antwerp searched by Motor launches, no mines encountered.
 (2) Ground mines 18, moored mines 3, positions of these and previous mines are being despatched.
 (3) (A) Wreck dangerous to navigation reported in position 048 degs. Zeebrugge point 4.4 miles.
 (B) Dan buoy with green flag has been placed close Westward of wrecks in positions 051 degs. 25' 38" N. 003 degs. 35' 30" E. 051 degs. 25' 34" N. 003 degs. 35' 24" E.
 (C) Wreck in position 051 degs. 25' 30" N. 003 degs. 28' 54" E. shows 2 masts conspicuously.
 (D) Double flagged Dan buoys are established in positions of N.F. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 buoys and positions checked.
 (4) (A) 6 spare Diverters K.F. sent in ST. TUDNO.
 (B) 6 LL wiremen for LAA repair at Antwerp.
 (C) 6 spare LAA S/Ds.
 (D) 13,000 grenades with 2,000 dummies.
 (E) Request 184th M/S Group may be sailed as soon as possible. (Capt. M/S. F.A. 061959A to C. in C. Nore.)

Walcheren
Expedition.My 051737A. L.C.T.(I) 960 arrived Ostend
052045 L.C.T.(I) 609 abandoned, crew safe.
(Com. Force T. 062004A to A.N.C.X.F.)Channel

Patrol.

Dropped five depth charges on contact position
49 degs. 58' 48" N. 02 degs. 18' 42" W.
Classified non-S/M. Returning to Bonita Patrol.
(U.S.S. MALOM, 060042 to C.T.G. 125.2)

Night A/S Patrols 6th/7th November.

(1) ACTIVE L'AVENTURE, SPRAGGE, VIDETTE. Search Z.108, Z.112
S. of Q.Z.S.490.

(2) 6th E.G.

Search Z.113, Z.114.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061814A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force,
6th E.G.)

Day A/S Patrols 7th November.

Search areas limits as shown. (2) 3 M.T.Bs. 66th Flotilla
50 degs. 07' and 50 degs. 27' 01 degs. 50' and 02 degs. 00'.
Leaving Portland 0900.(3) 6th E.G. 49 degs. 47' and 50 degs. 27' N. 10. 01 degs. 54'
E. and H. channel after 0730.

(4) 6th E.G. if M.T.Bs do not sail North and South limits are

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrol 49 degs 51' and 50 degs. 21' N.
(Contd.) (5) ACTIVE, L'AVENTURE, L'ESCARMOUCHE, VIDETTE
49 degs. 45' and 50 degs. 15' N. Q.Z.S. 525, Q.Z.S.
506 and 8 miles westward after 0730.
(6) WATCHMAN. Pass Gate 0900 relieve L'AVENTURE.
(7) L'AVENTURE return harbour on relief.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061842A to A/S Patrol force at Sea, 6 E.G.
WATCHMAN.)

Pins Cover Night 6th/7th November.
G.H.1 ACTIVE, G.H.2 L'AVENTURE, G.H.3 VIDETTE, G.H.4 SPRAGGE -
Z.108 South of Q.Z.S. 490 and Z.112.
6th E.G. Z.113, Z.114.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061845A to A.I.Gs. 38, 393.)

Facilities Your 271913. You may authorise fishing in area
for defined in para. 3., Northern limit being amended
Fishing to read (D) 270 degs. C. D'Alprech 7 miles, (E)
French C. D'Alprech.
herrings. (2) Permission to be subject to:
(a) Suspension without notice in event of U-Boat
activity.
(b) Normal navigation lights being shown.
(c) Fishermen being warned that area may be mined and that they
proceed there entirely at their own risk.
(3) Decision regarding soft roe fishing in area defined in para.4
of your 271913 will be promulgated later.
(4) Decisions regarding fishery control and provision of fuel will
be promulgated when known.
(A.N.C.X.F. 061752A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Closing down Dartmouth plotting room will close down at 1200
of Dartmouth on Thursday 9th November. From that time, request
plotting all surface reports from Beer Head and Kingswear
room. Radar Stations be discontinued, and reports from
Start point Radar Station be diverted to Plymouth
plotting room.
(2) Dartmouth Plotting area i.e. from Prawle Point
to longitude 3 degs. W. will then be taken over by Plymouth
plotting room.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061836A to H.Q. 78 Wing)

Operation Revision of outline plan "Nestegg" together with
"Nestegg". changes in order of battle necessitates changes
in overall requirement of shipping and craft.
New requirement is 1 L.S.H. (S), 1 L.C.H. (L), 1
L.S.I. (H), 3 L.S.I. (L) 3 L.S.I. (N) 11 L.S.T. (2)
5 L.C.T. (5) and stores coasters to carry 9000 tons deadweight.
2 of the L.S.T. are converted and can be used for casualty
evacuation. Hospital carrier will not therefore be necessary.
3 L.C.M. (Mark 1) 16 LCV(P) and 2 tugs are being provided under
arrangements A.N.C.X.F., L.C.I. L.C.T. and L.S.T. will be provided
from "Overlord" resources. There will be a maintenance demand
for shipping which will be arranged direct between Southern Com-
mand and War Office.
(S.H.A.E.F. 062100 to War Office.)

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Operations
Norway.

Operation "Steak". Operation "Steak" postponed until completion of operation "Counterblast". Further signal will be made.
 (C. in C. H.F. 061201A to Admty, C.S.1 A.C.O.S., F.O.S/Ms. C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., Com. (D) H.F. EURYALUS, PURSUER.)

Patrols. S/M positions at 0800/7th November and movements for the following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
 (A) VENTURER 65 degs. 15' N. 05 degs. 18' E. through 67 degs. 10' N. 08 degs. 09' E. towards 69 degs. 45' N. 14 degs. 50' E. Probably on the surface 9 knots to 68 degs. N. thence diving by day.
 (B) ULA 64 degs. 29' N. 04 degs. 16' E. through 65 degs. 20' N. 05 degs. 28' E. towards 65 degs. 01' N. 08 degs. 01' E. advance 120 miles in 24 hours.
 (C) SATYR 60 degs. 55' N. 00 degs. 18' E. through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 miles to Lerwick 10 knots.
 (D) VARNE leaving vicinity 58 degs. 45' N. 01 degs. 15' E. at 1000/7th and SEADOG in position 58 degs. 10' N. 01 degs. 15' E. are both routed through 59 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 15' E. and pass 60 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 30' E. at 2300/7th and 0100/8th respectively to R/V HASTINGS in 090 degs. Sumburg Head 4 miles at 0600/8th thence all to Scapa 10 knots.
 (E) TACITURN, SCYTHIAN, UTSIRA, escort HASTINGS 58 degs. 14' N. 05 degs. 46' W. to Switha Gate E.T.A. 1800/7th where TACITURN enters Scapa remainder to 090 degs. Sumburg Head 4 miles E.T.A. 0600/8th thence S/Ms proceed unescorted towards 60 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 30' E. 10 knots.
 (F) SYBIL, escort AGNES NUTTEN, 55 degs. 21' N. 01 degs. 18' W. to Scapa E.T.A. 1600/8th 8 knots.
 (G) SURF, escort GATESHEAD, off Falmouth to Portland 9 knots.
 (F.O.S/M, 061752A to Admty)

Operation "Counterblast" by Force 2 and "Steak" by Force 1. Cancel my 041751. My 011203 is to be modified as follows:
 (1) X-Ray Day as for operation "Counterblast" is contained in my 061843.
 (2) Force 1 consisting of EURYALUS (S.O)., PURSUER and four destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. is to sail from Scapa on X-Ray plus one day and proceed west and north of Shetlands to arrive in position CC 060 degs. 38' N. 002 degs. 05' E. at 0800Z on X-Ray plus 2 ready to provide fighter cover for withdrawal Force 2 from operation "Counterblast" as ordered by C.S. One.
 (3) When released by C.S. one north of Shetlands early p.m. X-Ray plus 2, Force one is to proceed to carry out operation outlined in my 011203 para. 2 to 5 inclusive. Strike to be carried out p.m. X-Ray plus 3 spare days X-Ray plus 4.
 (4) Force One is returning Scapa west of Shetlands on completion. (C. in C. H.F. 061840A to EURYALUS)
 My 061840 para. 1. X-day Wednesday, 8th November.
 (C. in C. H.F. 061843A to EURYALUS)

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Convoy J.W.61A. Operation "Golden". Kola Inlet 6th November arrived J.W. 61A with 3rd Escort Group.
(2) Admty pass to M.O.W.T.
(S.B.N.O.N. Russia, 061730A to Admty)

Convoy R.A.61. Request you detach 21 escort group to return to base as soon as situation permits.
(C. in C. H.F. 061943 to C.S.10.)

Patrol. 14th E.G. is to be detached so as to arrive Liverpool p.m. 8th November.
(C. in C. W.A. 062321A to S.O. Force 32.)

Norwegian Token Force to Russia. Operation "Freeman". Arrived Kola Inlet SCORPION and SAVAGE.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 062352A to Admty.)

Mining.

Mine-clearance of Schelde and approaches. Intend to sail 163 RD M.S.F. B.Y.M.S. 2040, 2057 2078 and M.Ls 300 and 914 at 0800 to-day Monday to Ostend. Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 1500 163rd M.S.F. to act under orders of Capt. M.S.F.B. and M.Ls under orders of Capt. M.S.F.A. on arrival. C. in C. Nore's 051717 and A.N.C.X.F.051300 refer.
(V.A.Dover, 060032A to N.O.I.C. Ostend, C. in C. Nore.)

Resuming intensive sweep with 3 B.Y.M.S. and 10 M.M/S. to-day. If weather holds anticipate will complete task and lay buoys N.F.11 to 13 tomorrow Tuesday.
(Capt. F.B. 060841A to C. in C. Nore.)
My 060032 sailed negative M.L.914.
(V.A.Dover, 061142A to N.O.I.C.Ostend, C. in C. Nore)
Sail so as to pass 53 buoy at 0630A tomorrow Tuesday and proceed via Q.Z.S.596 to start Oropesa sweep clearance from northern limit of Q.Z.S. 501 to 2 miles northward of this limit and between 2 miles west of N.F.7 and 2 miles east of N.F.8 buoy.
(2) Anchor nightly in Ostend outer anchorage reporting progress and on completion return Small Downs.
(3) Report any mines discovered by immediate signal.
(C. in C. Nore, 062145A to S.O.M.S.F.18)
My 052357A. Intensive Oropesa sweep carried out to-day in ideal weather conditions. Abnormal number of parted sweeps indicate presence of anti-sweeping devices in vicinity of N.F.16 buoy. Moored mines still remain in this area. Consider channel reasonable risk for shallow draft craft only until

/ fresh ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Mine-clearance of Schelde and approaches. (Contd.) fresh methods have been tried.
(2) Area already swept LL/SH minimum 6 actuation further sweeping in progress.
(3) For consideration that fleet sweepers attempt Oropesa clearance at high water between N.F.15 and N.F.17 buoys.
(Capt. M.S.F.A. 062222A to C. in C. Nore.)

Situation Report. Sitrep. 40 M. Flotilla. No sweeps owing to weather. B.Y.M.S.2062, 2002 - Q.Z.S. 595 to H.V. 3 buoy and Passe Du Nord Ouest Channel Havre. M.M.S.66, 6, 165 - H.V.3 - 92 Buoy.
(Capt. M/S East, 060936 to U.S. C.T.F.125, (R) (U.S.) C.T.G.125.15 Admty, H.M.S. VERNON, M.S. C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., F.O.B.A.A.)

Mine-search of up-Channel route for QUEEN's MARY and ELIZABETH. A search is to be made in double H formation of two deep of a route joining the following positions:
(A) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 20 (B) 180 degs. Lizard Head 20. (C) Vicinity of 180 degs. Saint Catherine's Light 9. (further signal will be made).
(2) Report your intentions for searching this route as far East as a line Portland Bill/Cap de la Hague with all available ships of 16th M/S Flotilla passing Gate at 1800 tomorrow Tuesday. Search is to start from Western end. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061254A to M.S.F.16)
My 061254. Position "C" is 180 St. Catherine's Light 9 miles depth of sweep 20 fathoms.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061554 to M.S.16)

U-Boat

Suspected U-Boats. A.M. 051639A. Controls repeated back Five B signals between 0639Z and 0732Z. U-Boats may again have sighted an important unit.
(Admty, 061009A to A.I.G.47, Info: S.B.N.O.N.Russia)
One in central English Channel possible contact 0550Z/6th November about 16 miles N.W. of Guernsey but more likely area for U-Boat would be east of 02 degs. 00' W.
Contact 0003Z/6th November in 51 degs. 47' N. 06 degs. 55' W. probably non-S/M but U-Boat may be on passage about 90 miles W. of Cape Clear from very indefinite D/F fix on 3rd November.
(Admty, 061428A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)
By D/F on 3910 K/cs at 2207Z/6 U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 61 degs. 30' N. 02 degs. 00' E.
(D.D.I.C.062350A to S/Ms . north of 51 degs. N.)

Navigational

H.K.4 buoy. It is desired to lay H.K.4 buoy in position 51 degs. 35' 06" N. 03 degs. 12' 15" E. Buoy to be laid unlit but capable of being lit at reduced visibility.

/(2) ...

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H.K.4 Buoy. (Contd.) (2) Request you will sail Trinity House Vessel to arrive Ostend p.m. tomorrow Tuesday. Available ships of 7th M.S.F. and GOZO to escort and carry out Oropesa search ahead between N.F.3 and N.F.8 buoys.
(3) Buoy to be laid following day, minesweepers sweeping ahead of T.H.V. in G. formation from N.F.8 buoy.
(4) On completion ships return to Harwich. Q.Z.S.596 not to be used in dark hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 061210A to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
Intend to sail ~~THE~~ DISCOVERY 2 escorted by PELORUS, GOZO, RIFLEMAN and PICKLE at 0800A tomorrow Tuesday to comply with your 061210A.
(2) Also sailing in company HANNARAY and FARNE.
(3) Red Conical buoy Group flashing (2) every 10 seconds marked H.K.4 has been loaded into DISCOVERY 2. Red can flashing every 20 seconds marked H.K.3 has also been loaded in case required.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 061621A to C. in C. Nore.)

N.F. Buoy. Estimated position N.F.6 buoy 099 degs. 5 cables chart position.
(S.O.M/S.1, 061224A to C. in C. Nore.)

H.5 Buoy. Your 031702 Para. 2.
Removal of H.5 Light Buoy was agreed upon between authorities concerned on two grounds.
(A) It was no longer considered essential.
(B) To make provision for anticipated heavy calls on buoyage in Netherlands area.
(2) In this connection it should be recalled that this whole programme of re-organisation of Buoyage is related to the foregoing considerations coupled with the fact that Trinity House Cowes now has only two small tenders for maintenance as compared with the six (mostly larger) vessels used for laying the buoys last June, and the maintenance and service is rapidly getting out of hand.
(3) Propose therefore to lift H.5 buoy in due course.
(4) Any assistance that Com. Task Force 125 could give on the lines indicated in last sentence of para. 2 would be of great assistance para.3.
(5) Proposal to shift Kansas Light Vessel to new position was made before the recrudescence of U-Boat activity. Under present circumstances intend to substitute a light and bell buoy, since (no?) light floats or unwatched light vessels are immediately available, and patrol craft cannot be provided. Para. 4.
(6) H Channel is again in use. My 051311 not to F.O.B.A.A. refers para. 5.
(7) This will be done.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061706 to Admty)

Port Facilities

Antwerp. Your 241923. (1) Is there any change in number of ships you can take in the 24 hours.
(2) Will night tides be used.
(3) Will you have sufficient Tugs and pilots.
(A.N.C.X.F. 061247A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

/Tugs ...

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Port Facilities - Contd.

Tugs for
Antwerp.

Your O41123. As neither Greenock tug is sufficiently prompt it will be necessary to allocate EMPIRE MAPLE, sailing instructions will follow from D. of S.T.

(2) Arrangements are being made to allocate tug PLETO of slightly less horsepower as a relief.

(3) Would a Tid assist with your requirements under para.3. if and when one can be made available.

(D.O.D.(H), 061938A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Your O41111 not to all.

As neither Greenock tug is sufficiently prompt it will be necessary to allocate EMPIRE TOBY and to accept the slight disadvantage of the Kort nozzle.

(2) Sailing instructions for EMPIRE TOBY will follow from D. of S.T.

(3) Is it not now possible to make some use of tug ROMAN on general base duties.

(D.O.D.(H), 061943A to A.S. Lyness)

Calais.

Owing to increase in importance of Calais, my 241215 October and 021010 November. I have approved the status of R.N.O. being changed to N.O.I.C.

Request early approval for rank of Commander to

Lieutenant Commander E.S.D. Fremantle, R.N. new N.O.I.C. Calais to date 4th November, 1944 and whilst holding present appointment. (A.N.C.X.F.062045A to Admty)

Rouen.

Blockship OLE WEGGER refloated towed ~~by~~^{to} Seine and safely moored in Bassin St. Gervais at 2000 tonight.

(P.S.V.O.062144A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties and Defects

NASHABA.

American casualty NASHABA is now safe for towage to Southampton for discharge and repair. Please arrange and indicate berth. Draft 23 forward and 27.6 aft. Pilot is on board now.

Vessel will require two good tugs as main engines should not be used owing to displaced shaft bearings.

(C.S.V.O. Cowes, 061252A to C. in C. Portsmouth, Info: C.S.V.O.(P))

ABRAHAM
BALDWIN.

ABRAHAM BALDWIN U.S. war Shipping Administration (?) 000 gross tons. Cargo (?)000 tons port material. Aground in position 51.16.20 N. 1.32 E. Stranded at 0540/6th at full speed. Draft afloat 26 feet forward aft. Vessel upright and not leaking. Tugs LADY BRASSEY and DUNCANNON now endeavouring to connect tow wires in preparation for attempt to refloat at

/high...

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HOME COMANDS

Port Facilities

ABRAHAM high water.
 BALDWIN. Vessel is very dangerous position. Fresh westerly
 (Contd.) wind and rough sea. Please keep DAPPER at short
 notice.
 (Salvage Officer, 061300A to V.A. Dover.)
 At 0505 to-day 6th an unidentified straggler
 from convoy M.T.M.12 was plotted by shore Radar in position 079
 degs. South Foreland 4 miles on Northerly course.
 (2) Warning messages were transmitted in P/L on the appropriate
 waves but vessel, later identified as ABRAHAM BALDWIN continued
 on course, and grounded at 0540 in position 037 degs. South Fore-
 land 9.8 miles.
 (3) Efforts to refloat her have not succeeded on this afternoons
 high water, and her position precludes further attempt until
 daylight.
 (4) Cargo consists of heavy War Transport material which cannot
 be moved by ship's derricks and Salvage Officer in charge reports
 possibility of ship breaking up in view of bad weather forecast.
 (5) Approx. 200 tons of oil fuel has been pumped out but pumping
 now stopped until operations are recommenced at daylight to-
 morrow Tuesday.
 (6) Lifeboat is removing 27 Naval Personnel and such others of
 the crew as are not required by the Master.
 (V.A. Dover, 061948A to Admty)

NAROCZ. Polish Ship NAROCZ damaged after collision and
 beaching is now safe to proceed to Southampton
 for repairs.
 (C.S.V.O. Cowes, 061335A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

AUTOSSEE. S.O.S. Aground on Great Castle Rocks require
 tug immediately. Master.
 (AUTOSSEE, No T.O.O. to General)

Shipping and Convoys

L.C.I.(L) 11. U.S. L.C.I.(L) 11 has in accordance with R.A.L.
 S.C.U. letter O.55819 October 24/44 turned over
 to Royal Navy and been reduced to C. and M. from
 3/44.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 061028A to Admty)

Liberty Ship The following additional anchorages on the
 anchorages. South Coast for Liberty ships awaiting call
 forward to Continental ports have now been
 agreed.
 5 ships in Falmouth Plymouth area.
 6 ships at Portland. 45 ships in the Solent on the under-
 standing that the M.T. shuttle pool can be reduced.
 10 ships at Southend.
 (D.T.D. 061514A to H.Q. Com. Zone Etousa.)

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Coastwise
transporta-
tion of
Minor Landing
Craft.

Further to A.M. 062240A arrangements have now been made with D. of S.T. for the bulk of the coastwise transportation of Minor Landing Craft to be undertaken in vessels controlled by M.O.W.T. (2) A programme to cover the known requirements for November and December has been prepared and will be promulgated to all concerned as quickly as possible.

(3) Supplementary requirements for the coastwise transportation of Minor Landing Craft should be referred to Admiralty (Operations Division Extension 270) as they arise. Whenever possible, fourteen days notice is required by D. of S.T. to meet requirements in excess of those covered by the monthly programmes.

(4) In view of above, Admiralty should normally be consulted as to the employment of Landing Ships that are temporarily under the operational control of R.A.L.S.C.U., which may, from time to time, become available for coastwise transportation duties.

(5) These arrangements supplement those promulgated in A.,. 292057/September (not to Com. L.C.B. Portsmouth).

(D.C.O.D. 062234A to R.A.C.O.B.W.A., R.A.L.S.C.U., Com. L.C.B. Portsmouth)

In view of the latest arrangements, which will shortly be communicated, whereby D. of S.T. has undertaken responsibility for coastwise transportation of Minor Landing Craft in Home Waters, EASTWAY and PRINCESS BEATRIX, also other landing ships under operational control of R.A.L.S.C.U. should be held available for operational lifts which will normally be ordered by Admiralty.

(2) EASTWAY and PRINCESS BEATRIX may be used to transfer craft between Clyde O.P.R. and Mersey O.P.R., and between Landing Craft bases in the Clyde Area, as required by R.A.C.O.B.(W.A.)

(3) Movements of EASTWAY as in para.3 of R.A.L.S.C.U.051242 and of PRINCESS BEATRIX as in R.A.L.S.C.U.051211 should be cancelled

(4) Subject to para 2 above, landing ships that are available for coastwise transportation duties should be held in Clyde Area at normal notice and Admiralty should be kept informed.

(D.C.O.D. 062240A to R.A.L.S.C.U., R.A.C.O.B.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ATHOLL My 051820Z departure Horta at 0916Z/6 ATHOLL to R/V H.X.317 (position and time).
(Azores, 061106Z, 062238Z).

A/U operations. BARLE is to proceed at 1800/6 to join Group one consisting of DART and KILMINGTON patrolling as in my 051130.
(2) DART is requested to signal R/V position and time.
(3) LORD NUFFIELD is to proceed at 0800A/7 to join Group II consisting of BLACKFLY, LOCH OSKAIG patrolling inside 100 fathom line between 036 degs. 40' N. and 035 degs. 00' N. to westwards of Straits.
(4) BLACKFLY is to signal R/V position and time.
(5) Groups I and II are to signal percentage of fuel remaining at 0800/7th Nov.
(6) BARLE and LORD NUFFIELD acknowledge.
(7) My 052230 being passed to BARLE and LORD NUFFIELD.
(F.O.G.M.A., 061107A).

WOLVERINE, E.T.A. 0700A/7th. Portuguese SS. QUANZA in company. Acknowledge.
SS.QUANZA. (WOLVERINE, 061907A to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

W. SCORESBY. Intend sailing WILLIAM SCORESBY 8th my 291309 October refers.
(N.O.I.C.Falkland Is., 061314Z).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Alexandria movements. Alexandria 5th November (extract.) Arrivals SWIFTSURE, BLACK PRINCE, USK. (R.A.Alexandria 060501.)

Swedish Relief Ships. A.M. 041948A para. 2. Lat. given in my 201433A October is (5) 037° 00' N. (C. in C. Med. 061002 to Admty.)

Spanish A.S.R. M.X. 36335 Nov. 6th. Ref. our M. 3438 of 16 Oct. and our M.X. 3516 dated 24 Oct. Information regarding continuance Spanish Air/Sea Rescue urgently required. Request present position. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. 061023A to A.M. Whitehall.) M.X. 34383 October 16th 161541. C. in C. Med. has no objection to Spanish Air/Sea Rescue Service operating under conditions as previously outlined. Note by A.M.C.X.(C) We cannot identify M.X. 3516 but it is thought M.3438 refers to M.34383 Oct. 16. Message has been passed to A.A. Madrid.)

1st S/M F. - dispersal. Para. (1) (C) Admiralty 042024 UPSTART now at Gibraltar is due to sail to U.K. for refit about 10th November. Admiralty is requested to signal destination. Para. (2). S.1 is requested to allocate one of UNTIRING, UNSWERVING and VAMPIRE for Western Approaches. (C. in C. Med. 061034A.)

GRADISCA, TUEBINGEN. Request you sail GRADISCA and TUEBINGEN escorted by TERPSICHORE a.m./7. A. As convenient after passing 309 TUEBINGEN is to be detached to proceed independently to Ancona. B. GRADISCA to Algiers escorted by TERPSICHORE. (2) F.O.W.M. is requested to sail TERPSICHORE to Alex. as soon as possible after arrival. (F.O.L.E.M. 061232B to N.O.I.C. Alex.) Sailing orders. (R.A. Alex. 061415 to TERPSICHORE.) My 061415* for TERPSICHORE substitute STORK. (R.A. Alex. 061801B to TERPSICHORE, STORK.) * TERPSICHORE to escort GRADISCA and TUEBINGEN.

German merchant seamen released to TUEBINGEN. Admiralty 042323 para. 4. Following are numbers, names, date and place of birth of ten German merchant seamen being sent in TUEBINGEN to Trieste. (F.O.L.E.M. 061252B.)

FREIBURG. Your 281141 October* and your 291217 October. Disposal of FREIBURG cannot be decided until P.S.T.O Med. has examined her to ascertain whether she would be suitable for service in evacuating casualties in Adriatic. If vessel is so employed

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

FREIBURG.
(Contd.)

it will be necessary to remove Red Cross markings as she cannot be operated as a recognised Hospital Carrier.

(Admty. 061718A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

* E. FREIBURG has been examined and no evidence that ship was being improperly used.

Revised procedure for independent sailings in Mediterranean.

Your 261750. It is desired that consequent release of Mediterranean escorts be implemented as follows - A. frigates and A.A. sloops to be refitted and tropicalised on the Mediterranean station so far as possible. A.M. 202320 refers. B. Corvettes and whalers, other than Greek, to return to U.K.

(2) Ships will be required to return to U.K. for complement adjustment and leave either before or after refit.

(3) Request your remarks and programme of releases, including Hunts. A.M. 031808 October refers.

(V.C.N.S. (O.D. 1500/44) 061827A to C. in C. Med.)*

Please note that the subject of C. in C. Med's 261750 October, referred to in A.M. 061827 (release of Med. escorts) was the revised procedure for independent sailings inside the Med.

* Amended 142114A.

Z.Z. 23-30.

Your 041745 Z.Z. 23-26 are accommodation craft Z.Z. 27-30 are stores craft.
(F.O.L.E.M. 061858B to D.S.C.(L))

ROYALIST.

In order to alleviate overcrowding in ROYALIST following measures have been proposed, (2) - (4).

(5) It is undesirable permanently to reduce the fighting efficiency of the ship.

(6) Request your remarks and proposals.
(V.C.N.S. 061931A to F.O.E.C.)

2 French Air Squadrons for Marseilles/Toulon.

Reference your 051312 November being passed M.A.C. A.F., V.A.M., and C.O.N.A.S. Med. These squadrons are based at St. Mandrier and Cuers respectively and operated by M.A.C.A.F. through 340 Wing on A.S.R. and escort duties.

(2) Spares and stores are handled by M.A.A.F. and are not a British Naval commitment. C. in C. Med.

signal 271807A
(C. in C. Med.

September 1943 not to all also refers.
061940A to A.N.C.X.F.)

S. France operations.

Mission report part one.

A. Approach to bridge. B. 877871. C. 1412 to 1424. D. 6. E. Cub. N.50. F. Discontinued owing lack of petrol. Relieve unable to observe account of cloud. G. 8673. H. Nil.

Part 2. A. 6. B. 85%. C. 40%.

Part 3. Enemy fire encountered three times during day. First when at 165° Cape Mortola 7 miles and second 170° Cape Mortola 8 miles. This was probably 88 m.m. fire. Source not observed.

/Third...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S. France
Operations.
(Contd.)

Third was from heavier guns between 130 and 150
m.m. when 185 Cape Mortola 8½ miles. Source of
fire possibly region of 815875.
(ALCYON 062002.)

DUGUAY TROUIN. I am informed by Ministry of Marine that sailing
of DUGUAY TROUIN from Casablanca for Brest has
been postponed for security reasons.
(A.N.C.X.F. 062102A to Admty.)

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U/B No fresh information. Scale unchanged.
dispositions. (C. in C. E.F., 060342Z.)
SS. MARION MOLLER torpedoed in vicinity of 010°
00' N., 081° 05' E. Area V.P.1 becomes X.5P.
V.P.2 remains Y.2. C.B.2 east of 080° E., Y.2.
Other areas unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F., 030917Z, should presumably be
060917Z.)

SS. MARION GQDZ (MARION MOLLER) torpedoed in 10° 40' N.,
MOLLER. 81° 10' E.
(C. in C. E.F., 060455Z.)
The following received together from weak
strength one to strength one plus unreadable
in parts. "SSSS S.O.S S.O.S de ZDSAN* or ZDSUN. Ship
torpedoed men in lifeboat need help. Position equals from
JOR 3J bearing 348 or 349 distance 150 miles at midnight or
0700 or 0041Z and 0103Z".
(MOBILIGHT (KOJU) No T.O.O./6.)
* MARION MOLLER (GQDZ)
Note: Received from Colombo.

60th and 61st Escort Group was disbanded on 2nd November.
61st E.Gs. (2) NARBADA, FLAMINGO, PARRET, JED, TEVIOT, AWE
and CAUVERY will in future be employed on convoy
work and individual escort duties. Ships are
being divided among present E.F.E.F. (sic) Gp. which
are being reorganised on account of withdrawal of R.A.N.
Bathursts. Ships will be administered by C.E.F.E. and
operated by C. in C. E.F. as previously.
(3) 60th Escort Group has been reorganised as follows:
TAFF, LOSSIE, FINDHORN, NADDER, GODAVARI, AVON, SPEY, ~~DEF~~ DEVERON
~~LERON~~, SWALE.
(C. in C. E.F., 060635Z.)

TAIPING. TAIPING at present refitting and restoring at
Durban not expected to complete before end of
December. It is difficult on present information
to see how she can be spared. A.C.N.B. 020505
refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 060930Z to Admty.)

TANTIVY - TANTIVY 6th Far East, 2nd S.W. Pacific Patrol.
patrol (2) 21st October Bonthain Roads south Celebes
report. 9 schooners sunk by gunfire 6 survivors embarked.
(3) 0600H/22 Bintara Roads south Celebes sank by
gunfire 150 tons coaster followed shortly after-
wards by 5 schooners, latter were all in 6
fathoms. TANTIVY was forced to dive by aircraft which
attacked with bombs and machine gun, giving her an unpleasant
20 minutes as periscope standards were showing, but caused no
damage.
(4) 22nd during afternoon missed 500 tons coaster with 1 torpedo
fitted with C.C.R. pistol so sank ship by (?gunfire). 2 A/S
craft commenced hunt watched by TANTIVY from periscope depth.

/In approx. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

TANTIVY - In approx. position where torpedo previously
patrol fired should have completed its run 1 A/S craft
report. was observed to blow up.
(Contd.) (5) 23rd sank 1 schooner by gunfire off Sangean
Island.
(6) 25th sank 2 500 ton coasters by gunfire off
Batahai Strait after missing with torpedo which
circled and prematured. Later sank 1 schooner by gunfire.
(7) 26th off San(?cor)an Island damaged by gunfire and forced
(?to) beach 1800 tons coasters after missing with 2 torpedoes
both of which (?circled) and prematured. Lack of ammunition
precluded further damage to coaster.
(8) In some cases (corrupt group) attacked were obviously
carrying fuel and all were heavily loaded.
(C. in C. E.F., 061251Z.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

- H.X. 314. Average speed 9.4 knots. In splitting position 51° 03' N., 09° 56' W. at 1800Z/27. All arrived. (D.T.D., 061322A.)
- S.C. 159. Average speed 7.5 knots. Off Oversay at 0500Z/1. All arrived. (D.T.D., 061336A.)
- U.G.S./
G.U.S.
schedule. Modify U.G.S./G.U.S. schedule as follows:-
Sail New York section of U.G.S. convoys to R/V at sea with main body from Norfolk.
Sail U.G.S.64 from Norfolk on 19th December thence every ten days. Onward voyage G.U.S.58 from Oran cancelled.
G.U.S.59 will sail Oran 23rd November thence at ten day intervals.
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 061523Z to Comeastsea-fron.)
- Russian
S.Cs. S.B.N.O.W.At. 032126*, F.O.N.F. 051531 and C. in C. C.N.A. 051615. No decision has yet been made with regard to my 042355* October. 5th and 6th Groups are to be sailed to U.K. escorted by MONTSERRAT and FLYING FISH.
(2) SEYCHELLES is required to escort tugs to Gibraltar. My 031931+ not to all refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 061830A.)
* Sailing of Russian S.Cs.
+ SEYCHELLES should escort tugs to Gibraltar.
- PRECEPT. About 9th November when ready sail PRECEPT (A.N. 73) Norfolk to New York for inclusion appropriate H.X. convoy. Vessel will train approx. four days New York area prior final sailing.
(Cominch, 062011Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

- Digest
No. 1000. For November 5th.
(15) 2 submarines seen in Sulu Sea by aircraft forenoon 3rd. First 100 miles north-west Zamboanga course 40°, second southbound off west coast Panaya.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 061007Z.)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine
attack &
sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) MARIONMOLLER torpedoed a.m./6 in 10°
40' N. 81° 10' E.

Para. B. (1) A/C X/162 reported possible U-Boat
at 1530Z/5 in 60° 33' N. 20° 45' W.

(2) A/C X/162 sighted object believed to be
Schnorkel at 1545Z/5 in 60° 18' N. 20° 31' W.

(3) A/C L/22 obtained disappearing contact at 0126Z

5th in 35° 46' N. 07° 43' W.

(4) A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 1700Z/5 in 36°
17' N. 07° 24' W.

(5) Russian escort attacked contact at 2000Z/5 in 69° 05' N.
36° 40' E.

Para. C. (1) A/C H/36 obtained disappearing contact at 0606Z/5
in 49° 48' N. 02° 54' W.

(2) A/C B/110 obtained disappearing contact at 0921Z/5 in 49°
32' N. 02° 30' W.

(3) A/C B/179 reported possible U-Boat at 0550Z/6 in 49° 40' N.
02° 50' W.

Para. D. (1) E.G. B.3 obtaining contact at 0003Z/6 in 51° 47' N.
06° 55' W.

Ref. A.M. 051118A para. A (3) Lifeboat of FORT LEE made further
3333 at 1144Z/5 in 28° 17' S. 84° 03' E.

(D.D.I.C. 061124A.)

U/B dis-
positions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 061401A, 061441A.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) Two flotillas of L.C.A. and one of 12 L.C.S.(M) are to be retained in the Schelde for future operations.

(b) The gale has prevented all buoy-laying and minesweeping in the Schelde, but Antwerp is prepared to accept 4 ships of 30 ft. draught, 6 of 28 ft., and 10 of 26. Navigational lighting is expected to be complete in the Belgian section by the end of November, and in the Dutch section by mid-December.

North-west Approaches.

2. APOLLO is laying a deep A/S minefield off Malin Head.

Northern Waters.

3. The French submarine RUBIS is to be sent minelaying to Norway.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Enemy shipping losses.

4. S.O.(I) Alexandria reports that the enemy shipping losses for October in the Levant and Eastern Mediterranean were as follows:- sunk - 5 ships 9,080 tons, 45 auxiliaries and caiques 5,030 tons. Scuttled or abandoned - 12 ships 28,630 tons, 41 auxiliaries, small coasters and tugs 6,450 tons.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

QU'APPELLE, As result of visit of Deputy C.N.M.O. to 11th Group
CHAUDIERE, on arrival at Londonderry and subsequent consul-
ST. LAURENT, tation with me intend A to sail QU'APPELLE,
ASSINIBOINE. CHAUDIERE and ST. LAURENT to Canada as soon as
ready for re-adjustment of complement under present
S.O. E.G.11. Commander Prentice.

B. To retain ASSINIBOINE for temporary service
in a British support group pending return of 11th E.G. recon-
stituted as considered desirable by you under the command of the
new senior officer Commander Armstrong R.C.N.
(C. in C. W.A. 070032 to N.S.H.Q.)

EURYALUS. On completion of operation "Steak" C. in C. H.F.
is requested to sail EURYALUS for Rosyth.
(2) On arrival 14 days leave is to be given to
each watch.
(3) On completion EURYALUS will be required to sail for foreign
service.
(V.C.N.S. 070100A to Cs. in C. H.F., Rosyth.)

VINDICTIVE. Scapa arrival VINDICTIVE.
(A.C.O.S. 071027A to C. in C. Nore.)

MAURITIUS. C. in C. H.F. 061425 this offer would be very help-
ful.
(F.O.C.T. 071058A to Admty.)
Your 061425 confirmed. Request you will sail ship
accordingly.
(D.O.D.(H) 071736A to C. in C. H.F.)
Leave Scapa passing Hoxa Gate at 1800A Thursday 9th November and
proceed by Minches and standard route to Greenock arrive Clyde
Gate at 1400A/10th November. My 061425 and my 071331, neither
to all refer.
(2) Leave Clyde so as to arrive Scapa a.m. Monday 20th November.
(3) Admiralty divert mail to Greenock.
(C. in C. H.F. 071914A to MAURITIUS.)

MYNGS. Sailed D.26 in MYNGS in accordance with my 021946A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 071604 to Com. D.H.F.)

INDEFATIGABLE. Movement down river of INDEFATIGABLE has had to be
postponed owing to weather conditions 24 hours
Ships programme will be delayed accordingly.
INDEFATIGABLE 251403 October and my 011943 latter
not to all refer.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 071723A to Admty.)
My 071159A postponed 24 hours. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 071623 refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth 071827A to BLYSKAWICA, BRISSENDEN.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval.

Part 2, cositintrep No. 216, Naval.

A. General minesweeping of Schelde is proceeding satisfactorily but bad weather has hampered operations to seaward 82 ground mines and 15 moored mines had been swept by p.m. 5th November.

B. Captured ports. Zeebrugge preliminary reports state that the Mole is very badly damaged and that the entrance to the lock to the Canal partly obstructed. The train ferry terminal is blocked by two sunken ships.

Unloading figures:-

U.S.

Port	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
Cherbourg	-	-	16,049	4,917
Brittany Ports	-	52	3,415	-
Beaches	1,700	117	3,614	66
Le Havre	2,271	331	5,170	1,934
Rouen	-	-	3,858	3,050
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3,971	500	32,106	9,967
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
British				
East Calvados	-	221	893	-
Dieppe	-	-	5,810	-
Boulogne	-	39	1,976	-
Ostend	373	149	3,433	1,948
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	373	409	12,112	1,948
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Combined total	4,344	909	44,218	11,915

Note figures for stores on U.S. beaches in Cositintrep No. 215 should read 466.

(A.N.C.X.F. 070010 to Admty.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Mine clearance of Schelde.

Force B. Sheltering in harbour. SQUIRREL riding out gale. Operation postponed till weather moderates.

(Capt. M/S F.B. 070920A to C. in C. Nore.)

18th M.S.F. is required to assist M.S. Force A., whose operations in approaches to Schelde are

being held up by suspected anti-sweeping devices. These may include chain obstructors.

(2) 18th M.S.F. is to proceed from Small Downs at 0700A tomorrow Wednesday to Ostend.

(3) Danlaying trawlers are not to accompany flotilla but may be sent later if required.

(4) Captain M.S.F.A. operating at Terneuzen is to send an officer to meet M.S. 18 at Ostend and give detailed information of Channel and requirements.

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ance of
Schelde.
(Contd.)

- (5) By arrangement with Captain M.S.F.A. one ship of the 18th M.S.F. is on completion to proceed Terneuzen to supply minesweepers with water.
- (6) Arrangements made and date of commencement of operations are to be reported to C. in C. Nore.
- (7) Captain M.S.F.A. is to provide Navigational guide and vessels for danlaying.
- (8) M.S.18 is to report his arrival at Ostend to Capt. M.S.F.A. and C. in C. Nore.
- (9) Communications 18th M.S.F. constant watch on 2333 K/cs. Guard on C.N. Terneuzen and M.S.F.A. are keeping watch on 2333 K/cs.
- (10) Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 072305A to M.S.F.A. M.S.18)

East
Schelde
Flotilla.

- Your 161839. It is intended to retain two flotillas of L.C.A. in Schelde area for future operations N.L.O.1st Canadian Army has been instructed to carry out R/C in conjunction with your staff and No.4 M.L.R.U. to determine main and possibly advanced bases for them.
- (2) Remainder of L.C.A. should when no longer required by the Army be sent to Ostend for return to United Kingdom in L.S.D.
- (3) Request you will effect any exchange of craft necessary to provide two flotillas serviceable reporting their final composition.
(A.N.C.X.F.071545 to N.C.Force T.)
- Army plans envisage the present line along the River Maas remaining active for some time. This will allow Germans to operate against Antwerp traffic using bases in the Rotterdam area and off-lying Islands.
- (2) In order to provide the necessary patrols against infiltration in the East Schelde request an L.C.S.(M) flotilla of 12 craft be formed now and allocated to force T.
- (3) Arrangements will be made to lift this flotilla to Ostend as soon as it is available.
- (4) Flotilla will be based with 2 L.C.A. Flotillas referred to in my 071545.
(A.N.C.X.F.071547A to Adnty.)

Walcheren
expedition
craft
casualties.

My 022314, 051737 and 062004. L.C.T.304
broached to and seriously damaged at West Kappelle.
L.C.T.469 reported broken adrift and filled with
water off West Kappelle.
L.C.T.976 back broken, abandoned and adrift in
position 269 degs. N.F. 4 buoy.
L.C.T.7094 broached to at West Kappelle.
(N.C. Force T. 071919A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

- Patrols. My 061842, M.T.Bs. not sailing.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 070817 to A.I.Gs. 38, 393.)
Proceed forthwith to relieve L'AVENTURE on patrol south of Z Buoy.
- (2) Take over senior officer of this patrol.
 - (3) L'AVENTURE arrange R/V and return Portsmouth on relief.
 - (4) Acknowledge.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 071052A to ?HARGOOD.)
Night A/E patrols 7/8th November. Passi para. 5A search areas as follows: (2) 6th E.G., Z.110 N. W.A. D.S. to Q.Z.S. 490.
(3) WATCHMAN, VIDETTE, Z.9 N. of 50° 20'.
(4) HARGOOD, SPRAGGE Z.8 N. of 50° 20'.
(5) S.Os of units acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071530A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force, 6th E.G.)
Pins cover night 7/8th November. G.A. 1 HARGOOD, G.A. 2 SPRAGGE Z.8 N. G.A.3 WATCHMAN, G.A.4 VIDETTE Z.9 N. 6th E.G. Z.110 northwards to Q.Z.S. 490.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071715A to A.I.Gs. 38, 393.)
Day A/S patrols 8th November. Search areas limits as shown.
- (2) 3 M.T.Bs. 66th Flotilla 50° 07' and 50° 27' N. 01° 54' W. and H Channel leaving Portland 1400.
 - (3) 6th E.G. 49° 47' and 50° 12' N. 01° 26' W. and H Channel.
 - (4) 6th E.G. if M.T.Bs. do not sail north and south limits are 49° 51' and 50° 21' N.
 - (5) HARGOOD, WATCHMAN, VIDETTE 49° 45' and 50° 15' N. Q.Z.S. 511 Q.Z.S. 554 and 8 miles eastward.
 - (6) SPRAGGE, Passi Appendix E. Take patrol A.
 - (7) BRILLIANT pass Gate 0900 relieve VIDETTE.
 - (8) VIDETTE return harbour on relief.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071807A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force E.G.6, BRILLIANT.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

- Stores for A.N.C.X.F. (Main). 301717 Oct. and Admiralty's
F.F.I. in 070317 Nov.
Biscay area. The details of stores required by F.F.I. in Bordeaux area were brought by Lt. Lawton, F.F.I. in IENA and taken by him when he went to London on arrival, in charge of M.I. 5.

These are therefore not known here, except that a general requirement for clothing, arms and ammunition was mentioned. Trawler IENA has been supplied with efficient compass and lead line, and will be completed with fuel as necessary before departure.
(C. in C. Plymouth 071117A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/French...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France. - Contd.

French help
in libera-
tion of
Bordeaux.

My 041710 para. 2.. French authorities have now specifically asked for LORRAINE, DUQUESNE, JEANNE D'ARC with possible addition of two cruisers of MONTCALM class.

(2) I do not consider that all these ships will be required but would be glad to know whether they can be made available if required.
(A.N.C.X.F. 071610A to Admty.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Anti-U-Boat
dispositions
in convoy.

C.E

Your 031533. It is proposed to send the following signal to B.A.D. begins:-
Admiralty's 302302 para. 3. Amend last sentence to read: "These principles hold good generally by day or night except that by night the first positions to be filled by the support group are astern and on the quarters of the convoy. If a second support group is present, it should be disposed so as to supplement the close escort as asdic screen taking up wing positions in order to sweep out by asdic the area where a U-Boat may be lying in wait for the convoy". Ends.

(2) Request your comments.
(V.C.N.S. 070628A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Patrols.

Request you will sail 26th E.G. a.m. 8th November to relieve 1st E.G. as in my 041304 para. 5.
(C. in C. W.A. 070008A to Com. D. W.A.)

Force 33, E.G. 20 TOTTOLA (S.O.), 2 frigates and E.G.1 AFFLECK 4 frigates operating off North Irish Coast.
Force 32 E.G. 18 TOWY 3 escorts operating in area Butt of Lewis to Cape Wrath and in North Minches.
Add to my 071152A E.G. 4 BENTINCK 3 frigates operating vicinity 051° 01' 011° 00'

'C. in C. W.A. 071451A, Situation report.)
Intend to sail E.G. 26 at 0930/8th November to comply with your 070008A November.
(Com. D. W.A. 071905A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Minelaying
by RUBIS.

Your 041044. Concur. F.S. RUBIS will be ready at Lerwick 18th Nov. to lay in vicinity 058° 27' N. 005° 48' 20" E. on a date suitable to Admty.
C. in C. H.F. and H.Q.C.C.
(F.O. S/M 071204A to Admty.)

/Patrols...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway -Contd.

Patrols. A. VENTURER 68° 06' N. 10° 20' E. through 69° 45' N. 14° 50' E. to 69° 35' N. 17° 25' E. diving by day 120 miles in 24 hours.
B. ULA 65° 04' N. 07° 50' E. through 65° 01' N. 08° 01' E. to patrol off Fro Havet north of 63° 50' N. 120 miles in 24 hours.
C. VARNE and SEADOG, escort HASTINGS, off Fair Island to Scapa E.T.A. 1600/8th.
D. SCYTHIAN, UTSIRA unescorted 59° 53' N. 00° 30' W. through 60° 01' N. 00° 30' E. and 59° 20' N. 01° 15' E. probably on surface at 10 knots to patrol lines length 30 miles direction 000° to 180° mid-points - UTSIRA 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E. SCYTHIAN 57° 35' N. 01° 15' E.
E. SIBYL escort AGNES NUTTEN 58° 18' N. 01° 30' W. to Scapa E.T.A. 1600/8th.
(F.O.S. 071754A to Admty.)

Following is passed for information. Begins:-
Addressed F.O. S/M, (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., S/M 3, S/M 9, from S.O. S/Ms Lerwick. SATYR reports in accordance with I.S.O.H. 30. (1) 31st October 0810 position course and speed off Kvassein Point 307° 10 knots. 1 unescorted 1000 ton merchant vessel passed outside attacking range.
(2) 3rd November 1102 to 1152 ineffective hunt carried out by 2 patrol vessels in Skudesnes Fjord 1407/3rd and 1607/4th 2 similar ships sighted but no hunt developed.
(3) Some small ships sighted on coast and in Skudesnes Fjord. 071445, ends.
(F.O.S. 072336A to Admty.)

Operations.

Northern Waters

Convoy R.A. 61. Your 061943A. 15th E.G. acting as support group has already been detached to Belfast at 1730A/6th November. Do not consider 21st E.G. can be spared as well before reaching Cape Wrath.
My P.C.S. at 2000/6th 068° 32' N. 004° 00' E. 208° 9½ knots.
(C.S. 10 070145A to C. in C. H.F.)
P.C.S. R.A. 61 at 1200A/6 November 069° 40' N. 005° 50' E. 2177° 10 knots. Intend DIDO and ONSLOW leave convoy at position C and return Scapa. E.T.A. Scapa 0900A/9th November. E.G. 15 detached at 069° N. to return to base through position C.
(C.S. 10 072329 to Home Fleet.)

Northern
escort
trawlers.

A.M. 011008 November. In order to meet the trawler commitments for "Appian" and at the same time maintain three trawlers on each Iceland (C) convoy it will be necessary to allocate all the Ocean Trawlers in my command for these duties. It is not considered that the Iceland escorts should be reduced below three.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Northern
escort
trawlers.
(Contd.)

(2) In order to have some resources with which to meet frequent extraneous commitments request early consideration be given to transferring a further three ocean escort trawlers to my command. (C. in C. W.A. 071955A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Fighter
direction
frigate for
anti-flying
bomb patrol.

A.M. 050219. Request CAICOS may be sailed for Harwich when ready, possible methods of operation are being considered in consultation with H.Q.F.C. (C. in C. Nore 071845A to Admty.)

Mining.

Minesweeping
Situation
Report.

Sitrep 40th M.S. Flotilla - one actuation either side of Inner Channel. Negative result.
(2) B.Y.M.S. 2062, 2002 - Q.Z.S. 595 to H.V. Buoy and Pas du Nord Ouest Channel Havre.
(3) M.S. Flotilla - LL/SA sweeping area to westward of Cap de la Heve.
(Capt. M/S East 070916A to C.T.F. 125.)

My 052357 and 062222. Afraid sweep abandoned today owing to weather.
(Capt. M/S F.A. 071024A to C. in C.Nore.)

Mine-search
of up-
Channel route
for QUEENS
ELIZABETH
& MARY.

Your 061254A November (not to R.N.O. Brixham TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE) intend the following programme - (1) 1800A/7th November pass Gate and proceed to position Able. TADOUSSAC and ILFRACOMBE in company.
(2) Daylight November 8th commence search. Anchor off Helford River at dusk.
(3) 0600A/9th November proceed and continue search. Anchor in Portland at dusk.

(4) 0730A/10th November proceed and continue search. Anchor in Tor Bay at dusk.

(5) 0600A/11th November proceed and continue search. Anchor in Mounts Bay at dusk.

(6) 0700A/12th November proceed and complete search. Return to Plymouth.

(7) A.M. November 13th arrive Plymouth.
(M.S. 16 071141A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Deep mine-
field in N.
Channel.

Carry out operation "C.G.A.One" at 1700 November 7th. You should pass through position 55° 30' N. 7° 10' W. at 0730/8th November, thence direct to position given in A.M. 021215. Information concerning escort group will be signalled to you on passage by C. in C. W.A.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 071143A to APOLLO, C. in C. W.A.)

APOLLO will pass through position 055° 30' N. 007° 10' W. at 0730/8th thence to lay a line of deep mines in a direction 320°

/from...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Deep mine-
field in
N. Channel.
(Contd.)

from a position 055° 27' N. 007° 30' W. for dis-
tance of about 6 miles speed of lay depends on
weather.

(2) Force 33 is to sweep along APOLLO's track
shortly before her arrival and remain in close
support until completion of lay should speed of lay
be less than 18 knots owing to weather, 3 ships are
to act as close screen but are not to incur weather damage.

(3) APOLLO to Milford Haven on completion.

(C. in C. W.A. 071654A to S.O. Force 33.)

My 071143A. Sailed APOLLO.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 071749A to C. in C. W.A.)

Modus
operandi
at captured
ports.

Experience gained in sweeping operations off
Le Havre shows that emphasis should be laid on
speed restrictions in mined areas combined with
rigid Naval control from the moment of capture.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 071936A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Naval
Vessels.

Oslo Fjord. (1) Cruisers. See my telegram 011159
para. 1A.

A. EMDEN reported at Langgrunnen Horten October
24th and October 27th and at Mossesund October 26.

B. KOLN called at Horten on October 23rd, October
24th, October 25th and October 28th.

Both ships lay for short time in Falkensten Bay Frebergsvik and
Mulviken.

(2) Destroyers. A. See my 011159.

Destroyer M (?MUDIR). (Believed Z.30) with damage aft was moved
from Utstikker (III) to Nylands Yard Oslo October 30th.

B. Unidentified destroyer reported dismantling guns at Utstikker
(II) Oslo October 31st.

C. Destroyer reported to be THEODOR RIEDEL damaged aft late
October. (This must be Z.30 already reported in my 011159.)

D. Following destroyer called at Horten during last week of Oct.
This might be KARL GALSTER.

FRIEDRICH IHN. RICHARD BEITSEN. 3 U-Boats. Following U-Boats
called Horten during last week of October. U.806. U.1009.

U.1202 B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm 071837 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Suspected
U-Boats.

No fix on one estimated in central English Channel.
Another possibly approaching Channel in lat. 50°
45' N. long. 10° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 071359A to Cominch, S. & A. area C.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Navigational

"H.K.4"
Buoy. My 061210. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C. in C. Nore, 070741A to M.S.7.)

Channel
into
Le Havre
closed. In view of your 271059 and 508 Q.Z.Y. (Admiralty
D.T.G.271828) should Navwest number 33 (your
251219A September) now be considered as cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071854A to C.T.F.125)

Port Facilities

Calais. As from 4th November R.N.O. Calais assumed the
status of Naval Officer-in-Charge. My 061942 (not
to all addressees) is cancelled.
(F.O.B.A.A.071242 to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)
My 031326 para. 71. Until dredging and survey of entrance is
completed train ferry cannot be accepted at low water due to
existence of 11 ft. patch.
(F.O.B.A.A.071257A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Arromanches. C. in C. Portsmouth's 061412. Priority of L.S.D.
lifts from East Calvados areas as agreed with 21
A.G. are as follows:
(A) Further withdrawal from Arrow up to 17th Nov.
(B) Motor Launch ROMAC and P.B.R. to Ostend or Flushing according
to minesweeping situation. Your C11155 and P.S.T.O. N.W.E's
041137 neither to all refers. Lifts to start 18th November and
will take approx. 6 weeks to complete according to weather if only
one L.S.D. is available 20 lifts will be required.
(C) Further withdrawal from Arrow including LINCOLN, WITHAM and
WISSEY for lift to Kings Lynn and Richborough respectively Exfor
Rear's 052000 not to all refers.
(2) Priority of barge lift from Cherbourg area unknown but pro-
pose they should be lifted after para. 1C above.
(3) In view of time required for para. 1B above and probable
closing down of Arrow consider 2 L.S.D. are essential to clear
that port before bad weather causes serious damage to craft there
and to avoid retaining a nucleus at Arrow for the sole purpose of
embarking the craft.
(F.O.B.A.A. 071801A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Antwerp. Your 061247A not to all and my 241923A.
(1) Consider increase in number of ships arriving
daily cannot be accepted until practical experience
of river traffic has been gained. The acceptable
draught of ships can now be increased to following - 4 of 30 feet,
6 of 28 feet, 10 of 26 feet or less.
(2) It is intended to use night tides as soon as lights and buoys
can be lit. Belgian section should be lit by end of November.
Dutch section estimated 14 days later.
(3) Sufficient pilots available also tugs assuming requests for
latter are being met. Com. Belgium's 201908A refers. Agreed
P.E.C.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 071922A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Submarine targets for Asdic practices.

To provide targets which are continuously available for essential asdic practices against a bottomed submarine, it is urgently requested and strongly recommended that up to six old submarine hulls be allocated to the Western Approaches for sinking in suitable positions in deep water. It is understood from F.O. S/M that such a number might be made available at once without undue difficulty.

(2) In anticipation of approval it is requested that C. in C. Rosyth, in collaboration with D.B.D. and F.O. S/M, may investigate the problem of sinking and mooring these hulls. It is important that they should lie head or stern to the tidal streams in order to provide a realistic target with normal asdic characteristics.

(3) In the meantime, F.Os. i/c Liverpool, Greenock and Northern Ireland are requested to consider, in collaboration with Com.

(D) Western Approaches and Captains (D), the most suitable positions for these targets in their respective areas. A depth of over 20 fathoms is required.

(C. in C. W.A. 071907A to Admty.)

C. in C. W.A. 071907 it is suggested that some of the following submarines might be made available.

A. British. (1) H.28 OBERON paid off at Blyth in July.

(2) H.43, H.32 paid off at Kames Bay Sept. and Oct. respectively.

(3) SEALION awaiting scrapping at Portsmouth.

(4) H.44, H.34, H.50 due to be paid off December, January and February respectively.

(5) PROTEUS on completion of shock trials.

B. Subject to concurrence of Dutch Authorities.

(1) O.9, O.10, O.14 at Dundee.

(2) O.15 understood being paid off end November.

C. Subject to concurrence of French Authorities.

(1) MINERVE at Devonport.

(2) ORION, ONDINE at Portsmouth.

(F.O.S. 072237A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

AUTOSSEE.

S.O.S. Abandoning ship off Castle Rock. We have received no help. Master.

(AUTOSSEE 070000Z to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven.)

AUTOSSEE whilst getting under way to leave harbour with U.C. 44A dragged ashore at 2205/6 west side Great Castle Head Milford Haven. Vessel is lying Head south with list to port. All crew taken off, except master who is remaining on board. Salvage authorities informed, no further action can be taken until weather moderates.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 071117A to Admty.)

ABRAHAM
BALDWIN.

Tugs EMPIRE AID and EMPIRE SUSAN are to leave Southend forthwith and proceed to assistance of ABRAHAM BALDWIN aground in position 037° S. Foreland 9.8 miles.

(2) On completion tugs proceed to Dover for further orders.

(C. in C. Nore 071140A to Com. Southend.)

/MOUNSEY...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

MOUNSEY. MOUNSEY docked in floating dock Sunday 5th November.
(2) Severe but very localized damage confirming my 021724.
(3) Complete repairs could probably be carried out here but intend to arrange temporary patching only and ship should be ready to sail non operational in R.A. 62.
(4) In view of above and destruction of mess decks intend to disembark portion of ship's company and return them in R.A. 61A.
(5) C.O. BERWICK is President board enquiry and will forward report to C. in C. H.F.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 071232A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Escorts to Gibraltar. A.M. 011008 Para. 2. Use may be made of any sloops or trawlers due to proceed to Mediterranean or beyond to form part of the escort required for each convoy as far as Gibraltar.
(2) A short delay in sailing such escorts can be accepted.
(3) CRANE and KILBRIDE can be made available for the first convoy leaving Falmouth about 16th November.
(D.O.D.(H) 071348A to C. in C. W.A.)

Transfer of L.S.T. Reference your 061725.
(2) It would be much appreciated if you would arrange the following sailings:-
U.S. L.S.T. 5 to Belfast.
U.S. L.S.T. 311 and 331 to Clyde.
U.S. L.S.T. 371 to Cardiff.

On arrival arrangements will be made for them to be taken over by British crews and to take them in hand for preparation for Far Eastern service.

(3) Advance parties of British Officers and ratings will be available to commence turn over in Cardiff and Clyde on Monday 13th November and at Belfast on Tuesday 14th November.

(4) R.A.L.S.C.U. is to co-ordinate arrangements for transfers and forward copies of his standing procedure to F.Os. i/c and ships concerned.

(5) It is proposed to take over U.S. L.S.T. 346, 383 and 380 in their present localities on completion of their current overhaul. Accordingly request information as to completion dates.
(Admty. 071959A to Comphibsukay.)

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticA/U
operations.

Report forthwith if weather is suitable for operation of Schnorkel in your practice area keeping me informed of any changes.
(F.O.G.M.A., 071048 to S.O. Group I, S.O. Group II.)

Your 071048A. Weather at present not considered suitable for operation of Schnorkel. Commorseafon pass to C.F.A.W.15.
(DART, 071346A to F.O.G.M.A.)

LORD HOTHAM is to sail at 1800A/7 to relieve LOCH OSKAIG and join Group II.

(2) Proceed through Straits to effect R/V with Group II as ordered by BLACKFLY.

(3) All relevant information on composition of Groups being passed to LORD HOTHAM.

(4) On relief LOCH OSKAIG to return Gibraltar.

(5) LORD HOTHAM acknowledge.

(F.O.G.M.A., 071232A to LORD HOTHAM, Group II.)

Concur in DART's 070936 not to all addressees.

If not in contact at 0900/8th Group I and Group II are to proceed as (?composite) force to carry out A/S patrol in area bounded on the east by coast and 006° 10' W. on the west by 007° 10' W., between 036° 30' N. and 034° 50' N.

(2) WOLVERINE is to proceed at 0900A/8th to rejoin Group I as ordered by DART.

(3) (S15628) KILMARNOCK is to proceed on completion of steering trials a.m./8th to join Group I as ordered.

(4) DART is requested to detach ships to return to Gibraltar as follows:

(A) On arrival of WOLVERINE, KILMINGTON.

(B) On arrival of KILMARNOCK, BARLE.

(5) WOLVERINE and KILMARNOCK acknowledge.

(F.O.G.M.A., 071708 to WOLVERINE, KILMARNOCK, Group I.)

ATHENE.

Detach ATHENE on passing Carnero Point.

(2) Ship is required to anchor in bay embark latest navigational information for Mediterranean and sail independently for Port Said on completion.

A.M. 021511 October not to all refers.

(F.O.G.M.A., 071248 to C.T.F. 65.)

ENGADINE and ATHENE will leave U.S.A. shortly carrying aircraft to Cochin.

O.S. 94.

O.S.94. In view of A.M. 041153* request you will sail Gibraltar section as convenient and disperse when clear of U-Boat area.

(Plot (T.D.), 071946A to F.O.G.M.A.)

* N.T. in W.D. Presumably refers to U/B contacts in Straits approaches.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

804 Squadron. It is not clear from A.M. 031921 for what purpose it is suggested that 804 Squadron might be used.

(2) The information given in para. (2) that 804 Squadron formed at Wingfield on 1st September is not correct. Pilots arrived on 13th Sept. and flying started on 15th Sept.

(3) Judging by present progress of flying training 804 Squadron should be ready for carrier training only as a Combat Squadron by 1st December, but assault and army support training will not be completed until 1st January 1945, latter date being dependent on provision of army co-operation facility.

(4) Squadron has so far received no air training in use of bombs or R.P. which training cannot start until approx. 14 days after arrival of modification parts.

(5) Aircraft of 804 Squadron are not fitted V.H.F. Approx. 14 days required to equip Squadron after arrival of sets.

(6) Pilots of 804 Squadron have averaged only six deck landings on Seafires.

(C. in C. S.A., 071043B to C. in C. E.F.)

DUGUAY- Your 041158A. Concur in movement.
TROUIN. (F.O.C.W.Af., 071303Z to C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Alexandria movements November 6th. Arrivals AURORA, EMPEROR, TYRIAN, EASTON, KONDOURIOTIS, KIMBERLEY, BERGAMOT, L.C.T. 7020. Departures EVENLODE, SALAMIS. (R.A. Alexandria, 070802 to Admty., (Info), C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M.)

Transfer of U.S. P.T. boats. Request reply to para. 3 of my 191107* Oct. (C. in C. Med., 070818A to Admty.)
 * Transfer of 16 boats ex. 15th U.S. P.T. Squad.

PRINCE DAVID, ALCANTARA H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID and H.M.S. ALCANTARA escorted by G.S. PINDOS sailed 0700B/7. S. of A. 18 knots to Piraeus by Chianti east and Milk north E.T.A. position 704, 123013/8th for O.R. by S.B.N.O. Greece codeword Uranium (?373).
 (2) Ships shifting to L.B. broadcast at 0700B/8th.
 (3) F.O.L.E.M. 220940 and C. in C. Med. 311537 Oct. neither to all refers.
 (4) No troops embarked in H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID. (F.O.T.A.L.I. 070901A to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

F.D.T.13 Propose sailing F.D.T.13 to U.K. as no further employment for her specialised gear and complement can be foreseen in this theatre. (C. in C. Med. 071115A to Admty.)

1st S/M F. dispersal C. in C. Med.'s. 061034 para. 2. UNTIRING is due for refit January, UNSWERVING May and VAMPIRE July 1945. (F.O.S., 071149A to S.1.)

Convoy information When independent sailings from Mediterranean ports to Gibraltar for onward convoy are instituted it is requested that arrangements may be made to enable N.C.S.O. Gibraltar to include the following information in the Convoy Adv. sailing tel. for all ships which it is intended to sail in convoy from Gib. to U.K.
 (a) Name of Ship
 (b) Brief description of cargo.
 (c) Destination in U.K. if known.
 (2) The following information will continue to be required in sailing telegrams for all ships sailing in convoy or independently:-
 (a) Speed
 (b) Name of Ship
 (c) Estimated deepest draught on arrival in U.K. to the nearest foot above.
 (d) Brief description of cargo.
 (e) Destination in U.K. for which sailed.
 (3) In addition request that arrangements may be made for all ports in the Mediterranean to include ultimate destinations of all ships (whether sailing in convoy or independently beyond Gibraltar) in the Vesca Sailing Telegram. (D.T.D. 071327 to C. in C. Med.)

/KING...

7.11.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

KING GEORGE V. to bombard Milos I should like KING GEORGE V to carry out short bombardment of Lakida Battery Milos. C. in C. E.F. concur. Desirable H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. visits Alexandria before bombardment for briefing. Request approval.
(F.O.L.E.M. 071351B to C. in C. Med.) *Approval, page 192*

ADRIAS As it is considered advisable that ADRIAS should proceed in company outside Mediterranean intend ship to sail as additional escort to M.K.F.36 Para. 2 Admty.'s 241904* October, not to all, refers.
(2) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to sail ships accordingly and Admiralty to signal destination in U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 071441A to Admty., F.O.L.E.M.) *ADRIAS to be sailed for U.K. after fitting new fore ends.

DUGUAY - TROUIN A.N.C.X.F. 062102 not to all states sailing of (806) F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN has been postponed by Ministry of Marine for security reasons.
(2) Ship is not to be sailed until further orders. Your 070838 not to all.
(C. in C. Med., 071448A to C.M.S.F.)

Fitting Type 277 in escort carriers. Fitting of type 277 in escort carriers at Gibraltar Malta and Taranto. Ref. A.M. 241730 October, para. two (Not to all) and my 291530 October. It appears likely that a bare two months will be available for refits. Request confirmation that experience in U.K. has shown it to be possible to fit type 277 in two months.
(2) If confirmation is available as in para. one request all necessary first fitting spares working drawings and supplies of any unusual cables etc. may be placed on board the three carriers as in para. 2 of my 291530 October. Fitting can then be undertaken but in view of lack of experience in the Mediterranean of the technical problems involved it is considered that it would be essential for a Technical Officer experienced in fitting of type 277 to be made available to the station from late December to end of January to advise the three Dockyards as necessary and to ensure good prospects of completion.
(C. in C. Med., 071526 to Admty.)

TERPSICHOE and 2 German H.S. My 061415 sailing indefinitely delayed due to weather.
(R.A.L. 071651B.)

Axis shipping losses. October losses Axis merchant shipping in Levant and Eastern Med. My 071559 October refers, sunk: 5 ships 9080 tons 45 Auxiliaries and Caiques 5030 tons. Scuttled or abandoned: 12 ships (?28) 630 tons 41 Auxiliaries Small Coasters and Tugs of 6450 tons. Figures for Caiques abandoned or scuttled are not yet available.
(S.O.(1) Alexandria, 071705B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Gen.
Ristic's
broadcast.

H.W.M.A.A.F. S.S.O. No. J.C.S. 763 (sic) of Nov. to Air Ministry and H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East being passed V.A.M. and F.O.T.A.L.I. refers.

(2) Concur with Air Marshal Slessor. This order is likely to cause serious naval trouble and should be suspended forthwith.

(C. in C. Med. 071731A to Admty.)

F.I.R. of H.Q.M.A.A.F.'s S.S.O. Number J.C.S. 7639 6th Nov. begins: Addressed to Air Min. Whitehall, Information H.Q., R.A.F.M.E., H.Q. Balkan, A.F. A.F.H.Q. from H.Q.M.A.A.F. S.S.O. A.R.E.F. No. this message J.C.S. 7630 6th Nov. personal for A.C.A.S.(P) from Slessor.

(1) I should be grateful if you would see Brigadier Maclean and enlist his help to straighten out the following extremely confused situation.

(2) General Ristic has just broadcast to all Yugoslav Army, Navy and Air Force personnel an order No. 1309 to the effect that all members of the Yugoslav Armed Forces where-ever they are must declare for the National Army of Liberation and return to Yugoslav at once. Personnel failing to so declare within three days of receipt of the order to be considered as deserters.

(3) It seems probable that this order has been issued without consultation with Subasic and without any knowledge of the various agreements under which Yugoslav Air Force personnel are serving. It is likely to cause most serious complication in an already delicate situation.

(4) By a very recent agreement with Tito we are returning to Yugoslavia all the personnel he has asked for though he has agreed that we should retain the requisite numbers to back the Yugoslav Squadrons. Under Ristic's order even these men are presumably liable to be declared as deserters unless they return at once to Yugoslavia. The position of the personnel in 351 and 352 Squadrons is also by no means clear under this order.

(Caserta C.C.O. 071850A to V.A.M., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

GALATEA,
BANDIERA.

GALATEA entered Malta from K.M.S. 67 with serious engine defects. F.O.G.M.A. 301743 not to all addressees refers. It. S/M BANDIERA returned to Malta also (?with) engine defects. My 060927 not to all addressees refers. Further signal will be made.

(V.A.M. 071735.)

K.M.F. convoy
cycle.

There is a possibility that a twenty day cycle for K.M.F. convoys may be introduced in January. (A.C.N.S.(F) (on O.D.1500/44) 071903A to C. in C. Med.)

Gulf of
Corinth.

Monolithy situation report 13.

(1) (As ?a result) of further LL sweeping close inshore on either side of Narrows 1 magnetic ground mine was detonated in position 218° (?Cape) Rion (?in) 6 (? $\frac{3}{4}$) cables. Intend tomorrow to LL above area again also Northern portion of harbour.

(2) Fleet M/S and danlayers of this force are tomorrow proceeding to Lo(ne?)tha Bay (?and) must LL the Kink in Q.B.C. 919 en route. It is intended to sail them (?8th) November for Taranto.

/ (3) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Gulf of
Corinth
(Contd.)

(3) M.L.135 is (?to) sail at 0600/8 for Levkas with (?military) personnel. She has been instructed to proceed independently from there to Taranto signalling her own E.T.A. (S.O. M/S.F.13, 071911B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

FREIBURG.

C. in C. Med.'s 021240. It is not our practice to institute Prize proceedings in respect of vessels notified but not accepted as hospital ships. In any case, FREIBURG is ex-Italian and BONN is believed ex-Yugoslav SUMA DIJA. F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 041849 not to C. in C. Med. refers.
(2) Question of flag under which vessels will subsequently be operated will depend upon decisions concerning their employment and manning.
(3) Request report whether there is any confirmation of BONN being ex-Yugoslav.
(P.A.S.(L), 072033A to F.O.T.A.L.I.) See amendment 091029A.

Piraeus.

Kelso situation report. 2 convoys Pisa One and Tasa One met as planned 5th November and after staying Strathos in Q. anchorage due to mine-sweeping delayed at Gate. Unloading to start tomorrow Wednesday.
(2) SIRIUS sailed from Piraeus with H.Q. 7th Indian Brigade and proceeded with Tasa 2 today Tuesday staying at Strathos. (C.S.15, 072147B to C. in C. Med.)

Harbour
defence.

Messages 220B* and 227B/. For M.C.S.I.6 read M.S.C.I.5 throughout.
New subject: Amend 216B T.O.O. 031502 to read "as necessary in Grecian and PRETENSIONØ Ports". (C. in C. Med., 072305A.)

* T.O.O. 041815.

/ T.O.O. 061436.

Ø As received, repetition requested.

Use of small changes for harbour defences to be discontinued in all ports except as necessary in Grecian Ports.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy orders. F.O.N.I.C. 526.* Cancel F.O.N.I.C. 524,* and my 060500* latter not to all addressees. F.O.N.I.C. 518/ and 520 remain in force. (C. in C. E.F., 070316Z).
* Not identified in War Registry.
/F.O.N.I.C. 518 - T.O.O. 230501 Oct. Negative release Class D (?3) Ships from C.J. - J.C. convoys. Release Class A ships from above convoys.

SS. MARXION MOLLER. SS. (MAR?)IAN MOLLER torpedoed in approximate (010? degs) 00' N., 081° 05' (East?) at 23(19?) F.G. 5th November during heavy rain squall. (C. in C. E.F., 070412Z).

MANCHESTER CITY (controlled mining base ship) REDSHANK. (1) H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY (boilers fitted with mechanical stokers) has bunker fire which is under control (but) not out. Essential that ships be de-bunkered. Ship should be ready to sail about 25th November. Intend to commence forthwith. 2. Para. (3) of C. in C. E.F. 271001* Sept. work will be completed on 10th November and REDSH(?AN)K ready to sail on 12th November. Request instructions for REDSHANK. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 070847Z to C. in C. E.F.)
* Request sail MANCHESTER CITY and REDSHANK to Diego Suarez to weigh minefield and dismantle stations.

M.Ls. for Jibuti. C. in C. Med., 031529 Oct. and my 050912 Oct. French Naval and Civil Authorities at Jibuti continue to press for 2 launches for Coastal Patrol Duties. Request confirmation that action is being taken to assist them. (Com. Aden, 071032Z to Admty).

U.S.S. GENERAL POPE, SS. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. The following moves of N.Z. personnel have been arranged and as such will require escort:-
(a) 1970 from Bombay to New Zealand in U.S.S. GENERAL POPE, B.A.D. Washington 271731 October, D. of S.T. 040125 and P.S.T.O. India 060750 refer.
(b) 4000 from N.Z. to M.E. in SS. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, speed 21 knots. This ship is to leave U.K. mid November for Australia via Panama and should be ready to leave Wellington about 30th December.
2. Request your intentions. (D.O.D. (F), 071912A to C. in C. E.F.)

A.F.D.55 A.F.D.55 800 tons R.C.D. for Landing Craft Base, India expected to leave U.K. end November. C.A.F.O.1677/44 refers.
2. Request destination port.
3. Drawings and detailed arrangements were forwarded by Air Mail letter M/D.C.O.M. 05148/44 dated 1st November. (D.C.O.D., 072032A to C. in C. E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 071351, Cominch, 071542Z.)

Russian Cancel A.M. 061830 not to all.
S.Cs. (2) As it is important that 5th and 6th groups should arrive U.K. by 22nd November so as to prepare for onward voyage to Russia, request you will sail them escorted by MONTSEERRAT and SEYCHELLES as soon as ready.
(3) BARBADOS may be used to escort tugs to Gibraltar any necessary delay being accepted.
(4) S.B.N.O.W.At., 032126, F.O.N.F. 051531 and C. in C. C.N.A. 051615 not to all refer.
(5) No decision has yet been made on para. 2 of A.M. 042355 October.
(D.O.D.(H), 071631A to S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.N.F.)

Convoy Group C.8 STONETOWN (S.O.), LEASIDE, HUMBERSTONE
H.X. 318. all H/F D/F, GUELPH, EDMUNDSTON sailing St. Johns N.F. at 1500Z/8th to relieve you in Westomp 043° 47' N., 052° 53' W. at 1400Z/9th.
(2) Chop 1400Z/10th.
(3) Further signal follows for W.4.
(F.O.N.F., 071758Z to S.E. Convoy H.X. 318.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (Extract) Serial No. 1021* being Digest Serial
No. 1021. number for November 6th.
(4) 6 Darwin based Liberators struck ship-building area Malili in northern Bone Gulf with quarter ton incendiaries plus demolition bombs midday causing severe damage and destroying one small coaster anchored off-shore. Several small sea truck ships and schooners observed in area.
(13) Third Fleet Carrier Bogmo planes reported one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, three (?VMWWO) destroyers, two transports, over 25 cargo vessels Manila (? Manila) Bay morning 5th; damaged inflicted. Photos showed 180 planes on (?Crark) Fields Jima 91 on Mabalajat while observations reported many more on other airfields around Manila. Task Force contacted Jap submarine off east coast Central Luzon before dawn.
(14) Next day United States submarines contacted two possibly three heavy cruisers off west coast Luzon between Manila Bay and Lingayan Gulf inflicting damage.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 071035.) Note by W.R.: Delay in circulation due to signal being originally received indecypherable.
* Digest for Nov. 5th was 1000. Digest for Nov.7th is numbered 1022.

/Repair ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Repair
of R.N.
ships in
Australian
ports.

(Extract)

(2) Unless repair personnel can be made available from U.K. shortage of manpower will restrict repairs to R.N. ships in Australian ports to self refits and the most urgent of defects which are beyond the capacity of ships staffs. Large action or other damage could only be repaired sufficiently to enable ships

to be sailed to fully manned and equipped yards.

(3) B.N.L.P. concurs.

(A.C.N.B., 071131Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. (B) (1) A/C X/162 attacked possible schnorkel with depth charges at 1543Z/5 in 60° 18' N., 20° 31' W. Previously reported as sighting only in A.M. 061124A para. B (2).

(2) Transit Mosquito A/C sighted possible U-Boat breaking surface course 100° at 1138Z/6th in 61°

00' N., 15° 38' W.

(3) A/C F/311 obtained good A.S.V. contact at 1304Z/6th in 60° 51' N., 02° 56' W.

(4) Ventura A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0949Z/6th in 36°

00' N., 07° 07' W.

(D.D.I.C., 071045A.)

U/B

dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 071406A, 071412A.)

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) The frigate CAICOS is to be fitted out for Radar anti-flying bomb patrol off the Low Countries.
(b) All minesweeping has been interfered with by the weather, but Ostend approach channel is reported as "reasonably clear of mines", and N.O.I.C. Ostend will accept 16 coasters, a tanker, a hospital ship, an M.T. ship and 5 L.S.Ts. tomorrow Thursday.

Channel.

2. The Seine blockship OLE WEGGER has been raised and taken into Rouen. There are now no restrictions on length for ships for Rouen. The draught restriction remains at 16 ft. at neaps and 22 ft. at springs.

West Coast
France.

3. At Brest the Approach Channel and anchorages in Rade de Brest and Rade Abri are now clear of mines.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Greece &
Aegean.

4. Sailing of submarines of the 1st Flotilla (British S/MS) for patrol is to cease forthwith. All submarines except Greeks at present on patrol in the Aegean are being recalled to Malta. (cf. 9th November).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Brittany
Vegetable
Export Fleet
for Red Cross
supplies to
France.

Red Cross supplies amounting to 350 tons which are urgently needed for Civil relief in France are being made available in U.K. by S.H.A.E.F. French Authorities with approval of S.H.A.E.F. have suggested using the Vegetable Export Fleet which is now lying idle in Brittany Ports for transport of these supplies.

2. Craft are of the fishing type and crews are available.

3. It is proposed that the ports of Southampton, Caen, St. Brieuc and St. Vaast should be used.

4. I consider it important to agree to this proposal if possible. Request your early remarks.

(A.N.C.X.F. 081125A to Admty).

British
inshore
night
fishing.

A.M. 061859 October. Your 311817 October. It is considered that possibility of U-boat activity in Channel need not result in complete ban on British inshore night fishing, particularly as this risk has been accepted by A.N.C.X.F. (Main) when he approved night fishing on French side of Channel.

2. Accordingly, it is proposed to permit British inshore night fishing in the area described in A.C. Dover's 131741 October under conditions laid down in A.N.C.X.F. (Main)'s 061752 (not to F.O.I.C. Portland). Request you will state areas in Portsmouth Command in which similar permission can be given under same conditions. Very early action is necessary in order to avoid political repercussions should it become widely known that greater facilities can be accorded to French fishermen than to British.

(A.C.N.S. (H), 081922A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Protection
for ships
at anchor
in the Downs.

A.M. 011145A November not to all addressees. The question of air protection for ships anchored in the Downs has been reviewed in conjunction with 71st A.A. Brigade and the following is the present situation:

(A) There is no heavy A.A. protection.

(B) There is only one four gun Light A.A. Battery established at Deal.

2. It is understood that there was little if any A.A. protection given to this anchorage in 1939-40 when many ships were anchored there.

3. It is for consideration whether it is now necessary to give increased protection, particularly of heavy A.A. guns, to the anchorage.

(V.A. Dover, 081238A to Admty).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Norwegian MOSS. H. Nor. M.S. Whaler MOSS previously used as gunnery training ship in U.S.A. now en route U.K. Ship is not converted and not P/S.
Norwegian Naval Headquarters state no objection to ship being allocated to this Command if wanted.
My telephone conversation Capt. Jacobsen R. Nor. Navy today refers.
(S. Nor. N.O. Scapa, 081000A to A.C.O.S.)

MYNGS Scapa arrival D.26 in MYNGS.
(A.C.O.S., 081040 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

RAJAH, BRUISER, ATTACKER, STALKER. A.M. 051706A and 071805A, neither to all. On crossing 049° 30' N., ATTACKER is to detach RAJAH and BRUISER escorted by TERMAGANT and TEAZER to proceed through position 060° Wolf Rock 4 and thence by standard route to Clyde.

(2) TERMAGANT and TEAZER are to part company from RAJAH and BRUISER on passing Lundy Island and proceed Portsmouth and Plymouth respectively.

(3) ATTACKER, STALKER and HUNTER escorted by Capt. (D) 24th D.F. in TROUBRIDGE with TENACIOUS will be joined by SCIMITAR at 1500A 9th in position to 049° 30' N., 005° 30' W., and are to proceed by Q.Z.S.607. ATTACKER is to signal amended time at R/V if necessary.

(4) ATTACKER and STALKER escorted by SCIMITAR are to enter Plymouth by Q.Z.S.601.

(5) HUNTER escorted by TROUBRIDGE and TENACIOUS continuing by standard route to A.3 buoy thence by Q.Z.S.552 to F. buoy and Q.Z.S.373 to Spithead. Destroyers part company at Nab Tower and continue by Q.Z.S. 624, 488, 513, 517, 459, 463, 577, 285 and 394 to the Nore, unless requiring to fuel at Portsmouth.

(6) C. in C. Nore is requested to issue further orders for onward passage of TENACIOUS to Tyne.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081308A to Ships concerned).

INDEFATIGABLE E.R.1826 proceeded down river to Tail of the Bank p.m. 8th November.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 081605 to Admty).

CARRON Subject to satisfactory completion of defects and D/F calibration, intend to sail CARRON for Scapa to work up on 15th November.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 081756A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

KENT BELLONA. Scapa departure F.O. 1st C.S. in KENT with BELLONA MYNGS, ZAMBESI, VERULAM, ALGONQUIN.
(A.C.O.S., 081846A to Admty. C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. W.A., H.M.S. PURSUER, H.Q.C.C. No. 18 Group C.C., R.A.(D), F.O.S/M, F.O. 10th C.S., N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

/Amiral...

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Movements. - Contd.

Amiral
d'Argenlieu
in LA
COMBATTANTE.

Amiral d'Argenlieu wishes to proceed from Newhaven at 0930 10th November to Dieppe where arrangements are being made for his onward passage.
2. C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Portsmouth are requested to sail F.S. LA COMBATTANTE accordingly. Ship is to be sailed to U.K. as required by C. in C. Nore after arrival at Dieppe.
(D.O.D. (H), 081945A to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth)
Request you will sail LA COMBATTANTE to arrive Newhaven p.m. tomorrow Thursday to await further orders.
(C. in C. Nore, 082311A to D.21).

Request you will detail and sail 2 destroyers to arrive Newhaven p.m. tomorrow Thursday to await further orders.
(C. in C. Nore, 082312A to D.16).

Operations.

Situation Report.

Cositintrep No.217. Part II.

Naval.

A. General.

Weather has prevented any sweeping in the Approaches of the Schelde Estuary so far 14 mines have been detonated in the Fresh water stretch of the Schelde above Hansweerd.

B. Captured Ports.

Antwerp. Survey unit reports that the Baarland crossing has a depth of 28 feet at M.L.W.S. and a width of 350 yards.
Rouen. The Blockship OLE WEGGER was raised yesterday and towed to Rouen. The length restriction on ships proceeding to Rouen has now been lifted. The draught restriction still remains at 22 feet M.H.W.S. and 16 feet M.H.W.N.

C. Unloading figures for 6th November
United States

<u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Cherbourg.	20	Nil	13832	6037
Beaches	85	24	2405	85
Brittany Ports	Nil	5	2506	Nil
Le Havre	4591	463	5323	Nil
Rouen	Nil	Nil	7667	Nil
Total	4696	492	31733	6122
<u>British</u>				
East Calvados	Nil	154	459	Nil
Dieppe	1099	Nil	3956	Nil
Boulogne	11	23	785	Nil
Ostend	Figures not yet received			
Total	1110	177	5200	Nil
Combined Total	5806	669	36933	6122

/Note...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval
(contd).

Note the following corrections to Cositintrep No.216. Brittany Ports stores figures should read 3902, Le Havre figures should read 2271, 497, (?HSRX)157, 2941.
(Ramsay signed Eisenhower, 080043).

Operations.

North Sea.

Patrols.

Patrol for tonight Wednesday 3 KRAKOWIAK, 4 EKINS, 5 WALPOLE, 6 PUFFIN, 7 CUBITT, 8 MALLARD, 10 KITTIWAKE, 17 FERNIE, 20 GARTH.

(2) N.F.2 to N.F.4 TORRINGTON with coastal force from BEEHIVE 15 TALYBONT, 16 THORNBOROUGH with coastal force from Ostend 19 CURZON with coastal force from Ostend. Coastal force from Ostend to rendezvous with CURZON and THORNBOROUGH at 1800A at N.F.5 buoy.

(C. in C. Nore, 080940A to usual addressees).

Unit of 3 M.T.Bs. of 53 Flotilla carrying out patrol F.C.1 vicinity Stein Bank Buoy 051° 41' N., 003° 26' E. unit to be on patrol at 1900A off at 0530A. Unit is not to go north of R.B.C.

(C. in C. Nore, 081127 to MANTIS).

Your 080940 para. 2.

1. TORRINGTON (F.K.1) M.T.B.491, 485 (F.K.2) 431, 488, (F.K.3).
2. Pass Boom 1600 leave patrol 0600.
3. TALYBONT (F.H.4).

(BEEHIVE, 081208A to C. in C. Nore).

The Nore and Dover disposition for night 8/9th November.

(1) KITTIWAKE patrolling East Tongue to Elbow buoys. TALYBONT patrolling N.F.4 to N.F.7 buoys. THORNBOROUGH patrolling N.F.7 to N.F.10 buoys. CURZON patrolling between 051° 35' N., 003° 12' E. and 051° 40' N., 003° 00' E. GARTH patrolling in Q.Z.S.468, 53 D buoy to latitude 051° 40' N., TORRINGTON patrolling N.F.2 to N.F.4 buoys.

(2) Coastal force unit F.B.2 off Ostend coastal force unit F.C.1 051° 41' N., 003° 26' E. Coastal Force unit F.C.3 Nieuport Bank Coastal force unit F.G.2 and F.G.3 with THORNBOROUGH. Coastal force unit F.H.2 and F.H.3 with CURZON. Coastal force unit F.K.2 and F.K.3 with TORRINGTON. Coastal force unit F.A.1 between 052° 37' N., 004° 32' E. and 052° 18' N., 004° 20' E.

Coastal force unit F.A.4 between 052° 18' N., 004° 20' E., and 052° 06' N., 004° 05' E. Coastal force unit F.B.6 between 052° 06' N., 004° 05' E., 051° 51' N., 003° 34' E.

(V.A. Dover, 081623 to usual addressees).

Coastal Force Patrol tonight Wednesday:

F.B.1 2 M.T.Bs. Z.16. F.B.3 2 M.T.Bs. 13. F.B.4 2 M.T.Bs. 10. F.B.5 2 M.T.Bs. 3. F.C.2 2 M.Ls. 53 Buoy. F.B.2 2 M.T.Bs. (NK?) QY 17 59. F.C.1 3 M.T.Bs. NK LV 4126. F.C.3 2 M.T.Bs. NK QY 11 31 A.M. One frigate 4 M.T.Bs. NK QY 1903 - 2120. F.G.1 Frigate 4? M.T.Bs. Patrol 16. F.H.1 Frigate 4 M.T.Bs. Patrol 19. F.A.1 4 M.T.Bs. LM PC 37 32 - 1820. F.A.4 5 M.T.Bs. LM PC 1820 - 0605. FB 6 6 M.T.Bs. LM PC 0605 - NK LV 5134.

(C. in C. Nore, 081719A to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

/Ostend...

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Roads.

My 201138A para. 1. Frigates and destroyers are not to anchor in Ostend Roads until receipt of further signal.
(C. in C. Nore, 081201A to D.16).

Walcheren
Expedition.

Personal for 1st Sea Lord.
Your 080116A. In view of vital need to clear Schelde as early as possible General Simonds decided to put in Breskens-Flushing attack on 1st November whether or not West Kappelle attack could go in.

2. Weather prospects for latter were unfavourable on 31st October as regards air support but sea conditions were not too bad. Knowing the unreliability of weather forecasts General Simmonds and I accordingly decided to take a chance and sail the West Kappelle force and to leave the final decision whether to assault or not according to local conditions to Captain Pugsley and Brigadier Leicester, Royal Marines, Commander 4th S.S. Brigade

3. Conditions next morning were generally more favourable than expected but all aircraft were grounded owing to fog. With full knowledge that they would initially lack close air support and air spotting for bombardment squadron they decided quite correctly to go on with the attack. The assault met heavy opposition from enemy coast defences all known batteries coming into action against them.

4. Gun support squadron under command of Commander Sellar stood close inshore and engaged these batteries at point blank range for upwards of four hours whilst L.C.T. beached in succession and discharged their amphibians.

5. This process was slow as they could only beach two at a time in the gap in the dyke previously breached by the R.A.F.

6. By their gallantry the support squadron drew most of the enemy's fire and the marines were landed successfully without heavy casualties.

7. Close air support increased during D day and air spotting became available during the afternoon but the landing of the three commandos at West Kappelle was completed before close air support was available in any strength and without air spotting. In my view the gallantry and determination of the craft crews particularly those of the gun support squadron was of the very highest order.

8. Equal gallantry and determination was shown by the naval beach party which had to work under gun and mortar fire throughout D-day and for a large proportion of D plus one.

9. I would also mention the very fine performance of the L.C.A. crews in the attack on Flushing. These craft after their initial success in landing the Commando in the dark were employed throughout the day in ferrying across the support brigade and in doing so were under almost continuous fire from guns and mortars and suffered losses in craft and personnel.

10. Information to date as to casualties in craft is as follows: Support Squadron: total engaged 25, sunk 9, damaged 8; L.C.T. D.T.C. engaged 47, sunk four, damaged, unknown.

11. Information to date as to casualties to personnel support squadron killed and missing officers 20, men 152, wounded officers and men 200. Remainder of force, including attack on Flushing, killed and missing officers two, men 19, wounded officers 16, men 55.
(A.N.C.X.F., 081247A to Admty).

/Berthing...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

Berthing of Wreck Dispersal vessels at Chatham. My 041627A, not to all addressees. It is now considered possible to berth nine Wreck Dispersal Vessels or store carriers at Short Reach, Chatham, providing draughts do not exceed 14 feet. If berths cannot be found elsewhere three additional ships could be accepted temporarily with slight inconvenience.

2. It is recommended that an officer should be appointed to administer these vessels while at Short Reach. Office accommodation can be provided.
(C. in C. Nore, 081641A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. Ref. C. in C. Portsmouth's 071807 M.T.Bs. 760 (S.O.) 747 and 731 of 66th Flotilla sailing at 1400 for patrol.
2. W/T watch on 2450 k/cs.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 081315A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force, E.G.6, C. in C. Portsmouth, BRILLIANT).
Night A/S patrols 8th/9th November.
P.A.S.I. para.5A. Search Areas as follows:
2. 6th E.G. Z.200, Z.201 South of Q.Z.S.590. Revert to operational control of C. in C. Plymouth.
3. HARGOOD, SPRAGGE, WATCHMAN, VIDETTE. Limits Q.Z.S. 490 and 49° 50' N., 01° 15' and 01° 30' W.
4. M.T.Bs. join and patrol with HARGOOD.
5. Senior Officers of units acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081422A to E.G.6, Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force, M.T.B.760).
Pins night 8th/9th November.
E.G.6th Z.200, Z.201 south of Q.Z.S.590. G.A.1 HARGOOD. G.A.2 WATCHMAN. G.A.3 VIDETTE. G.A.4 SPRAGGE, G.A.5 3 M.T.Bs. Limit of Q.Z.S.490 049° 50' N., 001° 15' W. and 001° 30' W.
(2) In future no Pins cover signal will be made. Disposition Portsmouth A/S Patrol will be signalled nightly in Portsmouth Night Patrol orders for information of interested authorities.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081549 to usual addressees).
Day A/S Patrols November 9th.
P.A.S.I. para. 5B. Search areas limits below.
(2) WATCHMAN, VIDETTE, SPRAGGE, H. Channel 01° 30' W. 50° 00' and 50° 25' N.
(3) M.T.Bs. H Channel 01° 54' W., 49° 47' and 50° 07' N.
(4) HARGOOD take patrol X.
(5) L'AVENTURE pass Gate 0900 relieve SPRAGGE.
(6) Three M.T.Bs. leave Portland 1400 relieve M.T.Bs. on patrol.
(7) SPRAGGE, M.T.Bs. return Harbour on relief.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081558A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force, L'AVENTURE, M.T.B.760).
Reference C. in C. Portsmouth's 071807 para. 2. M.T.Bs. returned owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 081653 to HARGOOD).
My 081558 para. 2. during absence of M.T.Bs. shift patrol 5 miles further south.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081728A to Portsmouth A/S patrol force, L'AVENTURE).

/E.G...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. E.G.31 is to leave H.X.316 as requisite to pass
(contd). through position
(AA) 49° 15' N., 7° 00' W. at 1700A/9 thence to
carry out zig-zag search between
(BB) 49° 54' N., 07° 41' W.
(CC) 49° 19' N., 08° 00' W.
(DD) 49° 40' N., 07° 00' W.
(AA) thence to (EE) 49° 15' N., 06° 00' W.
E.G.6 at 0600A/9 carry out zig-zag search between 180 Portland
Bill 15 and 200° Start 19 at 1300A/19, E.G.31 is to shift W/T
guard from C.N. to B.N.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081801A to E.Gs. 31 and 6).

L.C. berths Reference paras. 3 and 5 of A.M. 242321/September
at Plymouth. landing craft berths at Plymouth are very largely
occupied by U.S. Army tugs and barges. It will
not therefore be practicable to berth any large
numbers of landing craft until these tugs and
barges are moved. Suggest matter be taken up with Cot Etousa.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 081815A to Admty).

Chasseurs Your 291105 October. There is no objection to
for Fishery Chasseurs being employed on fishery control
control. should the French Navy so desire.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 081923A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Security of A.M. 032126 November. Amiral Nord has received
arms delivery information from French military authorities in the
to French Arcachon district that irresponsible members of
Forces. the F.F.I. under a leader who goes by the name of
Charlie are preparing to seize the arms with which
they believe IENA will return.
2. Amiral Nord requests that if she is in fact carrying arms
as well as the stores referred to in A.M. 032126 she should be
routed elsewhere than to Arcachon.
3. It seems preferable to retain the ship in Falmouth until
the position has been clarified and it is confirmed that she is
not engaged in unauthorised arms traffic.
4. C. in C. Plymouth 061901 November also refers.
(A.N.C.X.F., 081255A to Admty).
My 081255. Case has been referred to S.H.A.E.F. Mission to
France who requested ship to be held in U.K. for the present.
(A.N.C.X.F., 081845A to Admty and C. in C. Plymouth).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Suspected
U-boat.

H.X.316. EAST VIEW attacking firm A/S contact in position 051° 46' N., 007° 19' W. (S.O.E.G.C.6, 080303Z to C. in C. W.A.) My 080303A A.C.I. Article 39 para. 2.

- (A) EAST VIEW, TILLSONBURG.
- (B) 0258Z/8th November. (C) Asdic.
- (D) 051° 46' N., 007° 19' W. (E) 4.
- (F) Still hunting.
- (G) Nil contact aerial bottom. Wreck charts of area not held. Weather report 5762 0722. (S.O.E.G.C.6, 080510 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 080303A and my 080510A 10 attacks carried out using Squid depth charge and Hedgehog with no apparent result. Doubtful whistle effect heard.

(2) Contact lost and observant commenced at 0755A. Datum position will be buoyed.

(3) Asdic evidence is promising but request you assess probability of U/B conning tower position 051° 46' N., 007° 19' W. Weather Report 3678 2334 suitable.

(S.O.E.G.C.6, 080918A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 080918. Possible but unlikely. Continue search until dark tonight and then if not in contact proceed.

(C. in C. W.A., 081256A to S.O.E.G.C.6).

My 080918 and your 081256A. Contact regained. 9 further attacks made in same position. Have raised moderate quantity light oil. Intend to continue treatment until further evidence obtained or ammunition expended. In latter event and if still in contact propose to remain until relieved or otherwise ordered. Further report in due course weather report 4581 0683 suitable.

(S.O.E.G.C.6, 081355Z to C. in C. Plymouth).

Your 081355 approved. Endeavour to obtain Echo Sounder trace. If no further evidence by daylight tomorrow return to base

(C. in C. W.A., 081948A to S.O.E.G.C.6).

My 081355. Still in contact. 28 deliberate attacks on stationary target disclosed nothing but oil.

2. In absence of known non S/M or wrecks closer than 6 miles to this position, consider contact is a U/B either destroyed or damaged. Asdic ranges up to 2200 yards with all characteristics of bottomed S/M. TILLSONBURG obtains echo sounder traces of small 24 feet erection on sandy bottom at 43 fathoms. Contact still discharging small quantities of oil.

3. State of efficiency EASTVIEW 11 patterns depth charges nil Hedgehog. TILLSONBURG 6 patterns Squid nil Radar.

4. Commenced "Observant" at dark and intend conserving remaining ammo. until daylight.

5. In view of your 081256A request further instructions.

Position datum points 051° 48' 30" N., 007° 21' 30" W. Weather report 0050 0874 suitable.

(S.O.E.G.C.6, 082030A to C. in C. W.A.)

Escorts for
"Appian"

Your 071955. The escorts required from your Command for Appian will be considerably reduced in view of A.M. 071329, A.M. 071348 and A.M. 071900

(2) No more Ocean Escort Trawlers can be released at present without relief from the Portsmouth Command.

(3) Four Coastal Trawlers from your command may be exchanged for BOMBARDIER, GRENADIER, LANCER and FUSILIER. If this is found /practicable...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Escorts for "Appian".
(contd). practicable request you will arrange with C. in C. Portsmouth.
(D.O.D. (H), 081739A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Situation Report. Force 33 E.G.20 TORTOLA (S.O.) 2 frigates, and E.G.26 BEACON HILL, 2 frigates, operating off North Irish Coast.
E.G.4 BENTINCK, 4 frigates, patrolling vicinity 052° 02' 011° 03'.
Force 32 E.G.18 TOWY (S.O.) 3 escorts, with E.G.15 LOUIS, 4 frigates, and E.G.17 ASCENSION, 4 frigates, operating General Area north of Butt of Lewis. Add to my 081215. Delete all reference T.A.160.
(C. in C. W.A., 081443A Situation Report).

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols. Intend carrying out VP 74.
V.P. 74 (1) 0630A 9th Nov. (2) Not later than 2000A 9th Nov. (3) Not later than 0600A 13th Nov. (4) More than 20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 13th Nov. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 058° Noss Head Bressay.
(9) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081113A to A.C.O.S.)
(2) 061° 45' N., 004° 43' E., from G1 not more than 20 knots.
(3) Detailed instruction.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 081117A to A.C.O.S.)
Times Zone A. Submarines positions 0800 9th November and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) ULA Fro Havet north of 63° 50' N., on patrol.
(B) VENTURER 69° 38' N., 14° 20' E. diving by day to patrol off Andfiord.
(C) UTSIRA on patrol within 15 miles north or south of 58° 45' N., 01° 15' E.
(D) SCYTHIAN patrolling within 15 miles north and south of 57° 35' N., 01° 15' E.
(F.O.S/M 081754A to Admty).

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Operation C.E.1. Cancel my 011859 and my 041305 not to all.
2. Further orders follow.
(C. in C. W.A., 080005A to S.O.E.G.18).

/Patrol...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Patrol. Proceed forthwith to establish Gamma search between position $59^{\circ} 08' 06'' 19'$ and position $59^{\circ} 21' 06'' 48'$.
2. Attention is called to Q.Z.X.170, 854 and 233.
3. W/T and R/T call signs as for Force 32 (operation C.E. one) are to be retained until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 080010A to S.O.E.G.18).
18th E.G. close $059^{\circ} 35' 00'' 30'$ where aircraft sighted Schnorkel at 0840. Keep clear of Q.Z.X.170 and 854.
15th E.G. established Gamma search between $059^{\circ} 09' 00'' 22'$ and $059^{\circ} 22' 00'' 57'$.
(3) 17th E.G. Gamma search between $059^{\circ} 22' 00'' 57'$ and $059^{\circ} 40' 00'' 22'$.
(C. in C. W.A., 081109A to S.O.E.G.s 18, 17, 15).
18th Escort Group arrived Datum Point of aircraft marker at 1115A and has since swept in area enclosed by lines joining the following points.
(A) $059^{\circ} 40' 00'' 18'$. (B) $059^{\circ} 48' 00'' 56'$.
(C) $059^{\circ} 31' 00'' 07'$. (D) $059^{\circ} 24' 00'' 29'$.
(2) Intend establishing Gamma Patrol between following positions:-
 $059^{\circ} 29' 00'' 21'$ and $059^{\circ} 41' 00'' 04'$.
(3) Suitable.
(S.O.E.G.18, 081720 to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.17 My 071034 sailed speed of advance 12 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 080145A to A.C.O.S.)

Force 32 (1) Ships addressed form Force 32 with S.O. 18 E.G. Senior Officer.
(2) Communications as in operation C.E. appendix one except that Swordfish aircraft are not operating and guard on 5610 k/cs is not required.
(3) Except as in para. 2 above C.E. orders are not in force.
(C. in C. W.A., 081146A to E.Gs., 18, 15, 17).

Suspected U-boat. Trawler reports torpedo fired in $058^{\circ} 07' 00'' 18'$ at 1255. Search area until R.U.141 has passed.
(C. in C. W.A., 081456A to S.O.E.G.17).
My 081456. Appreciate U-boat will retire to the northward.
(C. in C. W.A., 081515A to S.O.E.G.17).
Your 081945. Nothing to report after careful search from $058^{\circ} 05' N.$, to Butt of Lewis and from Coastline to 15 miles off shore. Am proceeding to comply with your 081109. Expected time of arrival patrol 0300A/9.
(S.O.E.G.17, 082130A to C. in C. W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Patrol. P.C.S. of 3 enemy escort vessels 61° 44' N., 5° 10' E., stationary. Enemy has been severely damaged.
(A/C RABD 081150A to 18 Grp.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Barents, Greenland, and Norwegian seas reconnaissance. German air force activities October 16th 31st as reported by Russia.
(A) Zenit and XL recco. flights. Barents Sea 18th (2 A/C) 19th, 24th. Greenland Sea 17th 2 A/C, 18th 5 A/C, 21st 5 A/C, 24th, 26th, 30th, (6 A/C at various times).
(b) Other recco and fighters activity. A/C have been reported off North west coast Norway as follows: 19th 3 A/C, 27th 2 A/C, 28th 4 A/C.
(c) No repetition no course (corrupt groups).
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 080906A to C. in C. H.F.)

Fighter Direction Frigate for Anti-Flying Bomb patrol. A.M. 050219 and C. in C. Nore's 071845 neither to all.
CAICOS is allocated temporarily to C. in C. Nore. Request you will sail her to Harwich when ready.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 081315A to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

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in North
Channel.Operation C.G.S.A. one completed.
(APOLLO 080833A to C. in C.W.A.)I have been further considering the expected
early renewal of a strong U-boat offensive in the
focal areas of the Northwestern Approaches.(2) Until we are able, with far more certainty,
than at present to detect U-boats lying in wait on the bottom in
the grain of the convoys close in where evasive routing
is not possible it seems that an intense mining policy is
essential so as to deny such areas to the enemy.(3) It is considered that mining policy on an adequate scale
should be drawn up as soon as possible.Whether the mining should be of the ground or moored type
requires consideration.(4) The capacities of APOLLO and MIRANDA are small and in view of
the probable necessity for the laying of large fields quickly it
seems most desirable that the large M/Ls. AGAMEMNON and MENESTHEUS
should be retained in home waters for the time being.

(C. in C.W.A. 081004A to Admty.)

Sitrep.

40th M/S Flotilla - No sweep owing to weather

Havre - No sweep owing to weather.

M.M.S.22, 202 - Static sweep Rouen Basins contin-
uing Basin Aux Patrole swept LAL/SA 75 per cent.

(Capt. M/S East 080945A to C.T.F.125.)

IGMS, N.F.12 to N.F.13, 4 actuations. N.F.10 to N.F.13
extending 2 cables either side of centre line, 2 actuations.
Channel widened 3 to 7 cables wither side of centre line once.
All M M/S 06 151 B lent to N.O.I.C. Ostend for sweep of approach
channel.

(Capt. M/S F.B. 081758A to C. in C. Nore.)

Further 3½ cables on East side and 3 cables on west side
of B.S. 20 completed.

(2) Another 5 cables swept across lines BS 19 and 33.

(S.O. M/S 081915A to Capt. M/S Grimsby.)

French
Coastal
SweepsPass Spithead Gate at 2200A today 8th and proceed
to Dieppe to join GORGON and TATTOO.(2) Route Q.Z.S. 373, 624, 488, 575, 576 speed
12 knots. E.T.A. 0700A 9th.

(3) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081010A to GRECIAN.)

On completion of operation ordered by my 300050 your force
is to remain Ostend to assist local M/S force and to maintain
sweep of channel between N.F.8 and N.F.13 buoy and to widen it as
much as possible. Channel N.F.8 to N.F.10 buoy is to be reswept
LL/SA.(2) Com. Belgium is requested to inform me when he will be ready
to take over sweeping of the channel between N.F.8 and N.F.13
buoy and what additional forces will be required at Ostend for
this A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 021225 October not to all addresses refers.(3) It seems likely that additional berthing accommodation for
M/S in Ostend Harbour will be required.

(4) Capt. M/S F.B. acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 081603A to Capt. M/S F.B.)

Summary of sweep programme for Thursday 9th November.

/(a)...

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Coastal
Sweeps.
(Contd.)

- (a) 42nd M/F (corrupt group) to Boulogne to continue operations as arranged.
 (b) 119th M/F Patrol area to westward Cap de la Heve.
 (c) 150th M/F Q.Z.S.595 to H.V.30 Buoy and Q.Z.S. 600.
 (Capt. M/S East 081748A, to C.T.F.125.)

Clearance
of Ostend

My 072305, paragraph 2 postponed 24 hours. M.S.18 acknowledge.
 (C. in C. Nore, 081455A to M/S 18, Capt. M/S F.A.)
 Sail to comply with my 081455 and report E.T.A. as early in advance as possible. Cancel sweeps in accordance with my 072230.
 (C. in C. Nore, 082220A to S.O. M.F.18)

Clearance
of Schelde

At a Minesweeping conference today with Captain M/S F.A., it was agreed that from experience gained so far there is no reason to believe that 28 sweeping days for the initial clearance of the main channel of the river Schelde can be improved upon. C. in C. Nore 151012 refers.
 (2) To ensure that ships are ready should there be improvement on this date it is suggested that planning and loading of ships should be based on ships being ready to be called forward to arrive by 25th November.
 (3) It may be reasonably safe to receive small ships earlier than this date. This situation could be met by diversion of coasters from Ostend or Dieppe but it is hoped that this will not be adopted as the passage of any ships will interfere with the final clearance.
 (4) Now that so satisfactory a start has been made I am anxious that a complete clearance is made before ships are accepted. The few days saved by a premature acceptance of ships will be far outweighed by any accidental blockage in the narrow parts of the channel.
 (5) I have been questioned on all these points by 21 Army Group and Com. Z. General Lee, and have replied verbally and with reserve on these lines.
 (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 082009A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy IntelligenceEnemy troop
transports
in Moss.

German Military Transport from Norway 26th October to 31st October see my 021741, owing to closing of Oslo Harbour by mines between 26th October November 1st military transports have operated from Moss.
 Following Military shipments have been reported

from Moss:-

- (a) DANZIG sailed 27th October with nearly 3,000 men, guns and horses.
 (b) See paragraph one of my 021741. WINRICH, VON KNIPRODE and MOLTKEFELS both lay in Moss 29th October having disembarked 4,000 men, horses and cars from Aarhus. MOLTKEFELS was expected to load cars and material.

/Note: ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy troop transports in Moss. (Cont.)
Note: 37 extra trains were expected to arrive Moss during last few days of October with troops for shipment to German controlled ports. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 081532 to Admty.)
O.I.C. Comment. P.R.U. of Moss on 4th November revealed concentration of shipping (including several troopers) in the port and neighbouring anchorage. There was also a marked increase of rolling stock, including an abnormal number of passenger coaches.

U-boat Depot Ship at Kilbotn, Harstad.
Report graded B.2 of 7th November.
U-boat depot Ship BLACK WATCH, 1 small tanker, and 1 small M/V anchored in Kilbotn, South of Harstad. Torpedo net laid out and netlayer about 3000 GRT being employed.
N.I.D. Comment; These vessels have probably transferred from U-boat base at Hammerfest. (D.D.I.C., 081736A to C. in C. Home Fleet, A.C.O.S., C.S.1, C.S.10, C. in C. Rosyth, A.O.C. in C. C.C., Cdre. H.F. Destroyer, F.O.S/M.)

U-boats

Suspected U-boats.
Contact reported by SPRAGGE 0228Z 8th November considered non-S/M but one U-boat may be in central Channel. Another probably approaching from West but unlikely to have crossed Long. 08° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 081418A to Cominch, S. and A. Area C.)

Navigational

Cross-Channel buoyage.
Intend sailing PATRICIA escorted by SQUIRREL at 1130 today to lay NF 11, 12, 13 B.Y.M.S. sweeping LL/SA ahead.
(S.O.M/S, 081045A to S.O. M/S F.A., C. in C. Nore.)
My 061210*.
Cancel paras. 2, 3 and 4.
(2) Weather permitting sail from Small Downs to pass N.F.3 Buoy at 0730A tomorrow Thursday and proceed to established H.K.4 Buoy.
(3) Sweep ahead of T.H.V. in G. formation from N.F.5 Buoy via N.F.8 buoy to established position and speed.
(4) On completion return Small Downs reporting expected time of arrival. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 081552A to S.O.M.F.7.)
* Laying of H.K.4 Buoy.

Port Facilities

Ostend
Cancel my 071809. Can now accept for Thursday 9th 16 coasters, 4 with stores and 4 not exceeding 11 feet, tankers with 5500 tons M.T.80 1200 tons aviation, 1200 Derv. One hospital ship. One M.T. ship. Five L.S.T. providing these requirements are met can accept for Friday 10th 6 coasters, 3 of which should not exceed 11

/feet...

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Ostend. feet. Tanker with 5500 tons M.T.80. One hospital
(Contd.) carrier. One personnel ship. 5 L.S.T. agreed
P.E.C.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 081056 to A.N.C.X.F., Exfor,
C. in C. Nore.)

Approach Channel reasonably clear of mines. Port now open
and can accept ships mentioned in my 081056 tomorrow Thursday
9th a.m. tide.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 081816 to C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F.,
Com. Belgium.)

Antwerp Admiralty's 021246. Consider combination of
indicator loop system and a minimum of 8 asdic
fitted H.D.M.Ls. will provide best defence.
(2) Booms and nets are likely to embarrass
shipping in winter weather without providing a high degree of
protection and are not required.
(3) Com. Belgium has proposed use of H.D.A. but it is believed
that these will not detect small craft.
(4) Seaworthy shallow draught Asdic fitted craft will be
necessary to patrol outside estuary.
(A.N.C.X.F. 081150A to Admty.)
A.M. 041123A para. 3.
T.I.D. will suit requirements admirably and will be of great
assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 081435A to Admty.)

Boulogne A.N.C.X.F.'s 081254 (not to HORNET) no M.S. M.L.
are immediately available at Portsmouth.
Request you sail 2 M.S. M.L. from Havre or Rouen
to Boulogne.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081506A to C.T.F.125.)

Brest Approach channel anchorage in Rade de Brest and
Rade Abri cleared vide Admiralty message Q.Z.S.617.
Clearance of Port de Commerce cannot be undertaken
till P party is available. No date can be given
for P party.
(C.T.F.125, 081559A to C.T.G.125.14.)

Casualties and Defects

LAVENDER E.T.A. Falmouth 1430A request Engineer Officer and
Port A/S Officer board us on arrival.
(LAVENDER 080825Z to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
Report P.C.S. and condition.
(C. in C.W.A. 080929A to LAVENDER.)

L.S.T.420 L.S.Ts. 405, 367, 320 and GREENFLY with survivors
ex L.S.T.420 returned and proceeded Tilbury.
(Com. Southend, 081021A to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)
Following report on loss of L.S.T.420.

- (1) Ostend port closed owing to N.W. gale a.m. 7th Nov.
(2) L.S.T.420 mined in approach channel in position OD 4, 104°
- 7 cables at 1539/7th.

/(3)...

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

L.S.T.420
(Contd.)

- (3) Trawler GREENFLY despatched from anchorage to investigate at 1545.
(4) L.S.T.405 reported L.S.T.420 in 2 halves at 1649. L.S.T.320 and 367 also remained in the vicinity to pick up survivors.
(5) Accurate number of survivors not known as L.S.T. and GREENFLY returned to U.K.
(6) Stern of wreck sighted at first light a.m. Wednesday 8th and ARB despatched. 1 survivor was recovered from propeller guard of wreck
(7) Wide area searched by 2 Walrus Aircraft, 6 A.R.B. and 2 M.Ls. 36 bodies recovered names to be forwarded later. (N.O.I.C. Ostend 082008A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

L.C.A.551

Following received from Capt. i/c Burnham addressed to Cdre. Southend. Begins:- Regret to report L.C.A.551 of Westcliff Base Flotilla when on night patrol got into difficulties last night due to the high wind and sea. Craft finally filled and sank in River Blackwater crew reaching a tug in the vicinity. Crew were taken off by R.A.S.C. craft, from West Mersea, no injuries. Following from N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea refers:- "L.C.A.551 sank at 0500 today 358° 1 mile 4 cables from St. Peters Chapel, River Blackwater, in 9 fathoms low water. Landing craft was holed against vessel to which it had secured. 070530A." Salvage does not appear possible. Report on the incident follows. 071935A November. Ends. (Com. Southend, 081054A to Admty.)

ML.916
THE EARL

see p210

THE EARL struck wreck whilst anchoring in Rade Carnot and sustained bottom damage. Engine room stoke-hold and bunkers flooded ship beached and pumped out. Cargo appears to be intact and ship will be berthed today p.m. and discharged. Temporary repairs being carried out here and anticipated that ship will be able to return U.K. under own power. Dry docking will be necessary in U.K. (S.S.T.O. Boulogne, 081630A to D. of S.T.)

Shipping and Convoys

Transfer of
L.S.Ts.

Urdis 071959A.

- (1) Concur in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. Will arrange to sail ships to ports as desired to arrive about 14th November.
(2) Concur your proposals paragraph 5 concerning U.S. L.S.Ts. 346 and 380 which are now complete and ready for turnover at Southampton.
(3) U.S. L.S.T. 383 now at Plymouth has damaged shaft alley and propeller shaft but no drydocks available this area in immediate future. Ship able to proceed on one engine. Recommend U.S. L.S.T.383 be sailed with tug escort to Clyde or Cardiff for

/transfer...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Transfer of L.S.Ts. (Contd.) transfer and completion of repairs. This in accordance with P.D.(Q) Agreement reached in conference at Admiralty 18th September. (4) In making transfers desire keep turnover ports to minimum in order to facilitate supervision by this Command. (Comphibsukay, 081215A to Admty.)

Anti-sabotage guards in Spanish waters. K.M.S.68. All ships bound South coast Spain and Spanish Moroccan ports are to enter Gibraltar to embark anti-sabotage guards before proceeding to final destination. (C. in C.W.A. 081550A to Commodore K.M.S.68.)

ILE DE FRANCE My 081619 swept channel runs from 290° Trevoze Head 5 to 298° Hartland Point 4.5. Your Radar position 322° Trevoze Head 21 at 1626. Enter Channel at Trevoze Head.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 081628A to ILE DE FRANCE.)
Proceed to position X and await orders. Acknowledge. (D.S.O. 081705 to ILE DE FRANCE.)

If you have not already turned proceed to position West of Smalls.

(D.S.O. 081735 to ILE DE FRANCE.)

Your 081735 am proceeding west of the Smalls and thence northwards by prescribed route to destination. Your 081705 acknowledged.

(ILE DE FRANCE, 081800Z to Admty.)

On arrival of ILE DE FRANCE request you will investigate and report by signal why the ship:

(a) Failed to follow the searched channel from Trevoze Head, Admty. 061155 refers.

(b) Failed to act on Admiralty Message 081705 and C. in C. Plymouth 081619 and 081644.

(2) Relevant signals are being passed to F.O.I.C. Greenock. (C. in C.W.A. 081950A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

At 1622 today Wednesday SS. ILE DE FRANCE was ordered to steer East and subsequently at 1647 was ordered to steer south-east.

Signals were broadcast in P/L on broadcast BN and CN Plymouth port wave 2300 kc/s 500 Kc/s and 2410 kc/s.

(3) Further signals were broadcast on broadcast BN ordering SS. ILE DE FRANCE to establish communication on 2700 kc/s.

(4) Request you will investigate why SS. ILE DE FRANCE failed to comply with signal T.O.O. 1619 and T.O.O. 1647 and did not communicate on 2700 kc/s.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 082010A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

E.O.C. and O.E.C. Convoys. Urdis 071520 is obviously misdirected in view Com. Zone despatch 021645A. Com Zone was informed of convoy suspension by Mydis 021814. Following is however specific information in reply to your statements.

(1) Suspension of E.O.C./O.E.C. convoys arises from re-organisation of Channel convoy system. Admty. 011608 and preceding Admiralty deliberations refer.

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

E.O.C. and
 O.E.C.
 Convoys
 (Contd.)

(2) Reported submarine activity in channel need for protection of anchorages and impracticability of this movement which was repeatedly pointed out precluded withdrawal of escorts from my screen merely to convoy at this critical time irregular sailings of Y tankers. Mydis 281615 to A.N.C.X.F. repeated to Admiralty refers.

(3) Warnings of the impracticability of supplying Morlaix by small tanker from Cherbourg and alternative suggestions have been repeatedly made for more than two months culminating with Mydis 231909 October to Com. Zone. Information received from A.N.C.X.F. on 3rd November indicates S.H.A.E.F. Petroleum Board decided on acceptable alternative of mooring hulk in Morlaix Road for reception of M.T. 80 from large tanker. Having regard to importance of Morlaix requirements and interruption in small tanker movement which was inevitably bound to occur delay in adopting alternatives suggested which have stemmed from close practical observation of Port operations weather conditions and operating capabilities of Y tankers is not understood.

(4) Tankers are sailed in consultation with H.Q. Com. Zone and its base commands. Sailing of tankers from Morlaix to Havre without touching United Kingdom obviously impossible. In any case assignment rests with Searail, S.H.A.E.F., Com. Zone.

(5) Statements of wasteful voyages independent action and others made or inferred in despatch under reply cannot be substantiated on thorough investigation.

This and other instances demonstrate urgent need for closer co-ordination between Agencies concerned in order that proper and prompt attention will be given to practical experience and observations in the allocation and movement of tankers to Far Shore ports.

(C.T.F.125, 081713A to Searail 11.)

C.O.C. and
 O.C.C.
 Convoys.

Admiralty Dispatch 011608 and 042344.
 Mydis 021711.

(1) Recommend C.O.C. and O.C.C. convoys navigate French Coastal Channels in daylight. Submit following Schedule for your consideration.
 Plymouth depart 1700A, Position "Z" (in Q.Z.S.566), arrive 0700; Roscoff arrive 1430. British Trawler escort to Lay Over and depart following day Roscoff 0930, Position "Z" 1700 arriving Falmouth 0800 on third day.
 U.S. P.C. to rendezvous C.O.C. Convoy at "Z" and Escort Granville Section to arrive Cancale 1630.
 B.P.C. to sail from Cancale at 0730 following day with O.C.C. Joiners to R/V position "Z", at 1700.
 After R/V P.C. to remain on patrol as screen for O.C.C. and C.O.C. Convoys rendezvousing at position "Z" 0700 to escort Granville Breakers from C.O.C.

In event of Granville joiners for O.C.C. not effecting R/V ships will continue to Falmouth with P.C. escorting until relieved by C. in C. Plymouth. In event of C.O.C. convoy not being met by P.C. at position "Z" Granville section will detach and proceed independently to destination, C.T.G. 125.2, affording such screen cover as possible. Trawler escort to continue to Roscoff even if no ships for Morlaix Area.

(2) If schedule agreed request you promulgate date operative.
 (C.T.F.125, 081743 to Admty.)

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Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN. If not in contact proceed forthwith with despatch to R/V U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN in approx. position (H) (34°) $36'$ N., 012° $03'$ W. at 2300A today Wednesday.
(2) - (4) U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN details of route to Gibraltar and arrangements.
(F.O.G.M.A., 081025A to WOLVERINE.)
Your 081025A understood. Am complying. Further signal follows. Commorseafon pass to C.F.A.W. 15.
(WOLVERINE, 081245A to F.O.G.M.A.)
Informing GENERAL W.A. MANN of her intentions.
(WOLVERINE, 081415A.)

U/B contact. Proceed with all dispatch to investigate disappearing contact reported by A/C in 035° $16'$ N., 007° $35'$ W. at 1145A today Wednesday.
C.M.S.F. pass to C.F.A.W. 15.
(F.O.G.M.A., 081223A to Group 1, Group 2.)

South Atlantic

B.Y.M.S. sailing to Gibraltar. B.Y.M.S. 2244 and 2043 arrived 1415/8th November.
(2) Intend sailing B.Y.M.S. 2251, 2264, 2244 and 2043 1200/9th November by British Standard Coastal Route to Gibraltar O.R. to U.K. Speed 9 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000Z/17th. Your 051230Z refers.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 081426Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)
My 081426 cancel para. (2).
Due to foul bottom 2043 cannot reach Gibraltar even with deck cargo of (fuel?). Request permission to sail group to Las Palmas to enable 2043 to fuel or alternatively to sail group to Dakar for quick docking of 2043.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 081623Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)
Your 081623Z. Group is to be sailed in accordance with your 081426, but calling Casablanca to refuel. If 2043 cannot (?reach) Casablanca spare fuel is to be embarked in remainder of group and transferred to 2043 at Port Etienne.
(N.O.I.C. W.Af., 081950Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Gambia.)

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8.11.1944

WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Aegean- (Extract.) G.I/58572 cipher 8th November. 488101.
intelligence. South Aegean Summary up to 0900/8.
Conclusions. Shipping activity reviving
Dodecanese, Despite sinking of supply ship from
Leros probably bound Rhodes enemy expected perse-
vere this traffic.

Indicates intention maintain contact with beleagued Garrisons
Dodecanese and Crete by long range transport A/C.
(C. in C. M.E. 081130B)

UNSWERVING. From position 034 degs. 28' 026 degs. 40' at 1955A/
10th proceed at 6 knots through -
A 034 degs. 18' 024 degs. 01' B. 035 degs. 18'
014 degs. 10' C. 035 degs. 34' 014 degs. 11'

thence by Q.B.B. 123.

(B) To arrive Marsaxette 1002A/15th.

(Capt. (S) 1, 081151A to UNSWERVING)

Intend TRASHER and SEASCOUT Malta at 1703A/10th (route and speeds
Port Said).

(Capt. (S) 1, 081201A)

BONN. Request you will arrange for ex German Hospital
Carrier BONN now at Bari with prize crew on board
to be inspected and report made whether suitable
for service as an unrecognized Hospital Carrier

DR(R) or Troop Carrier. Request your recommendations as to ser-
vice in which to be employed. F.O.T.A.L.I's 061631 not to all
refers.

(C. in C. Med. 081157A to P.S.T.O.Med.)

CURIE. Request you consult French Admiralty and signal
their proposals regarding future of CURIE observing
that on return to Malta from present patrol S/M
will no longer be required for operations inside

the Med.

(2) CURIE is due to arrive in U.K. not later than March 1945 for
refit.

(C. in C. Med. 081252A to F.O.W.M.)

KING GEORGE V Intend that KING GEORGE V should carry out
to bombard short bombardment of Lakida Battery Melos and ship
Milos. is being sailed to Alex. for briefing. C. in C.
E.F. has agreed verbally and this operation would
undoubtedly benefit morale.

(C. in C. Med. 081256A to Admty)

No objection to your 081256 provided that :-

- (a) Ship is not taken into mineable waters.
- (b) reduced charges are used to minimise wear of guns.
- (c) rounds fired are strictly limited.

(V.C.N.S. 081933A to C. in C. Med.)

/General ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

General Ristic's broadcast.

Your JCS.763 Maclean is of opinion that broadcast was not intended to apply to Yugoslavs in R.A.F. V.R. and has signalled Tito advising a re-broadcast stating so.
(Air Min. 081408Z to H.Q. M.A.A.F.)

Future of Palermo.

M.W.T.R. Med state that shortage of staff may prevent difficulties. A.M. 021909 / para. III M.W.T.R. is representing this to M.O.W.T. (C. in C. Med. 081404A to Admty) / Palermo to be used primarily for repair and refits of Merchant ships.

ADRIAS.

Request ADRIAS be sailed to Alexandria to arrive 14th. C. in C. Med. 071441, not to R.A. Alex. refers.
(F.O.L.E.M. 081428B to Greek C. in C. Alex. S.B.N.O. Greece.)

UNTIRING for U.K. and 6 S/Ms for E.F.

Intend UNTIRING sails from Malta at 1702A/13 Q.B.B.123 (B) thence through (route).
(2) Speed 9 knots.
(3) S.O. S/Ms. Gibraltar is requested to sail UNTIRING to U.K. as convenient.
(S.1, 081511A)

S.1 is requested to report intentions regarding sailing of the six S/Ms in para. 1 A of A.M. 042024+ to Eastern Fleet and sailing of UNTIRING to U.K.

(2) C. in C. E.F. is requested to signal destinations for S/Ms allocated to E. Fleet.

(3) Admiralty is requested to signal destination for UNTIRING S.1 171104.

(C. in C. Med. 081732A)

+ Allocation of 1st S.F. to Eastern Fleet, U.K. etc.

S/M Aegean patrols.

Sailing of First Flotilla S/Ms for patrol is to cease forthwith.

(2) S/Ms except Greeks at present on patrol or standing by in the Aegean are to be recalled to Malta as soon as convenient.

(C. in C. Med, 081722A to S.1, Info. Admty, F.C. S/M. V.A.M. C.S.15, F.O.L.E.M., S.B.N.O. Greece.)

VIGOROUS sailing at 1402A/9th and proceeding through Khios Strait, Samos Strait, Turkish territorial waters and North of Rhodes to arrive position 034 degs. 28' 026 degs. 40' at 1203A/11.
CURIE sailing at 1903A/9th and proceed through Samos Strait and above route to arrive position 034 degs. 28' 026 degs. 40' at 1001A/11th.

(Capt. (S) 1, 082354A to VIGOROUS, CURIE, Info: F.O.L.E.M., Comaro 1, C.S.15, C.F.B. Castelorizo.)

ULSTER QUEEN.

Request you sail H.M.S. ULSTER QUEEN as convenient to Gibraltar for onward routing to U.K.
(C. in C. Med, 081827A to F.O.L.E.M.)

/SWIFTSURE...

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Wednesday

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FORIEGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

SWIFTSURE.

(Gr. omitted) is requested to sail SWIFTSURE p.m.
9th to Port Said for Canal transit my 062136 not
to all addressees refers.
(2) S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to onward sail
ship to Aden for E.F.
(F.O.L.E.M.081846B)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat in Palk Str. Approaches. Reference sinking of MARION MOLLER.
(1) Search of immediate area on sixth by R.A.F. and destroyers and in the direction of possible retirement on seventh by R.A.F. both unsuccessful.
(2) A.S.V. contact mentioned in my 070347Z addressed A.I.G. 391 assessed as good indicates U-Boat may still be in coastal area. Night seventh/eighth and day eighth searching by R.A.F. with destroyers supporting and latterly H.M.S. BEGUM co-operating.
(C. in C. E.F. 080447Z)

U-Boat dispositions. No fresh information. Scale in all areas remains unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 080455Z)

S/M patrol zones. My 251121 October para. 1 for 256 degs. read 236 degs.
(S.O.S/Ms. E.F. 080520Z)

SS. MARION MOLLER. Ship sank. My 060917 refers. Entire ships company picked up.
(C. in C. E.F. 080541Z)

SIRDAR, patrol report. SIRDAR 4th Far East 1st South West Pacific patrol was blank.
(C. in C. E.F. 080546Z)

U-Boat dispositions. SS. MARION MOLLER torpedoed in vicinity of 010 degs. 00' N. 081 degs. 05' E. Area V.P. one becomes X 5 P. V.P. 2 remains Y.2. C.B.2 East of 080 degs. E. Y Radar. Other Areas unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 060917Z)

ENGADINE. On completion of unloading and essential machinery maintenance (H.M.S. ENGADINE 221045 Oct. refers) request you will sail ENGADINE by route in my 0412556 to Aden for onward passage to U.K.

Admiralty 021511 Oct. refers.
(2) Signals quoted not to all addressees.
(C. in C. E.F. 081237 to N.O.I.C. Cochin)

Diego Suarez. Your 0514+ (55) para. 9 December 1st.
(2) It will however by necessary to retain ?(personnel)? (while) operating.
(3) (Corrupt group) until R.A.F. effect technical alterations required to implement proposals (If approved) in C. in C. E.F. 051235 (not to C. in C. S.A.)
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 081432 to N.O.I.C.E.Af.)
+ Report date on which transfer of Diego Suarez W/T Station to French Navy.

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8.11.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

LOCH ASSYNT,
LOCH
TORRIDON.

Your 211222 October. Not anticipated that LOCH ASSYNT and LOCH TORRIDON will arrive on station until August and September 1945, respectively. (Hd. of M. 081918A to C. in C. E.F.)

M.Ls. for
Jibuti.

Your 071032Z/November. No action will be taken by Admiralty unless matter is raised by Naval France Para. (2) of F.O.W.M's 201238A refers. (A.C.N.S.(F), 082251A to Com. Aden.)

China

China.

Extract. Following from 14 Air Force 5/6 Nov. (5) China Coast. Many reports continue of reinforcement and strengthening of Jap garrisons along China Coast. (B.A.S. Washington, 081715Q).

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8.11.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U-boat
search

LA SALLE, ETTRICK carrying out square search around disappearing Radar contact in 049° (? 26' or 38') north 066° 00' W. (E.G.27 081030Z)

BIRMINGHAM

B.A.D.'s 021514 to Admty. only. When ready about November 26th B.A.D. is requested to sail BIRMINGHAM for Portsmouth. (2) On arrival ship to be completed to full complement and 14 days leave given to personnel now in the ship. (3) On completion C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail BIRMINGHAM for Scapa to join the Home Fleet. (V.C.N.S. 080233A.)

Russian
S.Cs.

Fifth and Sixth Groups Russian S.Cs. must be ready to sail St. Johns 14th in order to reach U.K. by 22nd vide A.M. 071631. (2) Minimum total 30000 Imperial gallons diesel required to refuel S.Cs. request SEYCHELLES and MONTserrat be fitted for oiling and that requisite oil fuel tanks be cleaned and prepared. Necessary adaptors can be made at St. Johns. (F.O.N.F. 081338Z to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

N.S.H.Q.
submarine
Attack
and
Sighting
Summary.

No report since my 041434. C. E.G.27 disappearing Radar Contact before 0130Z/8th 49° 38' N. 66° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q. 081345Z.)

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 081347Z, Cominch, 081537Z.)

T.G.21.4

T.G. 21.4 WINSLOW, SELLSTROM, Cortdiv 23 less RICHEY plus MENGES, GARY, BRISTER, FINCH. Escort Convoy C.U.47 departing New York 15 Nov. for U.K. and Continent.

C.T.G. 21.4 in WINSLOW with MENGES, SAVAGE, GARY, BRISTER, FINCH return escorting U.C.47A Section. Comcortdiv 23 Comdr. Vetterick in SELLSTROM with RHODES, RAMSDEN MILLS hereby designated C.T.U.21.4.7 return escorting U.C.47B Section when directed by Admiralty. (C. in C. Lant, 081549Z.)

O.21

Dutch Submarine O.21 will be ready to sail worked up from New London on or about 14th December. Is she to sail to Fremantle via U.K. as in the case of O.24? C. in C.E.F. 011226 August and A.M. 302331 August refer. (B.A.D. 081551Z to Admty.)

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8.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

H.X.318 C. in C. C.N.A's 081420 and my 071758 C.8 now sailed St. Johns (N.F.) 2100Z/9 to relieve you in new Westomp 045° 33' N., 051° 50' W. at 1000Z/10. Amend Chop to read 1000Z/11. (F.O.N.F., 081736Z to S.E.H.X.318).

SEYCHELLES, Owing to further defects, it is highly improbable that SEYCHELLES can arrive St. Johns N.F. by 14 November, even if last four days work up omitted, which would be undesirable. F.O.N.F. 081338 refers.
MONTSERRAT, (2) It is hoped to sail MONTSERRAT to arrive by 14 November provided defects reported today on Russian S.Cs. completion of work up can be made good quickly. Further signal will be made when Dockyard has reported.
(3) Owing to unreliability of these ships it is suggested that alternative escort at least for SEYCHELLES be provided by C. in C. C.N.A. if possible.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 081959Z to F.O.N.F., Admty).

U-boat First report since my 051847.
incidents. Para. C. About 0130Z/8 surface craft had Radar contact 49.38 N., 66.00 W.
Para. D. 0635Z/8 Blimp had Radar contact 39.52 N. 72.25 W.
(Cominch, 082034Z).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Digest Serial Number 1022 for November 7th.
1022 (14) 12 Mitchells conducting sweep Macajalpa Bay on North Mindanao morning 6th scored two hits on Destroyer there and destroyed one Fighter on Delmonbe drome.
(16) Possibly three submarines located by D.F. off East Coast Central Luoon night 5th - 6th.
(19) Dawn 6th. November 20 Beauforts from Goodenough Island bombed gun positions Cidy Bay in conjunction with Naval bombardment brief ? details not received. Targets well covered.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 080800).

8.11.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. B.

- (1) A/C G/547 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1427/7 in 60° 47' N. 03° 55' W.
- (2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2008Z/6 in 11° 40' N. 80° 20' E.
- (3) Merchant ship sighted doubtful periscope course 050° at 0950Z/7 in 61° 45' N. 13° 45' W.
- (4) A/C P/22 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0947Z/6 in 35° 57' N. 07° 11' W.
- (5) A/C reported 4 A.S.V. contacts from 1620Z to 1810Z/7th in 34° 12' N. 08° 45' W.

Para. C.

- (1) H.M.S. SPRAGGE attacked stationary contact at 0228Z/8th in 50° 29' N. 00° 18' E.
 - (2) A/C N/103 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1235Z/7, in 50° 11' N. 06° 51' W.
- (D.D.I.C. 081101A.)

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 081413A, 081414A.)

9.11.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. Ostend is again closed owing to mines. Provisional requirements of minor landing craft for the Dutch Waterways are now assessed at 6 flotillas of L.C.As. and one of L.C.S.(M)s. All minesweeping and buoy-laying in the North Sea has been held up by the gale.

Western Approaches.

2. APOLLO's minelaying has also been held up by the gale.

Norway.

3. Foul weather has caused the postponement of all Norwegian patrols and enterprises. It is now known that the X-craft attack on the floating dock at Bergen on September 11th broke the dock in two between sections four and five. Sections two, three and four have all their bottom tanks broken open. Sections four and five are considered irreparable. Only sections one and six are undamaged. (page 207)

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

1st S/M F.

4. Useful employment for the British submarines in the Mediterranean is now coming to an end, and their dispersal to various commands for A/S training purposes is beginning.

East Indies.

5. On return from her first major Eastern patrol the submarine SHALIMAR reports that on 2nd November she bombarded Malacca, Car Nicobar, ^{Nicobar} Andaman Is., and damaged or sank several small craft and landing barges and severely damaged the jetty and adjacent buildings.

9.11.1944.
Thursday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Brittany
Vegetable
fleet for
Red Cross
supplies
to France.

Your 081125 not to F.O.I.C. Southampton concur.
(2) Request vessels may sail across Channel as a convoy named "Relief".
(3) It is hoped vessels will require no husbandry or repairs at Southampton.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 091943A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Frigate for
Radar anti-
flying bomb
patrol.

CAICOS is to be administered by D.16 while in Nore command.
(2) D.16 is requested to arrange working up practices as for newly commissioned ship.
Radar calibration and practices in fighter and if possible C/F direction will also be required.
Further details will be signalled when known.
(3) As ship is urgently required for operations working up should be completed as early as practicable.
(C. in C.Nore, 091702A to D.16).

Movements.

ATTACKER,
STALKER,
HUNTER.

Your 081308A para.3. Will R/V 049 degs. 30' N. 005 degs. 30' W. at 1730A November 9th.
(ATTACKER, 090340A to C. in C.Plymouth).

INDEFATIGABLE. Sailed INDEFATIGABLE escorted by IROQUOIS.
My 050956 and 071624 refers.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 090916A to Admty., Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, W.A.).

My 061856A amended as follows:-

TANATSIDE Passgate at 0700A/10th and R/V at Seaward End of Q.Z.S. 601 at about 0815A with INDEFATIGABLE escorted by BLYSKAWICA (S.O.), IROQUOIS and BRISSENDEN. INDEFATIGABLE will proceed on route E in Q.Z.H. 568 to Seaward End of Q.Z.S.618. On TANATSIDE joining IROQUOIS is to detach and proceed into Plymouth by Q.Z.S.601. On arrival IROQUOIS will be required to complete with fuel and sail forthwith for Milford Haven. BLYSKAWICA (S.O.), TANATSIDE and BRISSENDEN will continue with INDEFATIGABLE to 180 Portland Bill 14, where transfer to Escort of NIEUW HOLLAND will now take place. On passing Seaward End of Q.Z.S.601 BLYSKAWICA is to detach and enter Plymouth. TANATSIDE (S.O.), with BRISSENDEN to continue as Escorts to NIEUW HOLLAND as in para. 14 of my 061856A. On completion of this duty TANATSIDE and BRISSENDEN return to Plymouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth, 091250A to TANATSIDE, IROQUOIS, BLYSKAWICA).

NORFOLK,
DIADEM.

Scapa arrivals 0802. NORFOLK and DIADEM.
(A.C.O.S., 090917A to C. in C.Rosyth).

LOCH FYNE.

LOCH FYNE was handed over by Burntisland Shipbuilding Co. at 1100 hrs. today Thursday 9th November.

/Ship...

9.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

LOCH FYNE
(Contd.)

Ship will be ready to proceed on completion of Foxer and Squid trials and oiling probably a.m. Saturday 11th November.
(LOCH FYNE, 091230 to Admty.).

H. Nor. M. S.
MOSS.

My 291322A October and A.M. 061411A. It is understood that Norwegian Naval H.Q. have no objection to H. Nor. M. Whaler MOSS, now on passage to U.K., being allocated to my command.
(2) Ship would be most useful to augment my escort force if she were fitted with A/S. She will also be useful for M.T.B. towing operations.
(3) Request ship may be fitted with A/S notwithstanding A.M. 271307A October and allocated to my command.
(A.C.O.S., 091312A to Admty.).

KENT,
BELLONA,
MYNGS.

Scapa arrivals C.S.1, in KENT with BELLONA, MYNGS, ZAMBESI, VERULAM, ALGONQUIN.
(A.C.O.S., 091536A to Admty.).

NORTHWAY,
and
OCEANWAY
to become
routine
carriers.

Your 081755, reference being to my 061412 not to all. My Forecast L.S.D. movements as follows.
(2) On completion NORTHWAY will carry out para. 5A until about 17th November when she will sail Plymouth, Portland, Le Havre to carry out paras. 7 and 5 C.
(3) Para. 5E will follow old para. 5A.
(4) OCEANWAY will arrive Omaha about 12th November for para. 5 B.
(5) Subject to confirmation that movement can commence before 18th November OCEANWAY will then sail Carenton - Ostend or Flushing - Portsmouth as necessary to comply with F.O.B.A.A. 071801 para. one (B) and A.N.C.X.F. 081755 item (B).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091729A to A.N.C.X.F.).

MAURITIUS.

Scapa departure.
MAURITIUS.
(A.C.O.S., 091801A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BRUISER.

My 300854 not to all. Request BRUISER be diverted to Liverpool.
(D.O.D. 091908A to C. in C.W.A.).

VINDEX,
NAIRANA,
TRACKER.

Add to my 091157A. VINDEX, NAIRANA, TRACKER, 3 destroyers pass Cape Wrath 2100A/9 to Clyde 16.
(C. in C.W.A., 092144A to Admty., F.O.S/M., A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

9.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports.

Naval.

Cositintrep No.218 part two Naval Unloading figures 7th November.
United States:-

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Petrol</u>
Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	14048	9801
Beaches	Nil	Nil	3368	Nil
Brittany Ports	Nil	39	3425	Nil
Le Havre	Nil	415	3525	Nil
Rouen	Nil	Nil	4564	Nil
Totals	Nil	454	28130	9801
<hr/>				
British:-				
East Calvados	Nil	126	337	Nil
Dieppe	Nil	Nil	2745	Nil
Boulogne	134	124	575	Nil
Ostend	658	139	2376	5325
Totals	792	389	6033	5325

Ostend 6th Nov. 99 Nil 2619 Nil
(A.N.C.X.F., 090022A to Admty.).

Operations

North Sea.

Mines in Ostend approach.

Following is a repetition of my 071903 begins. In view of mining near O.D.4 buoy today, request no ships be sailed to Ostend until channel is swept and ships are called forward.. Ends.
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 090945 to C. in C.Nore).

Wreck dispersal vessels at the Nore.

From P.S.V.O.
Your 081641 not to all. Maximum draught of wreck dispersal vessel is 16ft. Accordingly as from 11th November 1944 wreck dispersal vessels and store carriers will be berthed at Short Reach, Chatham.

D.W.D. Admiralty is requested to arrange for an officer to administer these vessels. Suggest this officer be known by short title of W.D.O.(X.F.). He should render a report of the Daily State of all Wreck Dispersal Vessels and Store Carriers to S.V.O.(X.F.) Portsmouth for onward transmission to P.S.V.O.

All signals regarding Wreck Dispersal Vessels should be repeated to N.O.I.C.Antwerp for P.S.V.O. and C. in C. Portsmouth for S.V.O.(X.F.) and Vessels are only to be called forward through these authorities. W.D.O.(X.F.) is purely an administrative officer and not a sailing authority.
(F.O.B.A.A., 091849 to C. in C. Nore, Admty.).

/Minor...

9.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Minor
Landing
Craft for
Dutch
Waterways.

Provisional requirements for minor landing craft is 6 Flotillas of L.C.As. and one of L.C.S.(M)s. as stated at Admiralty meeting on 6th Nov.
(2) Possibility of basing whole force (your 090243) on Continent is still under consideration but the objections to this would seem far to outweigh any advantage to be gained. If only 3 Flotillas of minor landing craft are permanently based this side as suggested in my 071547 consider M.L. R.U. most suitable for undertaking their maintenance in view of lack of other direct route in the area of Dutch Islands where this force will be required to operate and possibility of having to move their operational base at short notice. (A.N.C.X.F., 091937A to Admty.).

Operations

Channel.

Amiral
d'Argenton
to Dieppe.

Your 082312A MACKAY and TALYBONT detailed. (D.16, 090030 to C. in C.Nore).
Expected time of arrival Newhaven 1730. (LA COMBATTANTE, 090930A to N.O.I.C.Newhaven).
My 082312A not to all addressees.

Act in accordance with Admiralty's 082341A* and 082358A which have been passed to Capt. (D) 16th.

(2) Ships to return to Harwich on completion. (C. in C.Nore, 091225A to D.16).

* Given T/S Hush Circulation).

My 082311 October in accordance with Admiralty's 081945 which has been passed to LA COMBATTANTE.

(2) On completion return Sheerness.

(C. in C.Nore, 091226A to F.S. LA COMBATTANTE).

Patrols.

My 082335. Sailing postponed until weather moderates. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 090555 to C. in C.Portsmouth, L'AVENTURE, Portsmouth, A/S Patrol Force.).

Night A/S patrols 9th/10th November.

Para.5A search following areas.

(2) L'AVENTURE, WATCHMAN, BRILLIANT, HARGOOD Z.126, 119, 127, 120 west of H channel.

(3) M.T.Bs. Z.132, 130, 125 if weather suitable.

(4) Senior Officers of Units acknowledge.

(C. in C.Ports., 091421A to A.I.Gs. 38, 393).

My 091421 and 091156 not to all. L'AVENTURE, HARGOOD, WATCHMAN, BRILLIANT be in position A.180 Portland Bill 14 at 1400. Search eastwards along channel E.

(2) On arrival H channel WATCHMAN, BRILLIANT search back to position A L'AVENTURE, HARGOOD continue eastward to Z buoy thence back along channel W to H 2 buoy.

(3) L'AVENTURE, WATCHMAN acknowledge.

(C. in C.Portsmouth, 091810A to Ports., A/S patrol force at sea).

Search area limits below:-

(2) L'AVENTURE, HARGOOD on completion of search in my 091810

/ H...

9.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

Patrols (Contd.) H Channel 01 degs. 30' W. 50 degs. 00' and 50 degs. 25' N.
(3) M.T.Bs. H Channel 01 degs. 54' W. 49 degs. 47' and 50 degs. 07' N. My 091308 not to all refers.
(4) VANOC, BRILLIANT on completion escort duty join L'AVENTURE. My 091156 not to all refers.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 091837A to Portsmouth, A/S Patrol Force at Sea.).

Operations

Western Approaches

Suspected U-Boat. C. in C.W.A. 081948A. Departed area operations at 0900A/9th for Londonderry. TILLSONBURG in company.
(2) Further echo sounder traces but no other evidence obtained. Contact still in position 051 degs. 48' 30" N. 007 degs. 21' 30" W.
(3) E.T.A. Whistle Buoy 100800A.
Weather report 9080 3475. Suitable.
(S.O.E.G.C.C., 091048A to C. in C.W.A.).

Patrol. Concentrate your group and sweep along 51 degs. N. between 11 degs. 00' and 12 degs. 30' W.
(C. in C.W.A., 091208A to S.O.E.G.4).
Your 091216A Nov. not to all.
Sailed 30th E.G. at 1430/9th Nov. to position 50 degs. N. 10 degs. W.
(Com. (D) W.A., 091431A to C. in C.W.A.).
Shift patrol to a line between positions 50 degs. 45' 11 degs. 00' and 51 degs. 20' 10 degs. 00'.
(C. in C.W.A., 091616A to S.O.E.G.4).

Weather reporting ship. F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to sail PENNYWORT November 13th to relieve CELANDINE as weather reporting ship.
(2) E.T.A. of PENNYWORT in 53 degs. N. 20 degs. W. to be reported.
(3) Detailed instructions as in my 101213 Sept.
not to all.
(4) CELANDINE is to proceed to Liverpool on relief.
(C. in C.W.A., 092324A to F.O.I.C.Greenock, CELANDINE).

Operations

Northwestern Approaches.

Patrols. Owing to difficulty in maintaining accurate patrol under heavy weather and low visibility conditions, and shifting patrol to between position 059 degs. 40' 007 degs. 23' and 059 degs. 56' 008 degs. 00'.

/(2)...

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(206)

9.11.1944.

ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthwestern Approaches

Patrols (Contd.) (2) 4567 1477 unsuitable.
(S.O.E.G.18, 091005A to C. in C.W.A.).
If not in contact at 1800, today 9th detach 17th E.G. to Scapa for fuel then as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth. BURGES conform.

(2) On 17th E.G. detaching 18th E.G. establish Gamma patrol between positions 59 degs. 22' 06 degs. 57' and 59 degs. 40' 07 degs. 22'.

(3) 15th E.G. remain on present Gamma patrol.
(C. in C.W.A., 091212A to Force 32).

On completion of training today 9th request you will sail 30th E.G. through Irish Sea to position 50 degs. N. 10 degs. W.
(C. in C.W.A., 091216A to Com.D.W.A.).

Suspected U-Boat. Am carrying out "Observant" on Flare dropped by aircraft in position 055 degs. 31' 30" N. 006 degs. 50' W.
(BURGES, 091205 to C. in C.W.A.).

My 091205 "Observant" completed. No contacts. Intend remaining in vicinity until relieved.

(BURGES, 091331A to C. in C.W.A.).

My 091205 (not to No.18 Group C.C.) and 091331. Numerous wind flurries repetition wind flurries on sea surface caused by violent gusts have been sighted. These very closely resemble Schnorkels.

Weather report 5477 1485 unsuitable.

(BURGES, 091340 to C. in C.W.A.).

OperationsNorway

Patrols. V.P.72, 73 and 74 postponed E.T.D. now a.m. 10th November.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 090413A to A.C.O.S.).

Ramose Genial. Vigra returned at 1140/9th November.

(2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091143A to A.C.O.S.).

V.P.72, V.P.O.73, and V.P.74 further postponed E.T.D. now 11th November.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 091612A to A.C.O.S.).

Submarine positions 0800/10th November and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone A.

(a) ULA as in my 081754.

(b) VENTURER on patrol off Andfjord.

(c) UTSIRA, SCYTHIAN as in my 081754.

(F.O.S/M, 091758A to Admty.).

Operation "Counterblast" postponed owing to weather.
"Counterblast". Force 2 returning Scapa, E.T.A. Hoxa 1530A.
Weather report 4484 9499.

(C.S.1, 090858A to C. in C.H.F.).

Operations "Counterblast" and "Steak" postponed. Return singly.

(C. in C.H.F., 091224A to EURYALUS).

/Sunken...

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9.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Sunken Norway - floating dock sunk in Laksevåg Bergen.
Floating See my R.S.2790 September 27th.
Dock at Copies divers' report and minutes of directors'
Bergen. meeting of Sept. 25th and Sept. 27th show
following damage was caused.
(a) Sections one and six are practically undamaged.
(b) Sections two, three and four have all bottom tanks broken
open and away towards floats both sides. Dock has broken in
two between sections four and five where there is a hole of
about 5 metres on west side stretching as far as tower on each
side.
(c) Directors propose salvaging sections one, two, three and six
and remaining irreparable sections four and five.
A.1.
N.I.D. Comment:-
R/S 2790 reported a Press account of the sinking of a floating
dock at Bergen on 11th September.
(2) This attack was made by X-craft.
(N.A.Stockholm, 091831 to Admty.).

Operations

Northern Waters.

Patrol. On completion of fuelling at Scapa proceed in
daylight tomorrow 10th November with 17th Escort
Group to establish Gamma between 060 degs. 36' N.
002 degs. 38' W. and 060 degs. 53' N. 003 degs.
51' W. Probable course of U-Boats 205 degs.
Acknowledge reporting E.T.D. Scapa.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 091631A to S.O.E.G.17).

Convoy R.A.61 arrived. EMPIRE CELIA, SAMARITAN,
R.A.61. ADOLPH S. OCHS, DAVID STONE (U.S.), ARUNAH S.
ABELL (U.S.), JOSHUA THOMAS (U.S.), JOHN VINING (U.S.)
DANIEL WILLARD (U.S.).
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 091832A to C. in C.W.A., Admty.,
A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., C. in C.H.F., C. in C.Rosyth,
F.Os. and Capt(D) Home Fleet, S.B.N.O. Archangel,
S.B.N.O. N.Russia).

Hudson Proceed with CHARLOCK with utmost despatch to
aircraft in vicinity of Skagi and carry out A.S.R. search
distress. thence to position 063 degs. 20' N. 024 degs. 50'
W.
Hudson aircraft reported in distress 2100A. Keep
constant watch on port wave.
(A.C.I.C., 092145A to STARWORT).

Mining

Afflavit Postponed sailing owing to weather. Further signal
Deus. will be made.
(C. in C.Nore, 090736A to M.S.F.18).

/Am...

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Afflavit Am returning harbour with all ships. Consider
Deus trawlers unable to withstand another gale.
(Contd.) Request H.S. launch be cancelled weather unfit
for transfer. E.T.A. Grimsby Roads 1500.
Following groups 8 figure weather report 4768 9187.
(M.S.F.15, 090813A to Capt. M/S. Grimsby).
Your 090736. Returning to Small Downs E.T.A. 1030. Wind
W.N.W. Force 8.
(M.S.F.18, 090837A to C. in C.Nore).
My 031139. Owing to weather remainder of programme post-
poned 24 hours.
(APOLLO, 091529A to C. in C.W.A.).

Deep Carry out operation C.G.A.2 at 1600/November 10th
minefield passing through position given in my 071143
in North thence to initial position C. in C.W.A. will
Channel. signal you on passage concerning Force 33 to
whose Senior Officer you are to repeat signals
regarding any delay which weather may occasion.
(F.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 091555A to APOLLO).
In view of necessity to press on with minelaying operations
in your command it is now proposed to defer taking APOLLO in
hand for re-making turbine joints and boiler cleaning provided
that ship remains fit for service.
(2) If you concur, request you will direct APOLLO to return to
Milford Haven on completion of next lay for further series of
operations, details of which will be signalled separately.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 091719A to C. in C.W.A.).

Situation Operation "Calendar".
Report. (1) Sweeping today, Thursday 9th November, S.A.
and L.L.
(a) Eendrachpolder to eastern end of Honte.
Anchorage edges of Channel 4 actuations.
(b) Eendractpolder to Hansweerde 4 actuations.
(c) M.M.S.1083 Terneuzen to Antwerp. Further sweeping
abandoned owing to wind force 8.
(2) Ground mines 13 (2 reported - not yet received). Positions
and details follow by despatch.
(3) Particulars being sent by despatch.
(4) (a) 2 fuel pumps operating rocker arms. 2 fuel pumps
operating plungers for Newbury diesel engine number 758 type
sirron. Above spares are available at Queenborough.
(b) Request Engineer Officer to assist in maintenance be sent
by despatch boat.
(Capt. M/S F.A., 091959A to C. in C.Nore).

U-Boats

U-Boats in One still likely to be in central English Channel
N.E.Atlantic. and another moving east in approx. latitude 49
degs. 30' N. long. 07 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 091430A to Cominch, S. and A area C).

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HOME COMMANDS

Navigational.

H.K.4 buoy. Your 081552. Weather unsuitable for buoy laying. Am returning to Small Downs. (S.O.M.S.F.7, 090601A to C. in C.Nore). Weather permitting intend to sail Small Downs at 0430 tomorrow Friday to carry out programme as in your 081552A 24 hours late. (S.O.M.S.FL7, 091704A to C. in C.Nore).

Casualties and Defects

EMPIRE GOVERNOR. Request you sail EARNER to assistance of EMPIRE GOVERNOR broken down in position 55 degs. 18' N. 06 degs. 05' W. at 2300A/8. H.M.T. LADY BERYL and tug EMPIRE IVY are standing by. EARNER to keep constant watch on 1740 kc/s. EMPIRE GOVERNOR is to be towed to Clyde Gate where harbour tugs will meet and take over. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 090137A to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown). Your 082300A not to Campbeltown. Rescue tug EARNER from Campbeltown is being sailed now to tow EMPIRE GOVERNOR to Clyde. You are to provide escort to vicinity of Cumbrae. EARNER maintains constant W/T watch on 1740 kc/s and carries Mersigs and Loxo. Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 090149A to LADY BERYL). Proceed forthwith with all despatch to assistance of EMPIRE GOVERNOR broken down in position 55 degs. 18' N. 06 degs. 05' W. LADY BERYL and tug EMPIRE IVY are standing by. EMPIRE GOVERNOR is to be towed to Clyde Gate where harbour tugs will take over. Your speed of advance has been reported as 11 knots. Maintain constant W/T watch on 1740 kc/s. Your W/T call signs are 1 X L Y and A A C Q. Either of these call signs may be used. Your R/T call sign is "Nordack". Call sign of LADY BERYL is 1 J H W EMPIRE IVY 1 E I X and EMPIRE GOVERNOR 5 V E V. (N.O.I.C.Campbeltown, 090221A to EARNER). SS. EMPIRE GOVERNOR in tow of rescue tug EARNER with tug EMPIRE IVY arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 091748A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe).

THETFORD MINES, LA HULLOISE, JOLLIETTE, ST. THERESE. E.T.A. Merville ORKNEY, LA HULLOISE and JOLLIETTE 091830Z. At 090600Z in 55.15 N. 12.18 W. detached THETFORD MINES who has cracked H.P. cylinder head starboard engine, ST. THERESE as escort. Best speed 9.5 knots. E.T.A. Merville approx. 100600Z. Urgent defects: LA HULLOISE, JOLLIETTE A/S inoperative. Both require new oscillator assembly. JOLLIETTE dome leaking seriously. ST. THERESE has cracked cradle left gun four inch mounting. THETFORD MINES H.P. cylinder head as indicated. Weather 5570 2013. (S.O.E.G.25, 091015Z to Com.D.W.A.).

AUTOSEE My 07117A. An attempt will be made at 1420A today Thursday to float tanker AUTOSEE off Great

/Castle...

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

AUTOSEE (Contd.) Castle Head and turn to beach vessel for examination for docking.
Request arrangements may be made to dock this vessel in suitable Bristol Channel port. Engine room is intact and it is hoped that vessel will be able to transfer to docking port under own power with escort. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 091057A to Admty.).

TALYBONT. TALYBONT sustained following damage in collision with LUCITA. Port side holed between 122 and 134 stations from upper deck to well below water line, bulkhead holding.
(2) Ship is proceeding to Harwich at 3.5 knots. E.T.A. 1900/9.
(3) Request yard may be allocated for repairs.
(C. in C. Nore, 091139A to Admty.).

ABRAHAM BALDWIN. Condition unchanged. 2 L.C.T. alongside taking lorries. Moderate Northwest gale heavy sea. Tugs standing by to dredge and tow if weather permits.
(ABRAHAM BALDWIN, 091400 to Admty.).

LUCITA Following received from trawler KINGSTON OLIVINE Begins:-
To C. in C. Nore, from KINGSTON OLIVINE 091045A.
Please advise Ministry of War Transport LUCITA had collision during the night. Starboard bow damaged requiring repairs. Entered Ostend Harbour 091045A. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 091617A to M.O.W.T.).

M.L.916 Regret to report M.L.916 sunk by mine off Walsoorden. Only survivors Lieut. C.G. Mac-Pherson R.N.V.R. and W.C. ~~Daron~~ C.J.X. 406145. (Capt. M/S F.A., 081650A to C. in C. Nore). *Morrison*

WHITE ROSE. Have rescued all hands from foundering fishing vessel WHITE ROSE registered number Aberdeen 523 and working from Grimsby. Ship has sunk in position 060 degs. Spurn Point 17 miles. Intend keep them until arrival Rosyth.
(VIVACIOUS, 091805A to F.O.I.C. Humber).
Walsoorden 53° 23' N. 4° 02' E A.D. Scheldt way up to Antwerp

Shipping and Convoys

ILE DE FRANCE. ILE DE FRANCE arrived 0940 Nov. 9th. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 090955A to P.S.T.O. Clyde). ILE DE FRANCE was plotted by St. Anns Head Radar Station through following positions. All positions are north and west 51 degs. 10' 00" 05 degs. 34' 00" at 1741/8, 51 degs. 10' 45" 05 degs. 36' 00" at 1745, 51 degs. 13' 30" 05 degs. 37' 30" at 1750, 51 degs. 22' 45" 05 degs. 39' 30" at 1820, 51 degs. 24' 15" 05 degs. 40' 15" at 1825, 51 degs. 36' 30" 05 degs. 42' 45" at 1900.

/Letter...

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- ILE DE FRANCE (Contd.) Letter to C. in C.W.A. and C. in C.Plymouth follows with copy plot. (R.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 091257A to C. in C.W.A.). In view of your 081950 my 082010 which was inadvertently addressed to F.O.I.C.Greenock and not to C. in C.W.A. is cancelled.
- (2) It will be appreciated however if the reason for the failure by ILE DE FRANCE to communicate on 2700 kilocycles could be investigated.
(C. in C.Plymouth, 091315A to C. in C.W.A.).
Reference C. in C.W.A. 081950A and C. in C.Plymouth 082010. ILE DE FRANCE had no knowledge of searched channels from Trevoise head onwards to Smalls. This was confirmed by examination of his route instructions.
- (2) Ship was unfamiliar with emergency procedure and failed to realise that C. in C.Plymouth's 081619 and 081644 were addressed to her until C. in C.Plymouth's 081628 was received at 1655.
- (3) A.M. 081705 was received in ship at 1750/8th and replied to in her 081800Z. This was not acted on as ship had already passed position X.
- (4) Ship received C. in C.Plymouth's 081628 corrupt at 081655 and did not understand latter part. This signal was not corrupt as received by Greenock W/T.
- (5) Ship received C. in C.Plymouth's 081644 at 081655. By this time ship was over half way between position X and Smalls.
- (6) Reference para.4 of C. in C.Plymouth's 082010 following message originated by operating signals 082005 by ILE DE FRANCE prefixed emergency addressed Admiralty. Am unable to communicate with M.T.I. on 2700 kc/s. Am in communication with MAE on 1740 kc/s. This message was passed via Milford Haven on 1740 kc/s.
- (7) Ship was keeping watch on 500 kc/s broadcast B.N. and 1740 kc/s.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 091658A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Ply.).

CRANE My 090944 Motor Vessel CRANE which was to have sailed in M.T.C.31 this morning now believed sailed independently without permission during last night speed 9 knots destination Thames. (N.O.I.C.Arrow., 091035A to C. in C.Ports.).

North Atlantic Rescue ships. Five new rescue ships will be brought into service with North Atlantic convoys in the course of the next few months. These ships are converted Castle Class Corvettes and their silhouette remains materially unchanged, they are named:-

EMPIRE REST, EMPIRE LIFEGUARD, EMPIRE COMFORT, EMPIRE SHELTER, EMPIRE PEACEMAKER and are merchant ships sailing under the Blue Ensign. EMPIRE REST will sail with K.M.S.69.

(2) In the course of their rescue duties these ships may become detached from their convoys and be encountered proceeding independently.

(C. in C.W.A., 091257A to W.A.G.M. 092 N.).

/Weather...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Weather
delays to
coasters.

Analysis of coaster movements during past three weeks shows substantial loss of ship time due to suspension of movements on account of weather.

(2) For reasons given in para.1 of A.M.032106 it is essential that such delays be kept to a minimum.

(3) Request particular care be taken to ensure that:

(a) Vessels able and willing to proceed in heavy weather are not held up solely because smaller ships scheduled for the same convoy cannot face it.

(b) Adverse conditions off destination ports do not unduly delay sailings from distant departure ports.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 091347A to Cs. in C. at Home, A.N.C.X.F.).

B.T.C. and
T.B.C. con-
voys to
replace
T.M.C. and
B.E.C.
convoys.

It is proposed to institute a daily 7 knot convoy between Thames and Bristol Channel, with connections to French ports, in place of the T.M.C. and B.E.C. convoys and their reciprocals.

(2) A westbound convoy, T.B.C., to leave Southend to pass Sandhead buoy at 1530, Z buoy 0630, Dart buoy 2045, D.1 buoy 0600 and Lundy 2345.

(3) An eastbound convoy B.T.C. leaving Barry and Milford Haven to R/V Lunday 1630, D.1 buoy 1015, Dart buoy 1945 "Z" buoy 0940 and anchoring

St. Helens 1240. This convoy will resume its voyage, departing from St. Helens about 1645 to arrive Sandhead buoy 0900 and Southend about 1545.

(4) The junction points for British and French ports will remain substantially as at present.

(5) It is proposed that the through escort should be arranged by Cs. in C. Nore and Plymouth, and that C. in C. Portsmouth should arrange to escort the cross-Channel sections joining and leaving the through convoy in his command.

(6) Request your remarks.

(D.T.D., 091642A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, A.C. Dover, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, A.N.C.X.F.).

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^{M.V.} SS. CHINESE PRINCE, ^{M.V.} SS. CHINESE PRINCE escorted by H.M.N.S. VAN DER ZAAAN at 0100A/11 to U.K.
 SS. RUYS, VAN DER ZAAAN, (2) - (8) Arrangements.
 ROTHER. (F.O.G.M.A.091142A) Cancelled, see F.O.G.M.A. 101051A)
 My 091142 it is proposed to add RUYS and to include ROTHER as additional Escort.
 (2) Unless RUYS sails on 11th November ship will have to wait for M.K.F. 36 on 23rd November and 2070 passengers are embarked for U.K.
 (F.O.G.M.A.091650A)

S.L.174/
M.K.S.65. Arrived U.K. 7th November.
 (D.T.D.091635A)

MOY Sailed.
 (to U.K.) (F.O.G.M.A.091638A)

SETTEMBRINI. (Extract). Intend to sail Italian S/M SETTEMBRINI escorted by U.S.S. FRAMENT at 0930/11 to join G.U.S.57 subsequently detaching in position (E) 34 degs. 14 N. 10 degs. W. at 1500/12th and proceeding to Bermuda via Azores (Arrangements)
 (F.O.G.M.A.091752A)

A/U Concur in your 091211, not to all addressees. If
 Operations. no further contacts are obtained and you have no other intentions request you detach Group II at 1200A/10th November to resume inshore patrol and Group I to resume patrol Bacon. My 051130 and para. 3 of my 061107, neither to all, refers.
 (2) Reliefs for DART and BARLE will be sailed as soon as they become available.
 (F.O.G.M.A.092302A to Group I)

South Atlantic

RICHELIEU, Following is a repetition of C. in C. Med's
 DUGUAY- 041158A begins. Addressed. F.O.W.M., F.O.C.W.Af.
 TROIN. (R) Admty, F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F., B.N.L.O.Dakar, B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, C.T.F.125, C.M.S.F., C. in C. W.A., French Battleship RICHELIEU from C. in C. Med.
 (2) F.O.W.M.021720 not to all approved subject to concurrence of F.O.C.W.Af. to detachments reference is being passed. Two, amended programme for return of RICHELIEU Libertymen F.O.G.M.A.021554 not to all addressees approved ends.
 Your 080340 refers.
 (Freetown, C.C.O.090932Z to Admty) /H.M.S.A.S.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

H.M.S.A.S.
GOOD HOPE.

Message of welcome for Lieut. Cdr. Dryden Dymond
from Field Marshal Smuts.
(C. in C. S.A. 091028B)

W.SCORESBY,
visit to
South Orkneys,
S. Shetlands
and Graham
Land.

H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY sailed for Deception and
Port Lockroy p.m. 8th my 061314.
(N.O.I.C.Falkland Is. 092243Z)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

TUEBINGEN,
GRADISCA.

A.M. 012019, para. 1 not to F.O.W.It.
French Navy in London have been instructed by
Paris to obtain Admiralty's agreement to course
suggested in para. 6(b) of F.O.L.E.M's 311913,
not to F.O.W.It. They propose that EMILE BERTIN

should be ordered to sail at once from Toulon to intercept
TUEBINGEN.

(2) Impossibility of H.M.G. agreeing to this action has been
fully explained, and French have said they realise Admiralty
cannot approve EMILE BERTIN being ordered to intercept.

(3) It is hoped that French will confine themselves to possible
representations through the diplomatic channel. In view,
however, of slightly ambiguous nature of French reply, it is
considered you should be aware of French approach.

(V.C.N.S., 090028A to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.N.A.M.,
F.O.L.E.M.)

F.O.L.E.M's 061232* As consideration is being given to
embarking certain personnel on GRADISCA at Algiers for
repatriation to Germany, vessel should not be sailed from
Algiers until further notice.

(Hd. of M., 090131A to C. in C. Med.)

* Sailing of GRADISCA.

This repeats my 031225 and my 042020 on receipt of A.M.
012019. F.N.L.O. has reiterated his request for the seizure
of this ship. He realises however that this in an inter-
governmental affair.

(F.O.L.E.M., 090229B to C. in C. Med., Admty., B.A.D.,
British Embassy Cairo, Nesmin Cairo.)

My 061415/ amended by my 061801B* sailed 46 hours late.
(R.A. Levant, 091135B.)

/ TERPSICHORE escorting GRADISCA and TUEBINGEN.

* For TERPSICHORE substitute STORK.

Dispersal
of 1st
S/M.F.

Para. 1(B) of A.M. 042024.
Request UNSWERVING and VAMPIRE may be sailed as
convenient for A/S training duties to Alexandria
and Gibraltar respectively.
(C. in C. Med., 091006 to S.1.)

Intend sailing submarines to Port Said for onward passage to
Eastern Fleet as follows:-

VOX 15th November. VIVID and VIRTUE 19th November. VORACIOUS
18th or 19th November. VIGOROUS 29th November. VISIGOTH has
engine defects but will probably be ready to sail on 15th
November.

(2) C. in C. Med. 081732.
(S.1, 091055A.)

CURIE.

Following is repetition of my 090926* addressed
as above.

CURIE sails from ?Khios 1730B/9th through Samos
Straits thence through Turkish waters north and
east of Rhodes to arrive at position 034° 28' N., 026° 40' E.
at 1101B/11th.

(2) Speed 9½ knots. Surface passage throughout.

(3) Capt. (S/M) 1's 090010* not to all addressees refers. Ends.
(Comaro 1, 091015 to F.O.L.E.M.)

* Formers not identified by W.R.

/FREIBURG ...

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- FREIBURG. A.M. 072033 should have been addressed to C. in C. Med., Info. F.O.T.A.L.I. Message has now been passed to C. in C. Med. (Hd. of M., 091029A.)
? BONN
Your 072033A being passed to C. in C. Med.
No signal T.O.O. 041829 nor any signal to Admiralty not repeated C. in C. Med. has been made by me.
(2) Ships certificate of registry confirms she is ex Yugoslav SUMADIJA. I have already been approached by Yugoslav Partisan authorities with a request that this ship may be handed back to them immediately.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 091713A to Admty.)
- CROOME, EXMOOR. Request you sail CROOME and EXMOOR to arrive Alex. p.m./13th November.
(C.S.15, 091053B to ARGONAUT.)
- F.D.T. 13. Your 071115. F.D.T. 13 is to be held on station pending decision as to her future employment.
(D.O.D., 091128A to C. in C. Med.)
- DUGUAY-TROUIN. Your 071448. Marine Paris now requests that F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN shall be sailed from Casablanca on November 12th to arrive at Brest on November 14th.
(2) Request that C.M.S.F. may be instructed to comply.
(F.O.W.M., 091142A to C. in C. Med.)
- Riviera operations. C.D.D.25 in WOOLSEY with BENSON sails Toulon 100800 direct to bombardment area speed 20, E.T.A.1300A. WOOLSEY and BENSON relieve MADISON and FORBIN.
(C.D.D. 25, 091301A to S.O. Flanfor.)
One mission today reports MADISON.
(A) Building surrounded by troops. (B) 907 857. (C) 1438A.
(D) 17. (E) F.C.13. (F) Ceased fire when troops scattered.
(G) 15,000 yards south of Ampeglio. (H) None part two B.98.
C.70 part four no change front lines. No P.T. patrol tonight account bad weather.
(MADISON, 091847A.)
- Danube, Danarm. 267215. Unnumbered cipher, 9th Nov.
From S.B.N.O. Bulgaria.
If policy outlined in para. 3 of 071202* is approved I think Wolfson should not re-enter Bulgaria at any rate for the time being or indeed should any indication be given to the Russians that we are contemplating participation in sweeping operations on the Danube until an official request is received from them for British assistance.
(2) The presence of British personnel investigating conditions on the river would only give rise to suspicion and might jeopardise far more important questions.
(Allied Control Commission, Bulgaria, 091347B to C. in C. Med.)
* Former not identified by W.R.

/ADRIAS ...

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ADRIAS. Your 081428*. Has my 071607/ repeated only to C. in C. Med. been received please.
(C. in C. Greek, 091547B to F.O.L.E.M.)
* Request ADRIAS be sailed to Alexandria.
/ N.T. in W.R.

French ships for operations in Home Commands. LORRAINE ammunition available not accurately known quantity probably small. Particulars are awaited from the French.
(2) Of 8-inch cruisers only DUQUESNE is operational. As far as known she has done no gunnery for many months. She is however shortly to proceed to Oran for bombardment practices.

SUFFREN now retubing boilers, might be made available for slow speed operations. She has done no gunnery and is not degaussed. TOURVILLE is in C. and M. 8-inch ammunition available approx. 1650 H.E., 7800 A.P. Figures are being checked with French. A.M. 032224 refers.

(C. in C. Med., 091702 to A.N.C.X.F.)

French ships which could be released from Mediterranean operations. Your 041710.

(A) LORRAINE now giving leave. (B) DUQUESNE, and possibly SUFFREN, see my 091702. (C) All French 155 and 152 M.M. cruisers with exception of two of GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALM and JEANNE D'ARC required for bombardment in south of France.

It is to be noted that EMILE BERTIN is repairing and changing guns. DUGUAY-TROUIN and GLOIRE are trooping in December on French account. (D) LE TERRIBLE.

(2) Question of escorts and minesweepers is being raised with F.O.N.A.M. and reply will be made as soon as possible. Fleet minesweepers and Danlayers must in any case be provided from sources outside Mediterranean.

(C. in C. Med., 091711 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Cominch 091640. May not to all refers French wish to move TOURVILLE from Bizerta to Toulon on about 20th November. On arrival she would be used as a training ship. Request concurrence.

(C. in C. Med., 091811 to B.A.D.)

Standard S/M Route L. Standard route L from Gibraltar to Malta is established for unescorted submarines as follows:-
(A) 180° Europa Point 2 miles. (B) 180° Cape Calaburras 8 miles. (C) 180° Cape de Gata 6 miles. (D) Position 9. (E) Position 15.
(F) Position 79. (G) Tunisia War Channel. (H) Position 214.
(I) Position 275. (J) Position 204 thence to Malta south-about via Q.B.B. 123B.
(2) Message 235B* refers.
(C. in C. Med., 091710A.)
* All warships and M/Ships to burn navigations lights at full brilliance.

/ULSTER QUEEN ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

ULSTER
QUEEN. Request you sail ULSTER QUEEN as convenient p.m./10th to area limit for O.R. by V.A. Malta to Gibraltar. C. in C. Med. 081826 not to all refers.
(F.O.L.E.M., 091919B to R.A.L.)

T.F. 65, 66, changes. Your 071531* affirmative desire to effect following changes while in Mediterranean. Detach Cortdiv 62 from Task Force 65 and assign to Task Force 66. Detach Cortdiv 46 from T.F. 66 and include that division in T.F. 65. Direct reconstituted T.F. 66 upon release from U.G.S.59 to proceed as follows. Cortdiv 62 to port designated by Com. 8th Fleet for upkeep and refresher training for A.S.W. operations, further orders this division later. When ready for sea sail remainder of T.F. 66 direct to New York.
(C. in C. Lant, 092118Z to C. in C. Med.)
* Not yet identified in War Registry.

KING
GEORGE V. Sailed KING GEORGE V, WHIRLWIND, WRANGLE & ERNE. (V.A. Malta, 092126) (For Alexandria).

M.V. SAGGAT,
FORMOSA. Swedish relief ships SAGGAT ? and FORMOSA sailed from Piraeus 0900/8 in accordance with your 041949A*.
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 092154B.)
* Sailing of safe conduct vessels FORMOSA and SAGGAT.

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

? Far East

SHALIMAR,
Patrol
report.

H.M.S. SHALIMAR first major eastern patrol.
(2) 26th October, 1530 commenced attack on 700 ton escorted merchant ship leaving Port Blair. At close range target turned towards and fired 4 depth charges over bow. Attack broken off.
(3) 1418/29 011 degs. 36' N. 093 degs. 30' E.

Southbound 3000 tons merchant ship escorted by 4 trawlers was attacked unsuccessfully.

(4) 2nd November 1456 to 1533 bombarded Malacca/Car Nicobar. 3 beached landing barges type A were severely damaged and 2 50 ft. craft and numerous small ones alongside jetty were sunk. Jetty and adjacent building were severely damaged. There was no opposition.

(C. in C. E.F. 090250Z)

U-Boat

No fresh information scale unchanged.

dispositions. (C. in C. E.F. 090420Z)

A.F.D.58.

Request you inform Admiralty required destination of A.F.D.58. A.M.072032 refers.

(C. in C. E.F. 090554 to S.O. R.N. Establishments (India))

A.F.D.53.

Intend to sail A.F.D. 53 in tow of tugs AIMWELL and BOLD escorted by SHOREHAM and SMILAX 12th Nov. to Vizagapatam in accordance with C. in C. E.F. 121054 Oct. My 040905 refers neither signal to all addressees.

(N.O.I.C. Aden, 090643Z)

Operations
against

Nicobar

Andaman Is.
17th - 19th
October.

Operation "Millet".

Following is in amplification of my 201330/ October

(2) Force 63 consisting of ships in my 120556 October, left Trincomalee 15th October destroyers and PHOEBE being fuelled at sea on 16th.

(3) On morning 17th air strike on Nancowry by 10 Barracuda and 8 fighters from INDOMITABLE was carried out with following result. One ship

length 250 feet sunk, 3 fires started on shore. Light and medium flak was inaccurate. One Barracuda was lost cause unknown.

(4) On morning of 17th Fighter sweep over Car Nicobar was followed by bombardment by RENOWN, LONDON, SUFFOLK, CUMBERLAND and 7 destroyers for about 2 hours. No coastal batteries observed. 2 Fighters lost by A/A fire.

(5) P/R flights by Hellcats from INDOMITABLE were successful.

(6) Force 63 withdrew to westward in remaining daylight of 17th. LONDON (C.S.5) NORMAN and D.S. VAN GALEN were detached to bombard Car Nicobar during the night of 17th/18th and thence return Trincomalee. Remainder of Force then proceed south eastward arriving 100 miles west of Sabang daylight 18th.

(7) Weather unsuitable for air strike on Sabang throughout 18th and opportunity was taken to refuel destroyers and PHOEBE.

/Force ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Nicobar

Operations
against
Andaman Is.
17th-18th
October.
(Contd.)

Force then proceeded north-west to west of Nicobar Island, during night 18th/19th to find favourable weather. CUMBERLAND was detached to make W/T diversion simulating follow-up force approaching from westward.
(8) On morning 19th Car Nicobar was again bombarded by RENOWN, SUFFOLK and 5 destroyers. No A/A fire seen on shore.

(9) On morning 19th also 10 Barracudas and 8 Hellcats from INDOMITABLE and 16 Corsairs from VICTORIOUS attacked target in Nancowry and Octavia and Spiteful Bays 2 small ships and 2 Luggers set on fire and 5 Luggers damaged flak positions were silenced.

(10) 12 Oscar closing Car Nicobar were intercepted forenoon 19th and 7 shot down for loss 3 of our fighters no attempt made by enemy to attack fleet. Other Bogies were detected but not intercepted.

(11) After withdrawal force 63 returned to Trincomalee, LONDON, NORMAN, VAN GALEN arrived 19th, CUMBERLAND 20th, remainder 21st October.

(12) 2 A/C other than those referred above were also lost during operation.

(C. in C. E.F. 090812Z)

/ Operations of Allied Units of the E.F. in the Nicobar Area.

804 Squadron
R.N.A.S.

(Extract). Ref. A.M. 031921 refers propose lifting 804 to Ceylon as soon as practicable after 1st December by which date it is understood that Squadron will have completed shore based combat training C. in C. S.A's 071043 para. 3 refer

(2) AMEER would arrive Capetown mid-December for this purpose.

(3) Squadron will be employed for fleet duties after period of embarked training assault training can be completed in Ceylon where facilities are available.

(C. in C. E.F. 090937Z)

Shipborne
A/S Fixed
Defence
Station.

It is understood that consideration has been given to the fitting out of a ship-borne A/S fixed defence station.

(2) Information is requested whether such a ship will be made available for operations envisaged in this theatre.

(C. in C. E.F. 091140Z to Admty)

DUMONT
D'URVILLE,
BATTLER.

DUMONT D'URVILLE reduced 8½ knots due engine defect. Anticipated repairs will be effected in 12 hours, (Corrupt Group) maximum speed 13 knots.
(2) Intend proceed independently S. of A. 16 knots. Position Easy 2330Z/9th. My position 2200FG/9th November 007 degs. 03' N. 077 degs. 14' E.

(3) DUMONT D'URVILLE has been instructed continue toward Aden reporting her condition to C. in C. E.F. at 0930 FG tomorrow Friday.

(4) (8 Corrupt groups).
(BATTLER, 091530Z)

/Logistics ...

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ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.Logistics,
Eastern
Fleet
in Pacific.

The following for your information is a provisional assessment of numbers of personnel which is being used at Admiralty for planning purposes in connection with the victualling supply arrangements for the Eastern Fleet area:-

	<u>Afloat</u>	<u>Ashore</u>	<u>Total</u>
January, 1945	49,000	23,000	72,000
March, 1945	92,000	28,000	120,000
May, 1945	92,000	35,000	127,000
July, 1945	140,000	46,000	186,000

- (2) These figures include the following:
- (a) Fleet and Fleet train including Dominion and Allied Vessels.
 - (b) Combined Operations Ships and Craft.
 - (c) Local Defence Vessels.
 - (d) Shore Establishments in Ceylon, India, Aden and Kilindini, including air stations.
 - (e) M.O.L.C.A.B.S.
 - (f) An allowance for additional personnel for shore and advanced bases.
 - (g) An allowance for supplies to merchant ships.
 - (h) An allowance for victualling of Army personnel in Landing Ships.
- (4th S.L.091551A)

SS. FORT
LEE.

SS. FORT LEE torpedoed 2000/2 latitude mean time course made good 099 degs. distance 205 miles. S/M apparently German stayed in vicinity of Life-Boat 2 days. 3 Boats with hurt and 46 men still adrift believed trying to intercept Southbound steamer. Master.
((WQUP) TUMACACORI, 092232Z to C. in C. E.F.)

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U.S.S. My 232108Z modified. Detach CHIWAWA with
CHIWAWA. Casablanca Section to return to U.K. in T.F. 65
escorting G.U.S.59.
(Cinclant, 100331Z to C.T.G.66)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 091357Z, Cominch, 091537Z)

Russian Russians do not consider two escorts for 10 S.C's
S.C's. adequate at this time of year vide A.M. 071631A.
(2) C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to indicate
(A) If completion date FLYING FISH can be expedited
C. in C. C.N.A. 051415 not to all.
(B) If GLACE BAY can be made available as third escort on
completion boiler cleaning approx. 15th. S.B.N.O. W.A. 081959
para.2. refers.
(F.O.N.F.091937Z to Admty, C. in C. C.N.A.)
5th and 6th Groups to arrive U.K. 22nd November and prepare for
onward voyage to Russia.

SEYCHELLES, Confirmed that SEYCHELLES cannot be ready to sail
MONTSERRAT. for St. Johns N.F. My 081955/refs.
(2) MONTSERRAT expected to be ready to sail
a.m./11th in accordance with F.O.N.F. 081338,
should arrive St. Johns a.m./14th.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 092020Z).
/ 081959/11 intended. Owing to further defects,
it is highly improbable that SEYCHELLES can
arrive St. Johns N.F. by 14th November.

Casualties U.S. THOMAS TRACEY considered a constructive total
and U-Boat loss due to hurricane 14th September off Cape
incidents. Henlopen.
Para. D. 091745Z U.S.S. SAPPHIRE attacked sound
contact 41.17 N. 71.05 W.
(Cominch, 092106Z)

Spanish Spanish vessels may load pitch in Louisburg
vessels only. Your 031836 not to all refers. Vessels
loading should be routed in accordance with Mari Section
pitch. 1 para. 13 Sub-para 30 and should adjust speed
to arrive during daylight. Request sailing
schedule and names of ships.
(N.S.H.Q.0921093 to Admty)

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Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No.1023.

(Extract). For November 8th.
(8) Searches for S/M sighted off Bujs 6th November.
All negative.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 090815Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C R/330 sighted Schnorkel at 0715/
8 in 59 degs. 35' N. 06 degs. 30' W.

(2) S/M Chaser sighted S/Ms at 2200Z/8 in 59 degs.
50' N. 08 degs. 13' E.

(3) A/C had disappearing radar contact at 0805Z/9
in 55 degs. 12' N. 08 degs. 42' W.

(4) A/C reported disappearing contact at 1045Z/8 in 35 degs. 16'
N. 07 degs. 35' W.

(5) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0150Z/9 in 49 degs. 55' N.
02 degs. 20' W.

Para. D.

(1) Fishing trawler reported being missed by torpedo at 1155Z/8
in 58 degs. 08' N. 06 degs. 20' W.
(D.D.I.C.091025Z)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C.091440A, 091446A)

10.11.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. Bad weather has continued to prevent mine-sweeping in the Schelde estuary. The Fleet Minesweeper HYDRA was mined in the approaches to Ostend and was towed to Sheerness.
- Northwestern Approaches. 2. APOLLO has resumed the laying of a deep anti-U-Boat minefield in North Channel.
- Northern Waters. 3. The tanker SHIRVAN and the small Icelandic SS. GODAFOSS, scattered out of convoy U.R. 142, were torpedoed off Skagi, Iceland. SHIRVAN is still afloat, but GODAFOSS, who was picking up survivors contrary to orders when she, in turn, was torpedoed, sank in 4 minutes. [page 225]

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Riviera. 4. Allied warships have carried out further bombardments of shore objectives near the Franco-Italian border.
- Greece & Aegean. 5. After extensive minesweeping operations a convoy and warships with a Commodore in Charge have arrived at Salonika Bay. Troops have landed and the disembarkation of stores and motor transport is in progress. S.O. M/S F. 12 reported on 11th November that in opening the port of Salonika 111 mines were found.
- Mine off Port Said. 6. SS. FORT LA BAYE was damaged by a mine when entering Port Said this afternoon. The ship was about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles west of the swept channel at the time. She was successfully berthed and is in no danger of sinking. Preliminary reports suggest a long established ground mine.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Heavy air attack on enemy shipping in Ormoc Bay. 7. It is reported that U.S. aircraft yesterday evening and at early daylight today attacked enemy shipping in Ormoc Bay, Leyte I., comprising 4 large freighters or transports believed to be bringing reinforcements for Leyte, with 15 destroyers or smaller escorts. Preliminary reports indicate that 3 merchant ships and 7 destroyers or escorts were sunk.

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Heavy air
attack on
enemy ship-
ping in
Ormoc Bay.
(Contd.)

A pair of P.T. boats early this morning attacked with torpedoes three ships described as destroyers proceeding out of Ormoc Bay and it is believed sank one of them. Another pair of P.T. boats claim a hit on one of two ships believed to be escorted vessels, at the same time and place.

War Diary

10.11.1944
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Reserve Fleet base at Milford Haven. Your 281212A Oct. Concur in principle. (C. in C. W.A. 101841A to F.O.C.R.F.)

Amiral d'Argenlieu to Dieppe. My 092136A sailed. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 100530A to V.A. Dover)

Defence of United Kingdom

Focal point for release of Flying Bombs. Following received from D.21. At about 2045A Wednesday 8th November whilst GARTH was on number 20 Patrol in vicinity of number 54C Buoy, the first of about 20 flying bombs was observed approaching on approx. course of 250 degs. During the next 40 minutes the bombs continued to come from the same general direction, the average height being very low, possibly 200 feet. During the period one or two A/C not showing I.F.F. were detected by Radar to the Eastward at average ranges of about 10,000 yards apparently on alternate north and south courses. In one instance an A/C was also detected by type 271, this indicating a low height. Several of the flying bombs passed very close to GARTH, 1 going directly over the bridge. One was observed to dive into the sea without explosion and assuming range of V 1 of 40 miles, this combined with the Radar reports of aircraft suggests that the focal point for the release of these weapons is about 5 to 10 miles to the Eastward of number 20 Patrol. It is suggested that this information might be passed to the R.A.F. Similar instances have been observed by ships on this patrol on previous nights recently. T.O.O. 101140 ends. (C. in C. Nore, 102359 to Admty, H.Q.F.C.)

Movements

MAURITIUS. Clyde arrival: MAURITIUS. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101404A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

BRUISER. BRUISER is to be sailed to Clyde forthwith. (2) Vessel will be required to sail for Newport about 18th November. (3) Opportunity should be taken to grant restricted leave. (4) Further signal will be made. (D.O.D., 101630A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, R.A.L.S.C.U.)

LARGS. Sheerness arrival 1520A/10th November LARGS. (C. in C. Nore, 101801A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

/DUGUAY TROUIN ...

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Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

DUGUAY
TROUIN,
GLOIRE,
DUQUESNE.

Ministry of Marine has requested that consideration be given to the use of French Frigates now in U.K. as A/S escort for DUGUAY TROUIN, GLOIRE and DUQUESNE or as off shore patrol on ships' arrival at and departure from Brest.
(2) Request necessary action if U-Boat threat is considered to warrant it.
(A.N.C.X.F.101515A to Admty)

CLEOPATRA

A.M. 312208 October. Messrs Scotts, Greenock state that they will be in a position to accept CLEOPATRA early December. It is requested that an itemised list of approved alterations and additions may be forwarded before ship's arrival. Berthing arrangements cannot be settled until this information is obtained.
(F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 101017A to Admty)

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval. Cositintrep No.219 part 2 Naval.
(A) General. Ostend was closed from p.m. November 7th to p.m. 8th because an L.S.T. was mined and sunk off the port. No sweeping was possible in the Estuary of the Schelde on 9th November owing to heavy weather.

(B) Unloading figures 8th November.

	Troops.	Vehicles.	Stores.	Pol.
British.				
E. Calvados	-	127	824	-
Dieppe	-	-	1,805	-
Boulogne	-	-	1,163	-
Ostend	-	-	1,595	-
Total	-	127	5,387	-
U.S.				
Cherbourg	-	-	10,924	-
Brittany Ports	-	16	1,969	-
Beaches	-	-	1,484	96
Le Havre	3,344	158	3,674	2,738
Rouen	-	-	2,960	-
Total	3,344	174	21,011	2,834
Combined Totals:	3,344	301	36,398	2,834

(A.N.C.X.F. 100037A to Admty)

Cositintrep No. 220 Part II Naval.

(A) General bad weather has again prevented minesweeping in the Schelde Estuary and caused the Port of Ostend to be closed since p.m.9th November. The controlled minefield at Zeebrugge has been rendered safe. HYDRA has been mined off Ostend and Motor Launch 916 was sunk by mine off Walsoorden on the 8th November.

(B) Unloading figures:

	Troops.	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
U.S.				
Cherbourg	621	-	10,869	-
Brittany Ports	-	-	1,764	-
Beaches	-	-	88	59
Le Havre	4,293	401	4,478	-
Rouen	-	-	2,087	2,132
U.S. Total	4,914	401	19,286	2,191

/ British ...

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Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval (Contd)	British	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
	E. Calvados	530	63	871	1,413
	Dieppe	-	-	2,995	-
	Ostend	-	-	2,756	-
	Boulogne figures not yet received.				
	British				
	Totals.	<u>530</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>6,622</u>	<u>1,413</u>
	Combined				
	Totals:	5,444	464	25,908	3,604
	(A.N.C.X.F. 102210 to Admty)				

Operations

North Sea

Minesweeping of Schelde. Operation "Calendar". To assist Army planning request you will signal.
(A) On 15th November an estimate of earliest possible date of opening of initial channel to Antwerp assuming risk from Oysters is accepted.
(B) Subsequently any revision of this date in light of progress of operation.
(2) I support the view expressed in N.O.I.C. Antwerp 082009 para.4.
(A.N.C.X.F. 101315A to C. in C. Nore.)

Battleships for bombardment. The future of WARSPITE has been under review. I cannot at present visualise an operation which will require her participation until such time as the army advance into Germany, when it may be necessary to capture certain islands commanding the entrance to Emden or Hamburg. Should such an eventuality arise the strength of the coast defences would necessitate not only WARSPITE but all the battleships that could be provided. In these circumstances would Admiralty be prepared to provide battleships at say 7 days notice if WARSPITE were released now and furthermore to bring forward WARSPITE again if the necessity arises.
(A.N.C.X.F. 101651A to Admty.)

Improvement in turn-round of coastal tonnage. Admiralty 091347. Turn round of Coasters between Ostend and U.K. has been adversely affected by inaccurate weather forecasts and bad V.H.F. communications with Ostend. It is hoped communications will be improved when new linking station at Cassel is established and T/P circuits to Antwerp and Ostend are available particularly the latter.
(C. in C. Nore, 101759A to Admty, A.N.C.X.F. V.A. Dover.)

/Operation ...

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FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.

Operation "Shellfish". The 55th M.T.B. Flotilla is to be withdrawn from operations in order to be taken in hand for re-arming in connection with Operation "Shellfish".
(2) The following yards have been allocated:
M.T.B. 617 Kris Cruisers, Ltd. Twickenham.
M.T.B. 621 and 668 Tough Bros., Teddington.
M.T.B. 624 and 652 Fairmile Marine Ltd. Gillingham.
M.T.B. 632 Morgan Giles Ltd., Teignmouth.
M.T.B. 630 Messrs Whites, Itchen.
C. in C. Nore is requested to sail M.T.Bs 617, 621, 624, 652 and C. in C. Western Approaches M.T.B. 668 accordingly as soon as convenient.
(3) In order to maintain operational strength in the Nore Command and owing to the delay in completion of M.T.Bs. 513-518, the 52nd M.T.B. Flotilla will be augmented by "D" class M.T.Bs of new construction as they become available.
(4) Until relieved by the 55th M.T.B. Flotilla, 4 in number M.T.Bs of the 66th M.T.B. Flotilla are to remain available for Operation "Shellfish".
(D.O.D.(C), 101859A to C's. in C. Nore, W.A., Portsmouth.)

Gun support craft for Support Squadron Eastern Flank. N.C. Force T.031129 para. 2. It is not considered that the Support Squadron Eastern Flank as remaining at present is in sufficient strength to give support to any future amphibious operations.
(2) While it is appreciated that the majority of the remaining gun support craft have been allocated to the Far East it is urgently requested that the strength of the S.S.E.F., may be made up to the following: 9 L.C.G.(L). 6 L.C.F. 4 L.C.S.(L)
4 L.C.T.(R).
(3) Operation "Infatuate" could never have succeeded without the gallant support given by the gun support craft. It must be expected that further amphibious operations will be required during the advance into Germany and that like "Infatuate" inshore mining may well preclude the use of destroyers in close support.
(A.N.C.X.F.101935A to Admty)

OperationsChannel

Patrols. M.T.B. 750 (S.O) 733 and 757 sailing at 0740 for A/S patrol vide C. in C. Portsmouth 091837.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 100837A to Portsmouth, A/S Patrol Forces, L'AVENTURE, C. in C. Portsmouth)

Night A/S patrols 10th/11th November.
L'AVENTURE, HARGOOD, VANOC, BRILLIANT search area 10 miles west of Q.Z.S. 525 and 506 between 49 degs. 40' and 50 degs. 25' N. starting northern end.
(2) M.T.Bs join L'AVENTURE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101417A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
Day A/S patrols 11th November.
PASI para. 5 search areas limits below.
(2) L'AVENTURE, HARGOOD, VANOC, BRILLIANT 49 degs. 50' N.

/Q.Z.S.490 ...

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Patrols (Contd.) Q.Z.S. 490 01 degs. 20' W. Q.Z.S. 525 and 506 starting along west limit.
 (3) M.T.Bs. Z.121, Z.120 Northwards to Q.Z.S.490 starting along East limit.
 (4) VIDETTE relieve HARGOOD.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101722A to Ports.A/S Patrol Force)

OperationsWest Coast France

Patrol. Carry out operation "Assault".
 (A) Force 26 BLYSKAWICA.
 (B) 1400A/11th November.
 (C) By most direct route to reach Les Sables D'Olonne by 0800A/12th.
 (D) On arrival officers and stores mentioned in A.M. 311837A October and 032126A November are to be landed, and the British Officer re-embarked as soon as convenient. On completion, patrol between Belle Ile and Arcachon. Sweep North and West during night 13/14, and return to Plymouth on 14th November.
 (H) U-Boats are suspected in Western and Central English Channel.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 101158A to BLYSKAWICA, Info: F.O.I.C.Falmouth, A.N.C.X.F., Admt. H.Q.C.C., 19 Group, C.T.F.125)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Suspected U-Boats. CALDER investigating A/C report in position 050 degs. 46' N. 010 degs. 04' W.
 (S.O. E.G.4, 100529A to C. in C. W.A.)
 Whole Group investigate position of disappearing radar contact in 49 degs. 39' 10 degs. 40' probably going east.
 (C. in C. W.A. 101203A to E.G.4)
 Am attacking bottom contact in position 049 degs. 24' N. 006 degs. 58' W (X) sea and swell 23 suitable height of contact 24 feet.
 (S.O. E.G.31, 101205A to C. in C. Plymouth)
 Detach two ships to carry out zig-zag search through the following positions.
 (AA) 49.40 N. 05.06 W. (BB) 49.18 N. 05.42 W.
 (CC) 49.14 N. 04.51 W.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 101442A to S.O. E.G.6)
 Your 101442. OUTREMONT and LOCH MORLICH detached.
 (S.O. E.G.6, 101644A to C. in C. Plymouth)
 Join 4th E.G. at R/V to be arranged by S.O. 4th E.G. and operate under his orders.
 (C. in C. W.A. 101933A to S.O. E.G.30)
 My 101203. Correct position of original contact was 49 degs 53', 10 degs. 33'.
 (C. in C. W.A. 102347A to S.O.E.G.4)

/Patrol ...

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Patrol. (1) From position (EE) 49.15 N. 06.00 W. continue zig-zag search through following positions.
 (FF) 49.41 N. 06.20 W. (GG) 49.53 N. 08.00 W.
 (HH) 49.15 N. 07.40 W. (II) 49.00 N. 06.45 W.
 thence returning to (EE).
 (2) Convoy O.N.A.265 consisting of 17 ships will be in position 49 degs. 44 N. 06.26 W. at about 1800A/10 steering 295 degs. speed 7.5 knots, S.O. close escort in WENSLEYDALE.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 101102A to E.G.31)

OperationsNorth-western Approaches

Patrols. Proceed forthwith to establish Gamma patrol on 57 degs. 30' between 08 degs. 50' and 10 degs. 10'.
 (C. in C. W.A. 101223A to Force 32.)
 Scapa departure: E.G.17 (ASCENSION S.O.) in accordance with your 091631A.
 (A.C.O.S.101351A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 Shift Centre Point Gamma Patrol 2050 10 miles. My 0911631 and para. 1 refer.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 101457A to S.O.E.G.17)
 Cancel my 101457A. Establish Gamma patrol as previously arranged in my 091631A para. 1.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 101847A to S.O. E.G.17)

OperationsNorway

Operations "Counterblast" and "Steak".
 X day is now as in my 101249.
 (2) My 041831 para.(1) not to all addressees. If weather is unfavourable when Force 2 arrives north of Shetlands on a.m. X plus 1 Force 2 is to proceed to anchor in Sullom Voe and await weather improvement.
 (3) Force 1 will be sailed from Scapa a.m. X plus 1 as in my 061840 not to all addressees. If delay occurs as in para. 2 above sailing of Force 1 will be postponed until a.m. on the day Force 2 sails from Sullom Voe to carry out "Counterblast".
 (C. in C. H.F. 101244A to C.S.1, BELLONA, EURYALUS, PURSUER, R.A.D. H.F.)
 My 101244. X day Sat. 11th November.
 (C. in C. H.F. 101249A to same addressees.)

Skibotn as a sea evacuation port.

Norway. Evacuation through Skibotn. Evacuation of Rendulic's outer-most 3 divisions continues along Skibotn road into Norway. During whole of October 2600 lorries passed from Finland into Norway and of these about 1,400 returned empty. In addition about 50 buses and many staff cars passed out.

/During ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Skibotn as
a sea
evacuation
port.
(Contd.)

During 1st few days of November there were 200 lorries per day rising to 500 but by Nov. 8th figure had decreased to 110 thus showing considerable fluctuation.
Onward transport from Skibotn is partly by sea but is believed mainly by road.
There is some evidence of Germans preparing to cover their flank at Karesuando where there are 2 defence

lines in a North East direction and also a line on frontier at Enontekio.

Inference is Skibotn has now reached its maximum importance as a junction from both North and East and as a sea evacuation port. It is suggested this point should be considered as Naval target together with Narvik area ferries which complete coastal road to St. Vincent Fiord.

Daily figures of lorry traffic on Skibotn Road can be signalled if desired.

A.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 101742A to D.N.I.)

Patrols.

Submarines positions 0800/11th November and movements for the following 24 hours.

All times Zone A.

(A) ULA as in my 081754.

(B) VENTURER on patrol off Andfiord.

(C) UTSIRA, SCYTHIAN as in my 081754.

(F.O. S/M., 101819A to Admty)

My 081113A. Amend para. 3 to read "Not later than 0600A/12th November" and para. 5 to read "Not later than p.m. 12th November".

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 102152A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Northern Waters.

Convoy
R.A.61.

R.A.61, remainder of convoy proceeding direct to destination. Add to my 091832.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 100950A to H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.

C. in C. W.A., Admiralty., A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C.

N.L.O.13 Group, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth,

F.O.(D) H.F., S.B.N.O. Archangel, S.B.N.O. N. Russia)

Suspected
U-Boat.

Proceed to search area within 10 miles of position 063 degs. 33' N. 024 degs. 55' W. On completion search along a line 051 degs. from above position. On reaching longitude of SKAGI return to harbour. Acknowledge and make weather report

(A.C.I.C. 101154A to STARWORT)

Explosion reported in tanker sighted off Sangerdi at 1115Z to-day 10th. Is SHIRVAN in company. VAAG HONNINGS proceeding to investigate. Report your position forthwith.

(A.C.I.C. 101257A to VASCAMA)

/Convoy ...

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Convoy R.A.61A. Kola Inlet 10th November departure R.A.61A speed 14 knots with SCORPION, SAVAGE and E.G.3.
(2) MOUNSEY did not sail.
(S.B.N.O.N. Russia, 101428A to Admty)

Convoy J.W.62. Intend convoy J.W.62 sail on 28th Nov.
(2) C.S.1 will take charge of operation.
(3) Request 2 night flying escort carriers may be provided to arrive Scapa by 24th November.
(C. in C. H.F. 101714A to Admty)

Mining

APOLLO. Admiralty's 091719. Ship remains fit for service.
(2) Require 48 hours at extended notice as from a.m. Sunday 12th November to repair defective oil cooler. As next outfit is unlikely to be ready for loading until p.m. 14th this appears convenient.
(APOLLO, 101053A to C. in C. W.A.)
My 091555. Sailed APOLLO.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 101623 to C. in C. W.A.)
APOLLO will pass through position 055 degs. 30' N. 007 degs. 10' W. at 0730/11th to lay mines on a line parallel to and 5 miles 270 degs. from line quoted in my 071654.
(2) Force 33 is to give support as ordered in above signal.
(C. in C. W.A. 101742A to S.O.Force 33.)

Minesweeping in Schelde. Operation "Calendar".
(1) Sweeping to-day Friday 10th November: SA/LL.
A. Eendrachtspolder to Eastern end of Honte anchorage edges of channel. 2 Actuattos.
B. Eendrachtspolder to Hanswærd 4 Actuattos.
C. M.M.S.1083 continued acoustic sweeping and LL Salinite Test from Antwerp.
Further sweeping abandoned owing to wind, Force A continuing.
(2) Ground mines 16 including 5 by M.M.S.1083 on swept to Antwerp on 9th November particulars by despatch.
(3) By despatch.
(4) Including 3 LL tails. (B) 3 LL motor mechanics.
(Capt. M/S. F.A. 101759A to C. in C. Nore, Info. Admty, A.N.C.X.F. Cdr. Belgium, N.O.I.C.Antwerp.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Navy Narvik Area. (1) Damaged destroyer. German destroyer with badly damaged upper works and another destroyer alongside to assist her entered Sorskjomen Oct. 31st.
(2) Wounded Naval Ratings through Sweden. There

/ is ...

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Narvik Area.
(Contd.)

is good reason to believe that last Red Cross Train through Sweden on November 7th or November 8th carried wounded Naval Ratings from Narvik.
(3) Damage to Ramsund. Torpedo Work Shop was completely destroyed but ammunition store was not hit. B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 101719 to Admty.)

Note: N.I.D. Comment. Para. 1. No other report as to this casualty has been received.

Para. 2. A Swedish broadcast on 7th November announced the passage of "a few hundred German soldiers from Norway" through Helsingborg on the 8th November.

EMDEN.

See my 071837 para. 1 (A) EMDEN sighted outside Oslo Fjord 1355 November 8th.

B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 101805 to Admty)

U-BoatsSuspected
U-Boats.

Contact reported 1105Z/10th November in 49 degs. 24' N. 06 degs. 58' W. is very probably U-Boat eastbound into Channel.

Contact at 1040Z/10th November may be another U-Boat approaching English Channel in area 49 degs.

40' N. long. 10 degs. 35' W.

One possibly still in central Channel area.

(D.D.I.C. 101445A to A.I.G.331, Cominch, S. and A. Area C.)

Casualties and Defects.

TALYBONT.

Ref. C. in C. Nore, 091139A November. TALYBONT damage has been inspected and ship is being shored as necessary and temporary repairs made to D.G. Ship will be ready for sailing p.m. Monday 13th

November, ex ranging. Both main engines can be used.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 101130 to Admty)

YUKON.

U.S.S. YUKON. 031320 and 091650, neither to all refer. When ready about 13th November Com. N.O.B. Iceland sail YUKON escorted by OTOOLE and ABNAKI for U.S. as routed by Admiralty.

Admiralty please route via 55 N. 15 W. thence to Norfolk via Azores. If upon arrival 55 N. 15 W. Commanding Officer deems it advisable to be brought to U.K. for further repair make priority request to Admiralty.

(Comnaveu, 101214 to Admty, YUKON, Com. N.O.B. Iceland)

HYDRA.

HYDRA mines between O.D.3 and O.D. 4 buoy please send tug.

(S.O. M.S.F.18, 101456A to N.O.I.C. Ostend)

/Your ...

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Casualties and Defects

HYDRA (Contd.) Your 101456. Tug FREEDOM being despatched from Ostend when tide serves about 1930. Trawler CALDY and GRASSHOLM being despatched now to stand-by.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 101538A to M.S.F.18)

There is a good chance of saving HYDRA. Ship now anchored near position of mining. COCKATRICE endeavouring to take in tow to Ostend. Whaler adrift may beach near Nieuport.

(S.O.M.S.F.18, 101621A to N.O.I.C.Ostend).

HYDRA abandoned and at anchor 094 degs. O.D.3. Buoy 1.2 miles. Both boiler rooms flooded and engine-room flooding. I fear she may capsize and consider she is in as good a situation as any until the weather moderates. READY and COCKATRICE remaining in vicinity ORESTES, ONYX, TANGANYIKA anchoring by O.D.5.

(S.O.M.S.F.18, 101813A to N.O.I.C.Ostend)

My 101813. Back of HYDRA is considered to be broken but ship is still afloat. 111 Officers and men now on board READY including 4 seriously injured in care of Medical Officer and 5 ratings on board ORESTES. 9 ratings in Whaler. My 101621 refers. 1 rating killed. READY, COCKATRICE now anchored 1 mile 040 degs. from HYDRA.

Intend READY and ORESTES to close entrance at 0900 in accordance with your 101740 when it is requested that ship's company of HYDRA including injured may be transferred ashore in readiness for a percentage being placed on board her again should you so decide after inspection by your Salvage Officer.

(S.O.M.S.F.18, 102026 to N.O.I.C.Ostend)

THE EARL. THE EARL damaged by contact with submerged wreck. Holed port side engine room. Temporary repairs executed. Requires dry docking for repairs on return to U.K.

(N.O.I.C.Boulogne, 091504A to Admty.for M.W.T.)

SHIRVAN, U.R.142. SHIRVAN and GODAFOSS torpedoed off GODAFOSS. Skagi. Both ships still afloat. SHIRVAN on fire. Hunt proceeding.

(A.C.I.C.101648A to Admty)

SHIRVAN (Tanker message) and Icelandic GODAFOSS ex U.R.142 torpedoed off Gardskagi Southwest Iceland. GODAFOSS sunk escorts standing by SHIRVAN.

(N.C.S.O.Iceland, 101816A to Admty)

My 101648 convoy had been scattered in heavy gale last night. SHIRVAN was straggler proceeding ahead of convoy unescorted. First information vague report from shore station. SHIRVAN made no report. Ship still afloat with heavy list but gale impeded salvage operations. GODAFOSS and ULLA escorted by HOMEGUARD and NORTHERN REWARD reached SHIRVAN'S position about two hours after latter was torpedoed.

/ GODAFOSS ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

SHIRVAN, GODAFOSS against orders of escort proceeded to pick up survivors was torpedoed just after completing rescue. Sank in four minutes 47 survivors of SHIRVAN and GODAFOSS in HONNINGS-VAAG and NORTHERN REWARD being brought to Reykjavik. One lifeboat from SHIRVAN reported close inshore

off Skagi.

Reports in accordance with C.A.F.O.1954/44 and 2120/44 will be signalled when particulars obtained from escorts on their arrival in harbour. NORTHERN REWARD made two attacks on contact. No visible result.

(A.C.I.C.102058A to Admty)

My 102058. SHIRVAN though awash may float for several days. Request rescue tug be sent forthwith. Further signal will be made tomorrow.

(A.C.I.C.102358A to Admty)

ABRAHAM
BENJAMIN
BALDWIN.

ABRAHAM
H.M.R.T.SAUCY alongside BENJAMIN BALDWIN on Goodwin Sands. SAUCY immobile due to towing wire round propeller. Being taken in tow by EMPIRE AID. Request instructions.
(SAUCY,101845A to V.A. Dover)

FAGERBRO.

Aground on North Sand Head have no radio. Send help as soon as possible.
(S.S. FAGERBRO,102139Z to North Foreland Radio)

Shipping and Convoys

Release of
W.S.A. tugs.

Further to my 311105 para.2. Comnavu and W.S.A. have requested the release of the last 4 W.S.A. tugs, viz. MOOSE PEAK, HILLSBORO INLET, SANKETY HEAD and GREAT ISAAC, so that they can be assembled at Plymouth by December 1st to make up a convoy for towage of damaged ships to U.S.
(2) It is not considered that the holding of these tugs for an indefinite period to meet possible requirement contained in S.H.A.E.F. Main's 081700 last sentence (not to all), is justified. Propose therefore that they be released by this date.
(A.N.C.X.F.(Cotug) 101259A to A.N.X.C.F. (Main)).

B.T.C.
Convoys.

Your 091642. Para. 1 concur.
Para. 3. Sailing time to be arranged according to tides to arrive Z buoy 0940 on assumption that arrival Pasture anchorage after nightfall is acceptable.

Para.4. Suggest Cherbourg ships be detached on crossing H Channel. Havre ships at Z area.
(F.O.I.C.Cardiff,101502A to Admty)

/Far ...

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Far Shore Your dis. 091642.
Convoys. View congestion in and exposed nature of anchorages, lack of navigational aids and presence of mines, wrecks and blockships it is important that ships arrive far shore in daylight. If schedule given in your despatch adopted suggest that Thames ships for Le Havre not be required to proceed to "Z" but take a shorter route similar to that agreed in your sig. 260615 October for tugs with tows. Any acceleration which can be given in B.T.C. schedule will assist arrival at Le Havre. To avoid night departure and remove temptation to jump convoy it will be necessary to sail Cherbourg joiners for T.B.C. as well as B.T.C. to Saint Helens or Portland for inclusion. R/V with C.O.C. and O.C.C. convoys should be arranged on basis of timetable given in Mydis. 081743 and loss of a day by ships entering Plymouth or Falmouth prevented. It is for consideration that economy in shipping time could be effected by sailing C.O.C. convoy from Falmouth instead of Plymouth. (C.T.F.125, 101533A to Admty.)

Though arrivals at Weilingen at dawn will necessitate passage through area most vulnerable to E-Boat attack and mining during dark hours, your 071906 concur. It is considered that navigational difficulties in darkness in river Schelde outweigh this risk.

(C. in C. Nore, 101546A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

Your 081743 concur, generally, and intend to sail from Plymouth to arrive at position Z at 0800 or first light whichever is the earlier.

(2) New schedule will commence with C.C.C.6 sailing p.m./12th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101625A to C.T.F.125)

C.T.F.125's 081743 which has been passed to you. If recommendations are concurred in request you will promulgate as necessary schedule for O.C.C./C.O.C. convoys which should be subject to any modification necessitated by final agreed schedule for T.B.C./B.T.C. convoys A.M. 091642 not to all refers.

(D.T.D.101732A to C. in C. Plymouth)

L.S.T. for Cr. No. 678. A special towing convoy will be
U.S. sailed from Plymouth area for U.S. on 1st December. Following U.S. L.S.Ts are to be included. 312, 327, 359, 391 and 512. It is expected that W.S.A. tugs TYBEE, BODIE ISLAND, FARALLON, GREAT ISAAC, SANKATY HEAD, HILLSBORO INLET and MOOSE PEAK will be utilized. Action addressees are requested to make every effort to have named U.S. L.S.Ts. ready for towing in time to reach Plymouth area before December 1st as the tugs cannot be held beyond this date. (Com. 12th Fleet, 101556 to Admty, F.O.I.C's Liverpool, Leith, Cousnaabs Plymouth, Falmouth)

Daily 7 knot A.M. 091642A. Concur.
Convoy (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 101615A to Admty)
between Thames A.M. 091642 concur with proposals.
and Bristol (V.A. Dover, 101845A to Admty)
Channel.

/Southampton ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Southampton
turn-round
for QUEEN
ELIZABETH
and
QUEEN MARY.

M.O.W.T. is being informed that when berths are available it is acceptable to use Southampton as the turnaround port for the QUEENS, provided that:
(a) The U-Boat situation in the Channel permits.
(b) Arrangements at the Clyde remain such that the ships could be diverted there at any time.
(2) Request that the check survey in para.2 of C. in C. Portsmouth's 011123 may be carried out as opportunity offers and any other necessary arrangements put in hand.

(3) Concur in the route given in C. in C. Plymouth's 311132 Oct. Both ships will be fitted with Q.H.

(4) It is unlikely that use could be made of Southampton before mid-December at the earliest. Further signal will be made.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 102056A to C's. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth)

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SS. CHINESE (1) Cancel my 091142.
PRINCE, (2) Intend to sail SS. CHINESE PRINCE and SS.
RUYS, RUYS escorted by ROTHER (S.O.) and VAN DER ZAAAN
ROTHER, at 0100A/11th to U.K.
VAN DER (3) - (7) Route and arrangements.
ZAAAN. (8) A.M. 071857, 071854 and 101221 and my
090112 and 091650A none to all refer.
(F.O.G.M.A., 101051A.)
Your 091650 approved.
(D.O.D.(H), 101221A to F.O.G.M.A.)

M.V. NIAGARA, Your 081932* Your 181951 October requested
BORELAND. C. in C. Med. to inform me to date on which he
wishes vessels to proceed.
Your 191802 October confirmed that vessels
should be held at Gibraltar until C. in C. Med.
was satisfied that they could proceed direct to Piraeus by
Black route without diversion.
Your 212028A October stated that C. in C. Med. should inform
me at least four days in advance of dates on which vessels
were to sail.
Your 251824 altered this period to three days.
Your 041948 gave programme for ships identical with that given
in my 041809.
S.B.N.O. Greece's 071737 not to Admiralty gave affirmative
answer. This signal was received here at 080525. First two
ships sailed at 081335.
C. in C. Med. 050948 asked S.B.N.O. Greece whether programme was
acceptable and instructed me to sail ships in accordance with
S.B.N.O. Greece's reply.
(F.O.G.M.A., 101705A to Admty.)
* Delay in clearance by Contraband Control of Swedish ships.

A/U AIRE is to slip and proceed at 0900A/11 to relieve
operations. DART and join Group 1.
(2) Group 1 consisting of DART (S.O.), BARLE and
KILMARNOCK is carrying out patrol "Bacon" as in
my 051130 being passed to AIRE and ANCHUSA.
(3) DART is requested to signal R/V posn. and time to AIRE and
is to return Gibraltar when relieved.
(4) BARLE is to take S.O. Group 1 when DART detaches.
(5) ANCHUSA is to slip and proceed at 0600A/12 to relieve BARLE
and join Group 1.
(6) BARLE is to signal R/V position and time and to return
Gibraltar when relieved.
(7) AIRE is to take S.O. Group 1 when BARLE detaches.
(8) Group 2 is patrolling inside 100 fathom lines to westward of
Strait between 035° N. and 036° 40' N.
(9) AIRE and ANCHUSA acknowledge.
(F.O.G.M.A., 101735A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 2261, 2264, 2244, 2043 sailed 0700Z/10 by British Standard Coastal Route, to Gibraltar in accordance with your 081950Z.
The group will call at Port Etienne to transfer fuel to 2043 and Casablanca for fuel. On completion they proceed to Gibraltar.
Speed 9 knots. E.T.A. Casablanca p.m./16th.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, 100940Z.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SS. Your 061804 and 070939 to C. in C. E.F. Request ELIZABETHVILLE report origin and date of shipment of coal in which fire has occurred. Also state suspected cause of fire and submit any other relevant comments.

(D. of S.T. 100359A to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Gen. Ristic's broadcast. Your 071731. Brigadier Maclean believes General Ristic's broadcast not to have been intended to apply to personnel already enrolled in Yugoslav Armed Forces and has telegraphed to Marshal Tito recommending further broadcast emphasizing this point.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 100815A to C. in C. Med.)

F.O.L.E.M.'s 101220, see end.

French ships for operations in Home Commands. A.M. 091507. LORRAINE, DUQUESNE, JEANNE D'ARC are available. GLOIRE is available subject to proviso in para. C of my 091711 to Admty. and A.N.C.X.F. MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES are required for operations off south coast of France but as already reported in my 091711 DUGUAY-TROUIN and EMILE BERTIN can be spared from Med.

if French can make necessary arrangement.
(C. in C. Med. 101302 to Admty.)

SS. EGE. Turkish Govt. wish to send EGE to Piraeus 5275 tons gross (?shortly with) relief supplies. Turkish Ambassador to Greece will embark in her. Turks request safe conduct and route from Dardanelles to Greece. Request you inform B.N.A. Ankara when ship can be accepted at Piraeus.

Route from Dardanelles through Turkish territorial waters as far as Fethieh thence position H of "Black" route and by "Black" to 037° 00' N. 024° 00' E. thence to 037° 21' N. 023° 42' E. where she will be met and piloted to Piraeus. Turkish should make own arrangements with Germans for safe conduct.
(F.O.L.E.M. 101328B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

APHIS, COCKCHAFER, SCARAB, LOCUST. It is expected that APHIS, COCKCHAFER and SCARAB will be required in January 1945 for operations with the Eastern Fleet.

(2) Request that you will arrange for them to be refitted and sailed to arrive Ceylon about mid January.

(3) A further signal will be made regarding adjustment of personnel.

(4) It is under consideration to allocate LOCUST as S.B.N.O.'s ship DANUBE but her earliest date of arrival is spring 1945. Your 022014 refers.

(V.C.N.S. on P.D. 0166/44, 101426A to C. in C. Med.)

DELHI. Arrived Split anchored in (?Kastel) Bay.
(DELHI 101501A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

/Salonika...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Salonika Bay. (?Your) 101?(201)B. No confirmation of Oyster mines.
(2) No moored mines in (group missed) Bay.
(3) More than 50 (?ground) mines have already been swept in Salonika Bay.
(S.O. M/S 12 101551B.)

Passage of Landing Craft to Far East. Your 011235. A.M. 201720 was based on revised arrangements recently agreed for towage of Landing Craft by merchant ships. These arrangements are for craft to proceed independently to Gibraltar where they will be picked up for towage through the Mediterranean. They will proceed independently through the Canal and then be picked up again at Suez for on-towage to India. Under these circumstances it has been decided that arrangements as outlined in A.M. 201720 will apply at Gibraltar and Suez. Any craft dropping off en route and requiring onward tows will be dealt with by you and M.W.T. as outlined in my T.M. 22215. Am writing you enclosing revised instructions to Masters.
(D. of S.T. 101632A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

ADRIAS. Your 081428*. Has my 071607+ been received please. (Greek C. in C. 101636B to F.O.L.E.M.)
* Request ADRIAS be sailed to Alexandria.
+ No trace file. Not addressed Admty. (see Greek C. in C.'s 091547.) No action has been taken by W.R. to obtain repetition of 071607.

BONN. Consider it would be most undesirable to turn BONN over to Partisans pending satisfactory solution of Yugoslav Naval problems. A.M. 182238 October 072033 November and F.O.T.A.L.I. 091713 refer. (C. in C. Med. 101717A to Admty.)

Situation report No. 482. (1) After extensive minesweeping operations a convoy and warship including Cmdre. in Charge have arrived in Salonika Bay. Troops have landed and disembarkation of stores and motor transport is in progress.
(2) Near the Franco-Italian border Allied warships have carried out 2 further bombardments against shore objectives. (C. in C. Med. 101839A.)

Split. Split situation number 13. BEAUFORT berthed in Split and DELHI anchored Sucurac today. L.C.I. 170 and M.L. 1046 SITICA BAWAR arrived.
(2) Busy with R/C party and local authorities today. Turning over to DELHI tomorrow when L.C.H. will sail.
(3) Fine and cloudy wind north 3 barometer 29 55 uncorrected rising. Fresh N.E. wind all day.
(L.C.H. 97 101905A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

/Yugoslav...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Yugoslav Navy. Following received from Allies to Mideast for passing from R.Y.F.H.Q. M.E. to H.Q. B.A.F. Naval Section from Zufanic to Kern order 1309 is not applicable to the Navy. Take over command of Royal Yugoslav Navy and carry on operations as ordered by British Admiralty. No declaration to be requested from Royal Yugoslav Navy personnel until further orders. Ends. Similar communication has been made to H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. in respect of R.Y.G.F.

(2) Presume you will pass message if you concur.
(F.O.L.E.M. 102051B to C. in C. Med.)

M/S 13. ROTHESAY, RHYL, POLRUAN, BUDE and NEBB returning Taranto E.T.A. 1600B/11. Remainder of Force at anchor at Oxia until the weather moderates when B.Y.M.S. 2056, 2028 and M.Ls. 580 and 135 will be sailed to Taranto and BRIXHAM, STORNOWAY, B.Y.M.S. 2020, M.L. 168 and HAILSTORM to Katakolon Bay.
(S.O. M/S 13 102146B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

VALIANT, transit of canal. (a) Trials following cutting of VALIANT's inner shafts and A brackets show ship capable of steaming $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots without vibration.
(e) After consulting S.N.O.R.S.C.A., Director of Canal Company and C.O. and officers of VALIANT I am of opinion that Canal Company will get the ship through and that even if she touches as she probably will she will not make any water.
(g) Trials will be carried out about (16th) November.
(F.O.L.E.M. 101220 to C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No fresh information. Scale unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 100331Z.)

SS. FORT LEE
(sunk 2nd
November.)

17 survivors from SS. FORT LEE picked up by SS.
TUMACACORI in 027° 30' S. 086° 48' E.
(C. in C. E.F. 100521Z.)

Convoy.

Arrived convoy Diego Suarez - Nosi be - Diego
Suarez one escorted by F.F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 100605Z.)

U.S.S. GEN.
POPE, SS.
EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

It is anticipated that GENERAL POPE will sail from
Bombay about 18th December for New Zealand with
about 1970 N.Z. troops embarked.
(2) It is intended to afford destroyer escort for
this ship to 5° S. and thence cruiser escort to lat.
of Fremantle. Ship may therefore be embarked to
capacity. Admiralty 071912 to C. in C. E.F.,
N.Z.N.B. and A.C.N.B. only refers.

(3) EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND speed 21 knots is due to sail from
Wellington about 30th December for Bombay with 400 N.Z. troops
embarked Admty's. above quoted signal refers.

(4) It is intended to afford cruiser escort for this ship from
R/V off southwest Australia to 5° south and thence destroyer escort
to Bombay.

(5) In order to economize escorts it will be necessary to sail
EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in company with one or more general class
troopships which proceed from Australian waters to Bombay at not
less than 20 day intervals my 250507 Oct. not to all addressees
refers.

(6) It is therefore requested that B.A.D. Washington will advise
firm programme for general class troopships sailing from
Australia to India early January as soon as known and that
N.Z.N.B. will advise firm date of sailing of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND
from Wellington as soon as known.
(C. in C. E.F. 100901Z.)

21st and
22nd M/S F.

Reference your 011010Z para. 4. Concur.
(D.M.S. 101217A to C. in C. E.F.)

SS. OCEAN
VOLUNTEER.

Reply yes. Merchant vessel, 3 masts motor engine
closed from 15 miles to 6 miles altered course when
Q message transmitted.
(OCEAN VOLUNTEER 101300Z to Admiral Colombo.)

TRADEWIND,
patrol report.

Negative patrol B.R. 11. My P.C.S. 011° 58' 096°
19' 229° 9 knots. (2) Junks sunk by gunfire Moscos
Chanel on 8th and Port Owen this morning. No
steamships seen. Important Junk traffic has air
escort. (3) Your 040502 para. 1 only completed.

(4) M.L.O. para. 1B complied with. (5) Have 1 and 4 Malayan
prisoners. 1 wounded.
(TRADEWIND 101632Z.)

[Report of this patrol, 161002, page 388]

10.11.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SS. JAMES COOK, Intercept 0230Z 500 k/cs. Distress from Hialeah
SS. ALBERT E. (Florida) W/T from (KTOL) JAMES COOK position
WATTS, 12.40 N. 71.40 W. 0232Z/10th.
(tankers) (Lands End Radio 100333A.)
distress Intercept 0253Z 500 k/cs type A. Distress from
messages. Hialeah (Florida) W/T distress from (WHSX) ALBERT
E. WATTS rammed at sea position 12.57 N. 71.39 W.
0250Z/10.
(Lands End Radio 100355A.)

Russian S.Cs. Your 091937 para. 2A. My 092115 refers. Ref.
para. 2B approved for GLACE BAY to be employed as
third escort on completion of boiler cleaning.
(2) As it is intended to allocate GLACE BAY to C.4
group, C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ship after arrival in
U.K. as necessary to join group.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 101357Z to F.O.N.F.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M No report since my 081345. Para. D. U.S. C.54
attack and sights possible U-Boat 1710Z/9th 47° 30' N. 62°
sighting 00' W.
summary. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 101401Z.)

Stragglers Nil report.
report No. 75. (N.S.H.Q. 101402Z.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 101441Z, Cominch 101552Z.)

U/B incidents. Para. D. 091710Z Army C.54 A/C reported sighting
U-Boat 47.30 N. 62.00 W. 100105Z B.24 had Radar
contact 39.30 N. 72.30 W. and sighted oil slick
same area.
(Cominch 102040Z.)

M.V. Swedish 15 knot vessel TRAVANCORE sailed from
TRAVANCORE. Delaware Capes 101600Z for Gothenburg. Will follow
neutral transatlantic route to 34.00 N. 39.00 W.
then T.M. 36.40 N. 35.00 W. thereafter Swedish
Gothenburg route to Faroes and destination. Granted
safe conduct.
(Cominch 102130.)

10.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. (Extract.) For 9th November.
1024. (3) R/C plane sighted enemy force of 13 warships described as four battleships, 3 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, 3 destroyers shortly after mid-day in centre Balabac Strait, course southeast, speed 20 knots. Covering Jap. fighters attacked observing plane, but Task Force shadowed for 3 hours and last seen on opposite course 30 miles west, of Balabac Strait. Destination or mission this Force undetermined, but later sightings involving 10 warships east of Palawan Island suggest possibly at least portion same Force subsequently proceeded through Balabac Straits from estimate original Force sighted probably comprised Naval Units in Brunei Bay 7th November identified from delayed photographic interpretation as 4 battleships, (1 Yamato, 1 Nagato, 2 Kongo class), 3 heavy cruisers, (1 Tone, 1 Atago, 1 unidentified), 2 light cruisers, (1 Natori, 1 Yubari Oryagagi class), 4 destroyers. These photos. also show 1 large aircraft carrier, 3 medium merchant ships present.
(15) 2 United States destroyers shelled enemy positions Sarmit Peninsula 8th November supporting ground forces.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 100805Z.)

Appointment Rear Admiral D.B. Fisher is being appointed as
of Rear Rear Admiral Fleet Train. He expects to arrive
Admiral D.B. in Sydney at the end of December, by which date a
Fisher. number of Fleet Train ships will be in Australian waters.

(2) About 20 officers and 16 ratings of the Staff of Rear Admiral Fleet Train will arrive in Sydney about the same time.

(3) MONTCLARE will be the flagship of Rear Admiral Fleet Train, but as she will not arrive until March 1945 at the earliest it is requested that you will arrange in the interval for accommodation, temporary offices and transport facilities to be provided.

(4) Request arrangements made may be reported.
(Hd. of M. 102251A to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack Para. B. (1) A/C N/201 attacked possible Schnorkel
& sighting at 1110Z/9th in 55° 50' N. 06° 54' W.
summary. (2) RIBBLE attacked contact with hedgehog at 1720Z/9th Nov. in 55° 56' N. 06° 56' W.
(3) A/C J/228 attacked contact with depth-charges at 0230Z/10th Nov. in 50° 46' N. 10° 04' W.
(D.D.I.C. 101115A.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 101446A, 101447A.)

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11.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

1. The French Ministry of Marine has now moved to Paris and Naval France has ceased to exist.

Home Commands

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| North Sea. | 2. The weather has now moderated and Ostend is reopened to shipping. |
| Western Approaches. | 3. The 30th and 4th Escort Groups are hunting a very promising-looking U-Boat contact in 50° 26' N., 9° 10' W.
Two more acoustic mines have been swept in Brest approaches. |
| Northern Waters. | 4. The Tug FREEBOOTER has sailed from Scapa to the rescue of the torpedoed tanker SHIRVAN off Skagi, Iceland. |

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

5. Vice-Admiral Ronarch has taken up the appointment of Admiral Mediterranean with H.Q. in Algiers. Operational control remains with C. in C. Mediterranean.

Australia and New Zealand

- | | |
|---|---|
| Further
convoy
destroyed
at Ormoc
Bay. (cf.
10th Nov.) | 6. An enemy convoy was reported yesterday approaching Ormoc Bay from the north-west and consisting of 4 transports, 5 destroyers, one destroyer escort, with fighter cover. The convoy was attacked at early daylight today, just prior to entering Ormoc Bay, by aircraft of the |
|---|---|

/3rd ...

11.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Further
convoy
destroyed
at Ormoc
Bay. (cf.
10th Nov.)
(Contd.)

3rd Fleet Carrier Task Group, and is reported to have been completely frustrated and almost entirely eliminated.

7. A pair of P.T. Boats last night attacked unsuccessfully with torpedoes 5 ships reported as destroyers near the north-westernmost tip of Leyte.

11.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Inshore night fishing areas. A.M. 081922A November, para. 2. Cancel my 311817 October. In view of the circumstances consider proposed areas given in Portsmouth's 7392/0/6944/1 of 1st November may now be allowed under conditions laid down in A.N.C.X.F. 061752 subject to the following amendment.

(2) Limits of area south of the Isle of Wight given in clause (C) of Portsmouth letter quoted being amended as follows:
Needles Lighthouse - South (True) Needles 9 - miles - South (True)
St. Catherines 3 miles - S.E. (True) Ventnor Piefle Mivos - S.E. (True) Culver Cliff 3½ miles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 111116A to Admty.)

1st Destroyer Flotilla. The eviction of the enemy's surface forces from the Channel has necessitated the gradual transfer of the Portsmouth Hunts to the Nore Command to continue E-Boat and other operations.

(2) It is not the intention to disband the 1st Destroyer Flotilla as the older destroyers now at Portsmouth will be required to carry on the good work of escorting and A/S hunting in your Command until the U-Boat ceases to be a menace.
(V.C.N.S. 111147A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements.

EURYALUS. A.M. 070100A. Intend E.T.A. Cxcars 0800 on D day. D day will be signalled when known.

(2) Intend to give leave in two watches from D day to D plus 14 and D plus 15 to D plus 29 reports in accordance with H.G.O. 151 para. 15 follow.
(3) Ship will arrive with as little oil as practicable.
(4) It is requested arrangements may be made for fumigation to destroy rats (A.F.O. 1977/40). For this purpose it is proposed to adjust leave of majority of second watch to leave minimum numbers for local accommodation. Fumigation to take place approx. D plus 13.
(5) It is proposed to retain ammunition on board during leave and fumigation period.
(6) It is desired to clear refrigerator during leave period.
(7) In order to facilitate boiler cleaning and in order that the best use may be made of ship's staff to complete defects it would be appreciated if a berth alongside could be arranged.
(EURYALUS 111047A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

BRUISER. Clyde arrival BRUISER.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 111054A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Force 2,
(for operation "Counterblast")
Scapa departures C.S. 1 in KENT with BELLONA, MYNGS, ZAMBESI, VERULAM, ALGONQUIN.
(A.C.O.S. 112106A to PURSUER, Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. W.A., C.S. 10, N.O.I.C. Lerwick, H.Q.C.C., No. 18 Group C.C., R.A.(D) H.F., F.O. (S/M))

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War Diary.11.11.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.Re-opening
of Ostend.Port now open. Weather moderated.
(2) Can accept ships stated in my 101706.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 110825A to C. in C. Nore, A.N.C.X.F)

Patrols.

Nore and Dover patrols tonight November 11/12th.
(1) SHEARWATER, East Tongue Wreck to Elbow Buoys.
DUFF and C/F N.F. 2 to N.F.4 Buoys.
COTSWOLD N.F.4 to N.F.7 Buoys.
EKINS and C/F N.F.7 to N.F.10 Buoys.
RETALICK and C/F 51° 35' N. 03° 12' E. to 51° 30' N. 03° 00' E.
(A.C. Dover 111212A to Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcasts
H.D. and C.N. in area C.)Operations.Channel.

Patrols.

OUTREMONT and LOCH MORBEH proceed forthwith to
carry out zigzag search between 49.46 N. 04.41 W.
and 49.22 N. 03.50 W.
(2) S.O.E.G. 6 is to detach 2 ships of E.G.6 so as
to enter Plymouth at 0730A/12th November for short lay-over. Ships
not detached are to concentrate as ordered by S.O.E.G.6 and
continue patrol as in my 081801.
(3) Remainder of group will be ordered return to Plymouth for
lay-over at about noon 14th November.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111303A to E.G.6.)
Day A/S patrols 12th November.
P.A.S.I. para. 5. Search areas limits below.
(2) L'AVENTURE, VIDETTE, VANOC 5 miles each side line joining
160° St. Catherine's Point 15, 310° Pointe de Barfleur 12.
(3) BRILLIANT between Z.10, Z.16 and Q.Z.S. 511, 554.
(4) WALDEGRAVE relieve BRILLIANT.
(5) M.T.Bs. H Channel 02° 00' N. 49° 50' Q.Z.S. 490.
(6) M.T.Bs. on patrol are being informed by separate signal.
(7) L'AVENTURE, BRILLIANT, WALDEGRAVE, M.T.B. 760, acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 111607A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)Operations.Western Approaches.Probable
U-Boat.Am investigating disappearing Radar contact in
position 50° 26' N. 09° 10' W. Although detected
and seen faded at range 11 miles consider this
possibly U-Boat (G.R.) Radar conditions excellent
weather suitable.
(S.O.E.G. 30 110152A to C. in C. W.A.)
Have moving A/S contact in position. My 110152A refers. Group
is attacking.
(S.O.E.G. 30 110255A to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. 50° N. 10° 53' W. 068° 14 knots.
(S.O.E.G.4 110500A to C. in C. W.A.)

/My 110425...

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11.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable
U-Boat.
(Contd.)

My 110425, 110320, 110255, 110152A. Height of bottomed target from 14 to 20 feet above sea bed and about 300 feet long. Two Squid attacks delivered before U-Boat bottomed. Eight Squid attacks and one depth charge attack delivered since. Attacks continue. Suitable.

(S.O.E.G.30 110747A to C. in C. W.A.)

Joined E.G.30 still in firm contact. Squid and Hedgehog attacks continue. One unmarked oil can obviously crushed by pressure found. Oil and air coming up.

(2) Intend carrying out 6 miles observant round attacking ship.
(S.O.E.G.4 111127A to C. in C. W.A.)

S.O.30th E.G. 111024 sounds most promising but your search should allow for a U-Boat creeping away just in case 30th E.G. is on a wreck.

(C. in C. W.A. 111312A to S.O.E.G.4.)

Oil still rising from target. Echo sounder trace definitely suggests submarine silhouette. A very large air bubble was observed over contact after four ship attack by 4th E.G. Suitable. Group is still in firm contact.

(S.O.E.G. 30 111800A to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti-U-Boat
searches.

When reporting situation by signal the following information is to be included with regard to A/U search operations.

A. Is asdic efficiency of search considered to have been average, above or below average?

B. Have charted non-submarines in area been located?

(2) This may be signalled in the form search A below average.

B. No.

(C. in C. W.A. 111812A W.A.G.M. 143 N.S.)

Reference C. in C's 111303. OUTREMONT and LOCH MORLICH continue search detaching as requisite to enter Plymouth 0730.

(S.O.E.G.6 111837A to OUTREMONT.)

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Search for
ditched
Halifax
survivors.

Your 110002A. BENTLEY and CAPEL detached.
(S.O. Force 33 110115A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol.

If not in contact by 1600A today Saturday move Gamma patrol 205° 50 miles. My 091631A para. 1 refers.

(C. in C. Rosyth 111022A to S.O.E.G.17.)

Shift Gamma patrol to 056° 20' between 009° 20' and 010° 40'.
(C. in C. W.A. 111204A to Force 32.)

My 111204 amend Gamma patrol to read 055° 50' between 009° 55' and 011° 10'.

(C. in C. W.A. 111315A to 32 Force.)

/Suspected...

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War Diary.11.11.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Western Approaches.- Contd.

Suspected U-Boat. E.G.20 and E.G.1 proceeding to investigate aircraft 20' S. contact in 055° 27' N. 009° 32' W. E.T.A. 1600A. Suitable. (S.O. Force 33 111159A to C. in C. W.A.) My 111159A. (2) Negative result. Intend first and 20th E.Gs. to patrol 100 fathom line (?25) miles either side of position until 2300A then sweep to eastward. BENTLEY and CAPEL continuing search for Halifax survivors. 26th E.G. are patrolling Eastern end of area. Suitable. (S.O. Force 33 111800A to C. in C. W.A.)

Amendments to Operation Orders. Amendment No. 3 to Operation "C.E." Para. 14, first sentence. After "adopted" insert within the 100 fathom line. Para. 21. After "torpedoed" insert within the 100 fathom line. Para. 14B and Appendix IV para. 5B. Delete and substitute:- B. By night. If only one support group is available. Augment the close escort so that diagram positions H. I.S.X. and R and filled. (The duty of escorts filling these positions is to form a team to search for a U-Boat as quickly as possible after an attack.) When additional escorts are available after fulfilling the above requirements they should augment the close escort so that an A/S screen may be formed (see A.C.I. 130A.) Escorts of the support force should normally occupy wing positions. Appendix IV, para. 10. Add:- Such close escorts as are stationed ahead or on the bows of the convoy should drop intermittent depth charge patterns for a max. period of 10 minutes. The object is to dissuade the U-Boat from proceeding underneath the convoy before bottoming, and to deflect it towards the silent area astern where the support force will be forming a search. Appendix IV, Para. 11. First sentence, for support force, read ships in positions H, I, S, X and R. Second sentence, amend to read. The nearest of the above ships, etc. Appendix IV para. 12. A. Second sentence, after other intelligence, amend to read, The Datum Point should be established one mile ahead of the wreck on the convoy course. Appendix IV para. 12. C. Amend to read: During the time that the ships in para. 11 above are concentrating etc. Appendix IV add new para. 12D. D. The remainder of the ships closing the Datum from astern should immediately be formed up on the lines of operation observant as in A.C.1. Article 122, the sides of the square search being tangential to the U-Boat's furthest on circle. Appendix IV. Delete para. 13 and substitute. (13) Any ships of the support force forming part of the A/S screen (see para. 5B last sentence) should immediately be organised on an outer square search at double distance from Datum Point. Appendix IV, para. 14. For this search read these searches. (C. in C. W.A. 011424 to S. & A. Western Approaches.)

/"Gee"...

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11.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Western Approaches. - Contd.

"Gee" cover
for Western
Approaches.

In view of the anticipated U-Boat offensive in the North Western Approaches it is most desirable that escort vessels should not waste their time hunting and attacking charted wrecks in mistake for bottomed U-Boats.

(2) Existing navigational aids including Loran do not provide adequate means of accurate fixing in the area it is desired to cover, viz. between 55° and 57° N. inside the 100 fathom line which here runs between long. 9° and 10° W.

(3) In view of the considerable success achieved in the Channel during "Overlord" by ships fitted with "Gee" in differentiating between sunken wrecks and bottomed U-Boats, "Gee" cover in the area referred to in para. 2 above is urgently required.

(4) It is therefore requested that a chain of transmitters may be established at a very early date at suitable positions to give accurate fixes in this area. If light mobile transmitters have to be used for this purpose their limited surface range which is understood to be about 100 miles will have to be borne in mind when siting the stations.

(5) An extension of the existing "Gee" cover in the South Western Approaches, if possible to the 100 fathom line between 48° N. and 52° N. is also required. It is requested that urgent consideration may be given to the following:-

A. Adding a new transmitter on the Brittany coast to the existing South Western chain, or if this is not practicable,

B. Re-siting existing transmitters to cover as much as possible of the area referred to above.

(6) A very early reply is requested.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 111600A to Air Ministry.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Tug
FREEBOOTER
to Reykjavik.

Intend sailing H.M. tug FREEBOOTER escorted by FLATHOLM at 1400A today Saturday to R/V at 2330 in position 280° Cape Wrath 18 miles with HONEYSUCKLE. Then FREEBOOTER and HONEYSUCKLE to Reykjavik, FLATHOLM to Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 110922A to A.C.I.C., HONEYSUCKLE.)

Scattered
convoy U.R.
142 off
Skagi.

Keep a good lookout for A. FETLAR last heard of at 1226A/10th November. B. Survivors from ships torpedoed off Skagi. (2) DOLORES, EARRAID, FARSUND, STARWORT and CHARLOCK patrolling west of Skagi.
(A.C.I.C. 111210A to LADY MADELEINE.)

Your 111415. Last seen p.m. 9th November hove to with convoy in estimated vicinity of 063° 01' N. 020° 09' W. She acknowledged R/T signal at 1226A/10th Nov. ordering her proceed Reykjavik independently.
(A.C.I.C. 111711A to LADY MADELEINE.)

/My...

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11.11.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Northern Waters.

Scattered
convoy U.R.
142 off
Skagi.
(Contd.)

My 102058 in view of serious threat to shipping in Reykjavik approaches which will probably increase, following suggestions are submitted for immediate consideration:-

A. Primary cause of losses was bad discipline of convoy. SHIRVAN proceeded ahead of convoy and gave easy target. GODAFOSS against orders of escort proceeded to pick up survivors. Stricter discipline is essential and it is suggested that stragglers from convoy approaching Reykjavik should either approach during dark hours by alternative route or should proceed to Vestmannaeyjar report position and await escort.

B. It is suggested that risk to convoy would be reduced if passage of approach were made during dark hours and it is also suggested that escorts of D.S. and U.R. convoys should be reinforced.

C. Alternative approach and departure routes. This was established in my memorandum number 56/44 forwarded under cover of Iceland number 194/51 dated 31st October to C. in C. W.A. only. As it was obvious that U-Boats were aware of normal routes it has been used for departure of ships and convoys but not for approach, as marine risks were considered to outweigh risks of U-Boats. It is suggested that this route should now be generally promulgated and used for both approach and departure. A second eastbound route is suggested as follows: From position (all following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated) - W. 063° 00' 025° 00' to X. 064° 20' 025° 00' to Y. 064° 20' 023° 00' thence 111° to number 6 buoy. Though it will not be possible to sweep alternative routes regularly due to weather and shortage of M/S, risk of mines is considered acceptable.

D. Local escorts are inadequate both in number, equipment and speed to meet this new situation and also for air/sea rescue work. The two corvettes lent temporarily had unfortunately to be diverted from patrol in swept channel shortly before attack for air/sea rescues. At least two more corvettes are required.

E. Within last month a rescue tug would have been invaluable on four or five occasions to deal with torpedoed or stranded ships and in two cases ships lost might have been saved. My 251300 and A.M. 271357 Sept. (to L.C.F. and S.G.A. only) refers. (A.C.I.C. 111710A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 111711. FETLAR has arrived.

If tug EMPIRE WOLD is seen tell her to return harbour.

(2) SHIRVAN abandoned and awash may still be afloat between Reykjanes and Skagi.

(3) Leigh Light Liberators are patrolling north of Reykjanes. (A.C.I.C. 112041A to LADY MADELEINE.)

Convoy
J.W. 62.

My 101714. Propose close screen of 6 Fleet destroyers and 12 W.A. escorts for convoy J.W. 62 request also any support groups that can be made available. (C. in C. H.F. 111917A to Admty.)

/Night...

War Diary.

11.11.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Night flying from convoying carriers. My 101714 not to F.O.C.T. Recent experience in VINDEX in convoys J.W. and R.A. 61 shows importance of high standard of training in night flying. Suggest therefore that carriers to be allocated for future North Russian convoys should be given as much training in night flying as practicable beforehand and that changes in their flying and deck handling personnel should be as few as possible during winter. (C. in C. H.F. 111933A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.T.)

Operations.

Baltic.

German operational area. German Government has announced today a warning that the area to eastward of lines joining the following positions is now to be regarded as an operational area.
A. From Rügenwalder to B. 56° 8.6' N. 16° 23' E. 3 miles south of Oland along the Swedish territorial limit to C. 56° 51.3' N. 16° 57.8' E.
D. 56° 51.3' N. 18° 9.2' E. along eastern limit of Swedish territorial waters of Gotland to E. 58° 4.1' N. 19° 20.6' E. to F. 59° 35' N. 19° 58' E. to G. 60° 11.5' N. 19° 05.3' E. to H. 60° 30' N. 19° 11.1' E. to J. 61° 04' N. 18° 47' E. to K. 63° 19' N. 20° 19' E. to L. 63° 33' N. 21° 17' E. to M. 65° 03' N. 23° 46' E. to N. 65° 33' N. 24° 8.3' E. (N.A. Stockholm 111716 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

GANGES: C.A.F.O. 587/40. One flying bomb exploded on direct hit by playing field at GANGES at 1955/10th November. No flying bomb. casualties to Naval Personnel extensive superficial damage has been sustained. A large portion of this bomb is intact on the spot. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 111111A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.

Deep mining in N. Channel. Operation "C.G." serial A.2. Completed. (APOLLO 110858A to C. in C. W.A.) My 101623. Arrived APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 112021 to C. in C. W.A.)

Mining in Norwegian waters. A. Request you will sail F.S. RUBIS to leave Lerwick 18th November to lay within half mile of 058° 27' N. 005° 48' 20" E.
B. F.S. RUBIS returns Lerwick on completion of lay reporting on passing 002° E.
C. Attention is called to A.M. Q.Z.X. 1452, and enemy minefield detail in F.S.K. (F.O. S/M 111401A to Capt. S.9, S.O.(S) Lerwick.)

/My...

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11.11.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Mining in
Norwegian
waters.
(Contd.)

My 111401. A. F.S. RUBIS. B. 21st November.
C. 3 groups each distant .5 miles from 058° 27' N.
005° 48' 20" E. on bearings 288° 060° 160°.
D. 8 feet. E. 6 feet. G. 15 feet. H. 40 days.
J. Return Lerwick by reverse of outward route.
K. On passing 002° E.
(F.O.S. 111921A to Capt. S.9.)

Enemy
minefield.

Your 010915A. On examination of captured chart it is seen that the northern limit of minefield A (parallel 51° 37.5' N.) is the limit of the chart and not necessarily of the minefield.
(D.D.I.C. 111605A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping
at Brest.

Report on sweeping carried out today at Brest. Channel 750 yards wide swept Oropesa LL/SA from point G into Rade de Brest and around outer edge of anchorage area. Results two acoustic mines near point B.
(Comdr. Y Squadron 111935A to C.T.F. 125.)

U-Boats.

Suspected
U-Boats.

One not recently fixed may be in central English Channel. Probably a second approaching Western end of Hurd Deep from contact 2035Z/10th November. One being hunted by E.G. 30 50° 26' N. 09° 10' W.
(D.D.I.C. 111408A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

Navigational.

New swept
channel in
Newhaven
approach.

My 251619 October, para. 2.
A channel one mile wide centre line running from Newhaven No. 3 buoy to C.2 buoy has now been searched. Request Q.X.S. message be promulgated.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 111837A to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Portland.

B/0268/58/58. No. 214.
A portion of the accommodation in ATTACK is quite unsuitable during the winter months, and the reduction of personnel there is therefore considered of great importance. Owing to the large number of non-operational craft at present at Portland, it is requested that the unit equipment of L.C.T. Flotillas be increased to 24 as shown below and that the reformed flotilla staffs be divided into forward and rear units as is the case with the L.C.T. Mk. III at Dover and Wolverstone. This will mean that the accommodation situation in

/ATTACK...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities.

Portland. (Contd.) ATTACK will be eased considerably, and also that non-operational craft berthed in TURTLE will be in sheltered water, thereby greatly assisting the welfare aspect.

Forward	Rear	New Number of Flotilla	Unit Equipment
23rd	33rd	23rd	24
34th	44th	34th	24
50th	55th	50th	24
49th	54th	49th	24
51st	59th	51st	24
53rd	59th	53rd	14

It is also proposed that "Q" L.C.T. Squadron Staff should transfer to TURTLE to administer the flotilla staffs and craft at that base.

(2) With the return of the Support Squadron to TURTLE, there will be a minimum of 25 available berths at TURTLE, and it is considered that these berths should be utilised for the non-operational craft selected by M.C.L. Portland from the newly formed flotillas. (C. in C. Portsmouth 111426A to Admt.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. KELBERGEN. KELBERGEN reported ashore Clyde Estuary. Further report follows.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 110944 to D. of S.T.)
KELBERGEN reported ashore off Bruchag Head at approx 2100 last night. Assistance sent and Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association contacted.
(A.B.O. Greenock 111031 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
C.B. 39895 now reported afloat and proceeding Rothersay Bay. No apparent damage. My 111031 refers.
(A.B.O. Greenock 111240 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SS. BENJAMIN R. CURTIS. BENJAMIN R. CURTIS. Anchored Torbay 0400 November collision damage. Now proceeding to Plymouth for repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 111057A to N.O.I.C. Swansea.)

HYDRA. HYDRA mined in 051° 14' 45" N. 002° 43' 30" E. at 1456/10th.
(2) Rescue tugs FREEDOM and SEA GIANT standing by with orders to tow to U.K.
(3) Capt. M/S 18 reports ship abandoned.
(4) Cannot obtain definite information about casualties or survivors other than 4 injured from HYDRA in READY and 7 men adrift in whaler. Walrus searching from first light.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 111119A to C. in C. Nore.)
Have ordered tug FREEDOM to tow HYDRA to Sheerness E.T.A. 0900 tomorrow Sunday. N.O.I.C. Ostend has nominal list of nucleus crew 4 officers and 24 ratings.
(S.O. M.S.F. 18 111159A to C. in C. Nore.)
Sailed at 1200 today for Sheerness tugs FREEDOM and SEA GIANT HYDRA in tow. E.T.A. Sheerness 0900 tomorrow Sunday.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 111529 to C. in C. Nore.)

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Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- SS. SHIRVAN. Scapa departure H.M. tug FREEBOOTER and FIATHOLM in accordance with my 110922. (A.C.O.S. 111401 to A.C.I.C.)
- SS. EMPIRE CAMERON, SS. NORTHLEIGH S.C. 160 P.C.S. 052° 01' N. 027° 51' W. 080° 7.5 knots. EMPIRE CAMERON making daily 10 feet in fore peak, 2 feet in number one port bilge, as result of collision on November 4th. NORTHLEIGH has lifeboat smashed, possibly plate leaking, damaged grain cargo as result collision with APPLIEDORE on November 6th. Weather report 4480 2566. (S.O.E.G.B.2 111502A to C. in C. W.A.)
- SS. ABRAHAM BALDWIN. ABRAHAM BALDWIN successfully refloated at 0903 today and now anchored in Downs apparently undamaged. Vessel pounded and strained heavily while on Goodwins and will require docking after discharge but has no leaks now. Has 900 barrels of fuel remaining and taking 100 tons fresh water on board now. Have ordered Trinity House Pilot for passage to Southend probably sailing about noon tomorrow Sunday. 14 Lorries part of deck cargo discharged ashore in Dover in care of Army. (C.S.O. Dover 111610A to A.C. Dover.)
My 061949. ABRAHAM BALDWIN refloated a.m. today 11th. Intend to sail from Downs at 1200 tomorrow by searched channels in force for Southend. Speed on passage 10 knots, E.T.A. 1800. (2) Request U.S. shipping authorities may meet on arrival. (V.A. Dover 111711A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)
- SS. LEE S. OVERMAN. At 1045A today LEE^{S.}OVERMAN ammo. loaded in entering Le Havre struck mine in position 600 yards from Digue Nord Light bearing 285° true. Now beached about 500 yards from Digue Nord Light bearing 300 true on even keel. Work in progress unloading, using all available craft and cranes, and will be prosecuted to utmost to save as much cargo as possible. Sea calm and with continued good conditions large part should be salvaged. No immediate danger breaking up or capsizing. No fire or explosion followed mining. Presence large amount sandballast apparently reduced explosive effect. No known dead or missing. Complete survey damage in progress. (C.T.F. 125 111651 to A.N.C.X.F.)
- L.C.P.(L) 3 C.R. No. 769. My Dis. . 051709 September. L.C.P.
L.C.P.(L) 84. (L) 3 and 84 have not been located to date and must be presumed lost. (Com. 12th Fleet 111751 to Admty.)
- SS. CORMORANT. Humber 11th November departure at 2235 tug PRIZEMAN to assist SS. CORMORANT damaged in collision. (F.O. Humber 112257 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Returned...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. CORMORANT. Returned Humber CORMORANT damaged in collision and making water ex F.S. 32.
(Contd.)
(N.C.S.O. Humber 112328A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Stragglers encouraged from Coastal Convoys. Reference Admiralty 091347A.
(2) It is my policy that ships of regular coastal convoys passing through the Plymouth Command are encouraged to continue their voyages within the limits of their individual sea-keeping qualities.
(3) Escorts are therefore to continue with vessels making ahead, accepting the fact that those vessels which are unable to keep up will straggle, or take shelter, those taking shelter proceeding independently and without delay as soon as the weather permits.
(4) It is requested that sailing authorities bring this to the notice of escorts, and of Commodores and Masters of ships employed in the Coastal Service.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111341A to F.Os. i/c Falmouth, Dartmouth, Appledore.)

O.C.C./ T.B.C. convoys. Your 091642A. Concur generally.
(2) In order to allow ships from O.C.C. to join T.B.C. convoys, consider that the expected time of arrival at D.1 buoy should be 0900 at the earliest.
(3) It is undesirable to amend O.C.C. timetable, which is based on daylight R/Vs arrivals and departures on the Brittany Coast.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111446A to Admty.)
A.M. 091642. Concur in remarks of C.T.F. 125, in his 101533.
(A.N.C.X.F. 111525A to Admty.)

C.O.C. and O.C.C. convoys. Pass to N.C.S.O. concerned. A.M. 011608 and C.T.F. 081743.
Commencing with C.O.C. 6 on 12th November and on subsequent alternate days C.O.C. convoys escorted by a British A/S trawler will sail from Plymouth at 2000A.

Arrive position Z in Admiralty message Q.Z.S. 566 at 0800A and Morlaix 1430A. The British escort will lay over and sail following day from Morlaix at 0930A, pass through position Z at 1700A and arriving Falmouth 0800A on 3rd day.

(2) A U.S.P.C. will R/V with C.O.C. convoy at Z and escort Granville Section to arrive Cancale at 1630A. P.C. will sail from Cancale at 0730A the following day with O.C.C. joiners to R/V in position Z. After R/V P.C. will remain on patrol as screen for O.C.C. and C.O.C. convoys and R/V with next C.O.C. in position Z.

(3) In the event of Granville joiners for O.C.C. not effecting a R/V the ship will continue to Falmouth escorted by the P.C. until relieved by C. in C. Plymouth.

(4) In the event of C.O.C. convoy not being met by P.C. at position Z Granville section is to proceed independently with C.T.F. 125.2 affording such screencover as possible.

/ (5) ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

C.O.C. and
O.C.C.
convoys.
(Contd.)

(5) British escort is to continue to Morlaix area if no ships for Morlaix area.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111735A to Admty., Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, W.A.)

Independent sailings between Downs and French ports.

When A. sweeping of Channel from Dieppe to Boulogne is complete, B. Naval control organisation in the Downs is established it is proposed that ships from East Coast and Southend for Boulogne, Dieppe and Le Havre be sailed to the Downs for control thence independently to and from these ports.
(D.T.D. 111803A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, A.C. Dover, C.T.F. 125, F.O.B.A.A.)

T.M.M. and
T.B.C.
convoys.

A.M. 091642A. Concur.
(2) Suggest traffic at present included in T.M.M. and M.T.M. convoys should sail in proposed B.T.C. and T.B.C. convoys.
(C. in C. Nore 112227A to Admty.)

Relief for
Channel
Islands.

Your telegram No. 5043 9th November.
Please inform International Red Cross that much the most convenient ship for our purpose would be the SS. VEGA, which is a Swedish ship on charter to them and at present running between Lisbon and Marseilles. We hope that they will see no objection. The British Red Cross, who control and pay for this ship, will approach them with a definite request very shortly.

(2) We estimate that the VEGA could return to Lisbon by about the 24th November, and propose that she should load a full cargo of prisoners of war parcels (150,000, including a proportion of invalid food parcels) together with some medical supplies and soap and should carry them direct to the Channel Islands. We are making the necessary parcels and supplies available at Lisbon. We are, however, very anxious that the Red Cross delegates, whom we assume could not be provided from among the International Red Cross staff in this country, should come here for consultation before going to the Islands, even if this meant that the VEGA was held up for a day or so before we could fly them back to Lisbon.

(3) We should not, of course, ask the International Red Cross to make any move before the Germans have accepted our proposals in principle, but they should know on what lines we hope to work. We should welcome their comments.

(Foreign Office No T.O.O. to Berne.)

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE is to sail 0900A/12 and escort MIRROR through Strait positions (P) 35.59 N., 06.10 W. (Q) 36.55 N., 09.10 W. to position (R) 37.05 N., 09.23 W. where MIRROR is to repair the Gibraltar - Brighton cable.
 (2) S. of A. 9 knots.
 (3) KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE is to provide close cover for MIRROR during repair operations.
 (4) Codeword "Curve".
 (5) On completion of repairs return to Gibraltar by reverse of route.
 (F.O.G.M.A., 111210A.)

H.N.M.S. JAN (Extract)
 VAN BRAKEL, Departed Horta at 1254Z/11 for U.K.
 CLAESJE. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 111500Z.)

DUGUAY- (Extract)
 TROUIN. Intend to sail F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN 1100Z/12 for Brest.
 (C.M.S.F., 111650A.)

South Atlantic

W. SCORESBY. My 092243 WILLIAM SCORESBY has encountered heavy pack ice in 60.43 S., 61.15 W. and for (? 50 miles) to eastward. She is accordingly returning to Port Stanley.
 (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 111421Z.)

FINDHORN, Simonstown departures 1311Z/11.
 SPEY. FINDHORN, SPEY for Colombo calling at Mauritius for fuel and onward routeing.
 (2) - (5) Arrangements.
 (C. in C. S.A., 111610B.)

French E.Vs. On urgent representation from Comar Dakar I have
 of 59th Gp. concurred in ANNAMITE visiting Toulon to be followed by subsequent visits of French vessels of 59th E.G. to French ports on clear understanding that 4 Escort Vessels of 59th Group are always available at Dakar which is considered minimum requirement. ANNAMITE will return to Dakar by Dec. 10th when COMMANDANT DROGOU will be available to proceed to U.K. for refit. French Naval Authorities will probably ask that she call at Brest on the way. It is sincerely hoped that 59th Group which is now a valuable trained unit on this coast will not be dispersed.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 111622Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

- GRADISCA,
STORK You are to continue to Algiers escorting GRADISCA in accordance with previous orders. Your 102224* being passed Admiralty refers. (C. in C. Med. 110020A to STORK.)
*At time of circulation not identified by War Ref.
- GRADISCA,
TUEBINGEN German Hospital ship GRADISCA sailed with sufficient coal for 13 days steaming at 6 knots and provisioned for 14 days.
(2) Ship has on board 220 seriously wounded 752 not serious 300 crew and 27 medical staff.
(3) German Hospital ship TUEBINGEN sailed with sufficient coal for 14 days steaming at 6 knots and provisions for 18 days. (R.A.L.111012B.)
- DUGUAY,
TROUIN Request your comply F.O.W.M. 091142 refers. (C. in C. Med., 110945 to C.M.S.F.)
- Salonika,
mine
sweeping. In opening the port of Salonika the following mines have been swept
(1) 20 type G.O. by Fleet Sweepers.
(2) 19 various types by M/S M.L.
(3) 11 dummy mines with chain moorings laid as anti-sweeping device.
(4) Ground mines.
(a) 10 between Epanomi Point and Cape Kara Light.
(b) 51 in Salonika Bay in which no moored mines have been found. Ground mines (?A)(?and) (b) are being detonated from red or green 140° outside tails to (?right) astern at a distance of at least 8 cables. Detonation of ground mines have caused connexity of diaphragms of towed boxes. (S.O. M/S F.12, 110953)
- APHIS,
COCKCHAFER,
SCARAB. A.M. 101426A being passed. Request thorough survey of hull and examination of boilers and gun mountings etc. and early signalled report whether, after short refit, these ships can be made fit for such operations.
(C. in C. Med., 111125A to C.S. Taranto, C.S. Malta)
Admiralty 101426 para. one. In view of the age and general condition of these vessels it is unlikely that they will be fit for the service envisaged. My 111125 to C.S. Taranto and C.S. Malta refers.
(C. in C. Med. 111406A to Admty.)
- Release of
French
Ship from
Med.
operations Further to my 097117 following ships could also be released.
4 destroyers, 2 escort destroyers, 8 French Y.M.S. one trawler depot ship for M.S. Y.M.S.
(2) An early reply would be appreciated as to whether all or part of these ships will be required.
(C. in C. Med., 111204A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

A 1 Med. The whole of the French Ministry of Marine has now moved to Paris and Naval France has ceased to exist.
 (2) Vice Admiral Ronarch has taken up the appointment of Admiral Mediterranean with H.Q. in Algiers. Propose to use short title A 1 Med. in Signals.
 (3) Understood French Admiralty consider him to be commander of French Naval Forces in the Mediterranean. Operational control remains with you.
 (F.O.W.M. 111252A to C. in C. Med.)

Broadcast by General Ristic. F.O.L.E.M. 102051 being passed for information and necessary action. F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to inform Captain Kern. My 071731 refers.
 (C. in C. Med. 111315A to V.A.M., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Ship mined off Port Said. Following is text of N.O.I.C. Port Said's 101623 begins. FORT LA BAYE reported mined in position 31° 25' 32° 23' E. at 1435B today 10th November ship now berthed and in no danger of sinking, no casualties.
 (2) Preliminary reports suggest long established ground mine as upper deck of ship is covered with large quantity of mud.
 (3) Position confirmed by shore reports is approx. 1¼ miles to westward to swept channel in 11 fathoms.
 (4) Detailed report will follow.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 111425B.)
 FORT LA BAYE seriously damaged by mine when entering Port Said.
 (P.S.T.O.M.E. 111943B.)

Port of Naples My 101616*. Question has now been further considered by Medbo. and your 082240x can be replied to more fully.
 (2) The Naples Port position was satisfactorily cleared at the end of September as anticipated in Nasab. 672.
 (3) The Port has subsequently proved unable to accept the increased import tonnages principally British stores which had been excluded during the "Dragoon" period. This failure has been primarily due to poor depot working, shortage of road transport and small rail clearances; this latter has been partially due to rail breaks which in turn have called for further withdrawal of transport from dock working and have greatly increased demand for movement by sea from Naples to Leghorn. Food difficulties in the North have also required forward movement of road transport from base areas particularly adverse weather conditions have been a contributory factor in slowing down dock rail and road movements.
 (4) This difficult situation has been under constant review by Medbo. and the following steps have been taken
 (a) Transport has been recalled from the operational area to assist with dock working.
 (b) Depot staffs have been augmented to the maximum extent possible.
 (c) British shipping has been diverted from Naples to The Heel.

/(d)...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Port of
Naples.
(Contd.)

(d) Internal Mediterranean movement has been restricted.
(5) There has been an advance during the last few days and the port is again handling 8000 and 9000 tons per day.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 111708)
* Not identified in War Reg.
x Congestion and delays at Naples.

U.S.S.
EXTRICATE,
ERICSSON.

U.S.S. EXTRICATE to Praia Bay Azores at 0001/12.
(2) - (7) Arrangements.
(8) U.S.S. ERICSSON.
(9) U.S.S. EXTRICATE to report to Comnavzor upon arrival for Salvage Operations. Comnavzor is requested to sail ERICSSON to Gibraltar to arrive not later than p.m. (?20th).
(Commob Oran, 111718A.)

EMPEROR

This repeats my 091911* addressed as above.
Begins:-
Intend EMPEROR calls at Gibraltar when on passage.
Admiralty 241134 October not to all refer.
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to hold all stores for EMPEROR pending her arrival.
(F.O.L.E.M. 111839B.) * Received corrupt.
Intend EMPEROR embarks personnel ex BATTLEER vide C. in C.E.F. 080713 being passed to C. in C. Med. and sails from Alexandria as soon after 17th November as possible to call at Gibraltar en route and arrive U.K. not later than 30th November. Your 101510 to F.O.L.E.M. only refers.
(F.O.L.E.M. 112225B.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
dispositions. (C. in C. E.F., 110321Z.)

STRIKER, Admiralty's 031624. It is intended STRIKER
FENCER. and FENCER should not call at Aden.
Route from Perim Straits as follows:-
(P) 012° 28' N., 044° 01' E. (Q) Outer end
Aden searched channel. (R) 012° 00' N., 046°
55' E. (S) 013° 15' N., 054° 00' E. (T) 009° 08' N., 073°
40' E. thence to Cochin.
(3) Request URSA and UNDAUNTED may arrive Aden in time to
refuel and rejoin STRIKER in position (Q).
(C. in C. E.F., 110903Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- ? U/B contact. Obtained asdic contact 3 attacks carried out two hedgehog one depth charge no visible results. My position 43.18 N., 52.42 W. contact now considered non-submarine. Am proceeding. (MIDLAND, 111000Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 111346Z, Cominch 111518Z.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. (As MIDLAND 111000Z. q.v.) (N.S.H.Q., 111403Z.)
- GLACE BAY, PARRY SOUND. The following allocations from new constructions to the mid-ocean force are effective to date 11th November.
For duty with C.4 E.G., H.M.C.S. GLACE BAY.
For duty with C.7 E.G., H.M.C.S. PARRY SOUND.
(2) Pay accounts to be held in AVALON.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 111505Z.)
- S.C. ships. C.K.21. Estimated P.C.S. 2000Z/11 ships under safe conduct. Swedish PARRAMATTA 23.52 N., 34.25 W., 177, 13. PEDRO CHRISTOPHERSEN 01.20 S., 30.40 W., 011, 7.
(Com. 10th Fleet, 111644Z.)
- C.U. 45. C.U.45 arrived at following times:
Off Fastnet 1645Z/9. Barry Roads 0500Z/10.
Mersey 1700Z/10. Clyde 2130Z/10. Cherbourg 1100Z/10. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 111810A.)
- T.F. 61. Task Force 61 reconstituted ^{JOSEPH E ?} CAMPBELL, EVARTS Cortdiv 5 plus GUNASON, MAJOR, WEEDEN, SENEGALAIS. Escort convoy U.G.S.61 departing Hampton Roads 21st November to Europa Point. Then direct F.N.S. SENEGALAIS proceed Casablanca where on arrival to report to C. in C. Med. for duty at which time SENEGALAIS detached from Task Force 5 sail other escorts to Oran. Return escorting G.U.S. 61 when directed by C. in C. Med.
(C. in C. Lant, 112036Z.)

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11.11.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest
No. 1025.

(Extract)

Digest for 10th November.

Search aircraft located 10 ships by radar 100 miles east of southern tip Palawan Island course 45° early hours. Shortly before dawn same force

described from visual observations as 10 warships sighted 50 miles nearer Balabac Strait course south-west. This force not sighted since but estimated to be battleship/cruiser Task Force seen earlier in Balabac Strait area as reported in Digest 1024 para. 3.

(2) Enemy shipping in Ormoc Bay now reported to comprise 4 large freighters or transports believed bringing reinforcements for Leyte plus 15 destroyers or smaller escorts dive bombing by Kittyhawks and Lightnings and masthead height attacks by Mitchells conducted early daylight and previous evening and preliminary reports of results indicate 3 merchant ships sunk also 7 destroyers or escorts sunk, intense A/A encountered also aerial interception causing loss of 4 bombers, 4 fighters: 16 enemy planes shot down in combat plus 5 probables.

(3) By late morning guerillas reported all shipping departed Ormoc Harbour and subsequent sightings indicate remnants proceeded northwards via Visayan Sea.

(4) Early afternoon R/C plane sighted 4 freighters, 2 destroyers heading north-west out to Vailaran Strait in north-western approaches Carigara Bay indicating possibly reinforcements also landed there.

(5) Another southbound probable transportation group described as 3 or 4 merchant ships with 6 - 8 destroyers or smaller escorts seen by aircraft (corrupt group) Sibuyan Sea about midday. Subsequent sightings indicate this convoy proceeding probably Ormoc Bay.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 110745.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) E.G.30 missed by two torpedoes and attacked U-Boat at 0052Z/10 in 50° 26' N., 09° 10' W.

(2) Icelandic SS. GODAFOSS and British tanker SHIRVAN torpedoed also H.M.S. NORTHERN REWARD made two attacks on contact before 1157Z/10 in 64°

05' N., 22° 43' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C A/201 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0950Z/10 in 58° 03' N., 09° 32' W.

(2) A/C D/103 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0955Z/10 in 49° 53' N., 10° 33' W.

(3) A/C G/228 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2035Z/10 in 49° 22' N., 04° 51' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C C/110 reported possible U-Boat course 180° at 1625Z/10 in 49° 00' N., 14° 00' W.

/(2) ...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(2) A/C D/103 sighted possible wake at 0834Z/11
in 50° 18' N., 07° 44' W.
Ref. A.M. 051118A, para. A (3) approx. position
of lifeboats of SS. FORT LEE at 1558Z/9th Nov.
was in 27° 30' S., 86° 48' E.
(D.D.I.C., 111227A.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 111356A, 111413A.)

12.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1. Tug FAIRPLAY II has been damaged by a mine explosion in Ostend harbour.
- Channel. 2. Liberty ship LEE S. OVERMAN has been damaged by a mine explosion in entrance to Le Havre.
- Western Approaches. 3. The fourth and thirtieth escort groups have every indication of having sunk a U-Boat some 60 miles south of Cape Clear. *U.1200 Sunk*
- Norway. 4. TIRPITZ is reported as capsized at Tromsø after a series of hits by bombers of Bomber Command. *(p. 303)*
- Northern Waters. 5. The torpedoed tanker SHIRVAN has now sunk.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

- Riviera. 6. Allied warships continue to carry out in force bombardments near the Franco-Italian frontier. P.T. boats on night patrol sank 20 floating mines off Nice.
- Adriatic. 7. DELHI has arrived at Split where her C.O. has assumed duty as S.B.N.O.
8. An Italian coastal craft on patrol off the coast of Albania fought an inconclusive action tonight with a small heavily armed enemy ship and reports hits on the enemy.
- Salonika. 9. Although sweeping operations have enabled all ships to move closer inshore than was at first possible bad weather has seriously delayed unloading which is being carried out with landing craft.
- Rhodes. 10. KIMBERLEY today bombarded an enemy battery on Alimnia Island, southwest of Rhodes, and obtained 8 hits. Two M.Ls. engaged two P-Lighters endeavouring to reach Alimnia; they sank one but the other escaped into harbour.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

German
Landing
at Lisso.

11. Force 142 reports that a fighting patrol of 300 Germans landed today on Lisso Island, Aegean. They were thought to be still there on the 14th.

East Indies.

12. On return from patrol off Java STOIC reports that on 24th October she shelled a 5000 ton ship which she had missed with torpedoes earlier on that day and also on the previous day. On the following day she sank a 700 ton tanker, and on 30th she claims 3 hits with torpedoes on a 5000 ton ship.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines.

13. (a) A Naval patrol Liberator attacked a south-bound convoy consisting of two large merchant ships, one tanker, 4 escorts west of the northern tip of Palawan Island at midday today and left the tanker and one merchant ship on fire. Later, the merchant ship was seen still on fire and sinking, with the remainder of the convoy putting into Malagpaya Sound.

(b) Single enemy aircraft attacked shipping in Leyte Gulf last night. Today Japanese aircraft made strongly pressed attacks, including suicide dive bombing which damaged some ships.

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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.PolicyValuable
French
personnel
embarked in
DUGUAY-
TROUIN.

In view of your 121115, which is being repeated to C. in C. Plymouth, 1 destroyer will be provided as escort on this occasion.
(2) Request you will reassure French authorities that such a situation is always watched with great care and escort provided when necessary.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 121825A to A.N.C.X.F.)

MovementsSurveying
ship
SCOTT.

C. in C. Plymouth 131704.
SCOTT will be available on completion of Calais survey about 15th November.
(2) N.O.I.C. Calais is to sail SCOTT to Plymouth on completion of survey.
(A.N.C.X.F., 120940A to C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Calais.)

DUGUAY-
TROUIN.

My 101515 and F.O.W.M. 091142. In view of great value to French of personnel embarked in F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN and their anxiety about the matter request at least one destroyer may be provided as escort.

-(A.N.C.X.F., 121115A to Admty.)

You will be required to meet F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN in approx. position 046° 00' N. 008° 30' W. at about 0100A/14th and escort her at 23 knots through (Z) 048° 00' N., 006° 00' W. to position (A) of A.M. Q.Z.S. 617.

(2) Leaving (A) patrol as requisite to make R/V. Fuel economy is necessary.

(3) Indicate fuel remaining now and at 0800A/13th.

(4) Further orders will be given.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121833A to BLYSKAWICA.)

MENESTHEUS.

A.M. 311425A October. MENESTHEUS delayed by generator defects. Subject to satisfactory completion of repairs intend to sail MENESTHEUS in O.N. 267 on 19th November.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 121536A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

VINDEX.

After visiting NAIRANA, TRACKER and VINDEX I find the first two in very good heart but it is apparent that 811 Sqn. in VINDEX has lost confidence in itself and requires further working up to re-establish its morale. It is therefore proposed that on completion of leave on 21st November the ship commences to work-up, a minimum of 16 nights flying being likely to be required although every effort will be made to cut this down.

(F.O.C.T., 121241 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F.)

Your 121241. Concur.

(C. in C. W.A., 122329A to F.O.C.T.)

/SOUTHERN ...

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PRINCE.

TANATSIDE take BRISSENDEN under his orders, pass Gate 0500A/13th November and proceed to R/V with SOUTHERN PRINCE in position 180° Start Point 3 miles at 0700A/13. Relieve CAMPANULA and continue as escort. Speed of advance 14

knots. Codeword "Ganymede".

(2) Route - Route W (Q.Z.H.568) to position (P) 180° Lizard Head 3 miles, thence towards position (Q) 047° N., 008° W.

(3) When relieved CAMPANULA is to act as ordered by C. in C. Portsmouth.

(4) TANATSIDE and BRISSENDEN are to detach on passing 48° N. and return to Plymouth.

(5) Communications - Constant watch on Broadcast B.N and 2300 k/cs.

(6) U-Boats are suspected in western Channel.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121436A to TANATSIDE.)

CAMPANULA sail to R/V with SOUTHERN PRINCE escorted by COSBY at Z Buoy 2359A/12th and escort to off Start Point where you will be relieved by TANATSIDE and BRISSENDEN.

(2) COSBY return to Sheerness on relief by CAMPANULA.

(3) CAMPANULA return to Portsmouth on relief by TANATSIDE and BRISSENDEN.

(4) Route standard route by Z Buoy, thence Route W (Q.Z.H.568).

(5) Speed 14 knots codeword "Ganymede".

(6) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121548A to CAMPANULA, COSBY.)

LARGS.

London arrival 12th November LARGS.

(F.O.I.C. London, 121515A to C. in C. Nore.)

8th & 10th
Destroyer
Flotillas.

The following reallocation of destroyer flotillas, consequent upon future service has been made by A.M. 062300A: 8th D.F. to C. in C. Plymouth; 10th D.F. to Eastern Theatre.

(2) The following re-organisation of 8th and 10th D.F. is to come into force forthwith in accordance

with A.M. 062259. 8th D.F. - FAULKNER, IMPULSIVE, PIORUN, BLYSKAWICA, HAIDA, HURON, IROQUOIS.

10th D.F. - TARTAR, NUBIAN, ASHANTI, ESKIMO.

8th and 10th D.F. (latter until proceeding abroad) will be administered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(3) All ships of 10th D.F. except ASHANTI are to be ready to leave U.K. by 7th January 1945.

(4) In addition to ships named in para. 2, VAN GALEN and TJERK HIDDES will join 8th Destroyer Flotilla temporarily about the end of November until required for refit. A.M. 080057 refers.

(5) A.G.Ms. quoted not to all addressees.

(6) N.S.H.Q. pass to HAIDA and HURON.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121727A to FAULKNER, IMPULSIVE, PIORUN, BLYSKAWICA, HAIDA, TJERK HIDDES, HURON, IROQUOIS, TARTAR, NUBIAN, ASHANTI, ESKIMO, VAN GALEN.)

/Large ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

Large Floating Dock for Eastern Theatre. A.M. 062305 and 202226.
A further requirement has arisen for the towage of a large floating dock to the Eastern Theatre.
(2) Request you will state whether tug SAMSONIA can be released about December 1st to meet this commitment.
(D.O.D.(H), 121834A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Situation Report

Naval. Cositintrep No. 221, part two Naval.
(A) General. Weather having moderated, the port of Ostend is again open for shipping.
(B) Unloading figures for 10th November.

<u>British:</u> <u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	Nil	Nil	529	1,134
Dieppe	579	Nil	4,676	Nil
Boulogne	34	1	820	Nil
Ostend	Nil	Nil	2,083	Nil
Total	613	1	8,108	1,134
<u>United States:</u>				
Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	11,902	10,575
Brittany Ports	Nil	Nil	1,864	Nil
Beaches	Nil	Nil	Nil	25
Le Havre	Nil	246	4,123	Nil
Rouen figures being verified				
Total	Nil	246	17,889	10,600
Combined Total	613	247	25,997	11,734

Figures for 9th November:

Boulogne Nil Nil 2,232 Nil
(A.N.C.X.F., 120105A to Admty.)

Cositintrep No.222, part two Naval.

(A) General. Liberty ship LEE S. OVERMAN was mined yesterday morning just off entrance to Havre. Ship was damaged and subsequently beached to the north of entrance.

(B) Unloading figures 11th November.

British:

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Ostend	Nil	Nil	1,758	3,539
East Calvados	143	135	707	Nil
Dieppe	869	26	6,242	Nil
Boulogne	Nil	7	2,988	Nil
Total	1,012	168	11,695	3,539
<u>U.S. Figures:</u>				
Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	14,140	141
Brittany Ports	Nil	Nil	4,534	Nil
Beaches	458	299	1,481	141
Le Havre	1,246	208	3,693	Nil
Rouen	Nil	Nil	4,928	1,448
Total	1,704	507	28,776	1,730

/Rouen ...

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(Contd.)

Rouen figures for 10th November.
Troops 515; Vehicles nil; Stores 4,719;
Pol. 1,794.
(A.N.C.X.F., 122345A to Admty.)

OperationsNorth SeaWalcheren
Expedition.

Your 102305* S.H.A.E.F. agrees following reply which is an expansion of my 081247 personal to First Sea Lord. It is thought probable that Admiralty and Royal Marine Office will by now have full details of casualties sustained. To

date I have only received provisional list of casualties sustained by Force T and have no information as to those sustained by Marine Commandos which it is considered should be included in para. 12. Begins:

Although Antwerp was captured virtually intact, the enemy continued to hold the approaches to the port on both banks of the Schelde. Operations to clear the Schelde were undertaken by Canadian Army and it was planned that these should culminate in an attack on Walcheren Island, the most heavily defended area.

(2) The attacks were to be made simultaneously across the South Beveland causeway, across the Schelde from Breskens to Flushing, and a landing at West Kappelle mounted from Ostend. ^[Duplicate I]

(3) By breaching the Dyke in three places heavy bombers of the R.A.F. previously flooded a large area of the Island thus preventing the mutual support of sections of the garrison and enabling our Assault troops to make full use of amphibious vehicles. Assault at Flushing was to be made by one Commando landing from L.C. (Assault) and that at West Kappelle by three Commandos with supporting engineer troops largely mounted in amphibious vehicles carried in L.C. (Tank).

(4) In view of the vital need to clear Schelde as early as possible, General Simmonds, Commanding 1st Canadian Army decided to put in Breskens - Flushing attack on 1st November, by which time our troops would be on South Beveland causeway, whether or not West Kappelle attack, which would be very dependent on weather, could go in.

(5) Weather prospects for latter were unfavourable on 31st October as regarding air support but sea conditions were not too bad. In view of the unreliability of meteorological forecasts at this time of year and in view of the great advantages to be gained from assaulting from three directions simultaneously, Admiral Ramsay and General Simmonds decided to sail the West Kappelle Force from Ostend and to leave the final decision whether to assault or not according to local conditions to the 2 Force Commanders Captain A.F. Pugsley R.N. and Brigadier B.W. Leicester Royal Marines. Conditions next morning were generally more favourable than expected but all aircraft were reported grounded owing to fog. With full knowledge that the Assault troops would initially lack close air support and that bombardment squadron composed of WARSPITE, EREBUS and ROBERTS would have no air spotting, they decided to go on with the attack in view of

/the ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Walcheren
Expedition.
(Contd.)

the paramount advantages to be gained by simultaneous assaults.

(6) The Commando was landed at Flushing as planned before daylight without casualties and was soon established on the water-front. Some 3½ hours later in daylight, the time of assault

dependent on being related to the required tidal conditions, the West Kappelle Force approached the coast and when close inshore was heavily engaged by the enemy coast defences, all known batteries going into action against them. The gun support squadron composed of converted landing craft of various types manned by blue-jackets and marines under command of Commander K.A.Sellar R.N. stood close inshore and engaged these batteries at point blank range whilst landing craft (tank) carrying the Royal Marine Commandos beached in succession and discharged their vehicles.

(7) This process was slow, as they could only beach two at a time in the gap in the Dyke previously breached by the R.A.F. By their determination and gallantry the landing craft support squadron drew most of the enemy's fire and the Marine Commandos were landed successfully without heavy casualties.

(8) Once ashore however, Commandos came up against tough opposition at nearly all enemy batteries and strong posts, which they cleared in succession with utmost resolution.

(9) As the weather improved during the forenoon so close air support was afforded by the R.A.F. in increasing degree, and air spotting became available to the bombarding squadron during the afternoon.

(10) The gallantry and determination of landing craft crews and of the Royal Marine Commandos was equalled by that of the Naval Beach Party, which had to work under gun and mortar fire throughout D day and for a large proportion of D plus 1, during which enemy fire could still be brought to bear on the gap in the Dyke. Difficulties were experienced in landing stores for the force because of this, and later the weather worsened and prevented supply by sea. Stores were dropped by air on D plus 4 and these and rations captured from the enemy enabled the Commandos to complete the clearance of the western half of the Island.

(11) A British Infantry Brigade was landed to reinforce the Commando put ashore at Flushing and had heavy fighting before the town was finally cleared. Craft engaged in ferrying this Brigade from Breskens to Flushing frequently came under heavy fire and crews showed a determination no less praiseworthy than that of those at West Kappelle.

(12) Casualties to landing craft Support squadron were heavy, but the remainder of Naval casualties were fortunately not excessive. My information to date is as follows:
Support Squadron: Total of craft engaged 25, sunk 9, damaged 8.
Remaining major landing craft: Total engaged 47, sunk 4, damaged unknown.

Information to date as to casualties to Naval personnel:
Support Squadron killed and missing officers 20, men 152; wounded officers and men 200. Remainder of force including attack on Flushing, killed and missing officers 2, men 19; wounded officers 16, men 55. Casualties in Royal Marine Commandos not known.

(13) The operation had perforce to be undertaken under difficult and somewhat unfavourable conditions. The enemy resisted in a most desperate manner but were overcome by the resolution of the

/Assault ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Walcheren Expedition. (Contd.)

Assault Forces which was in accordance with the very highest traditions of the service.

(A.N.C.X.F., 121232A to Admty.)

* Parliamentary reply required re Walcheren.

WD. Note. - This was made by Lt Lord in H. of C. on 15.11.44.

Operations

Channel

Patrols.

Proceed forthwith to carry out zig-zag search between the following positions (AA) 49.53 N., 04.15 W. and (BB) 49.22 N., 04.15 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121006A to E.G. 31.)

M.T.Bs. on patrol ordered search Z.127 and Z.128.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121220A to F.O.I.C. Portland, M.T.Bs. 760, 731, 747.)

Night A/S patrols 12th/23th November search as follows.

(2) L'AVENTURE, VIDETTE, WALDEGRAVE, VANOC Z.110 northwards to Q.Z.S.490.

(3) M.T.Bs. ordered search between H Channel 01° 54' W. and between 49° 50' 50° 27' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121439A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

Day A/S patrols 13th November. Search areas given below.

(2) L'AVENTURE, WALDEGRAVE, VANOC 5 miles each side line 220° St. Catherines Point 12 to 065° Pointe de Barfleur.

(3) VIDETTE between Q.Z.S.506, 554 49° 40' and 50° 05' N.

(4) M.T.Bs. ordered search between 50° 20' 50° 00' N. from command limit eastward to H Channel.

(5) HARGOOD relieve L'AVENTURE.

(6) WATCHMAN relieve VIDETTE.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121522A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Suspected U-Boat.

Have been attacking another bottomed contact in position 049° 40' N., 005° 42' W. sea and swell 23. Suitable.

(S.O. E.G.31, 121109A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Cross-Channel oil pipe line.

Intend to carry out operation "Hamel Dumbo I" weather permitting tomorrow Monday and Tuesday zero time for leaving Dungeness Roads 0230/14. E.T.A. Boulogne 0830/14. Request craft in vicinity may be warned.

(S.N.O. Pluto, 121830A to V.A. Dover.)

Operations

West Coast France

Situation Report.

O.P.A.S. 2200 047° 12' N., 003° 20'30" W., 142°, 13½.

(B) 045° 28' N., 002° 00' W., 180°, 13½.

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Operations

West Coast France

Situation Report. (Contd.) O.P.A.S. 18 officers and stores landed. Sables d'Olonne reports unidentified A/C overhead 0045/12th and lights displayed from German occupied territory at St. Nazaire at 2345/11th and La Rochelle 0155/12th.

Ile d'Yeu reports unidentified twin engine A/C yesterday made several attacks on mail boat about 7 miles from Island. 2 bombs dropped. A/C had 2 white stripes on each wing tip. Exact time not yet signalled.

Fuel remaining 0800 today 74 per cent. Weather report 5682 2762.

(BLYSKAWICA, 121857A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Probable U-Boat. My 111800. Oil still rising contact still firm. At 1330A today target will have been held continuously for 36 hours. W.A.G.M. 143 N.S.A. above average. B. Outside area covered by charts but no other bottom echoes obtained. (S.O. E.G. 30, 120800A to C. in C. W.A.)

U. 1200 mark

4th E.G. leave patrol so as to arrive Milford Haven at daylight 13th for fuel and 48 hours rest.

(2) 30th E.G. remain with contact until further orders. (C. in C. W.A., 121305A to S.O. E.Gs. 4, 30.)

Position of contact by astronomical observation is 50° 24'30" N., 09° 10'30" W. By echo sounder and C.B. 4256 main hull of contact is 243 feet long and 20 feet above sea bed. A structure 10 feet high and 38 feet long is situated in centre of its length. Echo sounder traces have been preserved. Sea bed in vicinity is quite flat. Suitable. (S.O. E.G. 30, 121315A to C. in C. W.A.)

Weather reporting ship. PENNYWORT proceed passing Clyde Boom 0900A/13th November to Merville to fuel. E.T.A. 1715A thence to relieve CELANDINE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 092324 November not to all. E.T.A. 53° N., 20° W. 2100A/15th November. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 121654A to CELANDINE, PENNYWORT.)

Operations

North-western Approaches

Patrols. 18th E.G. proceed forthwith to vicinity Cape Wrath. Further orders follow.

(2) 15th E.G. establish patrol between positions 55° 40', 10° 00' and 55° 55' 11° 10'. Leave patrol at latest time necessary to arrive Pile Light Belfast at 1000/13th November. (C. in C. W.A., 121120A to S.O. E.Gs. 18, 15.)

/If ...

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth-western Approaches

- Patrols. (Contd.) If not in contact by 1800 today Sunday proceed to establish Gamma patrol between positions $059^{\circ} 36' N.$, $005^{\circ} 25' W.$ and $059^{\circ} 20' N.$, $004^{\circ} 15' W.$ Attention is called to Q.Z.X.170.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 121158A to S.O. E.G.17.)
- 20th E.G. is to be detached to arrive Londonderry by 0800/13th for lay-over.
(C. in C. W.A., 121225A to S.O. Force 33.)
Carry out operation C.E.1 in area bounded by parallels 58° and 59° and meridians 04° and $06^{\circ} 30'$. Report E.T.A. in area.
- (2) 17th E.G. is carrying out Gamma patrol between $59^{\circ} 36'$, $05^{\circ} 25'$ and $59^{\circ} 20'$, $04^{\circ} 15'$.
(C. in C. W.A., 121904A to S.O. E.G.18.)
Your 121904. E.T.A. 0630A/13th. Weather report 5671 1464. Suitable.
(S.O. E.G.18, 122054A to C. in C. W.A.)
Have carried out depth charge attack on bottomed contact in approx. position $059^{\circ} 44' N.$, $004^{\circ} 00' W.$ depth of water 84 fathoms. From quantity of fish brought up classified as wreck on rocky ledge. Am resuming patrol.
(S.O. E.G.17, 122201Z to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- Possible U-Boat. Aircraft PCDW reported possible periscope at 1610 in $055^{\circ} 26'$, $007^{\circ} 44'$. Aircraft is homing.
(C. in C. W.A., 121658A to Force 33.)
At 1612 Catalina reported periscope sighted in oil patch in position $055^{\circ} 29' N.$, $007^{\circ} 48' W.$
First E.G. now in contact 20th Group square search round position.
(TORTOLA, 121710A to C. in C. W.A.)

OperationsNorway

- Patrols. V.P.74 returned at 1600A today 12th November.
(2) No shipping seen.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121626A to A.C.O.S.)
V.P. 73 returned at 1610A today 12th November.
- (2) Convoy seen southbound disappearing into Fedje Fjord as force reached Fens Fjord.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121629 to A.C.O.S.)
Intend carrying out V.P. 75.
- (1) 0600A/13th November. (2) Not later 2000A/13th November.
(3) No later 0600A/14th November. (4) 249° towards Pivot Bressay not more 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m./14th November.
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 069° Pivot Bressay. (9) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121726A to A.C.O.S.)
My 121726. (1) 069° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
(2) $061^{\circ} 10' N.$, $004^{\circ} 30' E.$ (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121732A to A.C.O.S.)

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Situation Report. Positions at 2103A/12th November. U.S.S. O'TOOLE and ABNAKI. All the following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated 063° 25' 022° 30' bound Reykjavik 13½. TIRRE 066° 10' 014° 10' bound Akureyri 8. U.S.S. COOKUCY 063° 32' 025° 40' to 063° 44' 024° 32' thence to Skagi 8. Task Unit 24.8 U.S.S. EASTWIND, SOUTHWIND, EXTERNSTEINE, TRAVIS, FAUNCE 063° 40' 024° 50', 253° 8. H.M. Tug FREEBOOTER, HONEYSUCKLE 061° 18' N., 013° 38' W., 295°, 12. H.M.S. STARWORT, H.M.S. CHARLOCK patrolling off Skagi. EARRAID and one merchant ship departed Reykjavik 2200A to northwards. (A.C.I.C., 121330A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

U-Boat attack on SHIRVAN and GODAFOSS. My 102058 C.A.F.O. 1954/44 U-Boat. (1) H.M.S. NORTHERN REWARD. (2) 1450A/10th November. (3) 64.07 N., 22.56 W. course 000°, speed 10 knots. (4) Convoy escort U.R. 142. (5) Port bow of convoy. (6) Red 55 1750 yards 305°. (7) and (8) No. (9) Asdic. (10) One. (11) Icelandic GODAFOSS torpedoed starboard side aft at approx. 1510A. (12) NORTHERN REWARD screening in position N. HOME GUARD screening in position D. (14) Contact attacked with ten charge pattern, then observant around GODAFOSS. (16) Nil. (17) Contact was firm. H.E. obtained on bearing during later stages of attack. Doppler at first came to slight high altering to slight low. (1) to (17) are all paragraph (A). (B) (1) H.N.M.S. HONNINGSVAAG. (2) 1550A/10th. (3) 64.06 N., 22.56 W. course (1 group missing) 00° speed 7½ to 8 knots. (4) Observant with NORTHERN REWARD. (6) Contact 320° about 1200 ? hours. (7) and (8) No. (9) Asdic. (10) On. (13) Searching. (14) Contact attacked with 7 charges. (16) Large quantities oil. (C) (1) H.M.S. NORTHERN REWARD. (2) 1606A/10th November. (3) 64.96 N., 22.57 W. course 220°, speed 8 knots. (4) and (5) Observant. (6) Contact Green 75 KP 1500 yards 295°. (7) and (8) No. (9) Asdic. (10) Two. (13) Searching. (14) NORTHERN REWARD took over contact attacked by HONNINGSVAAG at 1550A and dropped one ten pattern followed by one five charge pattern. (15) 2000A/20th November. Local Auxiliary Vessels took over. (16) Loud underwater explosions heard approx. 30 seconds after all depth charges had detonated. Copious quantities of oil seen on surface but torpedoed tanker SHIRVAN in close proximity was also leaking badly. (17) Very good echoes obtained with phones plugged on to listening jacks. (18) Echo sounder of both NORTHERN REWARD and HONNINGSVAAG out of action throughout attacks. (3) Written reports and diagrams follow by letter. (A.C.I.C., 122130A to Admty.)

[See also page 282.]

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Deep mining in North Channel. Carry out Operation C.D.2Z 10 at 1730 November 12th. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 121145A to PLOVER.) My 121145A. Sailed PLOVER, escort SWEETBRIAR. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 121743 to C. in C. W.A.)

Minesweeping of French Coastal channels. In order to expedite completion of operation "Patrick" covering Dieppe - Boulogne coastal channel it will be necessary to have another fleet sweeping flotilla. Request flotilla may be allocated capable of sweeping LL/SA. (Capt. M/S. N.F., 121203A to C.T.F. 125.) Sweeping of coastal channel in hand. Expect to complete 24th with forces at present available. Capt. M/S, North France 121203 refers. (C.T.F. 125, 121517A to S.H.A.E.F.)

- Sitrep.
 (A) 42nd M/S. Flotilla continued operation "Progress".
 (B) 150th M/S. Flot. H.V.3 to 92 Buoy, ground mines detonated in position 049° 26'00" N., 000° 09'00" W.
 (C) 119th M/S. Flotilla area to westward of Cap de la Heve, 2 ground mines detonated in position 259° 2.2 miles Cap de la Heve.
 (D) 159th Trawler Group: Q.Z.S. 587, 539.
 (E) 104th M/S. Flotilla: Q.Z.S. 538.
 (F) Liberty ship LEE S. OVERMAN damaged by underwater explosion in approx. position 285° 1200 yards Digue Nord Light at Havre and beached.
 (Capt. M/S. N.F., 121243A to C.T.F. 125.)

Minelaying in Norwegian waters. Intend following operation:
 (1) Force 3 consisting of DIADEM, PREMIER, PURSUER and 4 destroyers detailed by Com. D. leave Scapa p.m. on D day to carry out minelaying operation with T.B.R. aircraft from PREMIER escorted by fighters from PURSUER.
 (2) Mining objective is Salhusstrommen 59° 22.7' N., 05° 18.2' E. (Chart 881).
 (3) DIADEM is requested to plan the operation in conjunction with PREMIER and PURSUER. PREMIER is to prepare the air plan.
 (4) Necessary Intelligence will be forwarded to ships concerned.
 (5) Strike is to be carried out on D plus 1 from a flying off position west of Q.Z.X.1452. If weather is unsuitable during daylight on D plus 1 Force 3 to return to Scapa.
 (6) Codeword in my 121222. D day will be signalled later. (C. in C. H.F., 121208 to DIADEM, PREMIER, PURSUER.) Para. (6) of my 121208 Codeword "Handfast". (C. in C. H.F., 121222A to DIADEM, PURSUER, PREMIER.)

Ground mine-sweeping in Le Havre. Sailed CYRUS in tow of GRIPER and JAUNTY for Havre ELFREDA escorting, a.m. today 12th. Departure Nab 1300, E.T.A. H.V.3 Buoy 1100A/13th November. (2) Route Q.Z.S. 510, 554, 588. (3) For information of N.O.I.C. Arrow with ref. to F.O.B.A.A.'s 111814. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121306A to C.T.G. 125.15.)

/Subject ...

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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining

Ground mine-sweeping in Le Havre. (Contd.) Subject to your concurrence propose to sail CYRUS and ELFREDA to Portsmouth on completion of sweep of Q.Z.S.595 by CYRUS. Intend ships should be called forward again when Granton sweep of Passe du Nord Ouest and resurvey by 182nd M/S.F. with echo-sounding gear has been completed and any remaining contacts indicated have been disposed of by running down batteries of suspected mines or by other means. It is estimated subject to good weather conditions, that the Passe du Nord Ouest will have been well covered by Granton sweep by November 30th. Request 182nd M/S.F. may be available at Havre by the date. (Capt. M/S. N.F., 122225A to C.T.F. 125.)

Mine in Ostend harbour. Mine exploded in harbour at 1600 Sunday causing engine-room and slight hull damage to tug FAIRPLAY II. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 122029 to Cdre. Belgium.)

Enemy Intelligence

TIRPITZ sunk. B.2 report Tromso 12th November TIRPITZ capsized after a series of hits. A little of her side and keel shows above water. (D.D.I.C., 121907A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, C.S.10, C.S.1, F.O.S/M., A.O.C. in C. C.C., H.Q.B.C., Air Ministry.)

Navigational

Necessity for strict adherence to swept channels off France. A.M. 111803 concur. In view of known existence of unswept mines south of Boulogne it is recommended that the importance of strict adherence to swept channels be impressed upon Masters. (V.A. Dover, 121144A to Admty.)

New cross-Channel routes. Reference proposals for single cross Channel route in substitution for Q.X.S. 525, 509, 510, 511 Portsmouth's 7088/O/0122/84 of 22nd October refers. This route has been swept Oropesa and S.A. with negative result to a width of two miles either side of the centre line.

(2) Centre line joins Z Light and Bell Buoy G.1 Light Buoy (new position) J Buoy Kansas Light and Bell Buoy.

(3) Extensions of this route from Kansas to 58E and to 14E Buoys have been similarly swept.

(4) Request these new channels be treated as three new traffic routes, i.e. Z to Kansas, Kansas to 58E, Kansas to 14E, and given suitable identification letters.

(5) Further request that these three new routes be promulgated in Q.Z. series to come into force at 0001 on 17th November.

(6) Further request simultaneous cancellations and amendment of Q.X.S. channels as follows:-

(1) Cancel Q.X.S. 525, 509, 510, 511, 554 and 555.

/(2) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Navigational

New cross-Channel routes. (Contd.)

(2) Amend Q.X.S.506 as follows: Centre line joins following positions:-
(A) 14E Buoy. (B) 14G Buoy. (C) Position 49° 28'00" N., 00° 54'30" W.

(3) Issue new Q.X.S. France North coast. Bay de la Seine. Channel 58. 58E Buoy to Juno Light Vessel. Width one mile. Centre line joins following positions: (A) 58E Buoy. (B) 58G Buoy. (C) Juno Light vessel. Ships are to keep to their starboard side of the channel.

(7) My 271508 October, 061706 November and Admiralty message 031702 November also refer.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121310 to Admty.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp. Your 071922 para. 3 and earlier messages. Following is summary of tug situation.

(1) Eight Belgian tugs owned by the Societe de Remorquage et de Sauvetage and three owned by the City of Antwerp are being prepared for return to Antwerp for river and dock services (excluding Rescue Service).

(2) Five EMPIRE class tugs of 500 I.H.P. are also being made available.

(3) Names in addition to those already notified are (para. 1) RICHARD, PRESIDENT J.P. BEST, Numbers 29, 31 and 33 and (para.2) EMPIRE CEDAR, EMPIRE WILLOW, EMPIRE MAPLE, EMPIRE TOBY and EMPIRE ANDREW.

(4) Details of the arrangements being made here in respect of condition surveys, crews, etc. are being mailed to M.W.T.R.

(5) The relief from present duties, preparation and assembly of this fleet of tugs is proceeding as rapidly as possible but delay is being experienced in the case of Numbers 29, 31 and 33. Consideration may therefore require to be given to some re-arrangement of local tugs to provide for dock services pending arrival of three last mentioned. Cotug. also may deem it advisable to earmark at least two tugs from the Operational Pool for temporary duty at Antwerp should the need arise from this or other cause.

(6) The first four tugs, namely INFATIGABLE, DIRECTOR GERLING, P.V. LETZER & DIRECTOR JACK LETZER will be ready to sail from the Medway in about a week's time. The two last named can each tow one balloon barrage and two first named can each tow a pair should such craft be required from the U.K.

(7) Additionally Belgian tug GOLIATH is being prepared for service as a Rescue Tug. Although sailing with Belgian crew some slight delay may occur after arrival before she is fully operational owing to the necessity of certain crew changes.

(8) Some indication of date when you can commence to accept tugs (and barges if required) would be appreciated as soon as practicable, together with port of destination.

(9) Addressee please pass to M.W.T.R.
(D. of S.T., 120134A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Casualties and Defects

SHIRVAN and GODAFOSS. C.A.F.O. 2120/44.
(A) SHIRVAN. (B) British. (C) 10th November approx. 1115Z. (D) Approx. 064^m 08' N., 022° 50' W.
(see also page 279) / (E) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

SHIRVAN and GODAFOSS. (E) Torpedoed. (F) Afloat with heavy list, and deck awash. Abandoned. My 102058 and 102358 November refer. (Contd.)

(2) (A) GODAFOSS. (B) Icelandic. (C) 10th November approx. 1410Z. (D) Approx. 064° 08' N. 022° 45' W. (E) Torpedoed. (F) Sunk.

(3) (G) 29 British and 18 Icelandic survivors from both ships.

(4) Survivors and casualties ex GODAFOSS are being dealt with locally by Icelandic and American authorities.

(A.C.I.C., 120024 to Admty.)

SHIRVAN apparently sunk. Touch lost during night 10th/11th in gale and low visibility. Estimated position of SHIRVAN at 1900A/11th if still afloat was 064° 28' N., 022° 58' W.

At 1847A/11th air search found very large quantity oil in position 064° 29' N., 023° 04' W. Continuous air and surface search since then has found nothing further. My 102358 refers.

(A.C.I.C., 122210A to Admty.)

HYDRA.

Sheerness arrival 0756A/12th November HYDRA in tow of SEA GIANT, FREEDOM, ST. CLEARS. (C. in C. Nore, 121150A to N.O.I.C. Ostend.)

BRIGADIER and HILARY.

BRIGADIER now cut free from HILARY. BRIGADIER proceeding Southampton in tow BOSTON SALVOR in attendance making no water forward of collision bulkhead but has no means of anchoring. HILARY now anchored area 25. Salvage tugs RAMIER and

RECOVERY of Leith standing by. No immediate danger draft forward 18 feet 0 inches and aft 27 feet 3 inches. HILARY awaiting reply to HILARY's 121156 to C. in C. P. (R) F.O.I.C. Southampton.

(Salvage Officer in HILARY, 121245 to C. in C. Portsmouth, C.S.V.O. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

Shipping and Convoys

Convoys O.N.A.

Commencing with convoy O.N.A.267 signals for O.N.A. and Channel sections of U.C. convoys will be made in the following form.

(1) Name of convoy.

(2) Time Table (i) Thames Gate. (ii) Dumpton

Buoy. (iii) Dungeness. (iv) 360° Z Buoy 1 mile (Portsmouth R/V). (v) 360° H.2 Buoy 1 mile (Cherbourg R/V). (vi) Plymouth R/V. (vii) Falmouth R/V. (viii) Final R/V.

(3) Speed. (4) Route.

(5) Codeword for fighter protection.

(6) Radio distinguishing group.

(2) Com. Southend 081819 not to all addressees refers.

(C. in C. Nore, 121212 to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.Os. I.C. London, Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, Com. Sheerness, A.C. Dover, N.C.S.O. Mersey, Com. Southend.)

/Major ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Major troopship movements.

Following is summary 64 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period to 11th November.

<u>Serial</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
	(A) In:				
(1)		A.T.165A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	17 November
(2)		A.T.166	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	p.m./17 Nov.
(3)		-	RUYS	"	17 November
(4)		C.U. 46A	RANGITATA U.S. SEA QUAIL	Liverpool	18 "
(5)		S.D. 59	SOBIESKI	Clyde	20 "
(6)		-	EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA SCYTHIA	Liverpool	Late Nov.
(7)		A.T.167	AQUITANIA	Clyde	22 November
(8)		C.U. 47A	Ships not yet allocated to ports.		26 "
(9)		A.T.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	27 "
(10)		A.T.165	ANDES	Liverpool	27 "
(11)		A.T.168	MAURETANIA	"	1 December
(12)		M.K.F.36	Ships not yet allocated to ports.		About 1 Dec.
(13)		C.U. 48A	Ships not yet allocated to ports.		4 December
(14)		A.T.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	5 "
(15)		A.T.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	7 "
(16)		A.T.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	"	11 "
	(B) Out:				<u>Sails</u>
(17)		D.S. 59	SOBIESKI	Clyde	13 November
(18)		T.A.162	QUEEN MARY	"	13 "
(19)		T.A.163	ILE DE FRANCE	"	14 "
(20)		U.C. 45A	U.S. ships ex C.U. 45A		14 "
(21)		T.A.164	PASTEUR	Liverpool	17 "
(22)		U.C. 45B	ESPERANCE BAY Possibly DOMINION MONARCH	"	18 "
(23)		-	EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND	"	18 "
(24)		T.A.165A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	"	20 "
(25)		U.C. 46A	U.S. ships ex C.U.46A		22 "
(26)		T.A.166	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	22 "
(27)		T.A.167	AQUITANIA	"	26 "
(28)		T.A.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	"	2 December
(29)		T.A.168	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	5 "
(30)		T.A.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	10 "

(2) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 18th November when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T., 122147A to P.S.T.O. Clyde.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

A/U
operations.

Cancel my 112134A November not to all addressees. Amend my 101735 (?para) 5 to read: ANCHUSA and NADA Y.S. proceed at 0900A/13 to relieve BARLE and KILMARNOCK, and join Group 1. (F.O.G.M.A.121203A to ANCHUSA Group 1, NADA YS.) 112134A not identified in W.R.

MIRROR

Departures: KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting MIRROR cables repairs. (F.O.G.M.A.121849A)

TENACITY.

TENACITY temporarily not available as Rescue Tug owing to hawser fouling propeller during salvage operation PRAIA+. Further signal will be made (S.B.N.O.Azores, 122036Z)
+ as received.

DUGUAY
TROUIN.

Departures for Brest. (C.M.S.F.122116A)

Landing
craft
found
abandoned.

Following received from Bilbao begins: Addressed S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) B.N.A. Madrid from Bilbao. What is probably landing craft B.C.L.I. 56 approx. 50 feet long arrived 1130 November 12th towed by Spanish CASTILLO MONFORTE believed found abandoned off Gijon. Further details will follow. T.O.O.121445 ends.
Request any information or comments. (F.O.G.M.A.122311A to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic

South
African
Frigates.

My 091028 and A.M. 241841 August. If it is the Admiralty's intention to employ these South African frigates in the Far (Eastern Theatre) consider it politically most important that they should visit South Africa en route to Eastern Fleet.
(C. in C. S.A. 120957 to Admty)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- TUEBINGEN. Your 061252B. Germans have promised to release equivalent number of British merchant seamen. (Hd. of M. 120023A to F.O.L.E.M.) Position at 0700 G.M.T. lat. 36.26 N. long. 21.10 E. course 319 speed 10 knots. Master. (TUEBINGEN No T.O.O.)
- KING GEORGE V. Alex. 11th November arrivals KING GEORGE V, WHIRLWIND, WRANGLER, TUSCAN, MUSKETEER, MARNE, KELVIN, GLOXINIA, MOONSTONE, M.L. 871. (R.A. Alex. 120723B.)
- FREIBURG. Request permission requisition FREIBURG as unrecognised hospital carrier prize crew to operate for short period until substituted by permanent merchant service crew. Propose to use vessel as in my 120940 Nov. para. 8. Request confirmation vessel may sail unescorted. (P.S.T.O. Med. 120950A to C. in C. Med.)
- CURIE. Your 081252A. Amiral Mediterranee proposes that French submarine CURIE should be sent either to Toulon or Oran pending receipt of proposals from Marine Paris concerning her future. (F.O.W.M. 121130A to C. in C. Med.) Request consult French Admiralty regarding fitting of CURIE.
- PACIFIC (Cable ship) My 101221A sailed E.T.A. position X 0800A/14th. (V.A.M. 121225A.)
- Italian submarines. Italian submarines DIASPRO, PLATINO and NICHELIO come within scope of U.S./British agreement on allocations to A/S training. (B.A.D's 181937 December and A.M. 211659 December neither to all refer.)
(2) The last allocation was SETTEMBRINI to U.S. Therefore of three submarines mentioned in your 301107 October now available for A/S duties, first should be allocated to British, second to U.S. and third to British.
(3) Approved for the two which come under British control to remain in Mediterranean.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 121525A to C. in C. Med., Capt. S.I, B.A.D.)
- M.K.S. convoys. M.K.S. 68 will be sailed from Gib. 25th November. (2) Subsequent M.K.S. convoys will be sailed at 10 days intervals. (C. in C. Med. 121623A.)

/Salonika...

12.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Salonika, minesweeping. Situation report number 2. First half of today Sunday has been employed in destroying numerous buys (?buoys) large and small attached to nets on a line bearing 190° S. from Cape (Gr?)iva. 3 attempts were then made to (?execute) sweep operation but each attempt the leading minesweepers picked up submerged A/T nets which parted their sweep, depth charges have been dropped and it is believed a fair proportion of the nets destroyed. New methods of dealing with nets will be introduced tomorrow after which it is hoped that sweep will be resumed by M.Ls. today. As Gulf and Harbour of Volos is clear and a safe passage exists for vessels of less than 30 feet draft vessels could be met at position 120° Pondik(?o) Nisi Island light 5 miles and conducted safely to harbour if desired.
(BURRA, 121826B to Callsign 6 YMN.)

KING GEORGE V. On completion of operation on 14th November vide C. in C. Med's 081256 intend KING GEORGE V and destroyers proceed direct to Port Said to transit Canal en route to Eastern Fleet,
(F.O.L.E.M. 121934B.)

Situation report 483. (1) 111 mines have so far been accounted for in opening port of Salonika. Although sweeping operations have enabled all ships to move closer inshore than was at first possible bad weather has seriously delayed unloading which is being carried out with (?landing craft.)
(2) DELHI has arrived at Split where her C.O. has assumed duty of S.B.N.O.
(3) Allied warships continue to carry out in force bombardment near Franco-Italian frontier.
(C. in C. Med. 122124A.)

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SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

STOIC, STOIC 5th Far East 1st South West Pacific patrol.
patrol report. (2) 23rd October off Cherbon missed 5000 tons
merchant ship with 3 torpedoes. Missed same ship
with stern torpedo on 24th. Then attacked with
gunfire caused damage and also fired 2 more tor-
pedoes both of which missed.
(3) 25th off Mandalika light sank by gunfire 700 tons tanker.
(4) 30th off Surabaya fired 4 torpedoes at (50?)00 tons merchant
ship 3 hits claimed.
(5) 31st Madoera Straits sank by gunfire 150 tons coaster. Bom-
barded warehouse at Disngkar and sank by gunfire land barge
number 31.
(C. in C. E.F. 120307Z.)

U/B dis- No fresh information, scale in all areas remains
positions. unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 120318Z.)

H.E. ammuni- Recent events have reduced to small proportions
tion for the prospect of ship for ship actions involving
Eastern Fleet. capital ships and cruisers in Indian Ocean.
(2) It is therefore possible to contemplate for an
important combined operation:
A. authorizing 15 inch, 8 inch and 6 inch ships to
embark H.E. to full capacity. B. Authorizing the expenditure of
more than one such outfit (?in a) single operation.
(3) The heavy supporting fire thus made possible may be a deciding
factor in this theatre where air support is liable to be severely
limited by distance. Recent operations in the Pacific accent the
beneficial effect of really heavy fire from warships.
(4) For this policy to be implemented a large increase of 15 inch,
8 inch and 6 inch H.E. stocks will be required.
(5) Proposed stock for each ship ashore or A.S.I.S. is A.
sufficient H.E. to replace all A.P. on board. B. Two complete
ship outfits of H.E. making three complete outfits of H.E.
available on station.
(6) Request H.E. stocks for ships stationed in Indian Ocean may be
built up to this level as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.F. 120617Z to Admty.)

Six inch heavy H.E. ammunition my 120617 refers. Stocks
available are insufficient for operational needs in immediate
future. Three ships with 6 inch mark 23 guns have been earmarked
for operation "Talon". (Requirements.)
(C. in C. E.F. 120634Z.)

15 inch H.E. ammunition my 120641 refers.
(2) Intend (?loading) QUEEN ELIZABETH to full capacity with 15
inch H.E. and to expend whole quantity in operations January 1945.
(3) By collecting all H.E. available in Indian Ocean including
all at present in RENOWN requirements can just be met.
(4) Expect requirements for further expenditure of a complete
load of 15 inch H.E. by QUEEN ELIZABETH and probably from RENOWN
also (?in) operation during March. Total 1750 required from U.K.
by 1st March. Request shipments forecast in your 081355 may be
handled with (?targets.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

H.E. ammunition for Eastern Fleet (Contd.)

A. 1750 to arrive 1st February.

B. 2 reserve outfits total 3500 to arrive as soon as possible after 1st February.

(C. in C. E.F. 120636Z to Admt.)

8 inch H.E. ammunition. Request scale of stocks proposed in my 130334 October may be increased in accordance with para. 5 of my 120617 November as soon as possible but at lower priority than 15 inch and 6 inch. Intend to use 6 inch cruisers for support of combined operations in preference to 8 inch until stocks for latter can be built up. (C. in C. E.F. 120641Z.)

12.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SS. NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your 111551Z does not correspond with my position and course at 2000Z/11. 2000/11 position 042° 26' N. 062° 06' W. course 092° speed 19 knots. (A.T. 166 120227Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.) A.T. 166. Your 120227Z N.K. and N.U. steer forthwith for position M. 040° 20' 054° 10' thence N. 041° 30' 042° 05' as routed P.D. Boston 091501. (Connav 121248 to NIEUW AMSTERDAM.)

Stragglers report. Stragglers arrived week ending 11th November - nil. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 121147Z.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 121350Z, Cominch 121610Z.)

FLYING FISH. My 092115 FLYING FISH has developed condenseritis and will be delayed indefinitely. (C. in C. C.N.A. 121621Z to F.O.N.F.)

T.F. 69. My 032211Z include EARLE in T.F. 69 vice MCLANAHAN. (Cinclant 121649Z.)

M.V. TAMARA. Swedes intimate safe conduct vessel TAMARA will sail from Piraeus for St. John N.B. at 0900/18th, by "Black" route as amended by A.M. 041949 and C. in C. Med. 201433 October. Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned. (Hd. of M. 121855A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. 1026. (Extract) for November 11th. (4) Enemy convoy reported approaching Ormoc Bay from N.W. (refer Digest 1025 para. 5) comprising four transports, five destroyers, one destroyer escort together with fighter cover reported completely frustrated and almost entirely eliminated just prior to entry Ormoc Bay early daylight hours by aircraft of 3rd Fleet Carrier Task Group. (5) One pair P.T. Boats attacked with torpedoes three ships described as destroyers departing Ormoc Bay early hours 10th November. Minimum one hit scored resulting in tremendous explosion. Believe ship sank. Another pair P.T. boats contacted two probable escort vessels same time and vicinity claiming one certain torpedo hit but further results unobserved. (15) 17 local patrols report possible submarine signalling with coast near Pondo in open bay after dark 10th. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 121151Z.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine
attack &
sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 0849Z/11 in 55° 27' N. 09° 32' W.
(2) A/C obtained disappearing contact at 1025Z/11 in 56° 32' N. 10° 18' W.
(3) A/C H/53 sighted possible U-Boat at 2123Z/11 in 64° 04' N. 22° 54' W.
(4) A/C C/547 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2305Z/11 in 60° 07' N. 03° 20' E.

Para. C. (1) E.G. C.4 attacked doubtful contact, later considered non-submarine at 2100Z/11 in 51° 41' N. 07° 48' W.
Ref. my 111227 para. A. 1 initial contact by E.G. 30 was by radar at 23,000 yards. Asdic contact was still being held and heavily attacked up to 1700Z/11.
(D.D.I.C. 121116A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 121432A, 121443A.)

13.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1. Relief stores for Holland can now be sent to Flushing in small Dutch schuyts.
2. Calais train terminal will be in working order by the 15th.
- Channel. 3. All cross-Channel shipping is again to be sailed in convoy, L.S.Ts. alone excepted. 7306
- Norway. 4. It is confirmed that 29 Lancasters of No.5 Group, Bomber Command, scored at least 3 12,000 lb. bomb hits on TIRPITZ yesterday, as a result of which she capsized and has sunk.
5. C.S.1 in KENT, with BELLONA and 4 destroyers, striking in onto the Norwegian coast just west of Flekkefjord, fell in with a northbound convoy of about 11 ships, including 3 or 4 minesweepers as escort, shortly after midnight. He sank every one of them, with the possible exception of one merchantman and one escort, and of these two one is thought to have run ashore. Several shore batteries joined in, but ineffectively. The only casualties were 2 wounded in KENT and 2 killed and 5 wounded in VERULAM.
- Northern Waters. 6. The U-Boat which sank SHIRVAN and GODAFOSS appears to have fallen in with tug EMPIRE WOLD as well, for she is reported missing and feared lost with all hands.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

7. SWIFTSURE arrived at Aden today from the U.K., to join the Eastern Fleet.

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SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

8. Aircraft of the Third Fleet Carriers this forenoon attacked a concentration of merchant ships with cruisers and destroyers in Manila Bay and inflicted damage. No details are known.

9. At Balnuc, 11 miles south-east of Ormoc, Allied troops drove off an attempted Japanese landing from barges.

10. This afternoon an aircraft sank one gunboat in the Northern Sulu Sea, off the north-eastern part of Palawan Island.

11. Survivors from the U.S. tanker FORT LEE, sunk in the Indian Ocean on November 2nd, were landed in Australia today, 17 at Albany and 16 at Fremantle. Two boats with 33 survivors are still missing.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Rescue Tugs in Western Approaches. In view of winter conditions and the probable renewal of the U-boat offensive the position regarding Rescue Tugs in my Command is causing grave concern. Of the two at present allocated, JUSTICE at Milford Haven is very fully employed locally and in the Bristol Channel.

2. My existing tug resources are not adequate for dealing with a large ship in an emergency and would be insufficient to meet any heavy scale of casualties.

3. To be in a position to meet reasonable emergencies it is considered that Rescue Tugs should be available as follows:-

- (a) At Plymouth 2.
- (b) At Milford Haven 2.
- (c) At Campbeltown or Moville 2.
- (d) At Azores 1.
- (e) At Iceland 1.
- (f) At St. Johns 1.

(a) above is already met and when SALVONIA is sailed to Azores to relieve TENACITY (d) and (f) will be met. The requirements are, therefore, 2 at Milford Haven to be available at all times for ocean duty, 1 in addition to EARNER at Campbeltown and 1 at Iceland.

4. It is appreciated that other commitments may make it difficult fully to meet these requirements, but it is requested that very early consideration be given to allotting a minimum of 2 more White Ensign Ocean Tugs to this Command - one to join JUSTICE at Milford Haven and one to join EARNER in the N.W. Approaches. Also, it is considered essential that one Ocean Tug should be available at Iceland (c) during the winter. In this connection A.C.I.C's 111710 para. E refers. (C. in C. W.A., 130025A to Admty).

Rules for engaging aircraft in the Channel.

Following rules for engaging aircraft come into force as from 0800A 16th November in sea area bounded on East by line drawn from North Foreland to Cape Gris Nez and on West by line drawn from Lands End to Brest.

2. (a) During daylight from half hour before Sunrise until half hour after Sunset.

(1) All vessels may engage any aircraft flying below 1000 feet if not recognised or identified as friendly.

(2) All vessels may engage any aircraft within range which is recognised or identified as hostile, or which commits a hostile act.

(3) Aircraft flying at heights greater than 1,000 feet and not recognised or identified as hostile, or seen to commit a hostile act, will not be engaged.

(b) During night.

(1) Warships may engage any aircraft within range which is not recognised or identified as friendly except as in sub-para. (3) below.

(2) Merchant ships and all other vessels, except warships, may only engage aircraft by whom they are being directly attacked, and then only with short range barrage (up to 2,000 yards) or with close range weapons, except as in sub-para. (3) below.

(3) No vessel may engage any aircraft burning Leigh lights.

3. N.C.S.Os. and D.E.M.S. Staff Officers pass to merchant ships.

4. A.G.M. 736A of Oct. 13th and 744A of Oct. 15th are cancelled.

A.G.M. 96A.Z. of April 20th is still in force.

(Head of M., 132316A to A.G.M. Home and Abroad).

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DUGUAY Your 121833 para. 3. Fuel remaining at 0800 today
TROUIN. 57%. P.C.S. at 1000 046° 00' N., 004° 21' W. 275°
13½ knots. 8 figure weather report 5572 2575.
(BLYSKAWICA, 131025A to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 121833 not to all addressees.

French Cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN carrying French naval personnel
passengers is routed at 23 knots from position (Y) 044° North
011° W. to:

(Z) 048° N., 006° W. thence to Brest. Expected time of arrival
Brest 1200A repetition 1200A 14th.

(2) P.S. BLYSKAWICA is to R/V with F.C. DUGUAY TROUIN in estimated
position 046° 00' N., 008° 32' W. at 0130A 14th and escort to
position (A) 048° 13' 36" N., 005° 23' 00" W. of A.M. Q.Z.S.617,
and is to burn dim navigation lights while making R/V.

(3) F.C. DUGUAY TROUIN is to inform P.S. BLYSKAWICA if necessary
to amend time of R/V.

(4) On reaching position (A) P.S. BLYSKAWICA is to part company
and proceed Plymouth.

(5) Anticipate C.T.U. 125.5.3 with U.S. minesweeping unit will
R/V with French Cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN in position (A) JY 0900A
14th.

(6) Communication constant watch on broadcast BN. Intercommuni-
cation when in company on 2410 k/cs R/T. Intercommunication with
M/S on 2000 k/cs W/T or R/T.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131320A to BLYSKAWICA, DUGUAY TROUIN).

10th E.G. On completion of training 14th November, F.O.I.C.
Northern Ireland is requested to sail 10th E.G.
to relieve 31st E.G. in Plymouth Command to
rendezvous as arranged by C. in C. Plymouth.
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 31st E.G. to Greenock
on relief.
(C. in C. W.A., 131123A to F.O.I.C. N.I., C. in C. Plymouth).

23rd and 26th The following re-organisation of 23rd D.F. and
Destroyer 26th D.F. will come into force at noon on 17th
Flotillas. November.

23rd D.F. MYNGS, SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE,
SERAPIS, STORD, ALGONQUIN, SIOUX.

26th D.F. SAUMAREZ, VIRAGO, VIGILANT, VOLAGE, VERULAM, VENUS.

2. Captain (D.23) and staff will transfer to MYNGS. Captain
(D.26) and staff will transfer to SAUMAREZ. This exchange will
take place on the 17th November.

3. Flotillas are re-allocated as follows: H.F. 2nd, 6th, 17th,
and 23rd.

26th D.F. will be administered by Com. (D) until Flotilla
proceeds abroad and is to be ready to leave U.K. by 7th January.

4. Dockings, Refits, Boiler Cleanings.

Consequent on the above the following programme has been arranged:
(a) Refits. VERULAM at Humber Graving Dock at Immingham about
15th November. SAUMAREZ by Swan, Hunter at Newcastle on 2nd
December.

(b) Docking and Essential Defects only. (All on 7th December).
VENUS in Rosyth area. VOLAGE by Robbs at Leith. NUBIAN at
Devonport.

(c) Boiler Cleaning only.

VIGILANT at Chatham on 16th December.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

23rd and 26th Destroyer Flotillas. (contd). 5. Leave. 14 days leave will be given to each watch and complements will be adjusted as necessary during the above periods for ships proceeding abroad. (Com. D. H.F., 131138A to D.Fs. 2, 6, 17, 23, 26).

Large Floating Dock to East. A.M. 121834A November para. 2. Propose to concur. (A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug) 131405A to A.N.C.X.F. (Main)).

NEWFOUNDLAND. F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 121655. It is proposed that programme outlined in my 061600 be proceeded with except for main armament gun trials. Ship to return to tail of bank on completion of trials on November 20th until gunnery equipment trials are complete. It is understood there is no objection to ship being under weigh during tests and trials of the electrical equipment. (NEWFOUNDLAND, 131441 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

KENT, BELLONA, MYNGS. Scapa arrival F.O. 1st Gr. Sq. in KENT, BELLONA with Capt. (D) 26th D.F. in MYNGS, VERULAM, ZAMBESI, ALGONQUIN. (A.C.O.S., 132108 to Admty).

INDEFATIGABLE. On completion of docking and when ready for sea on 19th November, C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail INDEFATIGABLE to fly on aircraft in St. George's Channel North and West of the Smalls as arranged by C. in C. W.A.
2. On completion of flying on INDEFATIGABLE is to proceed to Gibraltar for onward routeing to join Eastern Fleet.
3. GRENVILLE (D.25) UNDINE and URANIA will provide screen throughout.
4. Route to Gibraltar will be promulgated by Admiralty.
5. INDEFATIGABLE will be wearing the flag of Flag Officer Carriers British Pacific Fleet. (V.C.N.S., 132355A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth and W.A.)

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval. Cositintrep No.223 Part II Naval.
A. Captured ports. Calais, It is confirmed that the train ferry terminal will be working by the 15th November. Granville. The limiting beam for ships is 38 feet.
B. Unloading figures

/U.S....

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report

Naval.
(Contd.)

<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Cherbourg	-	-	16,826	12,596
Brittany Ports	-	663	4,543	-
Beaches	-	-	2,391	127
Le Havre	2,873	663	7,396	-
Rouen	-	-	3,131	-
Total	2,873	1,326	34,287	12,723
<u>British</u>				
Ostend	1,555	48	1,896	5,427
East Calvados	674	351	834	-
Dieppe	1,089	37	6,432	-
Boulogne	63	102	3,892	-
Total	3,381	503	13,054	5,427
Combined Total	6,254	1,864	47,341	18,150

(A.N.C.X.F., 132247A to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Future of Force T. (a) Following desired composition of Force T when reformed. KINGSMILL, 24 L.C.T.(4), 6 L.C.T.(3), 12 L.C.T.(5), total L.C.T. 42. 12 L.S.I.(5) 72 L.C.A., 12 L.C.S.(M), 12 L.C.P.(L), 3 L.C.Hs., L.C.P.(SY), 4 M.L. Navigational Leaders. (My 091937 not to C. in C. Nore and Cdre. Belgium) support squad. as in my 101935.

(b) It is hoped to obtain agreement of S.H.A.E.F. to withdraw above L.C.T.(3) and L.C.T.(4) from shuttle service and to keep them permanently in Force T. KINGSMILL will not be required permanently abroad should join Force about 14 days before any projected operation.

(c) As a result of reconnaissance of suitable advanced bases in Schelde area intended to use Goes map reference 3330 as a base for 4 motor launches, navigational leaders and 3 minor landing craft flotillas as in my 071547.

(d) Full consideration has been given to possibility of basing whole Force on Continent in view of known Admty. wish to do so but it is regretted that this cannot be agreed for following reasons.

(1) Only possible bases are Antwerp or Ostend where conditions are unsuitable particularly from exercise and welfare point of view.

(2) Opening up of a new full scale landing craft base on Continent involves a considerable effort and must be less economical in personnel and material than continuing to use a base in U.K. which is already well established.

(3) While awaiting operation crews are more likely to stagnate on Continent than in U.K.

(4) Advantage of keeping remainder of Force in vicinity of Support Squadron based at Turtle and firing range is obvious.

/(e) ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Future of Force T. (contd). (e) Request therefore that majority of Force may remain based U.K. (A.N.C.X.F., 131215 to Admty).

Defences of Schelde. Your 081150. Scale of attack by small craft various sorts likely to be high. Consider booms and nets will provide the best protection for ships necessarily held at mouth of estuary as loops and H.D.As. are at best only of warning value. Trouble to shipping should be avoided by generous gap.
2. Patrol craft will be 151st Flotilla H.D.M.Ls. (A.C.N.S. (H), 131240A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Dumpton - Ostend cable. Weather permitting following will be programme of cable laying operations between Dumpton cable landing and position A. Lat. 51° 20' 30" N., long. 01° 39' 00" E.
(A) Tuesday 14th ALERT with LESLIE in company proceed at 0900 to carry out work inshore of Q.Z.S. 459 anchoring in Margate Roads or off Ramsgate on completion.
(B) Wednesday 15th ALERT and LESLIE proceed to land shore end (shore party to be available from 1100) and subsequently to pick up cable to the eastwards returning to anchor as in (A) above on completion.
(C) Thursday 16th complete operations to position A returning to Dover on completion.
2. ALERT is to order LESLIE to Dover when no longer required and is to signal any necessary amendments to programme as work proceeds.
3. If necessary to continue operations after dark an M.L. will be sailed from Ramsgate to patrol in vicinity of Cable Ship. Both ships are to show navigation lights and ALERT Cable Ship signals.
(V.A. Dover, 131631A to ALERT, LESLIE).

Survey of Schelde Estuary. In order to hasten survey of Schelde added assistance of Hydrographic Department M.L. 1053 would be appreciated. Subject to her being available request she may be sailed to Terneuzen fully equipped for survey. (FRANKLIN 132051A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Channel.

Operation "Nestegg". In view of Admty. Message 051854 request diesel carrying fuelling trawler may be added to requirements and tanker NORDEST II replaced by petrol carrying tanker of approximately 150 tons and of draught not more than 13 feet. (C. in C. Plymouth, 130951A to Admty).

/Phoenix...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel. - Contd.

- Phoenix - The following experience in the towing of A.X. towing Phoenix Units is passed for information. troubles. (2) A.X. Units without Swin Bows provide a difficult proposition and the following incidents have occurred:-
- (a) A.X.188 in tow of HILLSBRO INLET was unable to make any headway against Spring tides and had to return to Southend. She sailed again with EMPIRE LARCH assisting 5 days later and though springing a leak eventually completed her voyage successfully.
 - (b) A.X.200 in tow of THAMES and ASSIDUOUS developed leaks and was delayed in vicinity of S. Falls Buoy owing to failure of pumps. GROWLER was sent to assist.
 - (c) A.X.189 in tow of TYBEE grounded off E. Spile. Towing Winch of TYBEE was badly damaged and tugs from Southend and Sheerness sent to assist. Unit was refloated and subsequently sailed in tow.
 - (d) A.X.201 in tow of BODIE ISLAND from Humber to Southend grounded on West Barrow. EMPIRE LARCH and SUN VIII were sent to assist and unit refloated after considerable difficulty and left in tow of BODIE ISLAND after examination.
 - (e) A.X.199 in tow of SAMSONIA and SEA GIANT, towing winch of SEA GIANT was damaged and SAMSONIA continued tow single-handed. EMPIRE JOHN and CHEERY were sent to assist and unit arrived Southend safely.
3. It is considered that the towing of these units in the narrow swept channels of the Thames Estuary and its approaches with strong and varying tidal sets is a hazardous operation and might well have resulted in the blocking of these vital channels. Further the necessity of mooring these units to buoys in Southend and Sheerness anchorages or alongside Tilbury landing stage to await favourable sailing weather and tide has presented great difficulty and lavish use of tugs to complete this operation.
(C. in C. Nore, 131231A to D. of S.T.)

- Patrols. (1) OUTREMONT and LOCH MORLICH pass through Gate at 0830A tomorrow Tuesday November 14th and proceed towards position 18° degrees Portland Bill 15. Further patrol signal will be made.
- (2) S.O.E.G.6 with remainder of group leave patrol so as to enter Plymouth at 1000A tomorrow Tuesday November 14th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131405A to E.G.6)
On completion of present patrol, establish patrol between (YY) and (AA). My 131739A refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131740A to E.G.31)
Proceed with despatch to position 070° Wolf Rock 5 miles and carry out search for possible U-boat.
2. At 1715A/13 VILLE DE QUEBEC reports unidentified under water explosion in vicinity of convoy E.B.C.34. No damage has been caused.
3. Attention is drawn to non submarines No.57 and 48.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131815A to E.G.31).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable U-boat. Contact firmly held for 57 hours. Asdic conditions becoming more difficult. Just suitable. (S.O.E.G.30, 131030A to C. in C. W.A.) Well done. If no further evidence obtained by 0100/14th leave contact to establish patrol between 51° 25' 11° 40' and 51° 40' 10° 40'. (C. in C. W.A., 131238A to S.O.E.G.30)

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Suspected U-boat. Asdic contact following Radar contact believed Schnorkel attacked and one Hedgehog (?echo) (?dropped) by CRANSTOUN in position 059° 33' N., 005° 13' W. Still in contact. (S.O.E.G. 17, 130643A to C. in C. Rosyth).
My 130643. Daylight revealed large and spreading patch of light oil believed diesel. ASCENSION and CRANSTOUN still in contact. U-boat on bottom in 75 fathoms. Am carrying out further attack.
(S.O.E.G.17, 130838A to C. in C. Rosyth).
Expect 2 Sunderlands patrolling over your area until 1800A
R/T callsign Pistol Peter 44 and 45.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1308038A to S.O.E.G.17).
Join E.G.17 in contact in position 059° 33' 005° 13'.
(C. in C. W.A., 131023A to S.O.E.G.18).
Very well done. Hunt to exhaustion.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 131034A to S.O.E.G.17).
My 130643. Further attacks have brought up more diesel oil, lubricating oil and solidified grease in slabs also a pair of rubber gloves. If contact is U/B, consider it is probably now destroyed. Remaining in contact.
(S.O.E.G. 17, 131205A to C. in C. Rosyth).
Until wreckage of definite German U-boat origin has been obtained you must continue to hunt to exhaustion until further orders.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 131427A to S.O.E.G.17).
Last attack produced a number of barrels of grease or tallow. Consider contact is probably wreck and in any event is now destroyed.
(S.O.E.G.17, 131558A to C. in C. Rosyth).
My 131558. 2 ships are holding contact remainder carried out Observant. 18th. Escort Group is doing an outer Observant. Wreckage included slabs paraffin wax.
(S.O.E.G.17, 131615A to C. in C. Rosyth).
1. 18th E.G. proceed and act in accordance with C. in C. Western Approaches 121904A.
2. 17th E.G. maintain Gamma patrol, as in my 121158A.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 131736A to S.O.E.Gs., 17 18).
Intend continuing square search around E.G.17 until 0800A/14 when 18th E.G. will proceed to support UR 143.
(2) Suitable.
(S.O.E.G.18, 131745A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Situation...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Western Approaches. - Contd.

Situation Report. 18th E.G. TOWY S.O., 3 escorts and 17th E.G. ASCENSION, 4 Frigates vicinity 059° 33' 005° 13'. 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes operating vicinity 050° 26' 009° 10'.
Force 33 1st E.G. AFFLECK, 2 Frigates and 26th E.G., BEACON HILL, 3 Frigates operating off North Ireland latter E.G. to support O.N.S.36 from Barra Head. Add to my 131214.
(C. in C. W.A., 131353A to Admty).

Patrol. Have instructed BENTLEY to sweep through 348 W 8's 2247 position en route to R/V. Am continuing with remainder of 1st E.G. to sweep along north Irish coast.
(A) A. (B) Yes. Suitable.
(S.O. Force 33, 132348A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Counterblast" Attacked Convoy in position 058° 14' N., 006° 12' E., several ships destroyed.
(C.S.1, 130006A to C. in C. H.F.)
Result of operation "Counterblast".
Northbound convoy intercepted in position 058° 14' N., 006° 12' E., at 2315 twelfth consisting of about 11 ships of which 3 or 4 were escorts including M class M/sweepers. It is believed that all ships present were blown up or sunk except possibly one merchant ship and one escort of which one may have run ashore.
(2) Casualties 2 killed 5 wounded in VERULAM and 2 wounded in KENT beside a few minor casualties. No major damage to own force.
(3) Complete surprise. Several shore batteries joined in later stages of action and were spectacular but ineffective.
(4) Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.
(C.S.1, 131450A to C. in C. H.F., Admty).

Patrols. V.P.73 sailed at 0615A today 13th November.
2. Air escort on return journey is not especially requested.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 130621 to A.C.O.S.)
UTSIRA is to leave patrol at 1800A/15th November proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion through 059° 07' N. 000° 36' E, thence direct to Lerwick.
(Capt. (S) 9th, 131205A to S/Ms operating N. of 51° N).
(1) 0600A/14th November. (2) Not later 2000A/14th November.
(3) Not later 0600A/15th November. (4) 249° toward Noss Head, not more 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m./15th November (intend carry out V.P.73) (6) No. (7) No. (8) 069° Noss Head, Bressay. (9) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131236A to A.C.O.S.)
My 131236. 069° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
2. 061° 10' N., 004° 30' E. 3. Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131237A to A.C.O.S.)

/Intend...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.
(contd).

Intend carry VP 77.

1. 0615A/14th November. 2. 2000A/14th November.
3. Not later 0600A/15th November. 4. 278° towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
5. Not later p.m./15th November. 6. No. 7. No. 8. 098° Noss Head Bressay. 9. No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131242A to A.C.O.S.)
Intend to carry out VP 75.
1. 0630A/14th November. 2. 2000A/14th November.
3. Not later than 0600A/15th November. 4. 249° towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots. 5. Not later than p.m./15th November
6. No. 7. No. 8. 069° Noss Head Bressay. 9. No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131246A to A.C.O.S.)
My 131246A. (1) 069° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.
- (2) 061° 10' N., 004° 30' E. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131247A to A.C.O.S.)
1. RUBIS will not now be available to leave Lerwick till 20th November. My 111401 refers.
2. To take advantage of operation outlined in C. in C. H.F.'s 121208 which it is understood will take place during week commencing 20th November, it is proposed that SOKOL and RUBIS should both leave Lerwick about 20th November the latter to carry out F.D.51 and the former to patrol between 59° N. and Utsire.
(F.O.S/M 132014A to Admty).
VP's 73 131236A Postponed. Expected time of departure now 0600A/15th November.
2. VP 75 postponed. Expected time of departure now 0630A 15th November.
3. VP 77 postponed. Expected time of departure now 0615A, 15th November.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 132103A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation
"Steak".

Operation "Steak" C. in C. H.F. 061840A para. 3.
Force one proceeded 1130A/13th from position 061° 05' N., 000° 44' E.
(C.S.1, 131411A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy
R.A.61 A.

- If situation permits after passing 063° N., BERWICK and Fleet Destroyers are to leave convoy R.A.61 A and return Scapa.
2. E.G.3 is to escort R.A.61 A and CAMPANIA to Mull of Kintyre then proceed Base.
 3. CAMPANIA is to proceed Greenock reporting expected time of arrival Clyde Gate to N.O.I.C. Greenock as convenient.
 4. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and SCYTHIA proceed Liverpool.
(C. in C. H.F., 131103A to BERWICK).

/Situation...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Situation Report. Positions at 2102A/13th.
 H.M. Tug FREEBOOTER, HONEYSUCKLE 062° 10' N.,
 016° 48' W. 300° 10.
 Task Unit 24.8.5 SOUTHWIND S.O., 062° 50' N.,
 030° 26' W. 248° 8.
 SATURN, J.D. EDWARDS 063° 26' N., 026° 56' W., 232° 15.
 HONNINGSVAAG, NAMSOS, FARSUND patrolling vicinity Skagi.
 (A.C.I.C., 131256A to Admty, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.,
 A.C.O.S.)

Convoy J.W.62. Your 081939. Second oiler is required for fuelling Russian S.Cs. and escorts of convoy J.W.62.
 2. In view of large number of Russian S.Cs. expected to sail with this convoy and difficulty of fuelling these craft in winter weather conditions large oilers are preferred as they can provide a lee while actually fuelling small ships. If a second tanker cannot be provided a ranger class oiler can be made available.
 (C. in C. H.F., 131303A to Admty).

Intended action against enemy destroyers. If circumstances permit during passage of J.W.62 and R.A.62 intend attacking enemy destroyers with surface forces.
 2. Expect enemy will be in fiords to westward of 027° E.
 3. In view of above and anticipated strong U-boat threat making maximum sea room desirable for convoys request you arrange with Russian authority for Russian submarines to keep to south and east of a line joining MY to 071° 30' N., 030° 00' E. to 071° 30' N. 027° 00' E. and longitude 027° E. to coast of Norway.
 4. Submarines to operate in above restricted area from 1200A/3rd to 1200A/14th Dec. subject to slight alteration if R.A.62 is delayed.
 (C. in C. H.F., 131359A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

Allied Air Activity.

* Sinking of TIRPITZ, 12.11.44 Bomber Command Intelligence Narrative of Operations No.947. Day 12th November.
 TIRPITZ: 32 Lancasters of 5 Group (including one Film Unit A/C) took off to attack the Battleship near Tromso. In clear weather with excellent visibility, there was no trouble in identifying the target visually and 29 A/C attacked. 12,000 lb. bombs were dropped and bombing was reported well concentrated, at least 3 hits and several near misses being claimed. A fire broke out amidships followed by a large explosion and the vessel was quickly covered with smoke. Many reports indicated that the vessel had taken a heavy list.

* For German Reports see German Documents, 54, 98, 114.

/At...

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Allied Air Activity.

Sinking of TIRPITZ. (contd). At the opening of the attack, there was moderate H/F and L/F in barrage form from the Ship's armament with intense L/F from attendant flak ships and shore positions but before the end of the attack opposition from the battleship had almost ceased. There was no smoke screen and no opposition from fighters. One A/C is missing, but is believed to have force-landed in Sweden.

(H.Q. Bomber Command, 131230A to Air Ministry, Admty).

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked TIRPITZ at 0930A/12th November. Subsequent photographs showed TIRPITZ capsized.

(D.D.I.C., 131230A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

Your congratulations on the successful attack on the TIRPITZ are much appreciated and have been passed to those concerned.

(H.Q. Bomber Command, 131430A to Admty).

Mining.

16th M.S.F. 16th M.S.F. remaining in harbour today owing to defects. Sailing 0600 tomorrow Tuesday to continue search.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 131105 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Situation Report. 40th and 42nd M/S Flotilla continued operation "Progress".
31st M/S Flotilla searched Oropesa; Portsmouth - Havre Channel.

Q. Z.S. 600, 595 and Passe Du Nord Ouest Channel swept. All negative results.

(Capt. M/S N. France, 131111A to C.T.F.125).

Operation "Patrick". Capt. M/S North France 121203. If completion of sweeping by 24th Nov. is not considered satisfactory request additional flotilla fleet sweepers fitted LL and SA may be allocated.
(C.T.F.125, 131125 to A.N.C.X.F.)
Your 131125. Date can be accepted.
(A.N.C.X.F., 131615A to C.T.F.125.)

Clearance of Zeebrugge. Investigate conditions at entrance to Zeebrugge Harbour and sweep a channel from N.F.12 Buoy to as close to harbour as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore, 131300 to Capt. M/S).

French coastwise sweeps. Intend sailing 159th M/S Flotilla trawler group (PROWESS and PROCTER) at 0700 Tuesday 14th November from Cherbourg to Portland by H channel and standard route. Request group be sailed Saturday 18th November to Cherbourg to anchor and instructed to sweep L channel between L one and

L six buoys on 19th entering Arromanches. On 20th November from Arromanches to Havre sweeping Q. Z.S. 541, 539 and 587 entering Havre on completion.

(Capt. M/S N. France, 131601A to BELLWORT, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland)

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Mining.

French coastwise sweeps. (contd).

182nd M/S Auxiliary group allocated C.T.F.125 as from 30th November. Request they may be sailed to arrive Le Havre by that date. (A.N.C.X.F., 131620A to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.B.A.A.)

U-boats.

Congratulations on U-boat destruction.

2nd September, 1944.

(1st S.L., 131341A to KEPPELM MERMAID, PEACOCK, WHITEHALL, VINDEX)

We congratulate the crew of Swordfish C/825 on their successful attack on 22nd August 1944, which probably destroyed a U-boat. (1st S.L., 131326A to VINDEX). We congratulate H.M. Ships KEPPEL, MERMAID, PEACOCK, and WHITEHALL and the crew of Swordfish A/825 on the location and successful hunt of a U-boat on

Port Facilities.

Flushing

Your 111200. Small Dutch Schuyts with relief stores can proceed to Flushing now using berths that L.C.T. are already using. Vessels should proceed Ostend for onward routing. (A.N.C.X.F., 131013A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Downs.

When the Naval Control Organisation in the Downs is established, and the flow of convoys to Antwerp commences, it is envisaged that a considerable number of large ships will require to anchor in the Downs. The depth of water will necessitate these ships anchoring close to the searched channel.

2. It is therefore suggested for your consideration that Trinity Bay could provide an alternative anchorage in fineweather. (C. in C. Nore, 131235A to V.A. Dover).

Calais

Request identification numbers of three M.F.Vs. referred to in para. 1 of Portsmouth's 061074A and report if these have now been traced. Plymouth 101114A and Portsmouth's 111223 refer. (D.S.V.P., 131241A to F.O.B.A.A.)

A.M. 131241. It seems that F.O.B.A.A. 011943 not to Admiralty, led C. in C. Portsmouth to suppose that there were some M.F.V. belonging or allocated to F.O.B.A.A. at Plymouth.

2. Signal was not intended to be read in this way. F.O.B.A.A. has no knowledge of any such M.F.V., but has only requested C. in C. Portsmouth to allocate 2 M.F.V. and one Fire fighting M.F.V. to Calais and to sail them to a suitable port for calling forward by N.O.I.C. Calais when required.

3. N.O.I.C. Calais has now stated that he requires one M.F.V. by 20th November and the other as soon as possible afterwards. F.O.B.A.A. 131858 refers.

4. N.O.I.C. Calais will report when Fire fighting M.F.V. is required.

(F.O.B.A.A., 132319A to Admty).

/Morlaix...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities. - Contd.

Morlaix Urdis 111818A.* Concur that more shipping should be immediately available to Morlaix. However when ships are anchored in exposed anchorage off this harbour they are in position to receive the full effects of westerly storms and at best would lose anchors. Solution appears to be to maintain our ships in Brest anchorage to be called forward to Morlaix as desired by C.T.G.125.14. Since anchorage is only 5 hours from Morlaix and P.C. is available for escort when required, ships will never be anchored off Morlaix for extended time. Intend ships to be sailed from U.K. to Morlaix when called forward and then diverted as necessary by C.T.G.125.14 to Brest with escort under this command. Will place this system in effect at once and call forward five additional ships. (C.T.F.125, 131345 to Comnavforfrance). *N.I. in W.R.

Casualties & Defects.

L.C.T.936 Mylodon's 302001A October.
After part of L.C.T.936 has been towed to Lowestoft In view of uneconomic cost of salvaging forepart of this wreck and danger of sinking if salvage work is undertaken, propose to leave forepart lying on shore for breaking up when convenient. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 131359A to C. in C. Nore).

EMPIRE Regret to report feared loss of Tug EMPIRE WOLD
WOLD. with all hands. Vessel last sighted about 1900A
10th November in approximate position 64.08 N.,
22.38 W. steering West to assistance of SHIRVAN.
Air and surface search combined with lookout from all coast stations has found no trace. List of personnel on board follows. (A.C.I.C., 132010A to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

Downs A.M. 111803. Concur.
control. (F.O.B.A.A., 131146A to Admty).

All ships Cancel F.O.B.A.A. 022057. Until further notice
to be sailed all ships except L.S.T. are to be sailed in
in escorted escorted convoys except coasters proceeding to
convoys. ports between Wight and Dungeness.
 (F.O.B.A.A., 131147A to N.O.I.C. Arrow).

Routeing of Your memorandum 56/44 not yet received.
ships and 2. Request you will re-route and adjust speed of
convoys in convoys as you consider fit when approaching your
Icelandic command.
Waters. 3. Stragglers hold all approach routes via swept
 channels and should be directed by B.A.M.S. to
 proceed as required.
 4. Your 111710A refers and will be further
 considered.
 (C. in C. W.A., 131628A to A.C.I.C.)

/T.M.C...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

T.M.C.
convoy.

Request that ships in T.M.C. convoys bound for Newhaven, Shoreham and Dieppe be routed by Q.Z.S. 635 breaking off at C.2 buoy.

2. Ships for Dieppe will be met by local escort at Newhaven approach No.3 buoy and will then proceed without waiting to C.2 A, and thence by Jig Channel.

3. This will assist in preventing congestion at C.2 A Buoy in vicinity of which T.M.C. and M.T.C. convoys often meet.

4. My 251619 October and 111837 November, not to all, refers. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131641A to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, F.O.B.A.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

MARIE LOUISE
M^r L.
MACKAY.

M.L. MACKAY has completed work in Azores and has returned to Horta for engine defects which will be completed by p.m. 16th November. Master requests instructions for sailing and destination. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 131302Z to Admty.).

SS. AMBRIZ.

I.R.C.C. communicates that Red Cross Ship AMBRIZ will sail from Lisbon on 19th November passing Gibraltar 21st and arrive Marseilles 25th Nov. (Shipping Attache, Lisbon, 131745 to Admty.).

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TUEBINGEN.

Hospital Ship TUEBINGEN has been directed to proceed to Trieste. If she calls at an intermediate port is it desired that she should be intercepted and sent in to remove wounded.
(C. in C. Med. 131003 to Admty)

KING GEORGE V
and
? destroyers.

Ships in F.O.L.E.M.181934B+ are to proceed to Alexandria on completion of operation where they are to remain for the present in accordance with A.M.031838A para. 2 which contains latest available information of Admiralty wishes for these ships.
(C. in C. Med. 131058A to F.O.L.E.M.)
+ N.T. in W.D.

Your 121934. Attention is drawn to paragraphs 2 and 3 of A.M. 031838.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 132338A to F.O.L.E.M.

✓ KING GEORGE V to proceed to Port Said.

Convoy
H.K.F.36.

As only ORDUNA and HIGHLAND MONARCH at Naples and Malta respectively are required to join M.K.F.36 for U.K. out of K.M.F.36 consider these can be turned round in 48 hours.

(2) Intend therefore to sail M.K.F.36 from Port

Said 16th Naples Section 19th Convoy to pass Straits of Gibraltar a.m.23rd.

(3) A.M. 121920 refers.

(C. in C. Med. 131139 amended 141509A to Admty)

South
Aegean
Summary.

Extract. Up to 0900 hours 13 November.

(1) Shipping. Ph.R/C of the Dodecanese shows arrival of 2 pioneer landing craft at Piscopi from Kos. Departure of one I-boat from Leros and arrival one other at Rhodes. Suggests probable resumption of traffic Leros-Rhodes.
(C. in C. M.E.131230C)

Sibenik,
Split-
situation.

Following from FRANKCOM.

Visited Sibenik by road yesterday Sunday.

Unable to obtain permission for N.L.O. and R.M.E. Officer to remain there.

(2) (corrupt group) of our opening Sibenik not yet accepted. Only (2 corrupt groups) and Zara

have yet been considered by Partisans.

(3) New quay totally demolished. Other quays not badly damaged. Possible coaster berths, 18 feet draft at south naval base quay and 24 feet draft at main quays of town. Good L.C.T.(I) and L.S.T. berths. Unable to confirm yet by soundings. Reasonable exit.

(4) Anchorage for 4 Liberties off town but buoys with good moorings essential in winter-time for BORA. All previous buoys removed or sunk. (corrupt group) tugs advisable.

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Mediterranean

Sibenik, (5) 4 Liberty berths in safe anchorage in Sibenik
Split- Channel.
Situation. (6) Will visit Sibenik again for further R/C
(Contd.) when transport available.
(7) C.E.R.N.I. agrees with above.
(S.B.N.O.Split, 131345A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
Situation report No.16.

- (1) Some headway made to-day through ODBO(?RE) (Local Soviet) - it appears that they are the hand that rocks the cradle.
(2) Basin containing largest wreck allocated to berthing H.M. ships.
Survey for development will be started tomorrow.
(3) Office for dealing with capitulation question being set up by partisans through which it is hoped successful (corrupt group) signal station Clandestine Wireless Station - TBY - has been functioning since plunge.
(4) A/S patrol by one Fleet sweeper established to seaward of H.M.S.DELHI.
(5) Arrival M.Ls. 361 and 449 with dumb (corrupt group) carried away (2 corrupt groups) B.Y.M.S.2068.
(6) Departure M.Ls.361 and 449 for Comiza.
(7) Barometer 1005 uncorrected wind S.S.E. Force 3 overcast with rain.

(S.B.N.O.Split,132341A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Please pass to Colonel Paterson from Philips. S/M cable head slightly damaged. Can get no help or apparatus as Partisans will not allow me to proceed without L.C.H. authority. Also very wary of our interest in routes outside town and will not allow us to travel. Have however, walked round town at 2 miles radius and main road routes appear in good condition outside town area. Exchange destroyed and town wiring virtually useless. Returning as soon as possible.
(L.C.H.315, 131720 to N.L.O.B.A.F.)

From Lochhart 3. Additional berths for 18 feet draught ships on Sanita quay 500 feet. Coal stocks approx. 1500 tons. Dock clearance by military only. One tug serviceable one week. 1 dumb lightem One lighter ready for sea 2 tons capacity. No crane or electricity. Covered storage available. Town wrecked and smouldering. Proceeding to Sibenik if permission obtained Wednesday.

(L.C.H.315, 132030A to N.L.O. B.A.F. for Mov. East Adriatic)

Danube F.O.L.E.M.121814+ being passed B.M.M's Roumania
minesweeping. and Bulgaria. In view of B.M.M. Bulgaria's
091347 and 071202 to Admiralty and C. in C. Med.
which presume you approve suggest B.M.M. Roumania
should only supply information now available and
should not approach Russians or Roumanians over the matter.
Reference A.M. 230134 October refers.
(C. in C. Med. 131745A to Admty)
+ N.T. in W.D.--Not asked for.

BATTLER, C. in C. E.F. 080713, F.O.L.E.M.112225, and A.M.
THANE, 232258, 290545, 021805, 021806, 022107 none to all
ATHELING. addressees.
(2) As BATTLER has sailed for Suez it will assist
future plans if she embarks THANE's load of air-
craft and stores at Suez and takes it to Sydney,

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Mediterranean

BATTLER, calling at Ceylon to embark maintenance ratings.
 THANE, (3) THANE should then return to U.K. from Suez
 ATHELING. with personnel on passage to U.K. in BATTLER
 (Contd.) and ATHELING should take the load in A.M.021805
 from Cochin to Sydney. After arrival in Sydney,
 ATHELING and BATTLER should proceed as previously
 ordered.

(4) If you concur request you will arrange transfer of THANE's load
 to BATTLER at Suez, or elsewhere if more convenient.
 (A.N.C.S.(F), 131800A to F.O.L.E.M., C. in C. E.F.)

M.V.VASAHOLM. Under no circumstances is VASAHOLM to sail until
 authorized by Swedish Minister, Athens or
 Stockholm.

(2) Report whether standard route out of Salonika
 is clear of mines.

(3) Stockholm must be given 4 days notice before ship sails.

(4) H.M.S. ARGONAUT pass to H.M.S. SIRIUS.

(C.S.15, 131833 to ARGONAUT, (R) F.O.L.E.M., C. in C. Med. SIRIUS,
 S.B.N.O. Greece)

Piraeus CORINTHIA, HUNDA, PRINCE SALVOR, REINE DES FLOTS
 movements. sail from Piraeus to-day.

(PINIOS) PINDIOS, M.L.340, THRUSTER, LIDDESDALE, (KO)NDOURI-
 OTIS, L.S.T.36 arrived.
 (S.B.N.O. Greece, 131854B)

M.E. Balkan (2) Int. Aegean. Milos. Force 142 reports 12
 Sitrep November enemy Str.450. Deserter reports Sups
 No.314(or364). sufficient for six months according to statement
 made to Grn. by its Comd. Symi. Good source
 quoting hearsay evidence reports Germans intend
 shortly attack Symi. Paras. 3 to 5 incl. Ntr.
 (C. in C. M.E.132010B)

Zante. Situation report: (A) All positions true from
 Zante Mole light.

(2) A channel as in my 111510 as for position C.

(B) A channel 5 cables wide swept to 10 fathoms
 from 100 fathom line to Northern end of Zante Bay, centre line
 joining following positions (i) 102 degs. 5.8 miles (ii) 111 degs.
 4.2 miles (iii) 051 degs. 1.45 miles.

(C) 4 mines still in position 105 degs. 5.65 miles type R.

(D) At the end of initial lap M.L. proceeded to search northern
 part of Zante anchorage and entrance to harbour.

(E) Force anchored Zante.

(F) Intention for tomorrow Fleet sweeper proceeds to R/V PACIFIC
 off Katakolon and escort her to Zante sweeping ahead. B.Y.M.S.
 will carry out "LL" search of anchorage and harbour.

(G) Q.B.C.919, S.A."LL" sweep carried out inside 25 fathom line
 a.m. 11th negative result.

(BRIXHAM, 132030B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

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East Indies

U-Boat Area C.C.2 reduce scale to X.4. Other area
dispositions. scales unchanged.
(C. in C.E.F., 130349).

21st M/S.F. 21st M/S. Flotilla.
Regret ships from E.F. will not be able to
reach Sydney as early as intended in your 100655/
(2) Intend they shall leave Ceylon p.m. 18th
November proceeding with R.F.A. ARNDALE to arrive Fremantle about
3rd December.
(C. in C.E.F., 130639Z to Cdr. S.W. Pac. Sea. Fron).
/ Formation of 21st and 22nd (LL) M/S. Flotillas).

A.F.D.53. Sailed A.F.D.53 in tow of tug AIMWELL.
(My 130952 not to all addressees refers) 0900Z/12th
to Vizagapatam to comply with your 121054 October
escorted by SHOREHAM and G.S. CRETE to 8 Degree
Channel.
(2) - (4) Route and arrangement.
(N.O.1 /c Aden, 130940Z).
A.F.D.53 sailed 12th in tow of AIMWELL and BOLD shortly
afterwards BOLD returned with defective crankshaft.
Estimated that temporary repairs enabling BOLD to work at three
quarter power can be made in three days subject to satisfactory
sea trials complete repairs estimated two months unless spare
crankshaft can be flown to Aden when further three weeks required
after arrival. Escorts and dock in tow of AIMWELL have been
ordered to proceed as in my 130940 and to report in accordance
with my 130930. If temporary repairs in BOLD are satisfactory
intend to sail her to overtake. Request instructions whether tow
should continue or return to Aden be issued by you as I do not
know position regarding relief tugs escorts in Ceylon area.
It is suggested that tow continues until probability of BOLD
being able to assist is known.
(Com. Aden 130952 to C. in C. E.F.)
Tow making good though water 4½ knots. AIMWELL has sufficient
endurance to reach vicinity Cochin or Colombo.
Position at 1600Z/13 012° 19' N. 046° 45' E.
(PARKES 131801Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

PELICAN. C. in C. Med. 102006 not to all addressees.
Request you sail PELICAN to Port Said for O.R. to
Taranto.
(2) Ship should be sailed by shortest route
practicable.
(C. in C. E.F. 131111Z to F.O. Bombay.)

APHIS, Your 111406* and 111125 any of these gunboats that
COCKCHAFER, could arrive in time would be most useful.
SCARAB. (2) The assault for which they are required is
planned for mid January. The gunboats would
therefore have to leave Ceylon fully trained by
early January.
(C. in C. E.F. 131305Z to C. in C. Med.)
* A.M. 101426A refers.

/U/B...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U/B sunk
6 October.

Request you will convey T.L's congratulations to H.N.M.S. ZWAARDVISCH on the destruction of a U-Boat on 6th October, 1944. (1st S.L. 131317A to C. in C. E.F.)

SWIFTSURE.

Arrival SWIFTSURE. Departure SHAKESPEARE, GENISTA (N.O.I.C. Aden 131550Z.)

Aircraft for
Indian Ocean.

Air Ministry propose following allocation of aircraft for maritime purposes in Indian Ocean after defeat of Germany: Flying Boat 4 Squadrons, L.R.G.R. 6 Squadrons, M.R.G.R. 2 Squadrons, Coastal Fighter 2 Squadrons, Torpedo Fighter 2 Squadrons, Light Bomber (Highball) 2 Squadrons.

All squadrons, except flying boats, will be at a U.E. of 16. Flying Boat squadrons will be at a U.E. of 12.

(2) The Air Staff affirms that the new organisation proposed for G.R. and F.B. Squadrons will be as flexible as existing arrangements and will enable them to economise in manpower. L.R.G.R. squadrons will be composed mainly of Liberators from which a high serviceability rate may be expected.

(3) Request your remarks.

(A.C.N.S.(F) on PD/OD 0202/44, 131838A to C. in C. E.F.)

R.M.B.P.D.

S.A.C.S.E.A's 301251Z to C.C.O., R.M.B.P.D. is now under Admiralty control.

(2) Equipment consists of 12 B.P.Bs. 8 intermediate carriers, 3 M.S.Cs. and 66 canoes. These will be ready for shipment by end of this year and further supplies can be arranged if equipment proves successful.

(3) Present strength of R.M.B.P.D. is 5 officers and 30 other ranks and is being doubled to meet stated requirements of S.E.A.C. Approx. 50% of personnel will be ready for departure with the equipment. Remainder could follow in Spring 1945.

(4) R.M.B.P.D. is specially selected and highly trained unit, which has already been employed successfully, but only future need is likely to be in S.E.A.C. As S.O.G. units have not had same intensive specialised training it seems more desirable to use R.M.B.P.D. which will otherwise be disbanded.

(5) As regards reference to lack of carriers, it is anticipated suitable vessels of Bengal Auxiliary Flotilla will be available.

(6) Request you will inform S.A.C.S.E.A. of the above and obtain his further remarks.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 132155A to C. in C. E.F.) (Vising SACSEA, 021317Z

December)

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America and West Indies

? U-Boat report. By D/F at 0108/13 (?WW) message on 53(83) K/cs possibly in your vicinity. (?Above) frequency need not be guarded. (N.S.H.Q.130226Z to S.E. H.X.318)

Russian S.Cs. C. in C. C.N.A's. 121621. Intend employing PARRY SOUND as Third Escort Russian S.Cs two. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail PARRY SOUND as convenient to St. Johns to join C.7 departing about 5th December for S.C.162. (F.O.N.F.131327Z to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 131349Z, Cominch, 131457Z)

U-Boat incidents. First report since Cominch 102040. Para. (D) 122106Z Mariner A/C Radar contact 34.56 N. 67.39 W. (Cominch, 132045Z)

? Barge sunk in approx. 49 degs. 47' N. long. 58 degs. 06' W. depth 40 fathoms unable to contact Riveston. All M.Ls in port and will now be governed by your 131447+ full report will be mailed reference loss of barge. Your 131501Z+ refers. This cancels my 131603Z due to later information. (PRESERVER, 132220Z to F.O.N.F.) + not identified in W.R.

Disposal of captured enemy Merchant ships. J.S.M.367. 13th November, 1944, IZ.8657. Reference ZO 208+ and C.O.S.(W) 341. Amended draft was put to U.S. Chiefs of Staff in C.C.S.697. U.S. Cs. of S. have now replied (C.C.S.697/1) as follows:
Begins: United States Chiefs of Staff have studied proposals submitted by representatives of British Chiefs of Staff in C.C.S. 697, and agree that a General Policy Directive should be issued, and agreed with Allies, on the treatment of enemy merchant ships captured before the surrender of Germany.
(2) It is considered, however, that the statement of policy as presently worded in sub-para.3 (b) (1) of proposed message to S.A.C.M.E.D. and S.C.A.E.F., would result in insistent and undesirable demands on those military commanders by Allied Governments, and in cases where it appeared desirable not to turn captured ships over to an ally for operation, political resentment would arise. It is believed, further, that negotiations with Allied Governments on this matter should be conducted by appropriate merchant shipping authorities of U.S. and U.K.
(3) In view of the above, United States Chiefs of Staff recommend that sub-para.3(b) add para. 4 of message to S.A.C.M.E.D. and S.C.A.E.F. proposed in C.C.S.697 to amended as follows:

/Delete...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Disposal of captured enemy Merchant ships. (Contd.) Delete 3(B) and substitute:
When enemy merchant ships captured or found in ports within the command of S.C.A.E.F. and S.A.C.M.E.D. are no longer required for military operations under such commanders, they should be turned over to the representatives of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board who will arrange for manning and for operation within the Combined Shipping Pool, such vessels to remain subject to all claims including salvage claims and to be accounted for in the ultimate shipping settlement".

Delete 4 and substitute:

"Any negotiations to obtain Allied agreement to the above policy will be conducted by the appropriate merchant shipping authorities of the United States and United Kingdom. Meanwhile the above directive will be operative."

It will be noted that no distinction is made between enemy and allied ports.

(4) If the views expressed above are accepted by the British Chiefs of Staff, United States Chiefs of Staff will notify war shipping administration of this action in order that negotiations with Allied Governments may be undertaken. Ends.

(2) Para. 3 (B) sets out in rather better language the same procedure as was laid down in F.A.C.S.86 for disposing of the Caen tankers. The United States Paper seems to us and to B.M.S.M. to be entirely acceptable. May we accept please?

(J.S.M.Washington, 132305Z to A.M.S.S.O.)

+ Presume ZO 207 is meant.

Broadcast by Admiral Sir James Somerville. I have been asked by "March of Time Radio" to give a three minute broadcast.
(3) Request concurrence.
(B.A.D.132231Z to Admty.)
Following is text of proposed Broadcast.
(B.A.D.132247Z).
Reply: Admty. 180159A.

Communications Australia. IOPH (?loop) chain N.W. Australia now operating 24 hours except for maintenance period 0200Z to 0230Z.
(B.A.D. Washington, 132355Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 1027. (Extract). For November 12th.
(3) Midday search Ventura over Sibuyan Sea saw single sea truck leading Southeast 15 miles Northwest of Masbate Island. Also saw 3 medium sized merchant ships in different localities. First was beached North Tip Mindoro Island second was dead in water off

/Northeast ...

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MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

- Digest 1027. Northeast Coast Mariqudouque Island and third abandoned ashore South Coast Masbate Island. Same plane sighted lone Hospital ship 95 miles Southwest Manila Bay course 200 degs. and convoy comprising 4 medium Freighter Transports, 3 S/M chasers 2 sea truck type ships 75 miles West of Manila course Westerly.
- (4) United States S/M reported one battleship YAMATO class one heavy Cruiser TONE class apparently unescorted afternoon 180 miles Northwest Lingayán Gulf course North.
- (5) Navy patrol Liberator attacked southbound convoy comprising 2 large merchant ships one tanker 4 escorts West of Northern Tip Palawan Island midday leaving one tanker one merchant ship burning. Another Searcher (corrupt) (210) hours later saw Merchant ship still burning and sinking with remainder of convoy putting into Malagpaya Sound.
- (14) Night 10th/11th November enemy air activity over Leyte declined involving 1 alert Tacloban evening and another about dawn, when 12 planes approached in 4 Groups. Nil bombs dropped. Following night odd enemy planes over from dusk to dawn paying particular attention to shipping Leyte Gulf. Strongly pressed attacks made by Jap planes on ships during 12th including suicide dive-bombing which damaged some ships.
- (15) Night 10th November. Pair P.T. boats unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes 5 ships reported as destroyers near Northwestern-most tip Leyte. Also observed several ships Southwest of Biniran Island in same vicinity.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A.130930)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

- S/M attack and sighting summary.
- Para. A. (1) A/C Q/224 attacked suspicious object possibly Schnorkel with depth charges at 0505Z/13 in 60 degs. 44' N. 04 degs. 03' E.
(2) E.G.17 attacked Asdic contact following radar contact on possible Schnorkel at 0543Z/13 in 59 degs. 33' N. 05 degs. 13' W.
(3) E.G.30 still in contact with possible U-Boat at 1215Z/12 in 50 degs. 24' 30" N. 09 degs. 10' 30" W. Attack commenced 0052Z/11.
- Para. B. (1) A/C Q/224 obtained A.S.V. contact at 2236Z/12 in 60 degs. 59' N. 02 degs. 32' E.
(2) A/C R/224 reported A.S.V. contact lost at 2323Z/12 in 61 degs. 24' N. 02 degs. 19' E.
(3) Training A/C fired on with flak at 1945Z/12 in 54 degs. 40' N. 11 degs. 50' W.

/ (4) ...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(4) A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 0654Z/13th in 56 degs. 01' N. 07 degs. 55' W.
(5) A/C reported possible periscope at 1512Z/12 in 55 degs. 26' N. 07 degs. 44' W.
(6) Ventura A/C B.53/127 obtained three disappearing contacts at 0625Z to 0730Z/12th in 34 degs. 54' N. 07 degs. 16' W. to 34 degs. 47' N. 07 degs.

24' W.

Para. C. (1) Iceland A/C T/53 obtained disappearing radar contact at 1909Z/12 in 64 degs. 25' N. 22 degs. 00' W.

(2) E.G.31 attacked bottomed contact at 1009Z/12 November in 49 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 42' W.

(3) A/C D/10 sighted suspicious object believed possible Schnorkel at 1524Z/12 in 50 degs. 26' N. 08 degs. 37' W.

Para. D. (1) E.G.17 attacked bottomed contact thought to be wreck at 2101Z/12 in 59 degs. 44' N. 04 degs. 00' W.

(2) E.G.1 reported contact thought to be wreck at 1610Z/12 in 55 degs. 29' N. 07 degs. 48' W.

(D.D.I.C.131210A)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C.131415A, 131420A, 131425A)

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. The general question of participation of the French Fleet in the war against Japan is under consideration by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Home Commands.

2. The hull plating of the destroyers SALADIN and SKATE, veterans of last war, is considered to have reached the fatigue limit. Both have developed serious leaks, and their strength is now regarded as doubtful for heavy weather or in depth charge attacks. C. in C. Plymouth accordingly recommends their honourable retirement into Reserve, Category C.

North Sea.

3. Some 180 mines have been swept in the Schelde up to date.

Norway.

4. (a) Patrol "V.P.73" has returned to Lerwick after torpedoing a heavy-laden 10,000 ton merchantman and her trawler escort in Sognesjen. Both ships are believed to have sunk.

OP. Skate

(b) EURYALUS with PURSUER, striking in to the Trondheim leads, found no shipping in them, but sank one, and probably two, armed trawlers. PURSUER's aircraft bombed Titran Radar station.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A.

5. For reasons which include the cancellation of the Coastal Command and the withdrawal of the G.O.C. and his military staff, and the reduction of the threat from enemy submarine activity C. in C. S.A. intends to return to Simonstown with the majority of his operational and administrative staff, Combined Operations room will be retained in Capetown for emergencies.

/KILHAM...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

KILHAM
collision.

6. The A/S vessel KILHAM was in collision at 2048 today in 08.30 N., 13.29 W., with the American SS. AFRICAN DAWN, New York for Takoradi and Durban, and sustained extensive damage beyond the capacity of Freetown to repair. The AFRICAN DAWN is understood to have continued her passage to Takoradi.

Mediterranean.

Riviera.

7. The French destroyer L'ALCYON shelled troop concentrations today and encountered enemy fire from guns of about 6 inch calibre. Comflanfor reports that counter battery is becoming more and more accurate and the enemy may be intercepting communications.

Adriatic.

8.(a) At dawn today WHEATLAND and BROCKLESBY bombarded Bar harbour where three small ships were alongside the mole. Light shore batteries returned the destroyers' fire without success. (b) Sweeping of the approaches to Zara and of the harbour has been completed. The town is completely destroyed.

Aegean.

9.(a) The weather has improved and good progress is being made with unloading at Salonika. (b) P.R.H. of the Dodecanese yesterday showed that two pioneer landing craft had arrived at Livadia Bay, Piskopi from Kos. This morning KIMBERLEY reported that she had destroyed the landing craft by gunfire.

America & West Indies.

O.N./O.N.S.
convoys -
Westomp.

10. The recent routeing of O.N. and O.N.S. convoys well to the south of the standard routes in the neighbourhood of Westomp, combined with the early sailing of these convoys has entailed the transfer of the Western escort groups directly from eastbound to westbound convoys, without time for refuelling at St. Johns N.F. When this procedure has been

/necessary...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

America & West Indies.

O.N./O.N.S.
convoys -
Westomp.
(contd).

necessary, Western Groups have fuelled before leaving the eastbound convoys; but fuelling at sea cannot be relied on under winter weather conditions. C. in C. C.N.A. asks that diversions when necessary may be made to the northward of the standard route.

Australia & New Zealand.

Raid on
Makassar.

11. At dawn today 31 Liberators from Darwin dropped demolition bombs and incendiaries on the wharf area and dockyard at Makassar. They were not intercepted, and A/A fire was moderate.

Attack on
Pegun Island.

12. During today, 54 Mitchells attacked Pegun Island, in the Mapiu Group, (about 100 miles northward of Tanjong Memori, Dutch New Guinea), in preparation for a landing on the 15th.

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Tuesday

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

SKATE, SALADIN A.M. 012301 October.
SKATE and SALADIN have both developed serious leaks in hull. The hull plating is considered to have reached the fatigue limit and the strength of neither ship is regarded as satisfactory in heavy weather or when attacking with depth charges except under favourable conditions.
(2) Propose both ships be paid off into reserve Category C. Information concerning paying off and laying up ports is requested.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 140711A to Admty.)

EURYALUS EURYALUS is required to arrive Liverpool 15th December.
(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail ship accordingly.
(3) A.M. 070100 not to all refers.
(D.Q.D.H. 141127A to C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth.)

DUGUAY TROUIN French Cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN arrived Brest 1240A/14.
(C.T.G.125.14, 141519A to C.T.F.125.)

BERWICK, CAMPANIA BERWICK 8 destroyers 059° 50' N. 004° 05' W. to Scapa 18.
R.A. 61A CAMPANIA E.G.3 061° 18' N. 004° 30' W. to Minches 14.
(A.C.O.S. 141652A to Admty.)

INDEFATIGABLE Your 022004 Nov. Anticipate D. 378 will move to tidal waters 1330 Saturday 18th November.
(A.S. Portsmouth, 141840A to Admty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND Since making my 131441 not to E.R.O Greenock, following situation has arisen:-
(a) Due to gale negligible quantity of ammunition has been embarked today, Tuesday.
(b) Pom-pom magazine has flooded with oil to depth of 6 inches from Y 5 tank through holes apparently left unplugged by contractors when carrying out alterations to batterns. Magazine will require draining and cleaning and Y 5 tank emptying before holes can be plugged and ammunition embarked in magazine.
(c) Both cable holders have defective footstep bearings as reported in my 141120 October, not to all addressees, and will probably require rebushing.
(2) In view of the above, consider programme outlined in my 061600 will have to be postponed in order that defects may be proceeded with.
(3) It is for consideration that tilt test should be postponed also in view of the improbability of a sufficient quantity of ammunition being embarked by noon Friday to comply with requirements laid down in O.U.6345, para. 8.
(4) An early decision would be much appreciated in order that fresh

/arrangements...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

NEWFOUNDLAND (Contd.) arrangements may be made with representative of British Pitometer Company. (NEWFOUNDLAND, 14257, to F.O.I.Cs, Glasgow and Greenock.)

Operations

Situation Report

Naval Cosintrep Number 224 Part II Naval General. A total of about 180 mines have been swept in the Schelde up to date. Unloading figures for 13th November U.S.

<u>Port</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Cherbourg	14	Nil	12,875	8,787
Brittany Ports	Nil	Nil	4,028	Nil
Beaches	Nil	Nil	1,500	290
Le Havre	4,151	803	877	90
Rouen	Nil	Nil	3,968	2,120
Total	4,165	803	31,150	11,107
<u>British</u>				
Ostend	1,243	Nil	Nil	6,454
East Calvados	851	296	808	Nil
Dieppe	1,031	11	4,749	Nil
Boulogne	12	160	2,528	Nil
Total	3,137	467	8,085	6,454
Combined Total	7,302	1,270	39,235	17,561

(A.N.C.X.F. 142330 to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

L.C.T. for Force (T) My 131215 para. B., S.H.A.E.F. have now agreed. (2) Request 4th L.C.T. (3) Flotilla and two Flotillas of L.C.T. (4) (but consisting of 12 craft each) at present in Force T may be brought up to strength and retained in force. (A.N.C.X.F. 141207A to Admty.)

Your 131215 and 141207A. If 24 L.C.T (4) are allocated to Force T would prefer to organise them in three Flotillas. Owing to losses in operation Infatuate present strength of 20th, 22nd and 47th Flotillas is 9, 7 and 9 craft respectively. If approved propose transferring one craft from 20th to 2nd Flotilla. Additional craft in 47th Flotilla is badly strained and likely to be found unserviceable. (N.C. Force T, 141901A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Frigates and
destroyers
may again
anchor in
Ostend Roads. Cancel my 081201A.
(C. in C. Nore, 141529A to D.16.)

South
Beveland
Canal. S.O. Force T. 121038. Structural repairs and
mine clearance of the South Beveland Canal are of
the greatest importance if relief food supplies
are to reach Western Holland.

(2) The plan is based on the use of the South
Beveland Canal and the inland waterways to
Dordrecht. Request you will make a report on the state of the
canal and give an estimate of the time and forces required to
clear it of mines and obstructions.

(3) F.O.I.C. 1731 is requested to pass to C.Z.M.
(4) Understand question of repairs to South Beveland Canal locks
is being taken up separately with Dutch Government.
(C. in C. Nore, 141603A to Com. Belgium.)

Seaward
defences
of Schelde. Your 131240 possible scale of attack is fully
appreciated. It is not intended that shipping
should lie at seaward end of estuary unless forced
to do so by weather conditions. In such
circumstances conditions are also likely to be
unsuitable for attack.

(2) Complete closure of estuary is unacceptable and disadvantages
of nets with gaps outweigh advantages. It is not, therefore,
intended to use nets at present.

(3) It is assumed that preparations are being made to lay loops
and H.D.A.S. as soon as Schelde is open.
(A.N.C.X.F. 141829A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Control
of French
herring
fishing. Your 271913 para. 10 and Admty. 081923.
Request you will arrange control of fishing craft
by French Chasseurs direct with C. in C. Portsmouth
and local French Naval Authorities. Admiral
Nord concurs.
(A.N.C.X.F. 140215A to F.O.B.A.A.)

10th E.G.
to relieve
31st. C. in C.W.A.'s 131123A para. 1 sailed 10th E.G.
HELMSDALE (S.O.) BAYNTUN, FOLEY, BRAITHWAITE, and
LOCH DUNVEGAN by Irish Sea standard routes and
swept channels speed of advance 14 knots.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 140845 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Morlaix...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - (Contd.)

Morlaix shipping My 131345 change to read "since anchorage is only 10 hours to Morlaix as desired by C.T.G.125.14 (C.T.F.125, 141155 to C.C.O.T., Comx.)

Patrols Night M/S Patrols 14th/15th November.
Search Areas Limits given.
(2) ANTHONY Q.Z.S.511 00° 20' E. 50° 00' 50° 20' N
(3) WATCHMAN Q.Z.S. 554 00° 20' E. 49° 40' 50° 00' N.
(4) WALDEGRAVE Z 122 109 Northward to Q.Z.S.490.
(5) HARGOOD Z.113, 114, 110.
(6) M.T.Bs. if weather suitable Z 132, 130, 135.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141434A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
Nore and Dover Patrol night 14th/15th November.
10 KITTIWAKE, 15 SLAZAK, 19 THORNBOROUGH, N.F.2 to N.F.4, EKINS, RETALIXK, 3 miles 050° and 230° from HK 1 buoy.
CF Unit FB 2 at NF 10 buoy FC 1 Middle Steinbank buoy 051° 39' 02" N 003° 21' E.
FC.3 Nieuport Bank.
FG.2 and FG.3 with RETALICK.
FH.2 and FH.3 with THORNBOROUGH.
FK.2 and FK.3 with EKINS.
(V.A. Dover, 141538A to Ships in Area C.)
10th E.G. proceed to Patrol Area Sides 0900 36 miles 180° 20' from position 50° 00' N. 06° 30' W. and R/V with 31st E.G. as arranged by S.O. E.G.31. S.O. E.G.31 is to turn over relevant information to S.O. E.G.10 subsequently proceeding with 31st E to Greenock reporting expected time of arrival direct.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 142218A to S.O.E.Gs., 10, 31.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Probable U-boat. Your 131238A. Contact firmly held until 0100A today. Oil still rising at dusk. E.T.A. Western end new patrol 1200A. Unsuitable. (S.O.E.G.30, 140115A to C. in C.W.A.)

TARTAR and IROQUOIS On detaching from T.A.162 TARTAR and IROQUOIS carry out asdic search between position 050° 30' 013° 00' and 051° 00' 012° 00'.
(2) E.G.30 S.O. PEVENSEY CASTLE is searching between 051° 25' 011° 40' and 051° 40' 010° 40' (all positions N. and W.)
(3) Leave search as convenient to rendezvous with A.T.166 NIEUW AMSTERDAM in position 051° 02' N. 013° 47' W. at 1100A 16th routed from.
(Q) 050° 35' N. 019° 55' W. to (R) 051° 15' N. 010° 30' W. speed 20 knots.
(4) On passing Tuskar Rock TARTAR to Plymouth IROQUOIS to Milford Haven.
(C. in C.W.A. 141156A to D.10.)

/Parted...

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Operations

Western Approaches

TARTAR and IROQUOIS (Contd.) Parted company with T.A. 162 at 1115A as escort could not keep up. IROQUOIS reports 4 forecastle support stanchions buckled and 4 holes in upper deck and forecastle deck head working badly, and unsafe to remain at sea. Intend to escort her toward Milford Haven unless contrary orders are received. My position noon 051° 02' N. 010° 34' W. Weather report 3587 0277.
(D.10, 141233A to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 141233. Approved.
(C. in C.W.A. 141515A to D.10.)

Patrols Force 33 1st E.G. AFFLECK and E.G.26 BEACON HILL support O.N.S.36.
18th E.G. TOWY S.O. 3 escorts general vicinity Cape Wrath and Butt of Lewis.
TARTAR, IROQUOIS patrol off South West Ireland. 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE 3 corvettes off South West Coast of Ireland.
(C. in C. W.A. 141352A to Patrols.)

Operations

Northwestern Approaches

9th E.G. to relieve 18th. On completion of training request you will sail 9th E.G. to fuel as convenient thence to Cape Wrath area to relieve 18th E.G. On relief 18th E.G. to lay over at Greenock.
(C. in C.W.A. 141059A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Patrols My 141059 on relieving E.G. 18 carry out operation CE ONE in area between parallel 058° and 059° and Meridian 004° and 006° 30' S.O.E.G.18 is to arrange R/V.
(C. in C.W.A. 141104A to S.O.E.G.s. 9, 18.)
Establish Gamma on 000° 30' W. between 061° 05' N. and 061° 55' N. attention is called to Q.Z.X.145 2.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 141134A to S.O.E.G.17)

Suspected U-boat Third class H/FD/F bearing of U-boat transmitting on local series bearing 218° ground wave over 30 miles obtained at 1108Z. My P.C. S. 059° 56' N. 003° 47' W. 052° 10 knots.
(S.O.E.G.17, 141210A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations

Norway.

Patrols VP 73 returned at 1215A today 14th November.
(2) Two torpedo hits obtained on northbound ship of about 10,000 tons heavily loaded and one torpedo

/hit...

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Patrols hit on trawler escort in Segnesjen. Both
(Contd.) believed sunk.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141341A to A.C.O.S.)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/15th November and move-
ments for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.

(A) ULA, VENTURER, SCYTHIAN as in my 101819
(B) UTSIRA leaves patrol vicinity of 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E. at
1800/15th probably on the surface through 59° 07' N. 00° 36' E.
to Lerwick 9 knots.
(F.O. S/M. 141754A to Admty.)
V.P. 73, V.P.75, V.P.77 further postponed. E.T.D. now
a.m. 16th November.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 142121A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation Provided you have been able to send strike in
"Steak" today Tuesday, Force 1 is to return to Scapa West
of Shetland.
(2) On reaching 061° N. EURYALUS is to proceed at
best speed to Scapa and will be sailed onward for
Rosyth as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. H.F. 141932A to EURYALUS.)
Operation "Steak" completed no shipping in anchorage but in
sweeping of Trondheim leads one armed trawler sunk, one set on
fire probably sunk. Titran Radar station 063° 40' N. 008° 18' E.
bombed by 2 flights, 2 Norwegian ships investigated but not
attacked.
(2) No casualties.
(3) Force one returning Scapa. Position at 2000A 064° 18' N.
004° 05' E. course 220° speed 15. Weather report 5180 2227.
(EURYALUS 142134A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation (1) 0200A/17th November from Scalloway.
"S.C." (2) 085° from Sumburgh Head 13 knots.
(3) 1900A 17th November.
(4) Between 1930A 17th November and 0600A 18th
November (intend to sail "S.C." Operation from
Shetland.)
(5) 265° to Sumburgh Head 16 knots.
(6) p.m. 18th November.
(7) 085° Sumburgh Head.
(8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141941A to A.C.O.S.)
(1) 060° 05' N. 005° 05' E.
(2) "Ramose" (My 141941) (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141943A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Convoy In order to reduce difficulty of fuelling Russian
J.W.62 S/M chasers with convoy J.W.62 it is desired to fuel
as many of these craft as possible in Faeroes.
Request all S/M chasers which can be made ready in
time may arrive Skaalefiord by 27th in November.
(C. in C.H.F. 141224A to Admty.)

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Northern Waters

Convoy J.W.62. (Contd.) Information is required as to ice limits between Spitzbergen and Bear Island with view to routeing next convoy. Request you arrange with Russians for air reconnaissance of ice in this area if possible. My 101714 refers.
 (C. in C. H.F. 141230 to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)
 J.W.62. A.M. 091723A para. 1 From Clyde add LAURELWOOD (T) as additional escort oiler.
 (Admty., 141808A to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy R.A.61A Estimated position of R.A.61A 2 merchant ships at 2000A 14th 061° 15' N. 004° 15' W. routed through 059° 26' N. 004° 24' W. and 058° 52' N. 005° 36' W. thence Clyde speed 14 knots. S.O. DUCKWORTH. CAMPANIA in company.
 (C. in C.W.A. 141533A to S.O.E.G.18.)

Paucity of tugs in Iceland area. My 141040. Recent loss of EMPIRE WOLD leaves only one small Harbour Tug available in Iceland area. (my 1320?0 to Admty. refers). It would be appreciated if FREEBOOTER could remain pending decision as to allocation of permanent Rescue Tug to Iceland. My 111710 Para. E. not to A.C.O.S. refers. If approved request sailing instructions for HONEYSUCKLE.
 (A.C.I.C. 141540A to Admty.)

Corvette for Iceland area. Request you will retain and operate HONEYSUCKLE for the present.
 (C. in C. W.A. 141823A to A.C.I.C.)

Suspected U-boat. Attacking U-boat 4 miles North Skagi. (HONNINGSVAAG, 142039A to A.C.I.C.)
 HONNINGSVAAG twice attacked contact in position 64.08 N. 22.42 W.
 (A.C.I.C. 142322A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity

I.F.F. to be discontinued west of 1° 30' W. Request most urgent re-consideration of your A.O.827 14th November. In view of present threat in Channel and South West Approaches, every endeavour is being made to fly A.U. patrols in any weather which is at all possible. Recently many patrols have been flown with cloud base 200 ft. and visibility 1 mile or less under such conditions, and in view of known unreliability of interrogation of I.F.F. and the fact that most Merchant Vessels are not fitted to interrogate I.F.F., all Aircraft liable to be fired on. Similarly at night Warships may attack any aircraft on patrol. Under such conditions I cannot accept responsibility for flying A.U. patrols in the Channel when cloud base is less than 1200 ft. nor during hours of darkness. Use of I.F.F. and burning of navigation lights seriously compromises efficiency of A.U.patrols

/and...

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I.F.F. to
be
discontinued
West of
1° 30' W.
(Contd.)

and it is suggested that in view of present threat in Channel and South Western Approaches and lack of any sign of enemy air activity, use of I.F.F. to be discontinued altogether for recognition purposes West of 0130 W. and that all aircraft be treated as friendly. C. in C. Plymouth has already made this recommendation to Admiralty and this has been concurred in by C. in C. Portsmouth.

(H.Q.19 Group, 141520A to H.Q.C.C.)

A/672 14th November, for D. of Ops. (M)

Reference Admiralty's 132316A November request following be referred to Admiralty as soon as possible. In view of total absence of enemy aircraft operating offensively by night in the Channel area and constant triggering of aircraft I.F.F. by Allied Shore Stations which seriously compromises ant-U-boat operations strongly recommend that I.F.F. be discontinued for recognition purposes in the Channel west of 0130 W. and consider that the following amendments are essential, particularly on account of operations now being carried out in the Channel by aircraft of this Command.

(1) Para. 2 (A)(1) delete this para.

(2) Para. 2 (A)(111) delete and substitute "aircraft flying at heights greater than 1,000 feet or below cloud base where this is less than 1,000 feet and not recognised or identified as hostile or seen to commit a hostile act, will not be engaged."

(3) Para. 2 (B)(1) delete and substitute "Warships may engage any aircraft within range which is recognised or identified as hostile or is seen to commit a hostile act".

(4) It is strongly recommended that the whole Channel area be designated an aircraft area vide Admiralty signal A.Z.96 T.O.O. 1819B/20/5 paras. 3, 4 and 5.

(H.Q.C.C., 141845A to Air Ministry, Whitehall)

Restriction of air attack on Western Holland farm produce barges. A.C.N.826 14th November. Following are signals referred to in my A.C.N.825 time of origin 142036A passed to you for information. It is pointed out that these signals were not addressed nor repeated to Admiralty C. in C. Nore or H.Qs. Cstl. Cmd. and that they were received in this H.Qs. on the 9th and 11th November respectively, From S.H.A.E.F. Main Air. A 267 3rd November. Are agreed at Air Commanders Conference held at

S.H.A.E.F. Main on 3rd November air attacks on waterborne traffic in area of Western Holland bounded by North Sea, Zuider Zee and Line Hilversum Utrecht Ianen Rotterdam are to be discontinued. Movement of Military Supplies by barge is negligible in that area whereas the barges are used almost entirely for supply of farm products to local inhabitants.

From S.H.A.E.F. Main Air. A 208 9th November.

Reference our Serial A 267 031645A of November.

At request of A.N.C.X.F. confirmation is given that in the specified area of Western Holland the waterborne traffic for which attack restrictions are effective refers to barges and small boats and not to large vessels.

Both above signals to H.Q. 2nd T.A.F. Main, H.Q. 9th Air Force Advanced H.Q. R.A.F. Fighter Command, H.Q. Staff Main, Air Ministry Whitehall, RRR H.Q. 8th Air Force A.N.C.X.F. Main. (H.Q. Coastal Command 142037A to Admty., C. in C. Nore.)

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14.11.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining

Sitrep. 40th and 42nd M.S.F. - Operation "Progress".
14th Nov. Negative result.
31st M.S.F. - Operation "Link". Negative result.
104th M.S.F. - Q.Z.S. 595 to H.V.3 and Passe du Nord Ouest Channel.
181st Trawler Group - Q.Z.S. 541, 539, 587.
(Capt. M/S. N.F., 140923A to C.T.F. 125.)

Sweeps on Reference A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 131927 and my 122225.
North French Consider 182nd M/S. Flotilla should complete re-
coast. survey by 15th December. 66th M.T.B. Flotilla
can then be called forward by CYRUS on the 19th
December. During this period it is intended to
carry out clearance by running down mine batteries
in accordance with Admiralty's T.O.06213/44 of 16th September.
It is intended to use 183 M/S. Flotilla as additional indicator
sweep and they are commencing on half the channel immediately.
Unable to sweep Q.Z.S. 595 today owing to weather conditions,
further trial will be carried out tomorrow Wednesday.
(Capt. M/S. N.F., 141643A to C.T.F. 125.)
Programme for tomorrow Wednesday 15th November.

(a) Weather permitting. CYRUS for Operation "Hoover".
(b) 181st Trawler Group Q.Z.S. 588, 554, 555.
(c) 42nd M/S. Flotilla continuing Operation "Progress".
(d) (?96th) M/S. Flotilla continuing Operation "Link".
(Capt. M/S. N.F., 141817A to C.T.F. 125.)
Sweeping of Coastal Channel is now expected to be completed
by 24th November.
(S.H.A.E.F., 141830A to Admty.)

Sweep off 1st M.S.F. is required to carry out Oropesa/S.A.
Belgian clearance of area enclosed by lines joining:
Coast. (A) 51° 23.6' N., 02° 39.4' E. (B) 51° 26.7' N.
02° 39.9' E. (C) 51° 26.0' N., 02° 49.4' E.
(D) 51° 23.0' N., 02° 48.9' E.
(2) Sail from Small Downs at 0600A tomorrow
Wednesday to start this operation anchoring nightly Ostend
outer anchorage.
(C. in C. Nore, 141720A to JASON.)

Sweeping Anchored off Flushing.
of Schelde. (2) Obstruction was re-swept today by READY but
unfortunately between Otter and first explosive
cutter with result mooring jammed in LL - cutter.
(3) Obstruction was sighted and had appearance
ordinary G.Y. mine complete with horns but evidence points to
probability of chain mooring and certainty of mooring being
heavily armed with static cutters.
(4) Sweep was cut and obstruction removed in position 231° N.F.
14 - 11 cables.
(5) Position was then swept but float wire only was cut due to
over-estimation of sag of 100 fathoms sweep wire armed with 12
explosive cutters.
(6) It is considered obstruction is now on bottom anchored by
Otter and this is borne out by negative result of search in G

/formation ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Sweeping formation fully carried out later to southward.
of Schelde. Partial line swept N.F. 13 and N.F. 14 to width
(Contd.) approx. 4 cables, which well covered position
in para. (4) above.

(7) Search with 5 ships in G formation was also carried out to northward of centre line between N.F. 13 and 1.5 miles west N.F. 15 but one ship parted on wreckage and sweeps of 3 others ran erratically due to obstacles on bottom. READY swept waterlogged G.X. mine which jammed in Otter in position 251° N.F. 14 26.3 cables.

(8) Mine was new but with a reduced number of horns and with remaining horn apertures opening to sea.

(9) Sweep was parted in position 187° N.F. 14 6.5 cables when endeavouring to shake off this mine. Float was then sunk and both floats and mine are considered to be on bottom.

(10) Sweep in accordance with para. 5 of my 131820 was carried out with negative result.

(11) Consider channel from N.F. 13 to N.F. 17 is clear of moored mines subject to soluble plug delayed releases.

(12) Capt. H/S. 159 concurs.

(13) Flotilla has now lost 12 sweeps out of 20.

(14) Intend weighing at 0715 and proceeding Ostend.

(S.O. M.S.F.18, 141825 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation "Calendar".

(1) Sweeping today Tuesday 14th November S.A. and L.L.

(A) Hansweerd to Bat 3 actuations. (B) Edges of channel in Middlegat 4 actuations. (C) Edges of channel Eendrecht polder to N.F.18, 2 actuations. (D) Intensive L.A.A. and L.L. sweeping at Antwerp.

(2) Ground mine one (in Middlegat).

(3) Survey work is continuing.

(4) Separate signal has been made.

(5) Defective ships B.Y.M.S.2048, M.M.S. 81, 92, 175, 237, 234, 26, 287, 274, FICHOT, M.F.Vs. 1020, 1074, 1075. Repairs are in hand. Ships will be ready within the next 4 days except M.M.S. 175.

(Capt. M/S. F.A., 141959A to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweep of up-Channel route.

My O11123A para. 1. Search of route by Oropesa and S.A. from western boundary of command to 180° St. Catherines 9 miles has been completed with negative result.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 142027A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

German warships in Oslo Fjord.

German warships Oslo Fjord October 30th to November 4th.

(1) Cruisers. (A) See my 101805 KÖLN was in Mossesund on November 1st. (B) EMDEN in Horten November 1st and November 3rd. B.2.

(2) Destroyers. My O11159 para. 2 following destroyers were reported to have called at: RICHARD BEITZEN, FRIEDRICH IHN, THEODOR RIEDEL, Z.30. B.3.

(3) U-Boats. (A) U-Boat believed U.294 in dock at Horten Nov. 3rd and Nov. 4th. (B) U.1053 of 11th U-Boat Flotilla in Horten.

(C) Unidentified U-Boat in Horten throughout period. B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 141203 to Admty.)

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14.11.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

L.C.T. 936. Your 131539A. Approved.
(C. in C. Nore, 141139A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

SS. HARLEY. A.175, 14th November X/281 Capt. W/O Corney,
Nav. P/O Black on A.S.R. search at 1522 hours
position 57.10 12.10 W. heard S.O.S. being
repeated by GKR (Wick Radio). "From unknown
station unknown ship sinking at 23 Buoy or seems to be sinking.
T.O.O. 141420Z".
(Tiree, 141845A to 15 Group H.Q.C.C., Admt.)
S.O.S. S.O.S. S.O.S. Unknown ship sinking at 23 Buoy
or seems to be sinking.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O.)
We are standing by unknown ship at 23 Buoy.
(THYRA II, No T.O.O. to Wick Radio.)
Can you send immediate assistance to unknown ship please
(THYRA II, No T.O.O. to Stonehaven Radio.)
Ships proceeding to assistance.
(Stonehaven Radio, 141622A to THYRA II.)
We are picking up survivors.
(THYRA II, No T.O.O.)

Shipping and Convoys

East-West Channel Convoys. A.M. 111803. Concur. This vitally affects the problem set to Portsmouth Command in respect of the daily East-West Channel Convoys (A.M. 091642 not to all) and my reply to this latter signal is under review afresh.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141404A to Admt.)

Cross-Channel convoys to link up with Thames - Bristol Channel convoys. Your 091642A concur in principle but junction of ships from far shore could not be made in dark hours. (T.B.C. due at Z Buoy at 0630) at same time as breakers off were involved without unacceptable risks and in any case junctions to westbound convoy cannot be made without night sailings from far shore (see Comtaskforce 125 101533). (My 141549 part one).
(2) It is also to be noted that owing to the timing of the convoys change-over of escorts will have to take place roughly between Z and A.3 Buoys which introduces an additional complication.
(3) A modified scheme as follows would be acceptable: all shipping for Havre, Caen, Arrow and Cherbourg and reciprocal thereto to proceed by French coastal route (Admiralty Mess. 111803 and my 141404A neither to all refer). Comtaskforce 125 to be responsible for escort between Dieppe and Cherbourg as necessary.
(4) Wight westbound joiners would join in daylight at A.3 and Wight Far Shore Shipping would have to be handled separately leaving St. Helens in time to make a daylight arrival at Havre.
(5) Westbound shipping from Havre and Cherbourg would have to cross to St. Helens and Weymouth respectively to join next days convoy.

/(6) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Cross-
Channel
convoys to
link up with
Thames -
Bristol
Channel
Convoys.
(Contd.)

(6) Ships from west for Cherbourg could be escorted across for a daylight arrival but similar ships for Havre would have to lay-over at St. Helens for next days cross-channel convoy.

(7) Inasmuch as cross-channel escorts are at present provided by the Wing Commands Portsmouth Escort Force would have to be increased by 3 corvettes to take on this extra commitment anti-submarine patrols have to be maintained.

(8) It will be seen that the proposal stand or fall by possibility of night arrivals at and sailings from the Far Shore and in view of

complex nature of the problem consider it most desirable that final solution should be agreed in conference between representatives of trade division, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.B. A.A., Comtaskforce 125, N.O.I.C. Arrow and Port Commanders Cherbourg and Havre.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141549 to Admty.)

K.M.F.
M.K.F.
Convoys.

After K.M.F.37 sailing from U.K. 16th December K.M.F. convoys will sail at 20 day intervals, K.M.F. 38 sailing 5th January. Initially these convoys will probably consist of about 9 ships from the U.K.

(2) M.K.F. convoys will sail from Port Said 10 days after the K.M.F. convoy sails from U.K. as heretofore.

(3) Ships for West Africa will normally be included in alternate convoys only.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 141948A to Cs. in C. W.A., Med., E.F.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

UPSTART. Intend sailing submarine UPSTART in M.K.S. 67 destination Portsmouth for O.R. to Sheerness.
(Communications.)
(F.O.G.M.A. 141135A.)

SS. CARITAS II I.R.C.C. informs that Red Cross ship CARITAS II leaves Lisbon 19th Nov. arrives Philadelphia about 5th December.
(Shipping Attache, Lisbon 141144A to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

W. SCORESBY. WILLIAM SCORESBY arrived Port Stanley p.m. 13th - my 111421 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 140956Z.)

C. in C. S.A. Owing to the cancellation of the coastal command and the withdrawal of the G.O.C. and his military staff to the reduction of the threat from submarine activity in these waters, and to the political aspect of the Simonstown agreement I intend to return to Simonstown with the majority of my operational and administrative staff.
Combined operations room will be retained in Capetown for emergencies.
High Commissioner agrees. Letter pending.
(C. in C. S.A. 141055B to Admty.)

(Extract.)
CAMBRIA. 150200 (CQXZ (CAMBRIA Belem via Cable repair points Cable repairs following positions. 07.24 S. 34.28 W. C. 06.53 34.34 D. 03.57 37.38. E. 00.22 47.36 (U.S.R.O. Recife 141556.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Riviera operations. During first calm night patrol B instead of patrol A. Primary mission to destroy enemy craft laying mines secondary mission to anchor Dan Buoy $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of San Remo to indicate currents. (Comflanfor 140928A to C.T.G. 86.4, Info., C.T.G. 86.6, Flanfor.)

Enemy fire on our ships heavy and accurate until batteries are located so that we may fire at them, request firing missions be given ships only when urgent and targets definite. (Comflanfor 141045A to N.G.L.O.)

Cominsitrep 60. Ending 2400A/13.

B. No change in front lines.

C. On 12th WOOLSEY fired 16 rounds at enemy Howitzer at 867 929. Shrapnels showered on ships but no casualties. On 13th ALCYON and BENSON fired 29 rounds at Barracks and observation post at 877 875 and 842 908. Encountered fairly accurate 88 m.m. fire and possibly one 30 m.m. E. MONTCALM ready cruiser relieved by JEANNE D'ARC at 1400A/13. On 13th BENSON and WOOLSEY relieved by ALCYON and PLUNKETT. K. On 11th BENSON sank two mines in 43.36 N. 07.26 E. On 12th BENSON sank one mine in 43.39 N. 07.22.8 E. P.T. boats on night patrol sank 20 floating mines. P.T. boats succeeded (sic) minesweeping in Nice Harbour. (Comflanfor 141100A to F.O.N.A.M.)

Piskopi. Landing craft in Livadia Bay destroyed by gunfire. (KIMBERLEY 140957B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Aircraft corridors. Following received from S.H.A.E.F. Main Air. Begins. A.234* 13th November 1944. Request approval for following new corridors for non-operational aircraft by day and night in both directions. No. 22 from the Lizard to Ile de Seine (off Brest) thence direct to Cape Ferrett 40 miles S.W. of Bordeaux. Corridor M from Cape Ferrett to Toulouse to Agde S.W. of Sete thence to Blida (Algiers). Notification of all flights between sunset and sunrise will be given. T.O.O. 131500A* Ends.

(2) Request you will reply as regards Mediterranean route. (D.O.D.(F) 141057A to C. in C. Med.)

* Requesting approval for list of new corridors for non-operational A/C by day and night in both directions.

APHIS, COCKCHAFFER, SCARAB. Whatever the result of the survey of these gun-boats your 131305Z refers there is no possibility of their arrival in Ceylon in January. At the best they will require considerable refit and preparation before they are fit for passage and operation. (C. in C. Med. 141206 to C. in C. E.F.)

/South...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

South Aegean Up to 0900/14.
Summary. (1) Shipping. Dodecanese area not covered owing to weather but ground sources report following. Enemy shipping movements during last 48 hours.
- 2 Pioneer Landing Craft and escort from Leros landed troops Lissos a.m. 13 re-embarked and withdrew and reported off Patmos p.m. 2 Landing Craft and 2 possibly I-Boats at Alimnia on 12 of which 1 Landing Craft sunk by Light Coastal Forces p.m.
(2) Air. Nothing to report.
(C. in C. M.E. 141210B.)

Navigation Messages 186B para. 9 and 235B*. The expression
Lights. "All merchant ships" was intentionally used in order to cover ships in convoy as well as those proceeding independently.
(C. in C. Med. 141240A to Med. Station 244B.)

* Para. 9 all merchant ships to burn navigation lights at full brilliancy.

Within area defined in message 186B para. 4. All warships and all M Ships are to burn navigation lights of full brilliancy.

Towage of My 101632 you should see A.M. 102231 to R.A.L.
L.C. by S.C.U. repeated C. in C. Med. and F.O.L.E.M.
Merchant Ships. which gives revised programme of sailings of major landing craft.
(D. of S.T. 141424A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

PACIFIC A. PACIFIC arrived now anchored (?Patras) and
(cable repair carrying out tests.
ship). B. Anchorage, harbour and Approach Channel (?inside
Patras. 50 fathom line swept LL and SA. Negative result.
C. Sweep Force awaiting notification of (?requirements of) PACIFIC.
(BRIXHAM 141532B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

KING GEORGE V Cancel my 121934 not to all and my 121936. C. in
and destroyers C. Med. 131058 not to all refers.
(F.O.L.E.M. 141636B.)
P.C.S. at 1900B 035° 22' N. 026° 41' E. 150° 21 knots, WHIRLWIND in company WRANGLER detached to escort EMPEROR. E.T.A. position 309 0900B/15th.
(KING GEORGE V 141901B to F.O.L.E.M.)

A.F.D. 53. H.M.R. tugs ADVANTAGE and CHEERLY are being sailed in K.M.S. 71 for passage to Taranto. These tugs are allocated for the towage of A.F.D. 53 from Taranto to Vizagapatam.

(2) Request confirmation that dock will be ready for towage on arrival of tugs about 17th December, and that towing equipment is complete and in serviceable condition.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

A.F.D. 53.
(Contd.)

(3) C. in C. Med. is requested to report whether skeleton dock operating crew is necessary for passage to Vizagapatam, and if so to forward his proposals.
(D.O.D.(F) on M.O. 3651/44, 141644A.)

Situation
report No.
484.

(1) Weather having improved good progress with unloading is being made at Salonika.
(2) In Aegean on 12th October KIMBERLEY bombarded enemy battery on Alimnia Island and obtained 8 hits. 2 M.Ls. engaged 2 P-Lighters and endeavouring to reach this Island. They sank 1 and the other escaped into harbour.
(3) An Italian coastal craft on patrol off Albania coast fought a night action with small heavily armed enemy ship on night of 12th Nov. Hits on enemy ship were observed.
(C. in C. Med. 141959A amended 152123A.)

M.E. Balkan
Sitreps.

No. 365, paras. 1 to 5. N.T.R.
For Freedom. Suggest these Sitreps can now be discontinued Int. can be passed to you when received. Please confirm.
(C. in C. M.E. 142015B to A.F.H.Q.)

KEMPENFELT.

R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail KEMPENFELT as convenient p.m. 15th to Port Said for Canal transit and onward routing to Eastern Fleet.
(F.O.L.E.M. 142026B.)

Revised procedure for independent sailings in Mediterranean.

A.M. 061827. Para. 1B. For "whalers" read "trawlers".
(D.O.D.(F) 142114A to C. in C. Med.)

S/Ms for
Eastern Fleet.

C. in C. E.F's 141309 (submarines for allocation to Colombo, Bombay and Kilindini). Request you nominate submarines accordingly.
(C. in C. Med. 142116A to Capt. (S) 1.)
Reply, 151105.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-positions.

U-Boat probably now left patrol off East Coast India. Reduced scale in area V.P. to X 4 P. Other areas unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 140408Z.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Concur with proposal DEVONSHIRE to join P.B. 87 and continue with escort to Bombay my 011346 and your 130627 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 140647Z to P.S.T.O.I.)

6 S/Ms from 1st S/M F. for Eastern Fleet.

C. in C. Med. 081732 and my 141301*. 1st 2 S/Ms available should proceed to Colombo. 2nd 2 to Bombay. 5th to Kilindini, and 6th to Colombo.
(C. in C. E.F. 141309Z.)
* Not identified by W.R.

East Indies Fleet.

I intend to transfer my command to Vice Admiral Sir A.J. Power, K.C.B., D.S.O., as C. in C. East Indies Station on 22nd November.
(2) The number of ships scheduled to remain makes the name East Indies Squadron inappropriate. I propose instead they shall be the East Indies Fleet.
(C. in C. E.F. 141340A.)
Approved Admty. 192327A.

Carriage of vehicles for assault across Bay of Bengal.

Following has been received from S.A.C.S.E.A. to Admiralty for C.C.O. Info. C. in C. E.F. begins: "Request following information in light of recent experience may be signalled as soon as possible. A. Max. load of vehicles for first waves of assault which could be carried across Bay of Bengal in L.C.T.(3) or (4) during North East Monsoon. Wind is not expected to exceed force

5 with moderate sea and swell on bow or beam.

B. How load favourably distributed.

C. Whether any special equipment or modifications are required for passage. Welding of doors could not be accepted for assault vehicles.

(2) In addition to above request full reports on most recent experience of performance of all types of major landing craft in heavy weather both under own power and in tow may be forwarded by fast air. T.O.O. 131245Z November." Ends.

It would be appreciated if Admiralty will reply to this signal with a copy to C.C.O. for information.

(C.C.O. 141830A to Admty.)

804 Sqdn. R.N.A.S.

Para. 4 of C. in C. E.F.'s 090937. Request very early decision and despatch details.
(2) Ref. A.M. 2400(?34) Oct. also refers.
(F.O.N.A.S. Indian Ocean 141852Z.)

GENERAL MANN.

Re-encypherment of 111032 begins* In view of Cominch 262007 Oct. GENERAL MANN is to be sailed from Aden to Bombay in convoy C.B.F. 6 and not independently as in my 250507 Oct.

(2) Signals quoted not to all addressees.
(C. in C. E.F. 142230Z to Com. i/c Aden.)
*Formerly received very corrupt.

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

ST. STEPHEN. The following allocation is effective to date 14th November from new construction to the mid-ocean force for duty with C.5 H.M.C.S. ST. STEPHEN.

(2) Pay accounts to be held in AVALON.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 141236Z.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 141340Z, Cominch 141531Z.)

C.V.Es. for The following is the text fo a letter received
loan to from Admiral King. Begins:
U.S. for The recent loss of two U.S. Navy C.V.Es. and
ferrying. extensive battle damage to several others off
the Philippines has reduced to a dangerous level
the number of escort carriers available to meet
aircraft transport requirements for future

Pacific operations.

I have ordered two C.V.Es. from the Atlantic to the Pacific thereby reaching what I consider a minimum of C.V.E. strength in the Atlantic until Germany is defeated. There still remains in the Pacific a shortage of seven C.V.Es.

I therefore ask you to reopen the question of assignment of British C.V.Es. to the U.S. Navy for operational control in aircraft transport duty. Seven ships are urgently required, five in the Pacific and two in the Atlantic which would free two more U.S. ships for duty in the Pacific. They can be assigned temporarily to be returned after the defeat of Germany when a further number of our Atlantic C.V.Es. can be sent to the Pacific. Ends.

(2) B.A.D. 101527 October* refers.

(B.A.D., 141725Z to Admty.)

* Possible transfer of five C.V.Es. in 1945.

O.N.S. 35, O.N.S. 35 from Homp convoy will proceed as X.B.
X.B. 134. 134. Radio distinguishing group remain unchanged.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 141820Z.)

SKEENA, Request latest information on condition of SKEENA
salvage. and intend disposal of personnel. Our 291522
October refers.
(N.S.H.Q., 141958Z to A.C.I.C.)

O.N./O.N.S. The recent routing of O.N. and O.N.S. Convoys
Convoys - well to the south of the standard routes in the
Westomp. vicinity of Westomp combined with the early
sailing of these convoys has meant that Western
Escort Groups have had to transfer directly from
eastbound to westbound convoys without time for
refuelling at St. Johns N.F.

(2) When this procedure has been necessary Western Groups have fuelled before leaving the eastbound convoys but fuelling at sea cannot be relied on under winter weather conditions.

/(3) ...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

O.N./O.N.S. (3) When diversions are necessary it is requested
Convoys - that due consideration be given to the position
Westomp. of Westomp that when possible preference be
(Contd.) given to northerly diversion from the standard
route.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 142115Z.)

T.G. 21.5, Task Group 21.5 SOMERS, POOLE Cortdiv 22 plus
C.T.U. OSWALD, SLATER, EBERT, BURROWS escort convoy
21.5.7. C.U.48 departing New York 23rd November for
U.K. and Continent. C.T.G. 21.5 in SOMERS with
KIRKPATRICK, SLATER, EBERT, BURROWS, OSWALD return
escorting C.U. 48A section. Comcortdiv 22 in
POOLE with PETERSON, HARVESON, JOYCE hereby designated C.T.U.
21.5.7 return escorting U.C. 48B section when directed by
Admiralty.
(C. in C. Lant, 142209Z.)

SOUTHERN (Extract)
PRINCE. (1) SOUTHERN PRINCE is being sailed from U.K.
for fitting in Canada as a dockyard labour
accommodation ship.
(2) She will sail under the White Ensign with a
naval crew aboard. A care and maintenance party have been
signed on for voyage to Canada and will take over from naval
crew as soon as decommissioning can be arranged.
(D. of S.T., 142235A.)

Australia and New Zealand

Torres Your 210729Z October para. 1. Request inform-
Strait. ation whether Prince of Wales Channel and
Approaches has been swept to 36 feet and Great
North East Channel to 48 feet.
(V.C.N.S., 140157A to A.C.N.B.)

FORT LEE Ref. your 100521 (17 survivors from SS. FORT LEE.
survivors. picked up by SS. TUMACORI).
(ship mark 2/11) 17 survivors from SS. FORT LEE landed at Albany
yesterday. 16 survivors including Master landed
Fremantle in ~~SS~~ VERNEBANK. Master reports 4
boats got away leaving 2 boats now to be recovered containing
16 and 17 survivors respectively. First torpedo hit at 2000
ship's time, second torpedo at 2018. No gunfire. Weather
fine, dark night, sky overcast, 9 of crew presumed killed by
explosion. Submarine not sighted before vessel sank at 2100
in 27° 35' S., 83° 11' E. 30 minutes after sinking submarine
surfaced and closed third officer's boat asked only name of

/ship ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

FORT LEE survivors. (Contd.) ship and when built then steered away to northwards at high speed. A large German submarine is the only description available. (N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 140347Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Digest No. 1028. (Extract) For November 13th.
(4) Third Fleet Carrier borne planes (corrupt groups) Light Cruiser, 7 destroyers, 18 cargo vessels or (corrupt groups) ships and harbour craft Manila Bay. Forenoon damage inflicted: also 130 - 140 single engined and twin-engined aircraft seen on Manila Coast and (corrupt groups) plus 20 airborne planes over targets.
(5) Catalina searching Ormoc Bay early hours found nil shipping there and bombed Ormoc Town.
(11) Heavy barge activity reported nightly vicinity Cebu. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 141035Z.)

British Combined Operations Observers. (Extract) Following from Chiefs of Staff. Attachment of the three British Combined Operations Observers for duty in the Pacific has proved most successful and information and reports received from them invaluable.
(2) Officers with recent experience in amphibious operations in the Far East will be necessary to train British formations for the war against Japan.
(3) Request therefore that you approach U.S. Chiefs of Staff with view to obtaining their approval to attachment by C.C.O. of teams of three additional officers, one from each service, to U.S. Task Forces operating in the Pacific.
(6) We are proposing similar arrangements with S.E.A.C. (A.M.S.S.O., 142215Z to J.S.M. Washington.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. B. (1) A/C S/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0225Z/13 in 60° 25' N., 03° 42' E.
(2) A/C H/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1832Z/13 in 61° 07' N., 02° 27' E.
(3) A/C W/348 obtained A.S.V. contacts at 2147Z and 2215Z/13 in 56° 10' N., 07° 39' W.
(4) A/C L/103 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1443Z/13 in 49° 40' N. 04° 43' W.
Para. C.36. (1) A/C H/36 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1138Z/13 in 50° 36' N., 07° 20' W.
(D.D.I.C., 141040A.)

/Attacks ...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Attacks
on U/Bs.

My 221059 July, 1942.
At 0052/11 in 170° Cape Clear 60 miles after
radar contact held for 18 minutes ships of E.G.
30 attacked asdic contact with squid and D/C.
Contact held for 57 hours. Surface evidence
air bubbles and woodwork. Good echo sounder
trace.
(D.A.U.D., 141525Z.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 141355A, 141400A.)

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Approaches.

1. Thirtieth Escort Group has hopeful indications of a second U-Boat damaged or destroyed west of the Fastnets, but bad weather is impeding operations.

Norway.

2. V.P. operations (whalers with Coastal Force craft) to Norway have had to be postponed owing to the weather.

Northern Waters.

3. Whilst CAMPANIA was escorting the special North Russian convoy J.W. 61A (repatriating Russian ex-prisoners of war), her aircraft shot down two B.V.138 flying boats, one on the 3rd and one on the 13th November, approximately on the Arctic Circle and a little to the east of the Meridian of Greenwich.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

S/M
SETTEMBRINI
sunk.

4. The U.S. destroyer escort FRAMENT was in collision early this morning with the Italian S/M SETTEMBRINI which she was escorting to Horta. Eight survivors, including the C.O., were picked up. The position of the collision was about midway between Casablanca and the Azores. SETTEMBRINI, was later sighted on the surface by aircraft, and assistance was sent to find her and bring her in. On the 17th, the search was abandoned owing to weather.

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

5. Six Beaufighters of the Coastal Air Force on anti-shipping reconnaissance in the Northern Adriatic attacked one merchant ship of 500-600 tons and two schooners. All were sunk.

/Aegean ...

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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

6. At Salonika ships can now anchor within a mile of the quay. Clearing of the harbour entrance has commenced and unloading is being assisted by good weather.

7. KING GEORGE V today bombarded Lakida Battery, Milos Island, at ranges up to 30,000 yards. Enemy return fire was experienced at 26,000 yards. The battery was not put out of action. A small R.M. Commando landed and made an unsuccessful attempt to occupy the enemy radar station.

East Indies

L.C.M.
lost.

8. The Commodore, Aden, reports that L.C.M. 1101, of 434 Ancillary Flotilla proceeding to India, has been washed up on the beach at Salalah in a heavy swell and is considered a total loss.

Australia and New Zealand

Landing
on Pegun
Island.

9. Shortly after dawn this morning, Allied Forces landed without opposition on Pegun Island in the Mapia Group (about 100 miles northward of Tanjong Memori, Dutch New Guinea). Occupation was completed by the evening practically without enemy interference. There were about 200 Japs on the island. A few committed suicide and the remainder fled to an adjacent island.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Belgians to Belgium. Belgian crews in BUTTERCUP and GODETIA are urgently required for port parties in Belgium. (2) C. in C. Nore and C. in C. W.A. are requested to arrange for GODETIA and BUTTERCUP respectively to be sailed to Hartlepool to be reduced to Reserve (Category B). (3) Ships will be reduced by the present Belgian ships companies. Staff of F.O.C.R.F. will give any technical assistance required. On completion the Belgian C. & M. Party will be retained on board until the final disposal of ships is decided. (4) After ships have been reduced Combrax Devonport should forward to Commodore Belgium a statement showing the numbers of Section Belge personnel who are available under various categories. (5) Commodore Belgium should then consider which of the Section Belge personnel could be employed in replacement of British personnel serving on his staff and in port parties at Antwerp and Ostend. Necessary Belgian ratings should be called forward and British ratings and/or R.M. ranks should be returned to their proper depots. (2nd S.L.151948A to C's in C. Nore, W.A. Com. Belgium)

Movements

Support Groups	Amend my 211815 October as follows:		
2,3,14,15,21,25,26,31.	Group.	Return.	Sail
	2	-	Nov.18
	3	Nov.16	" 30
	14	" 8	" 25
	15	" 13	" 26
	21	" 10	-
	25	-	" 27
	26	" 17	Dec. 1
	31	" 16	Nov. 29

(C. in C. W.A. 150029A to Com. D. W.A. Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast.)

BERWICK, SAUMAREZ. Scapa arrival BERWICK Capt. (D) 23 in SAUMAREZ with SAVAGE, SCORPION, SCOURGE, CASSANDRA, CAPRICE, SERAPIS, CAMBRIAN. (A.C.O.S. 150218A to Admty) (1) Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 2100A to-day 15th November, and proceed to Rosyth arriving Oxcars Gate at 0800A/16th November. (2) Pass over deep D.G. Range on entering harbour. (3) 7 days leave may be given to each watch subject to concurrence of C. in C. Rosyth. (4) Leave Rosyth so as to arrive Scapa a.m. 3rd December. (C. in C. H.F. 151600A to BERWICK) Scapa departures at 2206 BERWICK.

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

BERWICK,
SAUMAREZ.
(Contd.) (2) E.T.A. May Island 0615 Oxcars Gate 0800/16th
November.
(3) Request following light Rosyth group one from
0500 until 0600 16th Group 2 from 0600 until
0700/16th.
(A.C.O.S. 152223A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

U.S.S.
WAKEFIELD. All times Z. P.C.S. 150900 46.52 N. 26.25 W.
064 20. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 17 1210.
Weather 4672 7583.
(WAKEFIELD, 150920Z to C. in C. W.A.)

EURYALUS. Para. 2 of my 141932. Proceed direct Rosyth
without calling at Scapa so as to arrive Oxcars
by 0900A Thursday 16th November.
(2) Report E.T.A. to C. in C. Rosyth as convenient.
(3) Pass over deep DG range if entering harbour in daylight.
(4) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange for mail and any stores for
EURYALUS to be shipped in BERWICK for transport to Rosyth.
(C. in C. H.F. 151104 to EURYALUS)

U.S.S.
ROCKAWAY. Intend to sail U.S.S. ROCKAWAY at 0600Z/16th Nov.
to Norfolk (Va.) by Q.Z.S. to 293 degs. Trevoise
Head 5 miles thence in accordance with Admiralty's
141029A November and amendment 151128A November.
Speed of advance 15.5 knots constant W/T watch on
2300 K/cs E.T.A. 007 degs. W. 2030Z/16th. Constant watch on
Broadcast BN until 1500Z/20th thence on NS S Fox "Chop" E.T.A.
X.S. buoy 1700Z/25th E.T.A. East Sea Frontier 0300Z/22nd.
Hold following latest QJ and Z message B 14 C 192 ZH 625 ZL 66
ZS VP ZX 14 56 ZY 516.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 151301A to Admty. Com. V. Norfolk Va.)

INDEFATIGABLE. A.M. 132355A not to all. Intend to embark 12
Fireflies, 40 Seafires and 21 Avengers off Barsey
Island on Monday 20th November. These A/C are
all that can be accommodated for passage.
INDEFATIGABLE's 101428A November not to all refers.
(2) R.A.N.A.S. is requested to arrange W/T communications between
INDEFATIGABLE and the shore station concerned from 0730 on Monday
20th November on 2600 K/cs or other suitable frequency using local
A/C training code from carrier training signal orders or other
convenient code.
(3) R.A.N.A.S. is requested to arrange for R/T communication
between INDEFATIGABLE and the shore station concerned.
(4) Intend to commence embarkation in position RV 270 degs.
Bardsey Island 5 miles at zero hour 0930. Any change in R/V or

/time ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

INDEFATIGABLE. time will be passed to shore station concerned by (Contd.) W/T and unless otherwise ordered A/C should be flown to arrive over ship at following times:

Zero hour	12 Fireflies
Zero plus one (? one)	12 Seafires 887 Squadron
Zero plus one.45	12 Seafires 887 Squadron
Zero plus 2.45	8 Seafires 894 Squadron
Zero plus 3.30	8 Seafires 894 Squadron
Zero plus 4.15	12 Avengers
Zero plus 5.15	9 Avengers.

(5) Type 72 DP 80 will be in operation from zero minus 45 mins. modulation frequency 765 K/cs. Reference C.A.F.O.1300/44 sector letters disc 7 ship's letter disc 4.

(6) For communication with A/C INDEFATIGABLE will keep watch on following frequencies from zero minus one hour R/T on 116.10 mc/s and 5450 K/cs W/T on 5440 K/cs.

(7) Ship's callsign for use with A/C and shore station concerned will be on R/T TOMTIT and on W/T X-Ray How Item.

(8) F.O. C.A. concur.

(INDEFATIGABLE, 151430A to R.A.N.A.S.)

STALKER,
ATTACKER,
HUNTER,
ROYALIST.

It is desired to sail STALKER, ATTACKER and HUNTER in company for Mediterranean refitting ports.

(2) Request you will report by what date it is expected ships will be ready in all respects for sea, having completed embarkation of reserve A/C referred to in A.M. 131801 November.

(3) C. in C. Portsmouth is also requested to report whether ROYALIST will be ready to leave U.K. on 26th Nov. for Alexandria calling at Gibraltar.

(D.O.D.(H), 151458A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth)

Rescue
Tug
SALVONIA.

Request SALVONIA (for Azores) be sailed to arrive Falmouth by p.m. 19th November to join convoy. (C. in C. Rescue Tugs, 152022A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Operations

Situation Report

Naval.

Cositintrep No.224 Part 2 Naval.
Amend unloading figures to read.

Read in five columns.

Place	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
Ostend	1,536	418	3,077	6,450
British				
Total:	3,430	885	11,162	6,450
Combined				
Total:	7,595	1,688	42,312	17,557

(A.N.C.X.F. 151237 to Admty)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Dutch schuyts to Flushing. Confirmed no Army objection to your 141750. (Com. Belgium, 15211A to F.O.Naval Party 1731)

Patrol. TORBAY is to establish patrol line as follows length 30 miles direction 000 degs. - 180 degs. mid-point 058 degs. 45' N. 001 degs. 15' E. (2) After reaching position Y 090 degs. Sumburgh Head 4 miles and when SCYTHIAN has made contact TORBAY is to proceed on surface at C.O's discretion direct to patrol position in para. 1.

(Capt.(S) 9, 151219A to TORBAY)

Night dispositions 15th/16th November.

Humber Force - Nil.

Harwich Force (Group 3) with F.N.42, SEYMOUR.

Patrols 5 STEVENSTONE, 6 MACKAY, 10 WIDGEON, 17A PUFFIN.

N.F.2/N.F.4 RIOU, 15 COTSWOLD, 16 THORNBOROUGH, 19 RETALICK (Group 4) Harbour, HAMBLEDON, SLAZAK, CAICOS, CURZON, DAKINS, DUFF, EKINS, TORRINGTON, GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER, SHELDRAKE.

Sheerness Force (Group 5) with F.S. 36, CATTISTOCK.

Patrols 4 FERNIE, 7 CUBITT, 8A PYTCHLEY, 20 WENSLEYDALE.

(Group 6) Harbour. BLEASDALE, BLENCATHRA, HOLDERNESS, COSBY, HOLMES, RUTHERFORD, BADDECK, CALGARY, CLEMATIS, LOOSESTRIFE.

At Southend - MIMICO.

(C. in C. Nore, 151529A to Admty)

Transfer of 24 L.C.T. to Force T. Your 141901. Not approved. (A.N.C.X.F.151243A to N.C. Force T.)

Belgians to Belgium. It would be appropriate for first ship to arrive Antwerp to be under Belgian flag. Understand that BELGIAN SAILOR is waiting. Request she be included in first convoy.

(2) Intend also to arrange for Belgian mine-sweepers.

(Com. Belgium, 151251A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Seaward defences of Schelde. Your 141829. Paras. 1 and 2 concur. Nets could be made available if eventually required. (2) Your para. 3. Confirmed as regards loops Cdr. Cather of D.A.S.M. is flying to Brussels tomorrow, Thursday and will discuss details of H.D.As with Cdre. Belgium. Request you will

inform Admiralty when H.D.M.L. are required stating when they are to be sailed.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 151559A to A.N.C.X.F)

/ Schelde ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Schelde
Survey.

H.D.M.L.1053 is urgently required to assist with Schelde survey. Request she be fully equipped for surveying and sailed to Ternauzen as soon as possible.

(2) On completion of Schelde survey she should be sailed to Plymouth.

(A.N.C.X.F.151615A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Naval wireless 367. We spoke Paul Cox Hood Temple. deception S.H.A.E.F. concurs proposed naval support to cover units for plan "Trolley-car". Request naval mobile wireless operation deception units simulating last stages of "Trolley-car". lift appropriate to following.

(A) One infantry follow up division from Firth of Forth.

(B) One armoured and one infantry follow up

division Humber Area.

(Lt. Col. Hood S.H.A.E.F. staff is acting on behalf 21st Army Group in U.K.

(Exfor G (R) 151635A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Channel

Patrols.

Your 142218A. Have been relieved by E.G.10. Am proceeding. Sea and swell 23. Suitable. (S.O.E.G.31,150952A to C. in C. Plymouth)

10th E.G. is to work in two divisions and carry out zig-zag searches between 50.04 N. 06.32 W. and 50.29 N. 05.56 W. 49.34 N. 06.45 W. and 49.41 N. 05.40 W. 3 ships are to patrol on Southern Patrol line.

(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.Y.516 in which M/S 14 will operate as soon as weather is favourable.

(3) Known nun-S/Ms are plotted in positions 49.39 N. 06.41½ W. 49.40 N. 05.42 W. 39.41½ N. 6.34 W. 49.31 N. 06.33½ W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 151331A to S.O. E.G.10)

Night A/S patrols 15/16 November.

Search areas limits given. (2) M.T.Bs Z.125, 118, 108.

(3) HARGOOD Z.112/109/113/110 N. of 50 degs. 00'.

(4) Remainder all between 50 degs. 00' 49 degs. 40' N.

(5) VESPER Q.Z.S.506 01 degs. 08' W.

(6) WATCHMAN Q.Z.S.506, 554.

(7) ANTHONY Q.Z.S.554 00 degs. 01' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151419A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces)

Suspected
U-Boat.

Your 151331A. Four ships of E.G.10 investigating doubtful bottomed contact in position 049 degs. 45' N. 005 degs. 59' W. Sea 12 suitable. (S.O. E.G.10, 151800A to C. in C. Plymouth)

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Patrols. Request you will sail 4th E.G. p.m. today 15th November to position 51° N., 11° W. detailed orders follow later.
(C. in C. W.A., 150023A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 150023A. Sailed 4th E.G. at 1626A/15 to comply. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 151801 to C. in C. W.A.)

Probable U-Boat. Have brought up definite diesel oil and one very large air bubble about 10 minutes after an attack. My 150922A. Two runs on Type 147 set suggest contact has been off the bottom at least once. Conditions improving. Suitable.
(S.O. E.G. 30, 151106A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 150845. Echo sounder results inconclusive due to heavy rolling. Traces indicate narrow hull 230 feet long with one end apparently off the bottom. More air and a small amount of lubricating oil has been obtained. Radar contact in my 142326A was secured and plotted at 8½ miles. Still in firm contact. 10 deliberate squid attacks have been carried out.
(A) Average. (B) No. Suitable.
(S.O. E.G. 30, 151515A to C. in C. W.A.)
Join 30th E.G. in contact with probable bottomed U-Boat in position 51° 27', 11° 01'.
(C. in C. W.A., 151835A to S.O. E.G. 4.)
C. in C. W.A.'s 151835A. E.T.A. 0830/16th.
(S.O. E.G. 4, 151945A to S.O. E.G. 30.)
Warmest congratulations on the way you take advantage of and exploit your opportunities. E.G. 4 is joining you to make doubly sure that the U-Boats do not escape. Report amount of ammunition remaining.
(C. in C. W.A., 151949A to S.O. E.G. 30.)

Escort Carrier air cover for homing convoys: Operation I.C.P. In view of the possibility of increased U-Boat activity in the North-western and South-western Approaches close intensive air escort may be provided in certain convoys in these areas. Ships will consist of 4 box patrols parallel to the convoy track, designated as boxes A, B, C and D. reading alphabetically from the starboard side. The path ahead of the convoy will be swept to a distance of approx. 60 miles and to a distance of 28 miles either side of its mean line of advance.
(2) The boxes will be flown relative to convoy and will advance with the convoy's speed. When head of box reaches the land where inward bound convoys are concerned, the boxes will become static whilst convoy passes through to limit of cover to be provided.
(3) Close escort may be provided in addition to box patrols, and will be designated as patrol E. The close escort aircraft will in the absence of other instructions from S.O. of Escorts carry out continuous patrol round the convoy at distances of 5 miles.
(4) Short title of this air operation is I.C.P. and when it is out into effect escorts will be informed signal in form

/Expect ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Escort Carrier air cover for homing convoys: Operation I.C.P. (Contd.)	"Expect air escort I.C.P." followed by a time. S.O. escorts pass to Mac ships in company. (C. in C. W.A. 152045A to Escort Carriers and Mac Ships operated by C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.T., F.O.N.A.S., R.A.N.A.S.(N), C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.I.C.Greenock, F.O.I.C.Liverpool, F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, S.Os. of escort groups and escort carriers W.A. Command, Commdr. (D) W.A., Capt. (D) Belfast, Capt. (D) Liverpool, Capt.(D) Greenock, Cmdre. Western Isles, H.M.S. PHILANTE, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Cdre. Somers Isles.)
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Fresh Fishing Facilities.	Your 040113/November. Paras. 1 and 2 are concurred in. (Hd. of M. 152304A to C. in C. W.A.)
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Irish Sea

Operations

Northwestern Approaches.

9th E.G.	STORMONT, PORT COLBORNE, ST. JOHN, NENE, MONNOW, LOCH ALVIE arrived, fuelled and sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 141059A November. (Com. D. W.A. 151325A to C. in C. W.A. A.C.O.S.)
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26th and 1st E.G's.	On detaching from convoy 26th E.G. search area 056 degs. to 056 degs. 30' N. between 009 degs. and 022 degs. W. First E.G. Search area 055 degs. 30' to 056 degs. N.between 009 degs. and 010 degs. W. (C. in C. W.A. 152314A to Force 33.)
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Operations

Norway

Patrol.	Leave Gamma patrol and sweep in line of bearing formation 220 degs. S. of A. 12 knots so as to pass through position 061 degs. 20' N. 001 degs. 30' E. at 2215 to-day Wednesday thence proceed on course 130 degs. to position 060 degs. 37' N. 003 degs. 16' E. Transfer 12 miles 040 degs. preserving line of bearing and sweep back on course 310 degs. thence establish Gamma patrol between 061 degs. 01' N. 001 degs. 50' E. and 061 degs. 32' N. 002 degs. 41' E. A/C from 18 Group will be covering area by day and night and escort group must expect to be illuminated. (C. in C. Rosyth, 151152A to S.O. E.G. 17, (R) Admty, A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F. Coastal Forces Lerwick, Cdre. (D) H.F. H.Q.C.C. No.18, Group C.C.)
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/Operations ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd

Operations "V.P". V.P.73, V.P.75, V.P.77 cancelled.
(2) Further signals will be made when weather improves.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 151737A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "Handfast". My 121208 para. 6.
D Day Saturday 18th November.
(C. in C. H.F. 151324A to DIADEM, PURSUER, PREMIER)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrol. A.C.I.C.s 141416A. E.T.A. Q.Z.S.407. 1030A/16th November.
(KEPPEL, 151115A to STARWORT)

Intended action against Enemy destroyers. Russians have undertaken not to operate submarines at all during period 3rd to 14th December (Your 131359), as there is enemy shipping East of 027 degs. E.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 151210A to C. in C. H.F.)

Bye-products of Convoy J.W.61A. Operation "Golden".
Two B.V.138 Flying Boats shot down by A/C from CAMPANIA, one at 1000A/3rd November in position 67 degs. 44' N. 00 degs. 40' E. and one at 1338A/13th November in position 67 degs. 25' N. 03 degs. 00' E.
(C. in C. H.F. 151404A to Admty)

Suspected U-Boat. Have attacked asdic contact classified S/M in position 061 degs. 26' N. 000 degs. 30' W. Hedgehog pattern exploded at 15 feet below surface and contact was lost. After search gained contact on a bottomed object in depth of water 100 fathoms within one mile of position of attack slight oil slick rising. Further squid attack produced nothing. Intend to leave LOCH KILLIN and CRANSTOUN in contact and proceed with ASCENSION, MOORSOM and BURGESS to comply with your 151152.
(S.O. E.G. 17, 151811A to C. in C. Rosyth)
D.S.59. At 2058 BLACK SWAN had suspicious U/B. A/S contact at 1000 yards with Doppler. Contact was lost and regained once and finally lost owing to heavy sea causing her to be almost unmanageable. BLACK SWAN rejoined. Position 061 degs. 05' N. 018 degs. 58' W.
(KEPPEL, 152150A to A.C.I.C.)

/Modifications ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd

- Modifications to prohibited fishing areas. Icelandic Government strongly urge that prohibited areas in northwest and east of Iceland be modified to assist fishing which is also of value to us.
- (2) Their wishes would be met by following modifications:
- (a) Northwest area. Retain eastern and western limits but make southern limit the latitude 66 degs. 50' instead of four miles from coast. This will allow fishing in three valuable localities.
- (b) Eastern area. Alter western limit to longitude 13 degs. W. This will also liberate valuable fishing areas between latitudes 64 and 65.
- (3) If (a) and (b) can be approved it will be impressed on the Icelandic Government that fishing or traffic in the newly freed areas will be entirely at the risk of those engaged. Strongly recommend that approval be given, observing that a similar request by A.C.I.C. on much the same grounds was approved - the extension in that case including a line of mines only 14 months old. A.C.I.C.'s 1225B/6th June, 1942 and Admiralty's 1845B/18th June, 1942 refer.
- (4) An additional reason for approving this request is that it is intended to establish a new prohibited area for fishing vessels in the approaches to Reykjavik which will seriously affect local fishing. This will be resented by Icelanders and consequently some compensation is desirable. Details of the new area which is essential for air and surface patrol for U-Boats will be communicated shortly.
- (5) A very early reply is requested.
(A.C.I.C. 151940A to Admty)

Mining

- Oyster mines. Your 122225 not to C. in C. Nore and Admiralty letter T.O.O.6213/44 of 14th September, 1944.
- (2) Recent experiments on methods of running down batteries of magnetic Oyster mines show that the original number of 2700 actuations estimated to have been required can be considerably reduced.
- (3) Experiments on three German mines show that 660, 720 and 500 actuations were in each case required to run down the battery.
- (4) It is considered that 1,000 actuations each of 5 seconds duration at one minute intervals will give a high probability of clearance.
- (5) If time permits it is desirable to increase the number of actuations to 1,200 in order to provide a good margin of safety.
(D.M.S.150006A to Capt. M/S.N.F.)

- Anti-U-Boat deep mining. Can sail with outfit A 7 at 1600 Friday 17th.
- (2) Five more outfits follow at 48 hours intervals
- (3) 60 foot depth reels are being fitted.
(APOLLO 151021 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Further ...

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Anti-U-Boat deep mining. (Contd.) Further consideration has been given to relative importance of anti-U-Boat minefields in N.W. and S.W. Approaches.

(2) Routeing of ocean convoys south of Ireland (R) not only renders this the more attractive area but U-Boats' course of action can to some extent be anticipated. In N.W. Approaches minelaying operations must follow rather than anticipate U-Boat activity; fields such as those off Malin Head can only be positioned on assumption that U-Boats may be ordered to operate in an area where a success has already been achieved. (3) Considered therefore as matter of policy that minelaying operations should for present be concentrated in S.W. Approaches. It is believed that U-Boats will make use of shallow patches and banks in order to fix their position without surfacing; request you will issue orders for APOLLO to lay in first instance a series of three parallel lines of mines across Labadie Bank (50° 30' N. 08° 10' W. approx.) lines running in general direction 200° their initial positions being 5 miles apart, mines as used in previous operations, spacing 200 ft., depth 70 feet below chart datum. (4) Subsequently it is proposed to mine the shallow patches in approx. 50° 42' N. 08° 50' W. and 50° 15' N. 07° 45' W. (5) A separate reply is being made to your 081004. (A.C.N.S.(H) 151144A to C. in C. W.A.)

Sitrep. (1) 31 M.S.F. operation "Link" Oropesa Sweep 3 cables wide. (2) 42 M.S.F. operation "Progress" continuing. Operation "Hoover" postponed owing to weather. (3) No sweeping at Havre owing to weather. (Capt. M.S.N.F. 151201 to C.T.F. 125.)

Extra mine-sweeping for Belgium. Reference No. 1792/X/0940/2/37 and 1804/X/0500/48 dated 21st and 27th September respectively. Consider risk of minelaying requires temporary re-inforcement of minesweeping force in Belgian waters. (2) Propose forces earmarked for Holland be temporarily allocated to Comodore Belgium as follows: (a) From Nore two M.M.S. Flotillas on completion of operation "Calendar." (b) From A.N.C.X.F. 167th M.S.F. (A.N.C.X.F. 151245A to Admty.)

Operation "Calendar". (1) Sweep today Wednesday 15th November SA and LL. A. N.F. 13 to Terneuzen 2 actuations. B. Grenade sweep N.F. 18 to N.F. 13 and back to Terneuzen. C. Intensive LAA sweeping at Antwerp Oropesa (sweep) A. N.F. 13 to Terneuzen. B. Terneuzen to Antwerp. (2) Ground mines 5 (2 at Antwerp on 14th November 2 between N.F. 13 and N.F. 14, 1 near N.F. 16 today) moored mine 1 at N.F. 16. (3) Survey work is continuing. (4) Nil. (5) Defective ships: B.Y.M.S. 2048, 2051, M.M.S. 8192, 175, 237, 78, 274, 234, M.F.Vs. 1074, 1027, 1043, 1020 repairs are in hand ships will be ready within the next 3 days except M.M.S. 175. (Capt. M.S.F.A. 151959A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Minesweeping...

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Minesweeping programme.

Programme for tomorrow Thursday 16th November.

- (A) Weather permitting CYRUS for operation "Hooper"
- (B) 42nd M/S Flotilla continuing operation "Progress"
- (C) 31st M/S Flotilla continuing operation "Link"
- (D) A.M.181 T.G. Q.Z.S. 555, to 58 E Buoy and 588.
(Capt. M/S.N.F. 152029 to C.T.F.125)

U-Boats

Sitrep.

Radar contact and attack by E.G.30 at 2116Z/14th Nov. and 0822Z/15th Nov. indicate one moving south in 51 degs. 25' N. 11 degs. 00' W.

No fresh reports in the English Channel. One may be between Lizard and Triagoz and one or two others in central Channel.

(D.D.I.C. 151350A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

Port Facilities

M.F.V. for Calais.

Request you address your 131858 to V.A. Dover; repeated C. in C. Nore.

(2) Vessels have been diverted Dover to meet this requirement.

(D.S.V.P. 150629A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Request one M.F.V. may be supplied to Calais by 20th November at latest in order that Harbour Pilotage service may be ready for first ships arriving, and that the other M.F.V. may be sent as soon as possible after this date.

(F.O.B.A.A. 150926A to V.A. Dover)

Dieppe.

My 180034A October paragraph 2. Amend to read: "12' maximum draught - 180' maximum length - 6".

(2) One berth out of commission through scouring.
(N.O.I.C.Dieppe, 151230A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Antwerp.

Your 101315 para. (A) 28th November for M/S only provided N.O.I.C.Antwerp is satisfied as regards port.

(2) Risk from ordinary mines specially adapted to prevent or delay sweeping and Oysters will have to be accepted. Evidence is that enemy have exercised much ingenuity in mining the river.

(3) Attention is drawn to para. 4 of N.O.I.C.Antwerp's 082009 with which I fully concur. I have intentionally given an optimistic date which is several days earlier than first estimated.

(4) There is little doubt that there will be mines which may not become dangerous to shipping for many weeks after this date.

(5) Capt. M/S F.A. acknowledge and report in due course whether whole of channel will have been covered by this date in accordance with orders for operation "Calender."

(C. in C. Nore, 151342A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

- IROQUOIS. Arrived TARTAR and IROQUOIS.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 151051A to C. in C. W.A.)
- SS. HARLEY. My 142310. SS. HARLEY sank at 1630 Tuesday 14th
in approx. position 56.18.53 N. 2.9.12 W. after
springing leak in hold at 0600. THYRA II stood
by from 1500 and picked up 5 survivors out of total
crew of 11, including Master who later died. The 4 survivors and
body of Master landed at Methil.
(N.O.I.C.Methil, 151051A to Admty)
- L.C.T.
1359. Survey has been made of L.C.T.1359 ashore Kirkcaldy
and salvage is possible. STORETON and tender
BJOIG have been instructed to proceed to Kirkcaldy
to-day to undertake operation.
(C.S.V.O. Leith, 151120 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Shipping and Convoys

- East Coast
ships for
Far Shore to
call at
Downs. Your 111803A concur.
(C.T.F.151211 to Admty.
Ships East Coast and Southend for Boulogne, Dieppe
and Le Havre to be sailed Downs for control then
independently.
- L.S.T.346. Arrangements have been made for L.S.T.(2) 346 to
be taken in hand for preparation for Far Eastern
Service, and fitting of N.L.Pontoon Launchways by
Messrs. H. Robb at Leith.
(2) On completion of transfer from U.S. to R.N., A.M.100049 (not
to all) refers, F.O.I.C.Southampton is requested to sail vessel
to comply, reporting E.T.A. and keeping Admiralty informed.
(D.O.D.152003A to F.O.I.C. Southampton)

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wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

U.S.S. FRAGMENT Collided with and believed sunk R.S. SETTEMBRINI
in collision 0223Z/15, lat. 36.11 N., long. 19.45 W.
with Rescuing survivors. Will remain area till
SETTEMBRINI. daylight. Damage this vessel forward situation
under control. Will proceed Horta.
(U.S.S. FRAGMENT, 150245 to F.O.G.M.A.)
U.S.S. FRAGMENT's 150245. It is assumed that
enquiry into this collision will be carried out
by U.S. Authorities.

(F.O.G.M.A., 151118A.)

Transient A.T.C. aircraft reported surfaced submarine
position 36.15 N., 18.22 W. Details later. Probably Italian
SETTEMBRINI.

(C.M.S.F.F., 151208A to F.O.G.M.A.)

FRAGMENT remain to search for submarine possibly submerging
reported by aircraft. C.M.S.F. 151208 being passed Cominch,
C. in C. Lant and Admiralty refers.

(2) FRAGMENT to report by immediate signal number of survivors
picked up.

(3) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to provide air search to assist
FRAGMENT.

(F.O.G.M.A., 151314A to U.S.S. FRAGMENT, S.B.N.O. Azores,
Info. Cominch, C. in C. Lant, Admty., C.M.S.F., C.F.A.W.
15.)

Picked up 8 survivors including Commanding Officer. No
further evidence to report proceeding position referred C.M.S.F.
151208A at best speed 10 knots.

(FRAGMENT, 151430 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Procedure B set watch D.F. frequency 385 k/cs at 1725Z/15th
and keep lookout for Fortress aircraft, call sign "Potassium
M2" on 2410 k/cs which will search for survivors in area 36.11
N., 19.45 W. from 1825Z till 1900Z/15th.

(2) W/T frequency 3925/6666 k/cs call sign 520M2. F.O.G.M.A.'s
151314, para. 3 refers.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151524Z to U.S.S. FRAGMENT.)

My 122036. TENACITY now at Horta and available as Rescue
Tug.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151544Z.)

Request C.T.F.66 detach one escort to proceed immediately with
despatch to assist U.S.S. FRAGMENT searching for Italian submarine
SETTEMBRINI reported by aircraft in approx. 36° 15' N., 18° 22'
W.

(2) SETTEMBRINI was in collision with FRAGMENT at 0323A/15th Nov.
in position reported by FRAGMENT as 36° 11' N., 19° 45' W.

(3) FRAGMENT is to arrange R/V position and time with escort
detached.

(F.O.G.M.A., 151654A to C.T.F. 66, U.S.S. FRAGMENT, Info.
Admty., S.B.N.O. Azores, Cominch, Cinclant, C.M.S.F.)

S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail TENACITY as soon as
possible to position 36° 15' N., 18° 22' W. to assist FRAGMENT if
required and to tow SETTEMBRINI to Azores if located.

(2) FRAGMENT is to arrange exact R/V position and time.

(F.O.G.M.A., 151708A to U.S.S. FRAGMENT, S.B.N.O. Azores,
Info. C.M.S.F., S.M.S.F., Admty., Cominch, Cinclant,
C.T.F. 66.)

Proceeding to position 36° 15' N., 18° 22' W. Searching
immediate vicinity till arrival escort detached Task Force (?66).
E.T.A. 0100Z/16 request name ship detached.

(Unknown U.S. Ship, 151925 to F.O.G.M.A., C.T.F.)

/Comply ...

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North Atlantic

U.S.S. Comply F.O.G.M.A. 151654A.
FRAMENT (Cinclant, 151956Z to C.T.F. 66.)
in collision U.S.S. SCOTT, D.E.214. 1900Z position 35.20 N.,
with 13.53 W. En route position 36.11 N., 19.45 W.,
SETTEMBRINI. 280, 22 knots. Arrive daylight 16th. FRAMENT
(Contd.) give P.C.S. for Interim.
(Comcordiv 17 in SCOTT from T.F.66, 152050 to
F.O.G.M.A., FRAMENT.)
TENACITY departed Horta 2224Z E.T.A. position
in your 151708A 2230Z/12th.
(2), (3) Communications.
(4) Request you will assume control of TENACITY.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 152326Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
Your 150245 and 151430 request you amplify report stating
whether survivors consider submarine sunk.
(F.O.G.M.A., 152330A to FRAMENT.)

DUQUESNE. (Extract)
Sailed Casablanca 150900A for Toulon.
(C.M.S.F., 150950A.)

South Atlantic

KILHAM K.R. and A.I. Article 1167.
(collision The C.O. H.M.S. KILHAM reports that a collision
14th Nov.) occurred between his ship and merchant ship
35081 (AFRICAN DAWN) at 2048Z Tuesday 14th Nov.
in 08.30 N., 13.29 W. Not yet established who
was at fault. 35081 understood to have
continued her passage to Takoradi. Preliminary survey of
KILHAM reveals extensive damage from 80 to 86 station with 78
bulkhead intact. Repair involves docking and is reported
beyond capacity of Freetown.
(Capt. (D) Freetown, 152004Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S/Ms for Eastern Fleet. (1) VOX and VORACIOUS to Colombo.
(2) VIVID and VIRTUE to Bombay.
(3) VISIGOTH and VIGOROUS to Kilindini and Colombo respectively.
(4) Your 142116.
(S.1 151105 to C. in C. Med.)

South Aegean Summary. Up to 0900 hrs. 15th November.
(1) Shipping. Part photographic cover obtained of Dodecanese and Crete November 14th revealed following. Leros, Portolago Bay, Naval Base. Since November 12 departed Mal to Kos. Gonia Cove cloud covered. Partheni Bay. 1 E.M.S. craft departed not relocated. 1 E.M.S. craft, 1 landing craft still present. Alinda Bay. Arrived 1 caique probably from Portolago. Kos. Arrived since 12th November 1 Mal from Leros. Also arrived 1 Pioneer landing craft and 1 60 foot launch. Piskopi. 2 Pioneer Landing Craft seen a.m. 12th November. Departed. One already reported sunk by naval action p.m. 12 and visual R/C shows second craft now present Alimnia a.m. 14. Remainder not covered. Conclusions. Enemy persevering in attempts to maintain inter-Island traffic. Crete. Nothing to report.
(C. in C. M.E. 151130B.)

Ammunition stocks for French ships. 203 m.m. stocks referred to my 091702 as follows.
Whereabouts O.P.F. O.E.A.
N. Africa 4727 857
F.S. DUQUESNE 920 300
F.S. TROUVILLE 920 252
F.S. SUFFREN 920 300

(2) Figures for North Africa include stocks at Casablanca but not at Dakar.
(3) 340 m.m. stock in North Africa 1383 O.P.F. shells and 1494 full charges 50% full charges are old.
(4) 340 m.m. ammunition in LORRAINE report still awaited.
(C. in C. Med. 151215A.)

French Ships for Marine Paris in agreement with Allied High movements. *or by* Command has selected following French ships for *an Home Villes* these operations. Your 091707. LORRAINE, DUQUESNE, GLOIRE, BASQUE, SIMOUN, HOVA, SOMALI, AMIRAL AL MOUCHEZ and eight Y.M.S.'s.

(2) Request your approval and necessary instructions to sailing authorities to comply with following programme of movements:-
A. LORRAINE escorted by BASQUE and SIMOUN leave Toulon 20th November, fuel at Gibraltar 23rd Nov. arrive Plymouth 28th Nov.
B. DUQUESNE proceed independently from Oran 25th Nov. to arrive Plymouth 28th Nov.
C. GLOIRE leave Oran 24th Nov. Call at Brest for 24 hours 26/27th Nov. to land remaining RICHELIEU Libertymen arrive Plymouth 28th Nov.
D. Group HOVA, SOMALI, ^{AMIRAL} AL MOUCHEZ and 8 Y.M.S. leave Toulon 19th Nov. fuel Gibraltar 23rd Nov. arrive at Brest 28th Nov.
(3) French transport CANADA will return Libertymen from Marseilles in lieu of GLOIRE. Arrangements for return of Libertymen from Brest will be proposed later. My 021554 and 021720 (not to all).
(4) Admty. pass to C.T.F. 125.
(F.O.W.M. 151253A to C. in C. Med.)

/Release...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Release of Escorts. A.M. 061827 (details of release of Med. Escorts.)
A complete appreciation of overall Mediterranean requirements and resources has been prepared and will be brought by my staff officer (plans) for discussion during my forthcoming visit to London.
(C. in C. Med. 151302 to Admty.)

Riviera operations. Cominsitrep 61 ending 142400A.
B. No change in front lines.
C. On 14th ALCYON fired on troop concentration C.T. 864 873 encountered enemy fire 150 m.m. perhaps - counter battery is now more and more accurate. Enemy may be intercepting communications.
K. P.T. boats sank four mines.
(Comflanfor 151500.)

LORRAINE. F.O.N.A.M. is requested to sail LORRAINE escorted by 2 French destroyers nominated by him to Gib. for onward routing by F.O.G.M.A. to Plymouth.
My 141231.
(2) Ships are required at Plymouth before 25th Nov.
(3) Admiralty is requested to signal ocean route*
(C. in C. Med. 151703A to Admty., etc.)
* See 181150A.

BATTLER, THANE, ATHELING. Concur Admiralty's 131800.
(F.O.L.E.M. 151754B.)

Corridors for A/C. Your 141057 November. Reply was contained in H.Q.M.A.A.F. signal M.X. 37122 of 14th November (addressed S.H.A.E.F. Main Air not repeated Admty.)
(2) M.A.A.F. consider route south of Toulouse should remain as at present laid down in H.Q.
M.A.A.F. signal M.X. 36677 of November 9th.
(3) No objection by C. in C. Med.
(C. in C. Med. 151820 to Admty.)

GRADISCA (hospital ship.) 5 days of V/S discussions with GRADISCA have produced a condensed request for contact with Swiss Govt. as quickly as possible. Feel it is impossible to refuse transmission of this request in order to avoid further discussion. Written report and detailed copies of signals as received are being landed by hand of officer on arrival Algiers.
(STORK 151820A to F.O.W.M.)
W.D. Note - Admiralty instructions see 170600A.

/Italian...

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Italian S/Ms. A.M. 121525 not to addressees refers. F.O.T.A.L.I. (Taranto) suggests that:

A. DIASPRO be allocated to U.S. control. Firm date of completion 30th November.

B. PLATINO and NICHELIO sister ships be allocated to British. They will both be completed after DIASPRO due to congested docking programme.

C. If some delay in arrival is acceptable PLATINO and NICHELIO built 1941 and in operational condition proceed to E.F. Instead of BANDIERA and MENOTTI built 1929 and in rather poor order. My 301718 August and 011059 October refers.

(2) BANDIERA is now on passage to Egypt with U.G.S. 58. MENOTTI will be ready for service about 22nd November.

(3) Concur in proposals and request early decision.

(4) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to hold BANDIERA until situation clarifies.

(C. in C. Med. 151927A to Admty., F.O.L.E.M.)

Situation report No. 485.

(1) SIRIUS has relieved ARGONAUT at Salonika where ships can now anchor within 1 mile of the quay, clearing of harbour entrance has commenced, and unloading is assisted by good weather.

(2) At dawn 14th November WHEATLAND and BROCKLESBY bombarded Bar harbour where 3 small ships were alongside the Mole. Light shore batteries returned destroyers fire without success.

(3) Sweeping of approaches to Zara and of harbour has been completed. Town is completely destroyed.

(4) In para. 3 of situation report No. 484 for Oct. read November.

(C. in C. Med. 152123A.)

Convoy sailing telegrams.

Following received from N.C.S.O. Aden. Begins:-

It would be of great assistance to me if sailing telegrams of U.G.S. and K.M.S. convoys could be repeated to me in the same way as those relating to K.M.F. convoys. This would enable me to plan my dispersal routes further ahead than is at present possible while receiving only 3 days notice from Suez.

(2) If this can be arranged I would appreciate the signalling of actual repeat actual destinations of the vessels concerned 131311Z ends.

This is considered impracticable for small number vessels concerned in view of changed Mediterranean routing policy, C. in C. Med's 271250 refers. Consider this information can best be passed by you marked important when ships arrive Port Said. This should enable Aden to have 5 - 6 days' notice of arrivals.

(D.T.D. 152137A to N.C.S.O. Port Said.)

Cositintrep 496.

Cipher 15 Nov. 268821. Cite F.H.S.N.A. Signed Wilson. Cositintrep No. 496, part 2.

At Salonika ships can now anchor within one mile of the quay unloading has been assisted by good weather clearing of harbour entrance has commenced. (2) At dawn 14 Nov. two destroyers bombarded Bar Harbour their fire was unsuccessfully returned by light shore batteries. (3) At Zara where the town is destroyed sweeping of approaches and harbour has been completed in No. 495 for Oct. read Nov. in two places.

(C. in C. Med. No T.O.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ARNDALE and escort. Intend sailing H.M.A.S. TOOWOOMBA, MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE and BURNIE from Colombo p.m. 18 to R/V with R.F.A. ARNDALE in position G. 004° 59' N. 080° 52' E. at 0600Z/19.
(2) Thereafter convoy is to proceed through position H. 025° 02' S. 091° 02' E. to Fremantle or as ordered by Comsouwespacsea.
(3) N.O.I.C. Trincomalee is requested to sail ARNDALE accordingly and to confirm and repeat back date time and position of R/V in para. 1.
(4) ARNDALE will be required to fuel the escort as necessary during passage.
(C. in C. E.F. 150431Z.)

U/B dis-positions. No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 150559Z.)

ERNEBANK, lifeboat. ERNEBANK, request position of lifeboat and time at which it was picked up. When were the two remaining lifeboats last seen and in what direction were they steering? Are they well provisioned and watered?
(C. in C. E.F. 150858Z to N.C.S.O. Fremantle.)

L.C.M. 1101 lost. L.C.M. 1101 has been washed up on beach at Salalah in heavy swell and is considered total loss. No injuries to crew. A.M. 101948 refers*. Written report follows.
(Com. Aden 151031Z to C. in C. E.F.)
* 434 Ancillary Flotilla to proceed to India.

Reinforcements. Should it prove possible to give a further forecast of approx. dates of arrival reinforcements on East Indies station such as was contained in Admiralty O22240 January it will be of great assistance if dates of last refit and of docking are included.
(C. in C. E.F. 151107Z to Admty.)

Numbered approach routes. F.O.N.I.C. (536) pass to N.C.S.Os. Meiri temporary amendment number 41. Numbered approach routes and approaches not permanently established are at present in force as follows Durban number (?4) Gulf of Oman. Number 3 Bombay. Number 1 Karachi. Number 1 (?cancel) F.O.N.I.C. 480. Meiri temporary amendment No. 35.
(C. in C. E.F. 151126.)

Singapore R/C. Following is text of signalled report of 20th Bomber Command's photo. R/C of Singapore, (details)
(C. in C. E.F. 151229Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

F.D. School, My 020328 Nov. para. 2, amend to read the Fighter
R.N.A.S. Direction School, R.N.A.S. Dingwall.
(C. in C. E.F. 151316Z to Admty.)

180th M.S.F. It is intended to sail 8 B.Y.M.S. forming 180th
M.S.F. from U.K. in early January to join British
Pacific Fleet in March, 1945.
(2) Endurance of B.Y.M.S. is approx. 2,000 miles
increased to 2,500 miles when deck cargo of fuel is carried. This
necessitates sailing on favourable weather forecast.
(3) Request you will consider route from Aden to Australia and
arrange re-fuelling facilities as necessary.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 151935A to C. in C. E.F.)

15.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ROYAL MOUNT. The following allocation is effective to date 15th November from new construction to the Mid Ocean Force for duty with C.1 H.M.C.S. ROYAL MOUNT. (C. in C. C.N.A. 151342Z.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M No report since my 111403.
attack & Para. D. C.54 A/C sights wake 47.30 N. 63.00 W.
sighting at 1515Z/14th.
summary. (N.S.H.Q. 151350Z.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 151425Z, Cominch 151449Z.)

S/M O.21 Ref. B.A.D's 081551Z Nov. to Admiralty. Nether-
(refitting lands Naval Authorities have no objection to
Philadelphia) sailing O.21 direct to Fremantle for operational
duties with 8th Flotilla.
(B.D.Z. 151600A to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 1029. Serial Number 1029, Digest for 14th November.
(1) China based aircraft sighted one heavy cruiser, four destroyers northbound at 20 knots Formosa Strait midday. 14 ship convoy including one cruiser, 120 miles west of Northern Luzon course north at high speed afternoon.
(2) Aircraft in flight reported unsuccessful attack on three battleships west of Coron Bay evening. Course undetermined.
(3) Aircraft from China bases also reported three destroyers two freighters 300 miles southeast of Hainan course northwest at 15 knots and seven ship convoy 150 miles west of Central Luzon course southeast at slow speed. Both afternoon sightings.
(4) R/C Ventura sighted two freighter transports, (both burning), one sinking and being abandoned, three small escorts, in Mindoro Strait shortly before noon. Cause of damage not yet known.
(5) Previous day at noon search plane saw two convoys near northern entrance Palawan Passage. First comprised 6 ships described as light cruisers and destroyers course 200°. Second included four destroyers, one tanker, one transport, heading north.
(6) Patrol plane observed two camouflaged sea trucks anchored off Masbate Town forenoon 13th and two barges approaching Masbate from northwest. Later that day another aircraft sank one gunboat in Northern Sulu Sea off northeastern Palawan Island.
(8) Our troops on Ormoc Bay coast at Balnuc 11 miles southeast of Ormoc repulsed minor Jap. counter attack and drove off attempted landing there from barges during 13th inflicting casualties.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 150947.)

TOP SECRET**IN** 363^A

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

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

151840 November

To A.A.Melbourne, Air Commodore Grice. Date 15. 11. 44.

Cypher O.T.P.

From Air Ministry

IMMEDIATE*Air Transport B.P.F.*

AX. 600

Combined Chiefs of Staff recently agreed that Royal Naval Force to operate in South West Pacific should be "balanced and self supporting." Admiralty have accordingly asked for air transport in support of the Fleet. Air transport U.K. - Australia will be provided to planned increases in scheduled services.

2. Following are Admiralty's provisional estimate of weekly repeat weekly capacity required. All tons are short tons. Requirement would build up to figures shown during January - June 1945.

3. Within Australia

- (A) Freemantle to Sydney 10 tons 35 passengers
- (B) Sydney to Brisbane 15 tons 140 passengers
- (C) Sydney to Melbourne 3 tons 70 passengers
- (D) Brisbane - Townsville - Cairns 6 tons 35 passengers.

We estimate that this would require equivalent 15 transport. Request you discuss with Australian authorities on lines that we are very short and hope that they can meet the commitment. If they cannot will they agree to our introducing aircraft for the purpose and in principle allow use of ground facilities subject to discussion of details later.

4. From Sydney to advanced Fleet bases approximately 4,000 miles north of Sydney Admiralty forecast 80 tons and 140 passengers weekly. We estimate this would require 70 Dakotas but feel that their forecast is generous. Request you ask Australian authorities whether they agree to the introduction of minimum one repeat one squadron to January - March 1945 rising to 2 repeat 2 squadrons April - June 1945 or whether they would prefer to meet part or whole commitment themselves. We would welcome every contribution.

5. Request you advise regarding

(A) Most suitable base for any RAF contingent which may be sent

(B) Which base and route facilities we should provide at which we should share with Australians and/or Americans.

6. We are particularly anxious that possible introduction of R.A.F. transport squadrons into American theatre should not be discussed by you or Australian authorities with Americans at this stage.

151840Z

Received in War Registry 1046/2

1st Lord
1st S.L. (3)
D.F.S.L. (2)
2nd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
Sec.
P.A.S. (8)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (3)
D.N.I. (4)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Hd. of M. (2)
D. of S. (2)
Ad. Blake
W.D.

Circulated by Air Ministry to Air Ministry depts., Dominions Office, H.Q.R.A.A.F. and Admiralty D. of R. Recirculated on 2nd Jan. and Admiralty (War Registry) included.

15.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C F/201 obtained disappearing radar contact at 1300Z/14 in 56° 18' N. 08° 35' W.
(2) A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 1720Z/14 in 55° 31' N. 09° 18' W.
(3) Nor. HONNINGSVAAG attacked U-Boat contact before 1939Z/14 in 64° 09' N. 22° 42' W.

(4) A/C H/53 reported possible U-Boat at 2235Z/14 in 64° 28' N. 22° 20' W. and again at 0425Z/15 in 64° 18' N. 22° 44' W.

(5) E.G. 30 obtained contact apparently on a course of 160° at 2116Z/14 in 51° 52' N. 11° 06' W.

Para. C. (1) LOWESTOFT reported doubtful radar contact at 0405Z/15 in 45° 50' N. 09° 50' W.
(D.D.I.C. 151108A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 151402A, 151424A.)

Special
orders for
conduct of
support groups

C E.

My 302302, para. 3. Amend last sentence to read:
"These principles hold good generally by day or night except that by night the first positions to be filled by the Support Group are astern and on the quarters of the convoy. If a second Support Group is present, it should be disposed so as to supplement the Close Escort as asdic screen - taking up wing positions in order to sweep out by asdic the area where a U-Boat may be lying in wait for the convoy."
(V.C.N.S. 151614A.)