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16.11.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. A N.E. gale, force 8, is raging, impeding everything. Destroyers cannot keep up with fast Ocean convoys in the West, minesweeping has had to be abandoned in the Channel, the port of Aberdeen is closed, and operations by whalers and M.T.B's to Norway have had to be postponed.

North Sea.

2(a) A confused action was fought off the Dutch Coast by RETALICK, THORNBOROUGH, and their Coastal Force units with groups of E-Boats believed to have been on a mining venture towards Ostend. One E-Boat was severely damaged and others were also hit. M.T.B.742 was damaged and returned to Ostend in tow. The E-Boats appeared to be larger, faster, and better armoured than usual, with Radar equipment as good as the 291.

(b) Twenty-first Army Group are asking for 4 L.C.P. to replace Dwks's in bridging operations where the stream runs too strongly for the latter.

(c) THEODORE PARKER (7176 tons) and SAPAROE (6668 tons) were mined in convoy off the mouth of the Humber.

Western Approaches.

3 "Trap mining" for U-Boats on shoaler patches in deep water in the Western Approaches is to be proceeded with.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

4(a) The French destroyer L'ALCYON fired 104 rounds to-day at pillboxes and troop concentrations and encountered accurate 150 m.m. return fire.

(b) The French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES fired 135 rounds at a bridge and 106 rounds at a barracks, without reply. The mission is reported as "well accomplished".

(c) One drifting mine was sunk by the U.S. destroyer LUDLOW, and two by P.T. boats.

Adriatic.

5(a) Six Wellingtons and four Beaufighters of the Coastal Air Force claimed hits on five barges and three F-Boats off Maestro Point (the western extremity of Scedro Island, south of Hvar Island, Yugoslavia).

(b) Two barges were left sinking, a tug, schooner and motor launch damaged, a beached coaster destroyed, and near misses scored on three barges off Chioggia, near Venice.

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Mediterranean - Contd.

6. Albanian Partisans claim to have occupied Durazzo to-day. (See also 17th November).

Australia and New Zealand.

Landing
on Bras
Island.

7. Following intensive bombardment by aircraft and light naval units, Assault Forces from the U.S. 31st Division went ashore early this morning on Bras Island, in the Mapia Group (about 100 miles northward of Tanjong Memori, Dutch New Guinea), and advanced inland against moderate opposition. Satisfactory progress was reported on the 17th.

Borneo.

8(a) Aircraft of the 13th Air Force from Morotai (39 Liberators escorted by 31 fighters) scored five or six hits with half-ton bombs on a KONGO class battleship and four hits on a heavy cruiser of the NACHI class in Brunei Bay, Borneo. Five enemy fighters intercepted without effect, but three Liberators were lost by A/A fire.
(b) Twenty-two Lightnings attacked shipping off Tarakan, exploding one freighter and setting two other cargo vessels on fire and damaging 12 barges.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

A.A. protection for Downs Anchorage. It is not considered that the volume and type of traffic using the Downs or the present probable scale of air attack require increased A.A. protection for this area. Your 081238 refers. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 161038A to A.C. Dover.)

Movements.

BERWICK. Your 152233 arrived. (C. in C. Rosyth 160915A to A.C.O.S.)

EURYALUS. Your 151104 arrived. (C. in C. Rosyth 160920A to C. in C. H.F.)

INDEFATIGABLE. INDEFATIGABLE A.M. 132355 onward route by standard route B to L. 49° N. 11° W. M. 40° 11° N. 37° 10° thence to Gibraltar. (Admty. 161143A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Admiralty's 132355 and INDEFATIGABLE's 151430 neither to all addressees.

(2) Intend following programme for INDEFATIGABLE.

Date	Time	Event
Saturday 18th Nov.	1330	Undock anchor in Spithead to embark fuel and petrol.
Sunday 19th Nov.	1200	Sail for Irish Sea. S.O.A. 21 knots.
Monday 20th Nov.	0530	Detach one destroyer off M.H. Buoy to fuel at Milford Haven.
" " "	0930	Commence embarkation of Squadrons detach remaining destroyers in turn to fuel at Milford Haven.
" " "	2200	If all destroyers have not yet rejoined R/V in position 000° Smalls 20.

Subsequent programme in my 161637 (not to all addressees.) (F.O.C.A.B.P.F. 161630 to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, W.A., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.) My 161630.

(2) Intend subsequent programme for INDEFATIGABLE as follows:-

(3) V day will be Monday 20th November provided that all squadrons have been embarked by noon Tuesday 21st November.

Day	Event
V or V + 1	Proceed on route ordered by Admiralty, S.O.A. as requisite to pass Tarifa Light at 0001.
V + 5, V + 6	Arrive Algiers. Screen fuels. Sail for Port Said.
V + 10	Arrive Port (?Said) disembark stores, detach screen to proceed to Suez and Aden fuelling at both places.
V + 11	INDEFATIGABLE make passage of Suez Canal and fuel at Suez.
V + 12	INDEFATIGABLE for Colombo S.O.A. 19 knots.
V + 15	R/V with screen off Aden and proceed at S.O.A. 17 knots.
V + 20	Arrive Colombo.

(5) Intend that INDEFATIGABLE fuel Suez only.

(6) Flying practices to be carried out throughout passage. (F.O.C.A.B.P.F. 161637A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, W.A. Med., E.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

CAMERON. Request towage be arranged for CAMERON from Portsmouth dockyard to Falmouth for breaking up.
(2) F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to arrange for vessel to be handed over to the British Iron and Steel Corporation Lt. on arrival.
(D.O.D.(H) 161942A to A.N.C.X.F.)

U.S.S. ROCKAWAY. (1) Intend to sail U.S. Small Seaplane Tender ROCKAWAY at 0800Z/17th November to Norfolk (Vir.)
(2) Routed by Q.Z.S's to 293° Trevose Head 5 miles thence in accordance with Admiralty's 141029A and amendment 151128A both November.
(3) S.O.A. 15.5 knots.
(4) Constant watch on 2300 k/cs until 007° W. at 2230Z/17th then on broadcast B.N. until 1700Z/21st thence on N.S.S. Fox.
(5) "Chop" date 21st.
(6) Following E.T.As. A. East Sea Frontier 0500Z/23rd.
B. X.S. Buoy 1900/26th.
(7) Codeword "Drastic".
(8) Following Q messages held J.B. 14, J.C. 192, Z.H. 625, Z.L. 66, Z.S. 642, Z.X. (one) 456, Z.Y. 516.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 161721A to Admty. Com. V Norfolk Va.)

U.S.S. WAKEFIELD. Reference U.S. Navpo. 161015Z delayed 2 hours account 12 knots speed escorts. Am proceeding independently. Will endeavour make afternoon tide 17th.
(WAKEFIELD 162057Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval. Cositintrep 225, part 2 naval.
Unloading figures for 14th November.
British.

Place	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Petrol
East Calvados	719	191	586	Nil
Dieppe	552	-	3,978	-
Boulogne	91	117	2,640	-
Ostend figures not yet received.	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,362	308	7,204	-
United States.				
Cherbourg	-	-	12,111	2,329
Beaches	-	-	-	-
Havre	6,983	401	6,499	-
Rouen	-	-	4,192	2,351
Total	6,983	401	22,802	4,680
Combined Total	8,345	709	30,006	4,680

This is part 1 of 160007. Part 2 not received.
(A.N.C.X.F. 160003A to Admty.)

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.E-Boat
mining
attempt on
Ostend.

At 0003/16 THORNBOROUGH on patrol No. 16 moved E. At the same time vectoring the northernmost unit F.G.2 (2 Ds.) in an attempt to intercept what appeared to be a break through by 6 E-Boats. Reported and engaged by RETALICK on No. 19 one boat of Unit F.G. 2 developed a defect and retired. At 0017 Unit F.B. 2 (2 Ds.) patrolling at N.F. 10 Buoy were also vectored east.

(2) The enemy split his force off the Raan Bank at 0037, the one boat of Unit F.G. 2 briefly engaged 2 E-Boats but was then ordered to withdraw so that F.B.2 could be sent in. RETALICK who was in a better position gave F.G.2 a further intercepting course and F.B. 2 was stopped. A continuous plot was not possible during this time as some enemy units went out of range, but it is considered that mines were laid in positions 048° Ostend 18.5 (circle 1 mile radius) and 052 Ostend 15.5 (circle two miles radius.)

(3) THORNBOROUGH subsequently engaged two E-Boats mentioned in para. 2 as they withdrew north at 0116, RETALICK continued the action at 0133, and the pair separated. One was subsequently illuminated and engaged again by THORNBOROUGH at 0151 and 0204, when it is considered that damage was probably inflicted. The enemy made good his escape north of West Kappelle (sic) 90.

(4) Throughout the action THORNBOROUGH was handicapped by having one engine out of action and a max. speed of about 17 knots. Unit F.G. 3 (2 Ds.) was too far west to intercept, eventually being brought up in the final chase but failed to gain contact. (THORNBOROUGH 160830A to C. in C. Nore.)

Report of operations night 15/16th November on No. 19 patrol. RETALICK F.H.1, F.H.2, F.H.3, units of 2 "D" type M.T.B. At 2300 F.H.1 and F.H.3 investigated an unidentified radar contact to N.E. of No. 19 patrol. On return at 2354, contact of 6 E-Boats, N.R.H.2 - detected in position 020° O.S.T. 29 course south speed 45 knots. F.H.2 vectored to intercept but was avoided RETALICK opened fire at range of 4,600 yards to turn enemy into F.H.2 but enemy again detected and dodged, then F.H.3 vectored to intercept and engaged at 0010, hits obtained but enemy evaded owing to high speed. RETALICK re-opened fire at 0014 at range of 6000 yards to attempt to keep enemy east - temporarily successful. E-Boats proceeded as if laying mines in vicinity of position 048° O.S.T. 18.5 and was nearly stopped.

When interrupted by F.G.2/1, who had been sent in support by F.G. 1 and brought into contact of F.H.1, obtaining hits on the enemy who withdrew northward at high speed and were engaged by F.H.3 at 0044.

Plot evidently split into 2 gps. of 2 and 4 respectively. Main body proceeded to the northward and the remainder to the N.W., and were engaged by THORNBOROUGH. After enemy disengaged from F.H.3, F.H.2 was vectored to intercept but the enemy detected them at 3000 yards and altered course to the N.W. at 40 knots. To draw them back RETALICK altered towards, and sandwiched them, though fire was not opened due to proximity of own boats. Enemy detected RETALICK and manoeuvre was successful. F.H.2 having a brisk engagement at 0106, hits being obtained on enemy. F.H.2/2 sustained damage which later disabled her. Enemy disengaged steering 030° at 40 knots over Steen Banks, being engaged by RETALICK at 6000 yards as they went.

/Meanwhile...

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.

E-Boat mining
attempt on
Ostend.
(Contd.)

Meanwhile the other two E-Boats had been engaged by THORNBOROUGH but had evaded her and were steering north. RETALICK was in a good position to intercept and did so working round to the northward with F.H.2 and F.H.3 to the N.E. with the object of closing a net round these two and driving them back to the south. E-Boats stopped at 0137

and RETALICK was successful in getting in to 1600 yards later closing to 500 yards before opening fire on northern boat who was repeatedly hit by pom-pom and Oerlikon and possibly by 3 inch also. Return fire most inaccurate, damage was confirmed by Headache report "I am crippled" but she escaped at 30 knots to southward closing THORNBOROUGH by whom she was passed and engaged. RETALICK turning in pursuit of 2nd E-Boat one mile to the W. steering to the N. at 35 knots.

This boat was engaged with 3 inch till 0200 when range had opened out to 8000 yards. However radar reported shots still in the air as straddles and hits which was confirmed by the enemy reducing to 20 knots. At 0208 he fired a torpedo detected by asdic and seen passing about 100 yards down starboard side, enemy altering course to 030° at 0212.

The direction of the track was from 320° while the bearing of enemy was 000, this suggesting the torpedo was circling. This manoeuvre succeeded in enabling enemy to maintain his distance for the moment, but as a result of enemy's reduced speed RETALICK was able to engage again at 0216 at 7000 yards radar reporting straddles and hits. However enemy recovered and escaped, chase being abandoned at 0237.

Meanwhile F.H.2 and F.H.3 to the N.E. and E. respectively were vectored to the north but at 0212 F.H.2/2 required assistance and F.H.2/1 had to stand by her. At 0240 no chance of F.H.3 intercepting remained, therefore she was returned to patrol while F.H.2/1 was ordered to tow F.H.2/2 to Ostend.

E-Boats were handled skilfully and with determination and appeared exceptionally fast, large and well armoured. They appeared to be equipped with radar quite as good as 291, in fact it appeared to be referred to in Headache conversation. No mining signals were overheard, and it is to be considered that quite possibly the lay was ruined by the interception of F.G.2/1 and F.H.3 at 0039 and 0045 respectively. Swept channel did not appear to be reached, at any rate by the main body.

(RETALICK 161102A to C. in C. Nore.)

E-Boat operations last night 16/17th.

(1) Six E-Boats detected by RETALICK on patrol 19 at 2345 315 West Kappelle 14 steering 180° speed 45 knots. This speed enabled enemy to avoid close action with RETALICK and both her C/F units. THORNBOROUGH on patrol 16 moved east with C/F units who engaged E-Boats near N.F. 13 Buoy where mines may have been laid.

(2) E-Boats then split into small groups. One went north and was again engaged by M.T.Bs., another went N.W. and then north and was heavily engaged by RETALICK who scored many hits at short range. Third pair engaged by THORNBOROUGH before escaping north.

(3) About 7 short actions fought by frigates and M.T.Bs. one E-Boat known to have been severely damaged. Others also hit.

M.T.B. 742 damaged and returned to Ostend in tow.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

E-Boat mining attempt on Ostend. (Contd.) (4) RETALICK reports at least one E-Boat engaged was very large and appeared to be heavily armoured. It fired a torpedo at RETALICK. (C. in C. Nore 161713A to Admty.)

Patrols. Patrols for tonight Thursday.
4 PYTCHLEY. 5 HAMBLEDON. 6 EKINS. 7 PETROLIA.
8 A.CURZON. 10 MALLARD. 17A WIDGEON. 20
HOLDERNESS.

(2) N.F. 2 T.O.N.F.
4 DUFF with coastal force from BEEHIVE.
15 D.S. SLAZAK.
16 RIOU with coastal force from Ostend.
19 TORRINGTON with coastal force from Ostend. Coastal force from Ostend R/V RIOU and TORRINGTON at N.F. 8 buoy at 1730A.
(3) Additional escort F.N.43, BLEASDALE F.S. 37 SEYMOUR.
(C. in C. Nore 161035A to Cpts. D. 16, 21.)

N.O.M. II. The following additional patrols are established.
No. 11 59A buoy to 62B buoy.
No. 18 amend to read, in Q.Z.S. 596, 3 miles either side of 53F buoy.

(2) Ships carrying out Nos. 1, 2 and 11 are to proceed to anchor, in Humber or Yarmouth Roads, by day between patrols at discretion of their Cpts. D.

(C. in C. Nore 162303A to D. 16, D.21, S.O. Corvettes, F.Os. i/c Harwich, Humber, Yarmouth, Commodore Sheerness, MIDGE, MANTIS, BEEHIVE, C.C.F. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth, Admty. A.C. Dover, N.Os. i/c Ramsgate, Ostend.)

Schelde Estuary defences. A.M. 151559. Request you will call forward H.D.M.Ls. when required. (A.N.C.X.F. 161040A to Com. Belgium.)

Probable mining off H.2. Mined returning to Hull approx. time of arrival 1330Z/16.
(SS. THEODORE PARKER No T.O.O/16th to Admty.)
My 161358 THEODORE PARKER reports being struck by possible torpedo at H.2. Am searching.
(WOLFHOUND 161401 to C. in C. Nore.)

SS. SAPAROEIA torpedoed close southeast H.2.
(VIVEN 161508A to C. in C. Nore.)

Have tracks of torpedoes been sighted bearing in mind possibility of mines.
(C. in C. Nore 161544A to WOLFHOUND, VIVEN, GUILDFORD CASTLE.)
No torpedo tracks seen. Consider mines likely.
(VIVEN 161602A to C. in C. Nore.)

South Beveland Canal. C. in C. Nore 141603 to Com. Belgium. Canal referred to is in Holland and I consider the Naval responsibility is yours and not Com. Belgium's

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

South
Beveland
Canal.
(Contd.)

whose available resources are in any case already fully stretched.
(2) You should take the necessary action making full use of Naval Party 1732 working with Dutch F.O. Zeeland who is now established near Terneuzen and should keep me informed. P.S.V.O. is being instructed to survey the Canal to ascertain salvage work entailed.

(3) I should like to know the Naval implications of the proposed plan as early as possible.

(4) Captain Maud has been released from his temporary duties with Force T.

(A.N.C.X.F. 161425A to F.O.I.C. Holland.)

Tay Sanctuary. Request action may be taken on C. in C. Rosyth's 031903 Nov.

(C. in C. Rosyth 161601 to Admty.)

L.C.P. for
military
bridging.

21 A.G. have made urgent request for 4 L.C.P. for rescue work in bridging operations where stream is too strong for Dwks. If War Office can produce no suitable rescue craft request 4 L.C.P. (M), L.C.P.(S) or other similar craft may be handed over to Army for shipment as arranged by Exfor Rear.
(A.N.C.X.F. 161850A to Admty.)

Operations.

Channel.

Dungeness
Boulogne
oil-pipe-
line.

Intend to carry out operation "Hamel Dumbo 1" weather permitting today Thursday and Friday. Zero time for leaving Dungeness East Roads 0430/17. E.T.A. Boulogne 1030/17. Request craft in vicinity may be warned.
(S.N.O. Pluto 161000A to A.C. Dover.)

Suspected
U-Boat.

Have contacted possible submarine in position 143° P.L.B. 25.5 am investigating.

(M.T.B. 750 161055 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My 161117A. Have carried out two attacks, one large air bubble in position 145 Portland Bill 26 miles.

(M.T.B. 750 161144 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

M.T.B. in contact with possible submarine in position 145° Portland Bill 26 miles.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 161214A to Ships on operational wave.)

E.G.6 as to carry out zig-zag searches as follows.

NEW WATERFORD, GROU and ANNAN between 180° Start 12 and 180° Portland Bill 19.

OUTREMONT and LOCH MORLICH between 49.57 N. 03.54 W. and 49.44 N. 05.10 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth 161232A to E.G.6.)

/Following...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Suspected
U-Boat.
(Contd.)

Following received from M.L. 1405 contact attacked in position 244 P.L.B. 26. Result oil on surface, contact lost.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 161345 to Admty.)

Contact lost by M.T.B. and not yet regained.

Datum position reported by M.T.B. 750 050° 09' 12"

N. 002° 03' 12" W. obtained by Q.H. Am continuing search.

(HARGOOD 161358A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Night A/S patrols 16th, 17th November.

Unless in contact search areas limits given, all between 50° 05' 50° 15' N.

(2) HARGOOD, VANOC, VESPER, ANTHONY, 02° 03' W. H Channel Start East Limit.

(3) M.T.Bs. 02° 03' 02° 19' W.

(4) HARGOOD. Group first execute "Scabbard".

(C. in C. Portsmouth 161720A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Day A/S patrols 17th November. Unless in contact search area from Datum 3 miles each side line 080 for 30 miles.

(2) Start East limit. (3) VIDETTE relieve HARGOOD.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 161812A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable
U-Boat.

Group still in contact but asdic conditions and weather deteriorating, can probably remain in immediate vicinity with help of Dan Buoys even if asdic contact cannot be held. 4th E.G. carrying out 12 mile observant around datum. Consider Zero

hour for stay in vicinity is 2300 on the 14th when radar contact faded. A. Below average. B. No. Unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G.30 160900A to C. in C. W.A.)

Regret impracticable to remain in A/S contact in present weather conditions. Am patrolling to northward of datum E.G.4 patrolling to southward.

A. Very poor. B. Unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G.30 161506A to C. in C. W.A.)

Retention
of BUTTERCUP.

A.M. 151948 which has been passed to F.O.I.C. and D Liverpool. I am concerned at the paying off of BUTTERCUP. At the present time it is considered that I can ill afford to reduce the number of escort vessels in Western Approaches and it is therefore

requested that very favourable consideration may be given to retaining this ship in service with R.N.P.S. crew as already done in ABELIA and CAMELLIA.

(2) A very early decision is requested as ship is about to be sailed to comply with the above A.M.

(C. in C. W.A. 161313A to Admty.)

/Anticipated...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Anticipated U-Boat warfare in coastal waters at Home and Abroad. Pass to N.C.S.Os. It is now evident that the enemy is attempting with the aid of Schnorkel to carry the U-Boat warfare into coastal waters both at Home and Abroad.
(2) Masters are to be warned of this at all convoy conferences and are to be instructed, A, to ensure that no relaxation of vigilance and safety measures occur until the ship is in harbour.
B. That every endeavour is to be made to remain in close formation in coastal waters, thus affording escorts better opportunity for protection of convoy.
C. That in outward bound convoys making a R/V ships should endeavour to reach their allocated position in the convoy as expeditiously as possible.
(3) Attention is also to be drawn to Ukars part 1, para. 12 and emphasis laid on instructions contained in sub. para. B. (C. in C. W.A. 162215 to F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c in W.A.)

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

E.G.3. Arrived 3rd E.G. H.M. frigates DUCKWORTH (S.O.), BERRY, COOKE, DOMMETT, ESSINGTON and ROWLEY. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 160701A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.Gs. 2, 26, 19. On completion of training 2nd E.G. is to be sailed to relieve 26th E.G. on operation "C.E.2". S.O.E.G.26 to arrange R/V. On relief 26th E.G. to Londonderry for lay over.
(2) On completion of training and calibration 19th E.G. is to assemble at Moville. Authorities concerned are requested to sail ships accordingly. When ready Com. D. W.A. is requested to sail Group for operation "C.E.2" as part of Force 33. Area will be signalled.
(C. in C. W.A. 161306A to F.Os. i/c Greenock, Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, T.C. ROCKABILL, Com. (D) W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "V.P. 79". Intend carrying out "V.P. 79" with 2 whalers towing 3 M.T.Bs.
(1) 0900A/17th November. (2) Not later than 2100/18th November. (3) M.T.B. leaving coast not later 0600A/21st November. (4) A. Whaler from P.2 063° 10' N. 005° 20' E. through P.1, 063° 00' N. 003° 00' E. thence 213° towards Noss Head at approx. speed 13 knots, estimate whalers leaving P.2 at 1600A/18th November.
B. M.T.B. returning from P.3 063° 10' N. 007° 17' E. through P.2 thence 224° towards Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.

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Operations.

Norway.

Operation "V.P. 79". (Contd.) (5) A. Whalers not later than p.m. 19th November. B. M.T.B. not later than p.m. 23rd November. (6) No. (7) No. (8? A. Whalers 033° Noss Head. B. M.T.B. (corrupt group?) Noss Head. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161211A to A.C.O.S.) My 161211. (1) Whalers and M.T.Bs. 033° from Noss Head to P.1 063° 00' N. 003° 00' E. thence 081° to P.2 063° 10' N. 005° 20' E. thence M.T.Bs. alone 081° to P.3 063° 10' N. 007° 17' E. Not more than 10 knots to P.2 and not more than 20 knots from P.2 to P.3. (2) 063° 10' N. 007° 17' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161212A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "V.P. 77". Intend carrying out "V.P. 77". (1) 0615A/17th November. (2) 2000A/17th November. (3) Not later than 0800A/21st November. (4) 278° towards Noss Head Bressay not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 21st November. (6) No. (7) 7. (8) 098° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161217A to A.C.O.S.) My 161217. 098° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots. (2) 059° 14' N. 005° 00' E. (3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161219A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "V.P. 75". Intend carrying out "V.P. 75". (1) 0600A/17th November. (2) 2000A/17th November. (3) Not later than 0800A/21st November. (4) 249° towards Noss Head not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 21st November. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 069° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161221A to A.C.O.S.) (1) 069° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots. (2) 061° 10' N. 004° 30' E. (my 161221.) (3) -. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 161223A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "Handfast." C. in C. H.F. 151324. It is still desired to sail P.S. SOKOL and F.S. RUBIS as in my 132014. H.Q.C.C. are in agreement, request early approval. (F.O. S/M 161257A to Admty.) "V.P. 75", "V.P. 77", V.P. 79" postponed. (2) E.T.D. now a.m. 18th November. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 162112A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. Submarines are to leave patrol as follows: (1) VENTURER to pass V.B. 069° 45' 014° 50' at 1600/19th to 069° 01' 010° 01' thence by route "Black" and S.L. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols.
(Contd.)

(2) ULA to pass through 064° 28' 008° 55' at 0001/20th thence direct to 064° 01' 002° 40' and by route "Black" and S.L. 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick.

(3) Submarines are to proceed on surface by day at C.O's discretion between lats. 069° and 065° and south of lat. 062°.

(4) VENTURER is to adjust speed so as to pass lat. 065° at about 0800/22nd and lat. 062° at about 2000/23rd.

(5) All times zone A. All positions north and east.
(Capt. S/M 9 161931A to S/Ms north of 50° N.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Escorts for
J.W. convoys.

Escorts allocated for J.W. convoys are the 7th and 8th Escort Groups. All remaining escort vessels are required either for other convoys, or for support groups.

(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange as far as practicable, for a total of 9 escorts out of these groups to proceed with each J.W. convoy.

(3) Whenever possible one or two Support Groups will be detailed in addition as hunting forces.

(4) C. in C. H.F.'s 111917 refers.

(V.C.N.S. 160110A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Rescue tug
for Iceland.

Your 141540. Not approved to retain FREEBOOTER who is to be sailed to Scapa.

(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail H.M.R.T. MEDIATOR to Iceland (C) for rescue duties temporarily.

(3) MEDIATOR is to be sailed to New York to arrive not later than first week in January.

(4) A rescue tug will shortly be allocated to Iceland (C).
(A.C.N.S.(H) 160310A to A.C.I.C.)

17th E.G.

Report situation.

(C. in C. Rosyth 160959A to LOCH KILLIN.)

Attack on target after daylight produced only air bubbles eels and a very small quantity of odourless oil. Echoes showing movement presumably tide eddies or fish frequently detected in vicinity of target which is considered a large wreck. No other bottom target located in vicinity.
Request instructions.

(LOCH KILLIN 161021A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

If not in contact by 1430A today Thursday proceed at max. asdic operating speed to R/V LOCH KILLIN and CRANSTOUN in datum position 061° 26' N. 000° 30' W. and organize search until further orders. LOCH KILLIN may be detached to Lerwick if you consider necessary so as to arrive in daylight. LOCH KILLIN's 152321 refers.

(C. in C. Rosyth 161239A to S.O.E.G.17.)

/Convoys...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Convoys in
Icelandic
Waters.

- A. Remedial action is being taken.
B. No objection to A.C.I.C. ordering approaching convoys to adjust speed to pass through dangerous area in dark hours, nor to adjustment of sailing of outward convoys similarly. Endeavour will be made to increase escorts of D.S. and U.R. convoys according to availability of ships.
C. Memorandum quoted not yet received but it appears desirable for A.C.I.C. to order alternative approach routes at his discretion in view of his local knowledge. All escorts hold Q.Z.S. 406, 407 and 412. Consider it preferable for stragglers to proceed to Vestmannaeyjar to await escorts.
D. Concur. Arrangements are being made to reinforce with HONEYSUCKLE and OXLIP.
E. Proposals regarding rescue tugs have been forwarded separately. My 130025 November refers.
(C. in C. W.A. 162209 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Exhibition
or extinction
of I.F.F. in
certain areas.

- A.990 16/11. Your A.672 November 14th.
Under A.G.M. 96 A.Z. May 20th Naval Commanders in Chief are empowered to designate areas under their control as aircraft areas. Suggest 19 Group approach Commanders in Chief concerned for this purpose and that question of amendment of Admty. signal 132316A be left in abeyance unless these measures prove inadequate.
(2) Regarding I.F.F. S.D. 158 (4) para. 11 and S.D. 533 paras. 38 and 39 do not preclude your command from instructing air crews to keep I.F.F. switched off. Amendments to these paras. are under consideration and these points will be brought out more clearly in revised text.
(Air Ministry 161747A to Coastal Command.)

Mining.

205th and
132nd M.S.Fs.

- M.M.S. 1003, 1006, 1007, 1010, 293, 277, 288 and 291 are to form the 205th M.S.F.
(2) Flotilla is allocated to Comdre. in charge Belgium.
(3) M.M.S. 1008, 1009, 1037, 1011, 261, 274, 301 and 302 are to form the 132nd M.S.F.
(4) Flotilla is allocated to Harwich M/S Force.
(D.M.S. 160507A to Com. Belgium, F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Situation
report.

- Sitrep 16th Nov.
(1) 31st M.S. Flot. operation link continued. Channel swept Oropesa to width 6 cables.
(2) 40th and 42nd M.S. Flot. continued operation progress. Operation "Hoover" abandoned owing to use of remote control steering in CYRUS. Q.Z.S. 588, 554, and 555. Negative result.
(Capt. M/S N.F. 160941A to C.T.F. 125.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Folkestone Observation Minefield. Intend to sail MINER III at 1400 today Thursday to Folkestone for recovery of Folkestone Observation Minefield E.T.A. 1500.
(A.C. Dover 161235A to R.N.O. Folkestone.)

Channel sweeps. Your 061254A. Weather unsuitable for further sweeping. Second lap completed except for 20 miles Negative result. In view of deteriorating weather am returning to Plymouth.
(S.O. M.S.F. 16 161501A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 151925. Southeasterly gale force 8, force leaving Q.Z.Y. 516. Intend proceeding Falmouth for shelter. S.O.A. under present weather conditions 3 knots.
(S.O. M.S. 14 161735A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Le Havre. The CYRUS sweep continued today in Q.Z.S. 595 at Havre. 2 laps covering approx. 240 yards wide. Channel swept between A 3 Buoy and A 6 Buoy with negative results. Remote control gear again failed at commencement of operation but have found it possible to sweep without it. Estimate 4 laps between A 8 Buoy and A 3 Buoy will be completed by tomorrow 17th November, weather conditions permitting. It is not practicable to sweep between A 8 Buoy and entrance to harbour owing to wrecks and allowances for turns. Intend sailing CYRUS on completion for Portsmouth.
(Capt. MS.NF. 161621A to C.T.F.)

163rd M.S.F. 163rd M.S.F. is reallocated to the Grimsby M/S Force.
(2) Request ships and attached danlayer ST. BARBE be sailed to Grimsby as convenient.
(3) F.O. Humber is requested to arrange for 2 ships of the Flotilla to refit at Grimsby and to report to Admiralty the state of the rest of the Flotilla so that arrangements can be made to place any ships requiring a refit.
(4) Accounts should be transferred to BEAVER.
(5) F.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to transfer base staff to Grimsby in accordance with Admiralty Letter M/M/S. 061/44 of 9th February, 1944.
(D.M.S. 161932A to F.O.I.C. Humber, C.T.F. 125, F.O.I.C. Harwich, A.C. Dover, F.O.I.C. Southampton, N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, WATCHFUL, MINOS.)

Deep mining anti U-Boats in Western Approaches. The points raised in paras. 1 and 2 of your 081004 have also been under consideration by Admiralty.
(2) While it is considered impracticable to deny the focal areas to bottoming U-Boats by the use of mines it is agreed that the laying of deep mines may deter U-Boats from bottoming in these areas. This policy is now being pursued, laying being on the "trap" in preference to the "barrage" principle.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Deep mining
anti U-Boats
in Western
Approaches.
(Contd.)

(3) The laying of ground mines has also been considered, and the conclusion reached that mines of sufficient sensitivity to be fired by slow-moving U-Boats could not be regarded as safe for the passage of large merchant vessels. It is therefore intended to adhere to the use of contact mines moored close to the bottom.

(4) AGAMEMNON and MENESTHEUS must adhere to their present programme.

(V.C.N.S. 162023A to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats.

Sitrep.

One probably still in area 45 miles W. of Bantry Bay from E.G. 30's attacks a.m. 15th November. Up to three on which no recent good evidence is available may be anywhere in central English Channel.

(D.D.I.C. 161350A to A.I.G. 331, Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

Navigational.

Bouyage in
Le Havre
Approach.

Sailed T.H.V. VESTAL escorted by GRECIAN to work in Q.Z.S. 619 and place L 10 buoy. E.T.A. H.V.3 buoy p.m. 16. Vessel will contact signal station Le Havre before proceeding to L.10.

(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 160946A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C.T.F. 125.)

Port Facilities.

Calais.

Your 132319A. Fire cover at captured ports is Army commitment. Fireboat requirements should be reported to 21st Army Group.

(D. of L.D. 160143A to F.O.B.A.A., Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Calais.)

Granville.

Recommended trial entry of one coaster of 42 foot beam into harbour of Granville. Narrowest lock is 45 feet but port authorities believe entry by vessels with this beam now practicable. Request one coaster of this beam be sailed Granville and recommendations for future sailings this type coaster will be based on results of this trial.

(C.T.F. 125 161101 to S.H.A.E.F.)

Dieppe.

Request contents my 021710A/11 be emphasised.

Vessels are still anchoring too far offshore.

(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 161102A to F.O.I.C. Southampton, Com. Southend, N.Os. i/c Poole and Newhaven.)

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Port Facilities - Contd.

Cherbourg. Urdis 121225A. Steam drifter B.T.B. arrived Cherbourg in sinking condition and is now beached. Seams had opened. Impracticable to use craft in this condition. Request replacement. Drifters allocated must be well found vessels suitable for boarding work in exposed anchorages for which duties they were requested. (C.T.F. 125 161721A to A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Arromanches and Havre. My 131842A para. 7. As many as possible of the following buoys should be lifted during current visit of VESTAL and ANDRE BLONDELL to far shore.
56 H 88 58 57 56 54 12, Z 62, L 5 A 14 F 14 A 58A
L 8 L 9 L 10.

Anticipate L 10 will have been lifted by VESTAL p.m. today 16th to complete buoyage of Q.Z.S. 619.

(2) Buoys should be taken to Arromanches and loaded into barges for shipment to U.K. N.O.I.C. Arrow is requested to have barges ready.

(3) C.T.G. 125.15 is requested to sail VESTAL and ANDRE BLONDELL to Arromanches as soon as ready by searched channels in force, vessels to lift 56H, L 9, L 8 and 88 whilst on passage to Arromanches.

(4) N.O.I.C. Arrow is requested subsequently to provide safe routes and to sail them for lifting of remaining buoys and to provide trawler or M.L. escort during the operation.

(5) VESTAL is to be sailed to Cowes a.m. Sunday 19th escorted by HUGH WALPOLE. Weather permitting VESTAL should leave Arromanches empty and lift 14A and 58A buoys on passage.

(6) Laying of buoys close off Havre (A.M. 121357 refers.) should be deferred pending decision on my 151217.

(7) C.T.G. 125.15 and N.O.I.C. Arrow pass to VESTAL and ANDRE BLONDELL.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 161814A to N.O.I.C. Arrow, C.T.F. 125.15.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.T.Bs. 773, 742. M.T.B. 773 and 742 damaged in collision on patrol last night. Intend to sail both boats in company for U.K. on Saturday next after affecting temporary repairs. Request refit yard may be allocated for both boats. M.T.B. 773 also requires 4 new engines. (C.F.M.U. 1 161407A to C. in C. Nore.)

SKEENA. Your 141956 November. SKEENA external and internal survey held today at low water fullspring tide. Hull ruptured and torn open on port side from forefoot to 45 feet aft port. Forefoot and adjoining stem plate torn off and lying ten feet away from hull. Bottom holed intermittently over 240 feet from forefoot. Following compartments fully tidal with no lag: fore peak, forward shell-room, magazine, general stores, numbers one and two boiler rooms, engine room, combined war head and gland compartment. Starboard

/side...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SKEENA.
(Contd.)

side shell plating badly buckled at turn of bilge in way of forward funnel, upper deck split thwartships over length of two feet at nine feet and 16 feet abaft forward funnel. Forward boiler lifted about four inches and after boiler three inches. Four inch solid stanchion between decks bent 10 inches, bottom plating in way of port gearing badly holed. Port and starboard brackets and propellers carried away. Forward fuel tank bulkhead buckled and machinery spaces flooded with fuel oil. Remainder of ships company are returning in S.D. 59 and proceeding to NIOBE.
(A.C.I.C. 161634A to N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping & Convoys.

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM,
WAKEFIELD.

Destroyers cannot proceed at more than 10 knots in present weather without damage. Intend passing through new R/V 050° 57' N. 013° 30' W. at 1400A then steering 106° for position EE. until overtaken. If convoy can still do 20 knots, intend proceeding unescorted. Submarines could not operate in present weather. Weather report 1858 9339.
(FAULKNER 161125A to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)
A.T. 165A and 166 P.C.S. at 1800A 050° 45' N. 012° 45' W. 104° 20 knots. Kept them with me for 2 hours in hope of better weather but cannot make more than 12 knots in heavy S.E. swell.
(2) IMPULSIVE A/S broken down. Consider convoy safe under own H.S. Destroyers proceeding 077° 12 knots to rejoin if weather alters. 8 figure weather report 4858 8832.
(FAULKNER 161801A to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

ILE DE
FRANCE.

If weather prevents you maintaining station on ILE DE FRANCE continue along her track without incurring weather damage until 0100/17th thence proceeding to base.
(2) If you can maintain station remain in company until 011° W.
(C. in C. W.A. 161733A to BLYSKAWICA, ICARUS.)

Release of
L.S.T.

The following releases of L.S.T. have been notified to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
A. Release as at 15th November will now be 17 rail fitted L.S.T. comprising 7 British and 10 United States and eight non fitted United States L.S.T. under repair.
B. 20 more rail fitted L.S.T. all United States will be released on conclusion of rail waggon ferrying programme estimated as 1st December. This removes all rail fitted L.S.T. and will leave S.H.A.E.F. 119 non fitted L.S.T. comprising 82 United States and 37 British. All these are needed in addition to our M.T. ships for vehicle movement during December and January which is already much in arrears.
(S.H.A.E.F. 161900A to A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

FRAMENT, Position 36 degs. 13' N. 18 degs. 36' W. at
 (collision 0045Z/16. Can R/V by daylight U.S.S. SCOTT either
 with SETTEM- 2 positions mentioned. Request further R/V
 BRINI, 15/11) instructions. Ref. F.O.G.M.A.152330A, all survivors
 believe S/M sank immediately.
 (U.S.S. FRAMENT, 160055 to F.O.G.M.A. etc.)

No indications from search. Areas plane searched
 to 50 miles, collision point and reported sighting location
 sound searched to 5 and 8 miles. C.O. of S/M and of escort
 believe SETTEMBRINI sank. Request orders for SCOTT and FRAMENT
 and TENACITY. C.O. FRAMENT does not consider that vessel sea-
 worthy above 12 knots nor in force 4 winds. Comcortdiv 17 concurs.
 SCOTT and FRAMENT have by hand.
 (Comcortdiv 17, 161641 to Com. 8th Fleet, C. in C. Lant,
 F.O.G.M.A.)

Comcortdiv 17, 161641. Remain to carry out search sweep of
 general area for further possible survivors until 0900A tomorrow
 Friday. Further orders follow.

(F.O.G.M.A.161907 to Comcortdiv. 17 in U.S.S. Scott,
 U.S.S. FRAMENT)

Upon completion of search for LUIGI SETTEMBRINI request you
 order FRAMENT escorted by Comcortdiv 17 in SCOTT to Azores for
 fuel then to New York.

(Cinclant, 162109 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Cancel my 161907. Proceed immediately to Azores.

(2) U.S.S. SCOTT is to escort FRAMENT until R/V is made with
 TENACITY (corrupt group). Comcortdiv (Corrupt Group) is to report
 P.C.S. which will be passed to TENACITY.

(F.O.G.M.A.162247A to Comcortdiv in SCOTT, FRAMENT)

2300Z position SCOTT and FRAMENT lat.36.20 N. long. 18.45 W.
 enroute Azores course 295 degs. speed 12. C. and S. and E.T.A.
 indefinite depending on weather. Present wind force four south
 easterly, likewise from sea, condition four. Request arrange-
 ments be made to remove survivors from FRAMENT.

(Comcortdiv 17, 162357 to F.O.G.M.A.)

STONECROP, STONECROP is to sail at 0800A Nov. 17th to R/V
 UNTIRING. UNTIRING and escort to Gibraltar.

(2) UNTIRING is routed through (H) 180 degs. Cape
 de Gata 6 miles (I) 180 degs. Cape Calaburras 8
 miles thence (J) 180 degs. Europa Point 2 miles.

(3) STONECROP is to proceed on reverse of route in para.(2) at
 S. of A. 12 knots.

(4) Estimated R/V will be made in position (R) 036 degs. 32' N.
 003 degs. 00' W. at approx. 1800A/17th Nov.

(F.O.G.M.A.161039A to STONECROP, UNTIRING)

Patrol
 "Bacon.

Following repeats My 161141A. (Begins) Group 2
 Group 1 repeated C.M.S.F., C.F.A.W.15, Admty,
 S.A/S.P. C. in C. Med., from F.O.G.M.A. Group 1
 is to arrange R/V with Group 2 forthwith.

/ (2) ...

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Patrol "Bacon".
(Contd.)

(2) After R.V. Groups 1 and 2 are to operate as a composite group and are to carry out patrol "Bacon".
(3) AIRE is to return to harbour after R/V and ANCHUSA is to take over S.O. A/S patrols until required to comply with my 161123 (?Both) to S.A/S.P. and C.F.A.W.15 (Ends.)
(F.O.G.M.A.161153A to C.M.S.F., C.F.A.W.15 etc.)
Following repeats my 161201A (Begins).
KILMINGTON Repeated Group 1 and 2., Admty, C.M.S.F., C.F.A.W., C. in C. Med., S.A/S.P., KILBURNIE from F.O.G.M.A.). Take KILBURNIE under your orders and slip and proceed at 0900A Nov.17th. to R/V with and join Group 1 carrying out patrol "Bacon" as in my O(?4)1130 being passed to you.
(2) Group 1 consisting of ANCHUSA S.O. and NADA and Group 2 consisting of LORD NUFFIELD (S) and LORD HOTHAM and acting as Comphibtenforce.
(3) On your joining Group 1, Group 2 is to return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A.161219A to C.M.S.F., C.F.A.W.15)

M.M.S.1069,
1053.

Sailed from HORTA at 1221Z/16 M.M.S.1069 and 1053 to Falmouth (route).
E.T.A.1500Z/22 Admty.101731 refers.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 161420Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

FRANCONIA,
LOWESTOFT,
PAPUA.

On passing Carnero Point request you will instruct FRANCONIA to proceed independently to Port Said by basic eastbound route as held.
LOWESTOFT and PAPUA are to enter Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A.161617A to LOWESTOFT)

South Atlantic

ANGOLA,
S/M report.

Ministry of Marine communicates that Portuguese SS. ANGOLA was stopped by two S/Ms, identity unknown, on night of 7th/8th Nov. off River Quanza, approx. position 009 degs. 30' S. 013 degs. 00' E.
(N.A. Lisbon, 161820 to F.O.C.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Lisso Island Landing. Isum No.1. Aegean. Lisso. Force 142 reports 12 Nov. fighting patrol 300 Germans landed but believed left 13 November.
(C. in C. Middle East, 160830B to A.F.H.Q.)
Isum No.2. Aegean. Lisso. Force 142 reports 14 November Germans still thought to be on island.
(C. in C. Middle East, 161910B to A.F.H.Q.)

Italian S/Ms. C. in C. E.F., 141301 refers. Request (A) F.O.L.E.M. hold JALEA in addition to BANDIERA.
(B) F.O.T.A.L.I. hold MENOTTI until Admty. decision on allocation of Italian S/Ms is reached.
My 151927 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 160950 to F.O.L.E.M., F.O.T.A.L.I.)

French Movements. Para. 2. (D) of my 151253 (not to all) and your 151709 (T.S. Hush). As one Y.M.S. at Oran is refitting propose that one French Y.M.S. each from Oran and Casablanca should be sailed to join Group at Gibraltar on Nov. 23rd.
2. Six French Y.M.S. only would be drawn from F.O.N.A.Ms. Area as suggested in F.O.N.A.M's 151029 (not to all).
3. Trawler FRUCTIDOR is being brought forward as a boom vessel and is quite unsuitable as a Trawler Depot Ship. ^{Amiral} ~~AE~~ MOUCHEZ appears to be a suitable alternative.
(F.O.W.M., 161252A to C. in C. Med).

GARLAND ACTIVE. Polish Naval Authorities have been informed of date of return of GARLAND to U.K.
2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail ACTIVE on completion of repairs about 1st December as relief for GARLAND. A.M. 231251 Oct. Para. (4) not to all refers.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 161430A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Sibenik Sweep. Your 160945 para. (2) (N.T. in W.D.) Partisan authority emphatic in their statement that no authority for Sibenik sweep has been received from their G.H.Q. and strongly represented that our compliance (5 groups omitted) to a serious breach of good relations.
Para. (3). Reason advanced was military insecurity of the Area and not at present desirable that inshore minefield be cleared. No orders from Tito for or against. Para. (1). Informed Colonel Malona that I intend to comply first opportunity but would represent to you his appeal not to enter Sibenik channel before local approval obtained. Intend proceeding a.m./17th.
(Capt. M/S Adriatic, 161613A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Movement Summaries. Messages 186B* and 235B. In view of changed conditions, movement summaries are no longer required within the independent sailing areas defined in 186B para. 4 and are to be discontinued.
(2) They are still to be made for all other areas.
(3) For the present Admiralty and C. in C. Med. still require the information formerly contained in the Secret section of the

/summaries...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movement
Summaries.
(contd).

summaries. My 030950 January to originating authorities only refers.
(4) 165B is cancelled.
(C. in C. Med., 161701A to Med. Station 254B - B.I.)
* 261750/10 - Procedure for independent sailing inside the Mediterranean.
/ 081544/11 - Warships to burn full navigation lights.

Daily
Movement
Signals.

In view of changed situation in Mediterranean are reports referred to in para. 3 of 254B still required A.M. 301224 Dec. also refers.
(C. in C. Med., 161705A to Admty).

TUEBINGEN

Missing German Hospital Ship TUEBINGEN last position 16/11? at 0700 G.M.T. 42.22 N., 16.55 East, course 286°, 10 knots.
(Venezia Radio, No T.O.O./16th).
Arrived TUEBINGEN (German Hospital Ship).
(N.O.I.C. Bari, 162357A to Admty).

Groups for
Danube.

z. z. craft.

Owing to difficulty in obtaining certain materials first group will not be completed by 1st December. A.M. 072249 Nov. and my 280144 Oct. Para. 1.
2. Completion dates of first group now as follows, two sweepers, stores, craft, accommodation craft 1st Dec. one sweeper 3rd Dec., one sweeper 8th December. One sweeper 13th Dec., one danlayer 17th Dec. These completion dates dependent on satisfactory D/G ranging and availability of material.
3. Consider for sweeping purposes complete group is necessary. L.C.T. and L.C.I.(L) will not be available until the spring. C. in C. Med., 141208 not to all.
4. After completion of First Group expect remainder of craft will be completed at rate of two per week.
(F.O.L.E.M., 161922B to C. in C. Med).

BATTLE

Cancel my 112225, in view of Admty. 131800.
(F.O.L.E.M., 162007B to Admty).
BATTLE is to be held at Suez pending arrival THANE.
2. On arrival Port Said THANE is to transit canal and transfer aircraft and stores to BATTLE. BATTLE transfer personnel for U.K. to THANE.
3. On completion of transfer BATTLE is to be sailed to Aden for onward routeing to Ceylon and THANE to area limits for onward routeing by F.O.G.M.A. to Gibraltar for U.K.
4. Admty. 131800, refers. Request you arrange accordingly.
(F.O.L.E.M., 162020B to S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)

Situation
Report No.
486.

(1) KING GEORGE V arrived Melos, whence our landing parties were withdrawn on 6th November, and engaged Lakida battery from 30,000 yards after enemy had replied at 26,000 yards range. Bombardment failed to put battery out of action. A small R.M. commando landing party made an unsuccessful attempt to occupy the enemy Radar Station.

/ (2) ...

War Diary.

16.11.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report No.
486.
(contd).

(2) Near Franco - Italian border Allied destroyers have encountered increasingly accurate enemy fire in their periodical bombardments which continue.
(C. in C. Med., 162020A).

Cositintrep
No.494,
Part 3 Air.

Coastal Air Force. (Day 15) 4 Wellingtons and 6 Beaufighters on shipping R/C North Adriatic bombed 1 merchant vessel and 3 E/Vs with unobserved results, and sank 1 M/V 500/600 tons and 2 Schooners.
(H.Q., M.A.A.F., No T.O.O./16).

A.F.D.53

A.F.D.53 is ready in all respects for onward towing, towing equipment is complete and in serviceable condition. Your 141644 refers.
(C.S. Taranto, 162134A to Admty).

Exercises,
F.O.L.E.M.

Intend to proceed to sea in AURORA p.m. Tuesday 21st for night exercises with KING GEORGE V, ARGONAUT and BLACK PRINCE, KING GEORGE V then returning Alexandria, ARGONAUT and BLACK PRINCE proceeding to Port Said for transit of canal. I shall proceed to Haifa in AURORA to visit that Port and to Jerusalem to visit High Commissioner if convenient to him, returning Alexandria a.m. Saturday 25th.
(F.O.L.E.M., 162222B, 171750B to C. in C. Med).

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

INDOMITABLE and escorts. Departures INDOMITABLE, NAPIER, BENBOW, PALADIN in accordance with C. in C. E.F. 110822, E.T.A. Colombo 0200Z/18th Nov. S. of A. 20 knots. Radio distinguishing (? group) VA. (F.O. Bombay, 160142Z to Admty. etc.)

U-Boat dispositions. Area VP and CB 2. Scale X.4. Other areas no fresh information scales remain W.5. (C. in C. E.F. 160355Z)

Flag Commands. At 0800 F.G. 22nd Nov. the flag of Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser as C. in C. E.F. is to be struck in CARADOC and hoisted in TARANTULA as C. in C. British Pacific Fleet.
(2) At 0800 F.G. 22nd Nov. the Flag of Vice Admiral Sir Arthur J. Power as Vice Admiral 2nd in command E.F. is to be struck in RENOWN and hoisted in CARDOC as C. in C. East Indies Station.
(C. in C. E.F. 160604Z to E.I. Station, 138C)

British Pacific Fleet. Subject to other arrangements not having been made by Admiralty, it is intended to transfer the following ships to the British Pacific Fleet:
(A) (?GUARDIAN), (B) SALVESTOR, (C) STAGPOOL, (D) SPRINGDALE.
(C. in C. E.F. 160912 to Admty.)

Request expected date of sailing of SALVESTOR, A.M. 181526 Oct. refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 160914 to C. in C. Med.)

Lifting 804 Squadron to Ceylon. It is now intended that AMEER should arrive Capetown first week December for purpose in my 090937.
(C. in C. E.F. 160959Z to Admty.)

TERRAPIN, TRADEWIND, R. of P. TERRAPIN 3rd Far East patrol.
(2) 27th/28th Oct. carrying out air rescue duty.
(3) 29th. Investigated minefield report by TALLY HO my 131224 Oct. para. 4 refers, but obtained no mine contact.
(4) 30th. Position 004 degs. 10' N. 099 degs. E. sank 2 small junk at 2057 and removed 7 Chinese and 3 Malay.
(5) 31st. 1335 position 003 degs. 18' N. 099 degs. 41' (?East) sank by gunfire 70 ton schooner.
(6) 2nd Nov. 0835 position 003 degs. 18' N. 099 degs. 45' E. sank 600 ton modern diesel coaster by gunfire.
(7) 4th. 1623 position 003 degs. 14' N. 099 degs. 50' E. commenced attack on convoy one 3 thousand ton merchant ship, one medium tanker and one 600 tons coaster escorted by 1 gunboat which appear similar to HASHIDATI class, one M/L and 1 A/C. 1659 fired 4 torpedoes at merchant ship range 17 hundred yards. Escorting gunboat zig-zagged and received limit of possibly 3 torpedoes and sank in 30 seconds. No counter attack except 2 distant bombs from A/C.
(8) TRADEWIND 4th Far East Patrol. / (9) ...

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TERRAPIN, (9) 27th/28th Oct. Employed on air/sea rescue
TRADEWIND, duty. (1) 1st Nov. Removed 1 Burmese from
R. of P. small junk which was allowed to proceed in
(Contd.) position 011 degs. 05' N. 098 degs. 35' E.
(11) 8th. 1716 sank 1 20 ton junk loaded with
wolfram, 1 40 ton and 1 25 ton junk and damaged 2
others.
(12) 10th. 0830 position 013 degs. 11' N. 098 degs. 19' E.
sank 2 schooner of 30 and 40 ton and took 4 prisoners.
(13) 12th. Position 010 degs. 07' N. 092 degs. 45' E. night
action with M.L.400 ton coaster and unknown ship M.L. was hit
and coaster severely damaged. Action broke off due to lack of
ammunition.
(14) 12 mines laid.
(C. in C. E.F.161002Z to Admty)

Aircraft A.M.110135/ gives anticipated IE of 10 Corsair II
Spares. for Ceylon. If it is intended that FORMIDABLE
should remain in Indian Ocean with 36 Corsair II,
consider spares for total IE of 50 for 3 months
should be held.
(2) Can confirmation be given that Firefly spares will be available
in Australia in addition to those carried in FORT COLVIL?
(C.in C. E.F. 161305 to Admty.)
/ Transfer of A/C spares to Australia - circulated to D. of S.
only.

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U-boat dispositions Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 161344Z Washington, 161547Z.)

EXE E.T.A. Bay (corrupt group) LLS 1200Z/17th. Request
tug to assist berthing. Request
(EXE, 161403Z to F.O.N.F.)

O.21 Your 081551. Dutch Submarine O21 should be
sailed to Fremantle via Panama when ready in New
London about 14th December.
(D.O.D.(F) 161827Z to B.A.D.)

T.6.69.7 Task Group 69.7 hereby constituted Captain Whiting
U. G. F. in COWIE, Comcortdiv 78 in GENTRY, TRAW, MAURICE J.
17B MANUAL, NAMFEH, escort U.G.F.17 B when directed by
C. in C. Med. Bermuda Station tanker KENNEBEC AO
Eastern Terminus Elokomin. My letter 03129 of 4th
Nov. not to all refers.
(Cinclant, 161911Z to Comdesdiv 30)

SASKATCHEWAN Anticipate SASKATCHEWAN will be ready to sail for
U.K. 28th November. Request she may be worked up
at Tobermory. Subsequent employment with suitable
Escort Group until E.G. 11 is reformed.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 161915Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Greek Relief Ships. Since Swedish registered Greek Relief ships now
proceed to Allied held territory, does route in
Mari Section 1, para. 13 apply, and should these
ships continue to sail undarkened?
(?N.S.H.Q., 162100Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest For November 16th.
No.1030 Navy Mariner over Southern (Cvcaeus) early hours
Pegun saw large vessel 30 miles South of West Kabaeab
Island course Southwest speed varying from 12 to 30
occupied. knots. Unsuccessful masthead attack made meeting
intense A/A all types and ship shadowed for 2
hours. Crew positively identify vessel as
aircraft carrier.

/(2)...

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Thursday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (2) Noon R/C aircraft observed one heavy cruiser
No. 1030. one destroyed West of Balabac Strait course
Pegun southwest speed 15. Same time 3 Army planes over
Island Brunei Bay saw anchored there 12 ships of
Occupied. undetermined classification although one variously
(Contd.) identified battleship or carrier.
(3) Early daylight R/C plane saw 5 sea trucks
3 small coasters off Northwestern Samar Island
course Northwest. Probably same 8 ships seen
midday in Northern Sibuyan Sea approaching Monpog Passage.
These may be same 8 vessels sighted by ground forces on West
Coast Leyte previous afternoon near entrance Ormoc Bay, vessels
then described as 2 Transports, 6 destroyers.
(4) Forenoon search Navy Liberator saw medium freighter burning
stem to stern Mindoro Strait. Also encountered one floatplane
this vicinity and shot same down.
(12) Two Liberators searching Cafotes Sea midday 14th attacked
seven sea trucks off Northeast coast Panay causing one to
capsize.
(14) 31 Liberators from Darwin dropped demolition bombs and
incendiaries on Makassar wharf area and dockyards (?dawn) 14th
demolishing building causing fires. Moderate A/A. Nil
interception.
(20) 54 Mitchells hit Pegun Island in Mapia Atoll during 14th
November. Next morning shortly after dawn Allied Forces landed
there without opposition. Occupation completed by evening
practically without enemy interference. Some 200 Japs on
Island whereof few committed suicide. Remainder fled to
adjacent Brusu Island.
(21) 14 Beauforts, 4 Bostons, 3 Mitchells, 7 Boomerangs
attacked buildings and barges up Sepik river morning 14th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 161125.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/16th November.
and Para. A.
sighting (1) E.G. 17 attacked asdic contact at 1711Z/15th
summary. November in 61° 26' N. 00° 30' W.
(2) E.G.30 attacked good bottom contact from
0630Z until 1415Z 15th November in 51° 27' N.
11° 01' W.
Para. B.
(1) Iceland A/C obtained radar contact before 0035Z/15th
November in 64° 00' N. 24° 38' W.
(2) A/C attacked doubtful wake at 1400Z 15th November in
55° 31' N. 09° 30' W.
(3) A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 1745Z 15th Nov.
in 56° 05' N. 09° 27' W.
(4) 4 ships of E.G. 10 investigated doubtful bottom contact at
1700Z/15th November in 49° 45' N. 05° 59' W.

/ (5) ...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(5) A/C K/103 obtained disappearing radar contact at 1228Z/15th November in 50° 04' N. 03° 33' W.

(6) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0115Z/16th November in 49° 13' N. 03° 34' W.

(7) Transit A/C reported surfaced submarine before 1108Z/15th November in 36° 15' N. 18° 22' W. Para. C.

(1) Iceland A/C V/53 obtained disappearing radar contact at 0625Z 16th November in 62° 07' N. 22° 35' W. Para. D.

(1) BLACK SWAN obtained suspicious contact at 1958Z 15th Nov. in 61° 05' N. 18° 58' W. (D.D.I.C. 161115A.)

U-boat dispositions Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 161351A, 161352A.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

North Sea.

1. (a) Calais can now accept draughts of 29 ft. at neaps and 33 ft. at springs, with lengths up to 450 ft.
- (b) It is a sign of the times that C. in C. Nore asks that all traffic between Dover and Southend, and between Dumpton and N.F. 2 Buoys, should burn navigation lights.
- (c) THEODORE PARKER and SAPAROEIA have both reached harbour and a subsequent sweep of the area where they were damaged has yielded 4 moored mines.
- (d) One ground and 4 moored mines have been cleared in the Schelde Channel.

Channel.

2. All but the last 20 miles of the second lap of the up-Channel route has been swept and found clear of mines, but sweeping has had to be abandoned on account of weather.

Norway.

3. "V.P." operations have again had to be postponed on account of weather.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Italian Warships in Spain.

4. The British Naval Attache at Madrid reports that there is every possibility of the release of the Italian warships in Spanish ports in the near future.

Adriatic.

5. At 0800 today German resistance ceased in Tirana, capital of Albania, and the city was liberated. Mopping up operations by the Albanian Partisan Forces continue. The Partisans also claim to have captured Durazzo on November 16th.
6. The destroyers LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD bombarded enemy positions in the North Adriatic today.

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17.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines. 7. Last night, two P.T. boats engaged 3 Japanese M.T.Bs. and 5 barges off Apale Point, (Western Leyte). Two M.T.Bs. and two barges were sunk. Three other P.Ts. sank a fuel laden lugger in Ormoc Bay and two troop-carrying barges north-bound off Albuera.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Task Force 122. For planning and operational purposes Task Force 122 composed of Forces assigned to operational control of Comnavforfrance is established as of 0001A/19th November. Vice-Admiral Alan G. Kirk Task Force Commander. Logistic support this Task Force in accordance Com. 12th Fleet basic Logistic plan. Mydis 081724 July not to all will be redrafted to include this and previous modifications at an early date. (Comnaveu and Com. 12th Fleet, 171721 to 12th Fleet).

Movements.

BRUISER 1. On completion of disembarkation of N.L. Pontoons referred to in A.M.151222 (not to all) R.A.L.S.C.U. is to arrange for BRUISER to be sailed for Newport.
2. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is to embark Stickleback projectors Mark II and any other available equipment for L.C.T. (R) and arrange for vessel to be sailed for the Mediterranean in K.M.S.71.
3. C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to arrange for onward routeing of BRUISER as necessary; C. in C. Mediterranean 201902 October refers; and for vessel to be sailed to the U.K. in first suitable convoy on completion of disembarkation. A.M.161037 refers.
(D.O.D., 171230A to R.A.L.S.C.U., F.O.I.C. Cardiff, C. in C. Med).

HUNTER Your 151458. 2. HUNTER expects to be ready to sail a.m. 29th November. 3. Yes.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171554A to Admty).

WITHERINGTON WITHERINGTON accepted into Reserve Fleet Category C at North Shields on 16th November.
(F.O.C.R.F., 171615 to Admty).

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval. Cositintrep 226 Part Two Naval. A. General: Calais acceptable draught now reported 33 min. MHWS and 29 min. MHWN, maximum length 450 feet.

B. Unloading figures for 15th November.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
<u>British</u>				
East Calvados	5	440	824	Nil
Dieppe	859	7	3841	Nil
Boulogne	51	136	2348	Nil
Ostend	1414	181	4396	1959
Total:	2339	764	11409	1959

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval
(contd).

<u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
<u>United States:</u>				
Cherbourg	N11	N11	16193	8785
Beaches	N11	N11	492	N11
Brittany Ports	N11	N11	4733	N11
Havre	5486	258	5070	3144
Rouen	1212	673	3304	N11
Total:	6698	931	29792	11929
Combined Total:	9037	1695	49201	13888
<u>Ostend figures for 14th November:</u>				
	1575	426	3925	380
<u>United States cumulative totals from 1st November to 15th November inclusive:</u>				
Cherbourg	1156	N11	213727	82656
Beaches	28679	2641	26031	1779
Brittany Ports	N11	232	55077	2552
Le Havre	35588	4859	80618	14686
Rouen	1727	N11	61881	18535
Total:	67150	7732	437334	120208
<u>Add to Section A. General:</u>				
6 E-boats were engaged by our Coastal Forces off Zeebrugge. At least one E-boat severely damaged. Mines may have been laid. (A.N.C.X.F., 170025A to Admty).				
Cositintrep 227 Part 2 Naval. Unloading figures for 16th Nov.				
<u>British</u>				
Calvados	4	80	377	505
Dieppe	227	17	3990	N11
Boulogne	109	171	1908	N11
Ostend	384	130	3887	4404
Total:	724	398	10162	4909

/United States...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval
(contd).

<u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
<u>United States</u>				
Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	18456	10886
Beaches	Nil	Nil	629	Nil
Rouen	456	147	3217	Nil
Brittany Ports	Nil	74	6391	Nil
Le Havre	162	902	7874	Nil
<hr/>				
Total:	618	1123	36567	10886
<hr/>				
Combined Totals	1342	1521	46729	15795
<hr/>				

Amend unloading figures for Rouen in my 170025 to read Vehicles 673.

(A.N.C.X.F., 17221 5A to Admty).

Operations.

North Sea.

No.4 M.L.R.U. Further to my 071545 November, paragraph 1 and to Bruges. 091937 paragraph 2, No.4 M.L.R.U. is to be made available now to comply with N.C. Force T (Bruges) 161125.

2. Such equipment and personnel as may not be required by Force T may be retained temporarily at Antwerp for employment by N.O.I.C.
3. In addition to the above a section of No.4 M.L.R.U. is to recover engines and other salvageable items from the L.C.A. written off on the beach at Flushing, and turn them over to N.O.I.C. Antwerp. N.O.I.C. Antwerp is requested to arrange for reconditioning locally reporting completion date. Disposal instructions will follow.
(A.N.C.X.F., 171205A to Com. Belgium).

Nore My 171035A. Cancel para. 1 and 2.
dispositions. (2) Following to be at 30 minutes notice; at Humber BLEASDALE, at Harwich one destroyer and one corvette, at Sheerness one destroyer or Frigate, at Ostend TORRINGTON and RIOU.
(C. in C. Nore, 171522A to Capt. (D) 16, Capt. (D) 21, S.O. Corvettes, S.E.E.C.C.D., C.C.F. Nore, H.M.S. BEEHIVE, A.C. Dover, N.Os. I.C. Ramsgate, Sheerness, Harwich, Gt. Yarmouth, Humber, Ostend, C.F.M.U.I., P.S. SLAZAK, H.M.S. TORRINGTON, H.M.S. RIOU.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Terminal of Dungeness-Boulogne petrol pipe. "Pluto" Intend to enlarge present prohibited anchorage Boulogne to safeguard the Hamel pipes and thereby reducing one large coaster berth in Rade Carnot but it is considered the laying of pipes on the bottom of the dredged channel is unwise. Army ships in difficulties entering inner harbour are liable to drop an anchor to check their way and no promulgation of prohibited anchorage will prevent them. Consider every effort be made to run Hamel pipe close to H.A. pipes and thereby avoid possible danger to pipes and of filling anchorage with petrol. Agreed P.E.C.
(N.O.I.C. Boulogne, 171213A to S.N.O. "Pluto").

Patrols. Proceed when ready to join VESPER on patrol in approximate position 180° St. Catherine's point 20 miles. VESPER to arrange rendezvous.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171214A to LA SURPRISE).

Night A/S Patrols 17th, 18th November. Search following Areas.

2. VESPER, VIDETTE, LA SURPRISE, - Z.119, 120, 113, 112.
3. VANOC - Z.127.
4. M.T.Bs. if sailed take Z.127, when VANOC join VESPER.
5. ANTHONY traffic patrol Needles to A.1 Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171416A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol forces)
Day A/S Patrols 18th Nov. Continue present patrols.
2. After 1300 search as follows
3. VESPER, LA SURPRISE Z.120 and North to Q.Z.S.490.
4. VANOC, VIDETTE, 112, 113, 114.
5. M.T.Bs. if sailed Z.125, 130, 132.
6. VANQUISHER relieve ANTHONY who is to arrange rendezvous.
7. ANTHONY or VANQUISHER join VESPER when ordered.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171747A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces)

Operation "Nestegg".

As landings in Guernsey and Jersey are now planned to take place simultaneously through Ports of Saint Peters Port and Saint Helier it is considered that the appointment of a specialist Port Clearance Officer to ODYSSEY for Naval Party 2001 is essential in order that port clearance work at Saint Helier be co-ordinated and progressed immediately after entry.

2. It is not necessary that this Officer be appointed now but he should be held available for appointment as soon as warning to mount the operation is given.
3. Both Port Clearance Specialist Officers would be released immediately work is progressing satisfactorily. Para. 4 of my 281946 June and para. three of my 141551 August refer.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171751A to Admty).

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast France.

Proposed
~~Bombardment~~
~~of Operation in~~
Bordeaux Area.

Request number 26 Squadron R.A.F. may be made available in Plymouth area on 28th November for air spotting communication practices with a French bombardment squadron. Squadron will subsequently be required for an operation in Bordeaux area in early December. Further request you will make arrangements for an advanced base in the area with S.H.A.E.F. Main (Air) and first T.A.F. (Provisional) as soon as fuller details are known. My 171201 to H.Q.F.C., gives code name of operation. (A.N.C.X.F., 171159A to H.Q.F.C.)

A.M. 171944. Request you will nominate two French Frigates to arrive Plymouth by 28th November.

2. French Frigates CROIX DE LORRAINE and TONKINOIS should join your command about 21st November and 7th December respectively. (V.C.N.S., 171952A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

E.G. 30. LAUNCESTON CASTLE has serious defect in H.P. cylinder PEVENSEY CASTLE has defective gun training due to Squid explosions. PORCHESTER CASTLE requires Squid servicing. If weather conditions prevent our holding contact today request permission to return to harbour. My 170912 refers.

(S.O.E.G. 30, 170915A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 170915 to C. in C. W.A. only, being passed to Admiralty and Commodore (D) W.A.

Proceed to Londonderry via West of Ireland for repairs and short rest. Before leaving endeavour to hand over contact to 4th E.G.

(C. in C. W.A., 171215A to S.O.E.G. 30).

4th E.G. in firm contact at 1630 leaving to comply with your 171215A now. Consider contact has been submerged for 65½ hours.

(S.O.E.G. 30, 171632A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.T.A. Loch Foyle 0400 19th November consider all repairs necessary can be carried out at Lisahally if required.

(S.O.E.G. 30, 171634A to Com. D.W.A.)

"Monster" troopships never to reduce speed on account of escorts. Escorts detailed for "Monsters". Authorities sailing escorts are to inform them that they are never to order the speed of "Monsters" to be reduced to enable escorts to remain in company. On occasions when weather or other circumstances necessitate escort falling astern they are to continue on route of the "Monsters" until such time as it is estimated the "Monster" has passed the position in which detachment of escort has been ordered.

In such circumstances the operating authority is to be immediately informed. The signal should include the intentions of the escorts (C. in C. W.A., 171810A to F.O.I.Cs. in W.A. Command, Com. D.W.A.)

/BUTTERCUP...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. - Contd.

BUTTERCUP and GODETIA. As Belgian crews are urgently required for Port Parties in Belgium, it is regretted that the decision to pay off BUTTERCUP and GODETIA must stand.

(2) Negotiations are now in progress to hand over these ships to the French and when manned it is intended that they, or others in exchange, will return to their previous commands.

(3) C. in C. W.A., 161313 refers.
(Admty. 171942A to C. in C. W.A.)

Probable U-boat. If there is no visible evidence in vicinity of contact at daylight patrol area 50° to 51° North between 07° and 10° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 172310A to S.O.E.G.4).

Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Patrols. As soon as weather becomes suitable Patrol Areas between 55° and 57° N., divided by meridians 06° 30' 07° 30' 08° 30' and 09° 30' as follows:

- (A) Westerly Area by 2nd E.G. on joining.
- (B) Centre Area by 1st E.G.
- (C) Easterly Area by 26th E.G. to be relieved by 19th E.G. on arrival.

Amend my 161306 accordingly.

- 2. Patrols are to be staggered so that groups in adjacent areas are at opposite ends of their respective beats.
(C. in C. W.A., 172314A to S.O. Force 33).

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Handfast". My 121208. Force 3 will leave Scapa at 1600A on D-day and proceed west of Orkney and north of Fair Isle to fly off strike in position NN 59° 15' N., 01° 10' E. at 0930A on D plus one.

2. Force 3 will return to Scapa on completion or at 1400 D plus one if weather is unsuitable.

3. 18 Group is requested to arrange for aircraft to show IFF when within 50 miles of Force 3 and for airborne lifeboat to be at readiness at Sumburgh from 0930 to 1600 D plus one.

(C. in C. H.F., 171226A to Admty. F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S., 18 Group, Cs. in C. Rosyth, W.A.)

My 171226A para. 3. Request air borne lifeboats be air borne by 1000 D plus 1.

- 2. Request you will signal intentions C/S and frequency.
(C. in C. H.F., 172112A to 18 Group C.C., C. in C. Rosyth).

/Patrol...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Patrol. Cancel my 151119.
(2) SCYTHIAN (P.237) is to leave patrol at 1400A
19th proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion
through 058° 13' N., 000° 36' E. thence direct to Y.090° Sumburgh
Head 4 miles adjusting speed to rendezvous HASTINGS at 0700A/20th
for onward escort to Holy Loch.
(3) SCYTHIAN (P.237) is not to pass latitude 058° 15' N., before
2000A/19th.
(Capt. S.9., 171515A to S/Ms north of 51° N).

Operations V.P. 75, V.P. 77, V.P.79 further postponed.
V.P.75, 77, 2. Expected time of departure now a.m./19th
79. November.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 171554A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Suspected Rejoin 17th Escort Group forthwith.
U-boat. (C. in C. Rosyth, 171040A to BURGES).
Continue to search in area bounded by 061° 10' N.
and 061° 50' N., and 001° 00' W. and 000° 30' E.

If damaged U-boat will probably be making slowly to eastward.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 171041A to S.O.E.G.)

My 151811A and your 161239. Intensive search shows no
further contact within radius of 8 miles. Both plot and explosion
of Hedgehog pattern followed by several distant explosions in
original attack at 1624A/15th were most convincing.

2. Am now carrying out another series of attacks on contact held
since 1716A/15th which Echo sounder indicates as on bottom 300 to
400 feet long and 40 feet high in endeavour to bring up more
positive evidence.

3. LOCH KILLIN is repairing her condenser but it may still be
necessary to detach her to Lerwick tomorrow Saturday.

(S.O.E.G.17, 171130A to C. in C. Rosyth).

My 171130A. After last attack at 1100A contact became
smaller and difficult to hold and with deteriorating weather and
asdic conditions soon faded altogether. Group including BURGES
is now searching eastern part of area defined in your 171041A.

2. S.A.R. 105 para. 4 has been noted.

(S.O.E.G. 17, 171717A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Corvette My 162209 para. D. Request you will sail OXLIP
reinforcement when ready to Reykjavik to come under orders of
for Iceland. A.C.I.C. as temporary reinforcement.
(C. in C. W.A., 171539A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

/Russian...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Russian submarine chasers for Far North. At 1600Z/17th November sailed GLACE BAY (S.O.) MONTSEERRAT, PARRY SOUND 5th and 6th Group of ten Russian S.Cs. in all to Londonderry routed
(DB) 48.38 N., 50.01 W. (DC) 51.58 N. 40.01 W.
(DD) 54.10 N., 30.01 W. (DE) 55.20 N. 20.01 W.
(DF) 55.40 N., 10.01 W. (DG) 55.35 N. 07.01 W.
and Q.Z.S.388 to destination.

- (2) Speed of advance 12 knots. E.T.A. (DG) 1900Z/23 November.
- (3) Chop 1430Z/18th November.
- (4) Communications. In event of separation S.Cs. will guard Washington FNSS 4045 k/cs west of 30° W. and BN routine east of 30 degrees E. Russian S.Cs. hold current and reserve recognition signals only. No other publications carried. Read in 3 columns. Ship, W/T Call Signs, R/T Call Signs. GLACE BAY HRB-G. MONTSEERRAT EUO-M. PARRY SOUND IFW-P. S.C.1491 4 MIX. S.C.1512 4 MIA. S.C.1483 4 MIH. S.C.1508 4 MIL. S.C.1479 4 MIY. S.C.1506 4 MIQ. S.C.1487 4 MIW. S.C.1478 4 MIF. S.C.1499 4 MIS. S.C.1503 4 MIJ. Group R/T call sign Bundle.
- (5) C.N.L.O. Borne in GLACE BAY.
- (6) All Escorts equipped for fuelling S.Cs. (F.O.N.F., 172204Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Exhibition or Extinction of I.F.F. in certain areas. A676 17th Nov. Secret. To Air Ministry for D. of Ops. (M) and D. of Ops. (AD). Under A.G.M.96 AZ 20th May 1944, Naval Commanders in Chief are empowered to designate areas under their control as aircraft areas. A.C.C.19 Group should approach Commanders in Chief concerned for this purpose. Aircraft areas should be declared both by day and by night. Commanders in Chief are requested to

inform Admty. that all aircraft in the area so defined are to be treated as friendly unless they commit a hostile act. Consider amendment of Admiralty signal 132316A November be left in abeyance unless these measures prove inadequate.

- (2) Concerning I.F.F. A.C.C. 19 Group is not precluded by existing regulations subject to the approval of Naval Commanders in Chief from instructing air crews to keep I.F.F. switched off. (H.Q.C.C., 171020A to 19 Group, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth).

Reference A.G.M.96 AZ dated 20th May. The following amplification of the conditions governing the use of a designated "Aircraft Area" is proposed:-

- (A) Any designated aircraft area to be in force both by day and night.
- (B) All aircraft encountered within a declared aircraft area to be treated at all times as friendly unless definitely recognised as hostile, or committing a hostile act. Recognition procedure within the area not to be a requirement.
- (C) The use of I.F.F. by aircraft for recognition purposes in a designated area to be dispensed with unless ordered.

2. Reference A.G.M. 885 dated 13th November and A.G.M. 96 AZ the following area is designated an aircraft area.

Area: the English Channel within the following limits:

On the east - the meridian of 0° 30' W.

On the west - A line joining lands End to Ushant, thence 090° to the shore.

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or
Extraction
of I.F.F.
in certain
areas.
(contd).

3. Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth is requested to confirm his agreement with the limits of this designated aircraft area and with the proposals in para. 1 above.

4. Request promulgation of this designated area by general message to include the provisions of para. 1 above if approved.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171820A to Admty).

Mining.Enemy
Mining off
Humber.

Merchant ships THEODORE PARKER and SAPAROEIA of F.S.37 were damaged apparently by moored mines close S.E. of H2 buoy yesterday afternoon Thursday. Both have reached Humber.

2. It is now thought these mines were laid by E-boats during night 15th/16th.

3. About 2340/15th M/S Trawlers at East Dudgeon and 57D buoy reported H.E. one Radar contact being obtained. Nothing sighted. Area concerned is outside normal shore Radar Range.
(C. in C. Nore, 170059A to Admty).

Reference C. in C. Nore's 170059A November 1944 area to be swept is enclosed by lines joining the following positions:

- (A) 53° 34' N., 00° 35' 30" E.
- (B) 53° 34' N., 00° 39' 48" E.
- (C) 53° 30' N., 00° 44' 48" E.
- (D) 53° 30' N., 00° 40' 30" E.

This area should be extended as requisite.

(Capt. M/S Humber, 171715A to M.S.15).

Following mines swept today Friday November 17th at 0752.
Contact Mine H2 Buoy 180° 3 cables.
Contact Mine H2 Buoy 200° 2 cables.

(F.O. Humber, 171851A to C. in C. Nore).

Intend to proceed with 15th M/S Flotilla negative ARDROSSAN at 0700A tomorrow Saturday to comply with your 171715A.

2. Danlayers MANOMIA, CALVAY and KINGS GREY to sail at 0630A.
(S.O. M/S 15 172030A to Capt. M/S Humber).

Sitrep.

40th and 42nd M/S Flotillas continued operation "Progress". 31st M/S Flotilla continued operation "Link".

181st Trawler Group - Q.Z.S.555, 554, 588. Operation "Hoover" commenced. All negative results.
(Capt. M/S N.F., 171025A to C.T.F.125).

Channel
sweep.

My 061254 and 061554. Search completed by three ships except for last 20 miles of second lap. Sweeping abandoned owing to weather.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171131 to Admty).

14th M.S.F.

14th M/S Flotilla arrived Falmouth owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 171820A to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Harwich...

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Mining. - Contd.

Harwich sweepers. Harwich minesweeping patrols and position 51 remaining in harbour due to weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 171832A to C. in C. Nore).

Schelde defences. 1. To permit laying of indicator loops at the mouth of the Schelde Estuary, it is requested that the following area may be swept on completion of present minesweeping commitments in the Schelde area.
2. 0.5 miles either side of line drawn 1.2 miles 208° from Fort de Nolle.
3. Reference chart number 325 folio 9. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp 171916A to C. in C. Nore).

Sweeping in Schelde Estuary. Operation "Calendar".
1. Sweeping today Friday 17th November S.A-L.L. (A) N.F.13 to Eastern end of Honte 3 actuations. (B) Intensive S.A.-L.L. and L.A.A.sweeping at Antwerp.
Oropesa from northward of N.F.13 to eastern end of Honte.
2. (A) 1 ground mine off Flushing Harbour. (B) 3 moored mines 2 near N.F.14; 1 near N.F.17. All in channel.
3. Survey work is continuing. (Capt. M/S F.A., 171959A to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

German troop movements in Norway. Reference Admiralty U.C. Report 556.
1. In North Norway movements southward of Rendulic's Army continues whilst from south 1 Division had already been withdrawn by late October and 2 further Divisions 21 Army are still being shipped to Denmark.
2. Latest order of battle and prospective movements will be reported separately (vide your para. 1).
3. North Norway. Movement of 3 southern divisions Rendulic's Army along Skibotn Road.
Following lorry movements reported during period November 10th to November 14th.

"A" <u>Date from noon to noon</u>	"B" <u>Into Norway</u>	"C" <u>Returning to Finland</u>
November 10th	102	246
November 11th		
November 11th	165	135
November 12th		
November 12th	157	85
November 13th		
November 13th	306	194
November 14th		

Note: Please amend October figures quoted in para. 2 to comply with information in my Top Secret Telegram 111604.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German
troop
movements
in Norway.
(contd).

4. For Movement of Troops Southward:
(A) Available tonnage in small vessels for transporting troops during primary movement southward is estimated at 1800 tons and in addition large numbers of fishing craft totalling probably 10000 tons.

(B) There are certain indications that Germans had anticipated being able to move southward 45 thousand men per month as far as Moin Rana. Of these 15 thousand men were to proceed by road. This figure has already been proved to be far too high an estimate.

(C) Following onward movements by rail from Moin Rana Mosjoen and Trondheim have been reported to date.

(1) Moin. Movement commenced November 4th with two trains each 30 coaches per day increasing to 4 trains by November 8th and 6 trains by November 10th. This is believed to be maximum capacity and thus conveyance of 1200 men and material per day could not be exceeded.

(ii) Mosjoen. No specific rail information available but see my 031147 and (705)3310 regarding arrival Levante with troops. Between 400 and 500 lorries were reported here November 8th.

(iii) Trondheim. 2 trains Oslo began running daily November 10th and further 28 have been requisitioned up to November 13th none had passed southwards through Elverum though they were expected. Report has been received that trains cannot yet run to schedule, not only on account of congestion when trains return empty but because stocks of coal and oil are lacking at Storen (?Helle) and Trondheim and also to lesser extent at Grong and Mosjoen.
(See your para. three).

Withdrawal of troops by sea from Oslo ports southward.

At end of October, 40 thousand tons of transport shipping were operating from Oslo Fjord ports southward. According to figures available 10 to 15 thousand troops were transported from Norway by these transports during October.

In addition there is some evidence that further troops were withdrawn by 3 fast steamers operating between Fredrikstad and Fredrikshavn (normally engaged in leave traffic) but figures are not yet available.

(See your para. seven). Sent by bag A.2 repeat A.2.

(6) Conclusions:

(i) Policy of withdrawal foreshadowed in N.A's R.S.2634 of September 8th para. 2 (C) is still being carried out. This leaves a congestion of troops in the North whilst Bergen and Molde areas are now weakly defended.

(ii) Withdrawal movements which are now reaching maximum capacity have been considerably hampered:

(A) by unexpected rail restrictions enumerated in para. 4 (C) (3).

(B) Indirectly by offensive operations on coastal shipping.

(C) Directly by sea mining of Oslo ports and Kattegat.

Recommendations:

Following appear most vulnerable points for attack directly impeding withdrawal.

(A) Interference in enemy communication and ferry links south of the Narvik area and certain points to coastal route.

(B) Increased sea mining of Kattegat and Oslo areas.

(N. and M. Attaches Stockholm, 171717 to Admty. and W.O.)

N.I.D. Comment: Considered a good report. Para. 4 A. tonnage of small vessels is more likely to be 18,000 tons than 1800 tons.

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U-boats.

Sitrep Possibly one still in vicinity of E.G.30's attack in 51° 25' N., 11° 00' W. following further contact at 0812Z/17th November. Up to three possibly in central English Channel. (D.D.I.C., 171332A to Cominch, S. and A. area C)

Port Facilities

Arromanches. Suction Dredgers TILBURIAN and LINCOLN-WITHAM awaiting transport to U.K. together with eight hopper barges including Hopper BLACKWALL salvaged from beach. Suggest LINCOLN-WITHAM be placed in L.S.D. Other units can be towed immediately weather permitting, please send instructions as to arrival of tugs and confirm destination given in previous signal. D.T.G.022354A. (M.O.W.T. Arrow, 171619 to D. of S.T.)

Calais. Your 141656 and A.M. 160143 requirements of fire fighting craft must be reported by Port Commandant through Army channels. (F. O.B.A.A., 171811A to N.O.I.C. Calais).

Technical.

Destroyer spotting instructions. Following D.T.O.53 will be issued shortly on destroyers spotting instructions. (2) Attention is drawn to para. 90 and 91 on page 28 of C.B.3120 (1) which shows the desirability of firing in "rapid salvos" and not in "zig-zag" groups when using radar rate at medium ranges as well as short ranges. (3) Although each case must be judged on its own by the control Officer, guided by the spotting instructions, it is suggested that a fine inclination at ranges outside 6000 yards or when difficulty in finding line may be anticipated, line should be found with a deflection group. (4) If this group straddles, "rapid salvos" should be ordered. (5) If the deflection group is over or short, continue in group firing until the target is found, after which rapid salvos should be used if maintaining line is not difficult. (6) My No. H.D.586 of 1st May is cancelled. (Commodore (D) H.F., 171527A to H.F. Destroyers).

Casualties & Defects.

SAPAROEA Will proceed to Immingham as soon as visibility permits. Master. (SAPAROEA, No T.O.O. to F.O. Humber).

SS. OSCAR CHAPPELL Aground Black Head Belfast Lough tugs urgently needed can't use main engine circulator choked. Reply requested. Master. (OSCAR CHAPPELL, 170830Z to N.C.S.O. Belfast).

/MOY...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

MOY Cancel my 170940A. Proceed forthwith to assistance of MAPLE towing MOY in approximate position 49.05 N., 06.35 W., at 1002 A/17. Destination Falmouth. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171128A to ENTICER.)

BRISSENDEN take U.S.S. TYBEE under his orders pass The Gate at 1630A/17th November or as soon after as ready.

2. Proceed to assist H.M.T. MAPLE towing H.M.T. MOY in position 49.05 N., 06.35 W., at 1002A/17.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171504A to BRISSENDEN, TYBEE).

U.S. Following signal received by Lands End Radio
L.S.T.6 re-broadcast by Admiralty begins:

L.S.T. mined at Roques need immediate medical assistance. 171023A Ends.

It is thought that position referred to may be on River Seine below Tancarville.

(F.O.B.A.A., 171446A to C.T.G.125.15).

Shipping & Convoys.

Release of A.N.C.X.F. 161805A releases 8 standard and 3 rail
L.S.T. fitted U.S. L.S.T. in addition to 7 previously released as of 15th November. Nominate ships, effect withdrawal, and proceed with transfer to R.N. following established procedure. (Comnavu, 171001 to Comphibsukay).

Navigation In view of increasing volume of shipping consider
Lights to all traffic between Dover and Southend and also
be burnt between Dumpton and N.F.2 buoys should be instructed
between Dover to burn navigation lights. A.C. Dover concurs.
and Southend. Request promulgation.
(C. in C. Nore, 171559A to Admty).

L.S.T. Reference M.C.L. Southampton's 131221 and 162201
Flotillas No.3 and 8 L.S.T. Flotilla are hereby reconstituted
3 and 8. as follows:-

<u>No. 3 Flotilla</u>	<u>No.8 Flotilla.</u>
65	401
430	423
161	402
428	409
323	419
9	322
	62

2. The first two ships mentioned in each Flotilla are the Flotilla leader and Divisional leader respectively.
3. On completion of commitment in A.N.C.X.F. (BUCO's) 121220, para. 3 No.3 L.S.T. Flotilla is to be transferred to the Tilbury - Ostend service under the general administration of C. in C. Nore.
4. This transfer is to be mutually arranged between C. in C. Portsmouth and C. in C. Nore, date to be reported by the latter. (D.C.O.D., 171922A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Nore).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

FRAMENT (collision with SETTEMBRINI 15/11.) For damage this vessel refer my 161815Z, proceeding in company Comcortdiv. 17 in U.S.S. SCOTT for R/V TENACITY. Ultimate destination Azores refer F.O.G.M.A.'s 162247A. Ref. C. in C. Lant's 162012Z can make New York after minor hull repairs. (U.S.S. FRAMENT 170128 to Cinclant.)

U.S.S. SCOTT is to continue in company with FRAMENT and TENACITY to Azores.

(2) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to signal destination. My 162247 and Cinclant 162109 not to all refer. (F.O.G.M.A. 170756A to Comcortdiv. 17 in U.S.S. SCOTT, FRAMENT, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

U.S.S. FRAMENT collided with and believed sank R.S. SETTEMBRINI at 0323A November 15th. U.S.S. FRAMENT 150245 refers.

(2) C.O. and 7 others are survivors and are on board U.S.S. FRAMENT. Names of survivors will be signalled when known.

(3) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to send A. survivors to Italy. B. Lieut. Petillis and 3 ratings ex R.S. ATROPO now in U.S.S. FRAMENT to Bermuda.

(4) Search for R.S. SETTEMBRINI and further survivors now abandoned owing to weather and damage to U.S.S. FRAMENT. All survivors believed R.S. SETTEMBRINI sank immediately.

(5) F.O.T.A.L.I. Rome is requested to inform Italian Ministry of Marine.

(F.O.G.M.A. 171038A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (Taranto), F.O.T.A.L.I. (Rome), S.B.N.O. Azores.)

My position 0800Z 037° 02' N. 021° 20' W. hove to in westerly hurricane.

(TENACITY 171045Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

My 171135Z refers, weather moderating. Now making 10 knots towards position in S.B.N.O. Azores' 151940Z*

(TENACITY 171430Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

* W.R. Note - Not yet identified.

Following is a repetition of my 171232 (begins)

Your 170756. Destination Horta. (Ends.)

(S.B.N.O. Azores 171612Z to F.O.G.M.A. etc.)

1630Z position U.S.S. SCOTT and U.S.S. FRAMENT lat. 37.38 N. long. 22.38 W. en route Horta via lat. 38.10 N. 25 W. and lat. 38.10 N. and 28 W. Thence via South swept channel. Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 1900/18th. In communication with TENACITY who was passed while stopped in Hurricane winds this morning.

(Comcortdiv 17 in SCOTT 171715 to F.O.G.M.A.)

ANNAMITE (refitted, Casablanca.)

Intend sail F.S. ANNAMITE 1000/19 to Toulon. (2) 12 knots. (3) Standard C.G. route to Europa Point, thence as en routed by F.O.G.M.A. to Toulon (4) E.T.A. Europa Point 0500/20. (Commorseafron 171145A to F.O.G.M.A.) See also South Atlantic 171847A.

JOSEPH H. HOLLISTER, damage.

H Following received from JOSEPH HOLLISTER, begins: Struck uncharted rock in Bay at Villa do Porto, Santa Marie ? holed double bottom tank at No. 182 port side. Lost considerable fuel. Able to proceed. (Ends.) Comnavzor has passed to U.S. authorities.

(S.B.N.O. Azores 171614Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

LOWESTOFT,
PAPUA.

2000A/17 is my E.T.A.
(LOWESTOFT 171021A to F.O.G.M.A.)
My 171021A. Add 2 hours.
(LOWESTOFT 171331A.)
Arrival LOWESTOFT, PAPUA.
(F.O.G.M.A. 172356 to Admty., etc.)

South Atlantic.

KROMAN
(Polish)
at Ibicuy.

Polish heavily armed merchant vessel No. 406
anchored Ibicuy Roadsteads States for about (?3)
hours to repair engine defects. No one guarding
(?allowed) on board. Telegraph if you have any
equipment, (?instructions.)
(British Consul, St. Vincent 171430 to F.O.C.W.A.)

My 171430. Name of ship KROMAN. Ship navicert 786 dated 24th
September 1940 not renewed after arrival from Gibraltar, still
anchored, expected to leave 1900 (?20th) (?New York.)
(British Consul, St. Vincent 171715 to F.O.C.W.A.)

ANNAMITE,
DROGOU.

Your 111622. Programme for ANNAMITE approved,
subject C. in C. Med's concurrence.
(2) Further signal will be made regarding DROGOU
when refitting port is known.
(Hd. of M. 171847A to F.O.C.W.Af. Info. F.O.W.M.,
C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar.)
See also North Atlantic.)

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GRADISCA. STORK's 151820 not to all. Master of GRADISCA should be informed.
 (a) Interception of GRADISCA was communicated to German Government on 31st October.
 (b) H.M.G. are in communication with German Government through Protecting Power concerning disposal of captured sick and wounded.
 (c) When question of disposal has been settled GRADISCA will be released.
 (d) He may formulate message for H.M.G. to pass to Swiss Government.
 (2) Any message to Swiss from GRADISCA should be sent by F.O.W.M. to Admiralty for transmission by Foreign Office. If Master requests to see Swiss representative in Algiers F.O.W.M. should seek further instructions.
 (P.A.S.L. Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 170600A to C. in C. Med. Etc.)

Italian S/M's. Your 160950. Acknowledged.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 170806B to C. in C. Med.)

TUEBINGEN. German Hospital Ship TUEBINGEN arrived Bari 1600A/16. 337 wounded removed. No evidence of misuse of ship. TUEBINGEN released and proceeded to destination at 0224/17.
 (F.O.T.A.L.I. 170815A to C. in C. Med. Admty)

EMILE BERTIN. Your 161208. At urgent request of French Government proposed programme for F. Cruiser EMILE BERTIN has been modified as follows: leave Toulon 22nd Nov. with diplomatic officials and medical stores for Greece arrive Algiers 23rd Nov. Leave Algiers 26th Nov. for Piraeus, E.T.A. 28th Nov.
 (2) At Piraeus EMILE BERTIN (?remove) French escaped P.O.W. for repatriation and return to Toulon to commence refit.
 (F.O.W.M. 171006A to C. in C. Med.)
 Proposed programme for French (C) EMILE BERTIN approved.
 (C. in C. Med. 171754 to F.O.W.M.)
 F.O.W.M's 171006 and my 171754 refer. Security Authorities and section of A.F.H.Q. dealing with conditions concur. Resident Minister's Office Group see no political objections.
 (C. in C. Med, 171759 to F.O.W.M.)

WOOLSEY. O.D.D.25 in U.S.S. WOOLSEY relieves U.S.S. HILARY? HUGO P. JONES for duty with Flank Forces.
 (Comdesdiv 25, 171025A to Comflanfor)

Italian warships in Spain. I learn that there is every possibility of release of Italian warships in near future.
 F.O.W.M. pass to C. in C. Med.
 (B.N.A. Madrid, 171030A to C. in C. Med.)

/Cositintrep ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep 269450. Day 16 Coastal Air Force. 6 Wellingtons and 4 Beaufighters attacked and claim hits on five barges and 3 F Boats off Maestro Point. P.T.Air 3. 2 barges were also left sinking, a tug, a schooner, and motor launch damaged, a beached coaster destroyed and near misses scored on 3 barges off Chioggia. (H.Q. M.A.A.F. 171305A)

VISIGOTH, My 091055/ not to all and my 151100/ VISIGOTH VIGOROUS. delayed by engine defects probably for one month. Intend sailing VIGOROUS for Kilindini 29 Nov. Further signal will be made. (S.1, 171441A to C. in C. Med.) / (? 151105 intended / Top Secret Circulation.

EMPEROR, Taking P.S. GARLAND under your orders sail a.m. GARLAND. 20th to pass 309 at 1000B and proceed by basic westbound route through 271 at 1945B/21st thence to position 034 degs. 26' N. 017 degs. 02' E. at 0605B/22nd for onward routeing by V.A.M. to Gibraltar. C. in C. Med. 131807 and my 091911 neither to all. (5) S. of A. 15½ knots. (3) Codeword "Radiate" 547 high conship. (F.O.L.E.M.172231 to ?EMPEROR (R) Admty. etc.) Amended by 201809 q.v.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No fresh information. Reduce scale in area V.P.
 dispositions. one, V.P. 2 and C.B. 2 to W.5.,
 (C. in C. E.F., 170405)

Command V.A.2 E.F. is assuming command of East Indies
 Changes, station on 22nd November. Following been
 flagships. arranged to meet immediate situation.
 (2) C.S.5 to continue to command the 8 inch
 cruiser and administer the battleship and to
 complete (sic) the duties of S.N.O.(A).
 (3) (?C.S.4) command and duties for (?cruiser Squad unchanged).
 (4) The duty of S.N.O.(A) include the co-ordination of all
 (corrupt group) of units at Trincomalee. This cannot be carried
 out from Colombo.
 (5) It is most undesirable for the Senior Admiral Afloat to be
 in a cruiser as this would entail continual transfer affecting
 flags because cruiser's duties include escort work to Australia
 and long periods away from the Fleet base. Accommodation is
 also unsatisfactory in cruisers.
 (6) It is proposed that the Senior Admiral Afloat on East
 Indies Station should command the battleships and not a cruiser
 squadron.
 (7) Admiralty's 132311 November (corrupt group) one flag to R.A.
 2 E.F. refers.
 (C. in C. E.F. 170447Z to Admty)

ENGADINE. Request you will sail for Aden 20th November
 through position:
 (D) 009 degs. 10' N. 073 degs. 10' E.
 (E) 013 degs. 24' N. 054 degs. 54' E.
 (F) 012 degs. 07' N. 047 degs. 22' E.
 (N.O.I.C. Cochin, 170600Z to ENGADINE)

Aden, American tankers FORT ROYAL and CAHAWBA.
 water Considerable difficulty has been encountered with
 scarcity. the above vessels and delay incurred through an
 original request for 200 and 500 tons distilled
 water respectively, after discussion reduced
 to 340 tons total. It is requested this type
 of vessel is not allowed to reach Aden without adequate supply
 on board as Aden output only 70 tons per day with H.M. priority.
 (N.C.S.O. Aden, 170724Z to C. in C. E.F.)

PELICAN. Departure PELICAN (in accordance with C. in C.
 E.F.'s 131111, not to all) for Port Said and
 Taranto via Aden, 0400Z/26th November S. of A.
 8 knots. Route through (X) 017 degs. 17' N.
 066 degs. 40' E. (Y) 015 degs. 30' N. 060 degs. 32' E. thence
 GAC.
 (F.O. Bombay, 170903Z to Admty. etc.)

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DIGBY contact Following is a recoded version of my 170130Z. DIGBY obtained Radar contact at 2349Z/16 in 49.33 N 64.53 W. Illuminated Star shell. Lost contact, nothing sighted. Carried out A/S search, no contact. Am proceeding with convoy G.O.N.S.35. DIGBY continuing search until 0200Z/17 and rejoining.
(SHAWINIGAN, 170726Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Exercise area. Until further notice, route all shipping clear of area established from point M.32.16 N. 63.50 W. bearing 082 to 180° for 80 miles. This is a plane, ship, submarine exercise area distribution AC C. in C. Lant, N.S.H.Q. Admiralty have for info.
(Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R., 171342Z to Various).

Submarine attack and summary. No report since my 151350 para. C. (?DIGBY) Radar contact 49.33 N. 64.53 W. at 2349Z/16th.
(N.S.H.Q. 171348Z.)

U-boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 171407Z, Cominch, 171540Z.)

Re-allocation of Man Power. Reactions of Royal Naval Personnel under my command have been noted as required by para. 2 of Admty. 062251B September (see Policy, page 129, Sept.) General reception is favourable; main objection to volunteering would be doubt as to whether former civil employment would be prejudiced. Priority of release for personnel serving long periods in active war zones as compared with those who have been shore based, and also to men married prior to mobilization, particularly married men with large families, would be welcomed.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 171451Z to Admty.)

Personnel for Australia In order to assist the considerable naval personnel lift to Australia it will probably be necessary to use troopships of a speed of 18½ knots embarked to capacity. Intended that ships should sail from United Kingdom in U.C. Convoys being detached as necessary to proceed independently to Panama and thence to Australia. If return voyage is made via Panama ships would be sailed from Panama to New York independently and thence in C.U. Convoys to U.K.
(2) It has, therefore, been decided that the limitations laid down in Table A. of C.A.F.O. 2393/44 for ships of this speed shall be relaxed in respect of service personnel for those portions of the voyages in the Atlantic during which they will be unescorted, namely from detaching from U.C. Convoy to Panama and on return voyage from Panama to New York.
(3) Matter would be reviewed if there should be a substantial change in the U-boat situation.
(4) Request U.S. authorities be informed.
(Hd. of M., 171415A to B.A.D.)

/H.X. ...

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America & West Indies - Contd.

H.X. 317. Average speed 9.74 knots. Convoy split in position 50° 46' N. 09° 45' W. at 1215Z/11th Nov. All arrived (D.T.D. 171635A to Commav., N.S.H.Q.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 1031. Covering 16th Nov. (5) Previous night search
Landing on Mariner attacked 5 schooners vicinity Bhbtoeng?
Bras Island. Town also S.E. Celebes seriously damaging or
possibly sinking 4 and forcing 5th to beach.
(8) Aircraft in flight reported 10 large warship
Tawi Tawi anchorage after dark. Bombs dropped but
missed. (20) Mapia Group. Following intensive bombardment of
Kras (?Bras intended) Island 15th and 16th by aircraft and light
naval units. Allied forces went ashore early daylight 16th and
advanced inland against some opposition.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 171050Z.)

Pegun Island Following from S.W.P.A. Cypher 16th November.
occupied. (2) Mapia Islands. Elts. U. States 31 division
with air and naval support occupied Pegun Island
against very light opposition.
(B.A.S. Washington 171345 to W.O.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/17th November.
& sighting Para. B. (1) A/C Y/201 attacked possible U-Boat
summary. with depth charges at 1255Z/16th Nov. in 55° 35' N.
08° 55' W. (2) A/C W/547 had A.S.V. contact at
0325Z/17th Nov. in 61° 58' N. 00° 52' W.
(3) A/C G/53 reported possible U-Boat contact at
2211Z/16th Nov. in 64° 12' N. 22° 41' W.
(4) VERENDRYE reported suspected U-Boat astern of her at 0130Z/17
Nov. in approx. 15° 30' S. 74° 30' E.
Para. C. (1) M.T.B. 750 carried out 2 attacks on possible U-Boat
at 0955Z/16th Nov. in 50° 10' N. 02° 06' W.
(2) M.L. 1405 attacked contact at 1245Z/16th Nov. in 50° 18' N.
03° 05' W.
(3) A/C H/103 obtained disappearing radar contact at 0810Z/16th
Nov. in 51° 05' N. 07° 25' W.
(4) E.G. 9 attacked bottom contact at 2015Z/16th Nov. in 58° 46' N.
05° 27' W.
(5) A/C S/201 reported possible U-Boat wake and swirl at 0748Z/16
Nov. in 57° 07' N. 07° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 171228A.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 171327A, 171330A.)

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

(1). U-Boats are suspected with greater or less probability (1) off the Lizard, (2) off the Fastnets, (3) off Cape Wrath, (4) off Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, and (5) midway between the Shetlands and Faeroes.

Channel.

(2)(a). GUERNSEY QUEEN has been salvaged at Boulogne, raising the number of berths alongside to 11.

(b) V.A. Dover proposes that in addition to ships navigation lights in the eastern Channel area, Dungeness and South Foreland lights shall also be shown.

Norway.

(3). The "V.P." operations, of whalers towing M.T.Bs. to Norway, have again had to be postponed on account of weather, this time indefinitely. DIADEM'S minelaying operation to Salhusttrommen is also postponed.

Foreign Stations

East Indies

Squadron numbers.

(4) The Admiralty today informed the C. in C. Eastern Fleet, that the following squadron numbers had been allocated:-

Battle Squadrons - East Indies, 3rd; Pacific 1st.
Cruiser Squadrons - East Indies, 5th; Pacific 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Australia and New Zealand

STORM patrol.

(5) The submarine STORM (P.233), on her first South West Pacific Patrol, sank by gunfire or demolition charges 11 schooners loaded with nickel ore between October 29th and November 2nd.

/ Borneo...

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SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Borneo.

(6). At noon today, harbour installations and shipping at Tarakan, Borneo, were attacked by 50 Liberators, 28 Lightnings and 5 Mitchells of the 13th Air Force. Several explosions occurred and 5 small freighters and one gunboat were at least damaged.

Philippines.

(7) Last night, Thunderbolts attacked barge hide-outs and barges plying between Cebu and Ormoc, destroying or firing eight, as well as one coaster. The majority were in Pacijan Island.

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Military Conference Ottawa. A.5226 18th Nov. Reference Air Ministry letter S.103247/S.6 dated 24th October. International Military Conference has been called for Ottawa on 28th November and it is anticipated that Air Ministry Representatives will leave U.K. 23rd November. Request you inform Air Ministry whether you require to be represented on this committee if so please signal name of officer detailed. On receipt of this information passage will be arranged by air for officer concerned who must be fit and vaccinated within last 12 months. (Air Ministry, 181030A to Admty.)

Movements

INDEFATIGABLE INDEFATIGABLE undocked p.m. today 18th and sails passing Spithead Gate 1200A tomorrow 19th escorted by Capt. (D) 25th in GRENVILLE, URANIA and UNDINE in accordance with R.A.(A) 161630.
(2) Routed to Z.130 and by route W thence Q.Z.S.607 and searched channels to Irish Sea speed 21 knots.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181625A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

MAURITIUS. Intend to sail MAURITIUS passing Clyde boom 1530A/19th Nov. to Scapa to comply with C. in C. H.F's 071914 Nov. proceeding west of Islay and Skerryvore at 21 knots, E.T.A. 1030A/20th Nov. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 182018A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Situation Report

Naval. Cositintrep 227. Part two Naval.
(A) General. U.S. L.S.T.6 damaged by underwater explosion 12 miles from mouth of Seine on passage from Rouen to Le Havre.
(B) Captured Ports. Boulogne: The salvage of GUERNSEY QUEEN has raised the number of alongside berths to 11 ranging in length from 500 to 180 feet. The laying of Pluto Hamel line has reduced the anchor berths in Rade Carnot to two Liberty berths or four coasters.
Havre: There are now 9 Liberty berths and 12 coaster berths. Coasters are berthed alongside. 19 alongside berths are being prepared for Liberty ships.
Morlaix: The number of Liberty berths available has risen to six again.
Rouen: A rough estimate for daily acceptable draught can be taken as 2½ feet less than height of H.W. stand at Le Havre.
(C) Unloading figures for 17th November:

Port	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
East Calvados	1,073	373	80	683
Dieppe	125	Nil	2,622	Nil
Boulogne	Nil	Nil	1,561	Nil
Ostend	1,968	31	2,556	4,606
Total	3,166	404	6,819	5,289

/United ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report

Naval. Unloading figures for 17th November - Contd.
(Contd.)

United States Port	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
Cherbourg	4	Nil	17,745	1,114
Beaches	Nil	Nil	551	Nil
Brittany Ports	Nil	Nil	5,079	Nil
Havre	2,151	100	4,769	Nil
Rouen	950	362	3,028	1,447
Total	3,105	462	31,172	2,561
Combined Total	6,271	866	37,991	7,850

Ostend cumulative totals from 1st November to 15th inclusive.
8,699 1,366 39,622 7,850
(A.N.C.X.F., 182255A to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Patrols. Patrols today Saturday 18th November.
F.G.2 M.T.B. 727 (S.O.), 735. F.G.3 M.T.B. 745,
(S.O.), 743. F.H.2 M.T.B. 693 (S.O.), 692.
F.H.3 M.T.B. 741 (S.O.), 753. F.B. M.T.B. 772
(S.O.), 742 detailed.
(C.F.M.U.1, 181120 to C. in C. Nore.)
Night dispositions - 18th/19th November 1944.
Humber Force (Group 2) Harbour BLEASDALE.
Harwich Force (Group 3) with F.S.39 HAMBLEDON.
Patrols 4 SEYMOUR, 5 DAKINS, 7 SHELDRAKE, 8A MALLARD, 10 SHEAR-
WATER, N.F.2/N.F.4 EKINS, 16 CURZON, 19 RETALICK and STEVENSTONE.
(Group 4) Harbour MACKAY, COTSWOLD, SLAZAK, CAICOS, DUFF, RIOU,
THORNBOROUGH, TORRINGTON, GUILLEMOT, PUFFIN, WIDEGON.
Sheerness Force (Group 5) with F.N.45 WENSLEYDALE, O.N.A.267
CUBITT, CLEMATIS.
Patrols 3 PYTCHLEY, 6 CATTISTOCK, 15 HOLDERNESS, 17A FERNIE.
(Group 6) Harbour GARTH, COWDRAY, VERSATILE, RUTHERFORD, ARMERIA.
At Southend D. DRUMHELLER. At Ostend LOOSESTRIFE.
(C. in C. Nore, 181519A to Admty.)

South A.N.C.X.F. 161425. This signal is being passed
Beveland to 1732 by hand of Lieut. Robbins who will return
Canal. with report on Canal.
(2) 1732 should set up a H.Q. at the Canal and
be responsible for representing and co-ordinating
Naval requirements, keeping in touch with P.S.V.O
and informing Dutch F.O. Zeeland.
(3) 1732 is to keep F.O.I.C. Holland continuously informed as to
Canal state.
(4) He may make use of all the elements in his party.
(F.O.N.P. 1731, 181145A to N.P. 1732.)

/With ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

South Beveland Canal. (Contd.)
With reference your 161425 and my 181145 can it be confirmed that the clearing of this Canal is to be proceeded with and will receive necessary military assistance.
(2) My own R/C cannot report before 23rd. A military report suggest 2 months repair work required.
(3) In view of necessity to keep traffic relief clear for military communications submit work be started now with all available military assistance.
(S.O. Naval Party 1731, 181600A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Antwerp Convoys defence dispositions.
Your 171420A. It is not considered practicable nor is it my intention that S.O.I.S. should operate forces other than those allocated for local patrols off Schelde and Ostend.
(2) A letter explaining my dispositions and general intentions with regard to the defence of convoy route and Antwerp convoys is being forwarded to you which will include my comments on the V Directive.
(3) A meeting as suggested is most desirable before decision is taken as to position of Plot.
(C. in C. Nore, 181911A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Channel

Suspected U-Boat.
1st Division proceed forthwith to assist U.S.S. KOINER attacking contact in position 49.43 N., 05.40 W. A non-submarine contact is known to be in position 49.40 N., 05.42.5 W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 180725A to E.G.10.)
My 181215 U.S. Ship detached. Contact was plotted moving south when hunted last night in position 232 Lizard 13. U.S. Ships brief contact this morning gives improbable course of 060. Intend to search within 20 miles of 200 Lizard Head 18 tonight. Sea 23 suitable.
(S.O. E.G.10, 181655A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation "Pluto".
Recent experience has shown that larger tugs than DANUBE class are required for the position of eastern tug in the Conun tow system. Essential qualifications are reasonably roomy fore-castle head with large fair loads and a good winch forward. It is requested that the present tugs DANUBE VI and SCHELDE may be relieved by SEAMAN and one other, possibly EMPIRE class, similar for the above reasons attaches to Force "Pluto" for operations based on Dover.
(S.N.O. "Pluto", 181332 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Patrols ...

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Patrols.

Night A/S Patrols 18th/19th November.

Search areas given.

(2) VESPER, VANOC, VANQUISHER, VIDETTE Z.110 and north to 50° 30' N.

(3) M.T.Bs. Z.126, 127, 128.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181459A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
VANOC, VIDETTE be in position (A) 180 Portland Bill to 0630.

(2) Search route E to H.2 Buoy thence close south of route E back to position (A) by 1530.

(3) VESPER, VANQUISHER be at H.2 Buoy 0530 search route E to Z Buoy thence close south of route E back to H.2 by 1430.

{4} BRILLIANT join VESPER.

{5} VESPER complete sweep before return to harbour.

{6} N.O.I.C. Portland if weather suitable sail M.T.Bs. to join VANOC by 0830 instructing them to sweep under his orders.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181710Z to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

OperationsWestern ApproachesProbable
U-Boat.

At 0730 my position 51° 07' N., 10° 30' W. in firm contact with submarine. STONETOWN, LEASIDE and GULEPH hunting. Convoy has made emergency turn to starboard.

(S.O. C.8, 180745Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Reference my 180745 amend position to 51° 07' N., 10° 08' W. LEASIDE made three attacks before losing contact. STONETOWN rejoining convoy. LEASIDE and GULEPH hunting.

(S.O. C.8, 181141A to C. in C. W.A.)

Am in firm contact in position 51° 08' N., 10° 07' W. Squid hedgehog and depth charge attacks carried out after which submarine came to 100 feet then bottomed considerable whistle effect was heard. Am keeping LEASIDE and GULEPH till 1600 as LEASIDE is only ship fitted type 147.

(S.O. E.G.4, 181417A to C. in C. W.A.)

In firm contact. Contact on bottom but appears to be abeam at an angle. My 181417 am convinced submarine tried to surface but failed. Further attacks made. Oil still rising at dark but no concrete evidence. 9908 4567 suitable.

(S.O. E.G.4, 182033A to C. in C. W.A.)

OperationsNorth-western ApproachesSuspected
U-Boat.

Had radar contact in position 58.45 N., 05.10 W. at 0645A held for a short time at 7 miles rapid movement believed aircraft request information whether any aircraft in vicinity. Obtained response on stud one. Somewhat suspicious.

Intend to continue to search area with three ships detaching other three to support R.U.142. Weather follows 5380 0800 suitable.

(S.O. E.G.9, 180830Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/Am ...

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Operations

North-western Approaches

Suspected U-Boat.
(Contd.) Am sweeping in western part of my area waiting to support R.U. 142.
(S.O. E.G.9, 181645Z to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 2 to relieve E.G. 26. WILD GOOSE, LOCH FADA, LOCH RUTHVEN, DOMINICA, LABUAN arrived fuelled and sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A's 161306A Nov. as amended by 172314A Nov.
(Com. (D) W.A., 181720A to C. in C. W.A., S.O. Force 33.)

Operations

Norway.

Operations V.P. V.P.75, V.P.77, V.P.79 cancelled until weather improves.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 181631A to A.C.O.S.)

Submarine Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/19th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
(A) ULA leaves patrol off Fro Havet to pass through 64° 28' N., 08° 55' E. at 0001/20th thence to 64° 01' N., 02° 40' E. 120 miles per day.
(B) VENTURER leaves patrol to pass through 69° 45' N., 14° 50' E. at 1600/19th to 69° 01' N., 10° 01' E. thence 210°, 10 knots.
(C) SCYTHIAN leaves patrol 1400/19th probably on surface 10 knots to pass through 58° 13' N., 00° 36' E. not before 2000/19th thence to 090° Sumburgh Head 4 to R/V with HASTINGS at 0700/20th for onward escort to Holy Loch.
(D) TORBAY, SCEPTRE, VENGEFUL escort HASTINGS off Cape Wrath E.T.A. Scapa 1900/19th. HASTINGS and TORBAY proceed to R/V with SCYTHIAN 090 Sumburgh Head 4 at 0700/20th. TORBAY thence at 10 knots to patrol line length 30 miles direction 000° 180° mid-point 058° 45' N., 01° 15' E.
(F.O. S/M., 181741A to Admty.)
(1) Cancel my 171515.
(2) SCYTHIAN is to leave patrol forthwith and proceed direct to Lerwick.
(Capt. S/M.9, 182005A to S/Ms. N. of 51° N.)

Operation "Handfast". My 151324 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. H.F., 181754A to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrol. If not in contact leave patrol to arrive Lerwick daylight 19th, passing 061° 00' N., 002° 00' W. and west of Shetlands. Night air patrol as in my 172327.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 181029A to S.O. E.G.17, Admty.)

/Possible ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Possible U-Boat. My 171130. Have searched area to eastward of attack without result. Asdic conditions very bad due to E.S.E. gale.
(2) From further reports from ships fitted with echo sounders it appears highly probable that bottom contact reported in LOCH KILLIN's 161021 as large wreck was in fact sunken U-Boat.
(S.O. E.G.17, 181215A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

U-Boat. C.A.F.O. 1954/44 Uben.
(1) H.N.M.S. HONNINGSVAAG and NAMSOS.
(2) 2031A/14th November. (3) 64.09 N., 22.45 W., speed 7.5 knots. (4) A/S search observant.
(5) Line abreast. (9) Sitec reversed. (10) Three. HONNINGSVAAG dropped nine charges. NAMSOS four followed by five. (13) Searching. (15) Continuing. (16) None.
(17) U-Boat detected by asdic then Schnorkel first heard finally seen. Motors clearly heard by asdic from about 200 yards until immediately before first attack.
(A.C.I.C., 181410 to Admty.)

Suspected U-Boat. Proceed to datum positions of grade one disappearing A.S.V. contact at 1840A in 061° 23' N., 003° 37' W. and organise search to south-westward. If not in contact by daylight proceed to Lerwick as previously arranged.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 181934A to S.O. E.G.17.)

Your 181934A. E.T.A. Furthest on position 0100A/19th. Have carried out asdic sweep through position 061° 15' N., 002° 02' W. where aircraft JPX28 reported A.S.V. contact at 1925A without result.
(S.O. E.G.17, 182145A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Convoys Intend following operation.
J.W. 62, (1) Object safe passage of convoy J.W.62 and R.A. 62 between U.K. and North Russia.
R.A. 62: (2) D-day is day J.W.62 sails from Loch Ewe.
Operation Date and route in my 182216. Codeword in my
"Acumen". 182233.
(3) Force taking part: (A) CAMPANIA wearing Flag of C.S.1 who will conduct operation, NAIRANA and BELLONA.
(B) Fleet destroyer escort ONSLOW (Capt. (D) 17), ORWELL, OBEDIENT, OFFA, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI; CAESAR (Capt. (D) 6), CASSANDRA, CAPRICE, CAMBRIAN.
(C) Western Approaches Escort - E.G.7 and E.G.8.
(D) One or more Support Groups may be detailed.
(E) Up to 16 Russian S/M Chasers will be included in convoy but will not form part of escort.
(F) Local Escort. Russian warships operating from Kola as arranged by S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(4) Preliminary movements. S.Os. concerned are requested to order preliminary movements as follows. Escorts proceeding Loch Ewe should arrive in daylight if possible.

/ (A) ...

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- Convoys (A) 7th and 8th Escort Group and any Support Group detailed to arrive Loch Ewe by D minus 1.
- J.W. 62, (B) C.S.1 in KENT to attend convoy conference at Loch Ewe on D-day then returning to Scapa and transferring his flag to CAMPANIA.
- R.A. 62: (C) Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW to attend convoy conference then proceed to fuel Skaale Fiord and pass convoy information to Fleet destroyers and Russian S/M Chasers present.
- Operation "Acumen". (D) Remainder O class destroyers in para. 3 (B) to proceed direct to Skaale Fiord arriving by 0900 D plus 1 and fuel.
- (Contd.) (E) Russian S/M Chasers to be sailed to arrive Skaale Fiord by D-day to fuel escorted by 2 ships of 7th or 8th Escort Group. Any Russian S/M Chasers unable to arrive Faroes by D-day are required to arrive Loch Ewe by a.m. D minus 1 and practice fuelling from escort oiler.
- (5) J.W. 62 is to sail from Loch Ewe p.m. D-day escorted by 7th and 8th Escort Group and any Support Group detailed Route Red unless otherwise ordered. All ships should be capable of 10 knots.
- (6) C.S.1 will proceed from Scapa on D plus 1 in CAMPANIA with NAIRANA and BELLONA escorted by CAESAR, CASSANDRA, CAMBRIAN and CAPRICE so as to join convoy J.W.62 about latitude 063° N. a.m. D plus 2.
- (7) Capt. (D) 17th is to proceed from Faroes with fleet destroyers and any Russian S/M Chasers present so as to join convoy J.W.62 about latitude 063° N. a.m. D plus 2.
- (8) 18 Group C.C. is requested to be prepared to provide A/S air escort as far northward as practicable for both outward and homeward convoy if weather conditions are likely to prevent operation of A/C from the carriers.
- (9) S.B.N.O. N.Russia is requested to sail R.A. 62 as soon as practicable after arrival of J.W.62. Route Blue unless otherwise ordered.
- (10) If alterations are necessary to convoy routes they will be ordered to lettered positions on Route Red and Blue.
- (11) Attention is called N.R.C.I. article 142 (D), (E) and (F).
- (12) Movements on completion unless otherwise ordered.
- (A) Western Approaches Escort return W.A. Bases.
- (B) CAMPANIA, NAIRANA, BELLONA and fleet destroyers return to Scapa.
- (13) Admiralty inform Admiral Archer as necessary. C. in C. Rosyth pass to 18 Group C.C.
- (C. in C. H.F., 182203A to C. in C. W.A., Admty., A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., C. in C. Rosyth, F.Os. and Cpts. (D) H.F., S.B.N.O. Archangel, S.B.N.O. North Russia, H.Q.A.D.G.B., H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C. Greenock, Cdre. (D) W.A., N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.O.I.C. Faroes, F.O.I.C.N.I.)
- My 182203, para. 2.
- (1) D-day Tuesday 28th November.
- (2) Route Red through positions (A) 059° 00' N., 005° 30' W.
- (B) 059° 40' N., 004° 25' W. (C) 062° 05' N., 004° 30' W.
- (D) 073° 01' N., 004° 01' E. (E) 074° 55' N., 016° 55' E.
- (F) 074° 42' N., 023° 01' E. (G) 071° 40' N., 035° 34' E. (MU) 069° 49' N., 035° 34' E.
- (3) Route Blue from (MU) through positions (J) 071° 43' N., 032° 20' E. (K) 072° 23' N., 024° 40' E. (L) 071° 42' N., 016° 50' E.
- (M) 070° 01' N., 008° 40' E. thence (C), (B) and (A) as above.
- (C. in C. H.F., 182216A to same addressees.)

/My ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoys My 182203, para. 2. Codeword "Acumen".
J.W. 62, (C. in C. H.F., 182233 to same addressees.)
R.A. 62:
Operation
"Acumen".
(Contd.)

Mining

Deep mining My 161235A arrived APOLLO.
in North (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 181117A to C. in C. W.A.)
Channel. Owing to shortage of mines intend to delay
sailing for C.F. serial B.2 until p.m. Monday
20th.
(2) Unless flow of mines to Milford Haven for
succeeding serials is increased, ship will be unable to adhere
to proposed 48 hour turn round of which she is otherwise
capable.
(3) Agreed S.A.S.O.
(APOLLO, 181646A to F.O.I.C. Milford.)

Recovery of Reference VERNON (M) 101430 recovery of sinker
sinker of will take some time due to depth of mud. As
delayed Flotilla is required at Le Havre by 30th Nov.
release and ESMERALDA and BRYN MARIC have not completed
mine. defects it is requested they may be relieved by
BYSTANDER and FISHER BOY at the earliest.
FISHER BOY should bring hourly happenings of
sweep.
(M/S. 182, 181310A to VERNON.)

East Coast (1) Dan buoys checked before sweeping. 3 more
Sweep. laps swept. Area cleared to a mean depth of
1.5 miles from northern limit. Negative result.
(2) Request approval to sail GLEANER for Harwich
on completion of sweep tomorrow anchoring off
Cork until daylight. Boiler hours 611.
(JASON, 181443A to C. in C. Nore.)

Primerless Examination of type G.C. mine with mark two unit
German recovered from Antwerp Docks of P. Party reveals
mine. that mine had been actuated and detonator fired
by sweeping but that no primer was fitted.
P.D.M. with 12 settings was set to one.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 181726A to Admty.)

Mines laid My 172030. Four laps swept to depth of 6
off Humber. fathoms covering width of 2 miles from $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
west of western edge of area.
(2) Two mines cut one dragged and detonated one
dragged and exploded. All in vicinity of H.2
Buoy and believed G.R. type.

/(3) ...

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsMining

Mines laid off Humber. (Contd.)

(3) One sinker and part of wire mooring including 4 feet of chain recovered by BOOTLE.
 (4) 15th M/S. Flotilla and danlayers anchored off Humber Light Vessel.
 (5) Intend to proceed at 0730A and complete clearance with 2 laps to eastward.
 (S.O. M.S.F.15, 181805A to Capt. M/S. Humber.)

Situation Report.

Operation "Calendar" (corrupt group) sweeping today Saturday 18th November S.A. and L.L.
 (A) Eastern end of Horta to N.F.13 south side of Channel 6 actuations.
 (B) Intensive S.A. L.L. and L.A. Oropesa sweeps at Antwerp Oropesa. (A) Eastern end of Horta to N.F.13.
 (2) Ground mines 2 (at Antwerp on the 17th) moored mine one (near N.F.15 Buoy).
 (3) Survey work is continuing.
 (Capt. M/S. F.A., 181959A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence

Probable midget U-Boats at Norderney & Wilhelmshaven.

Para. 3 of A.M. 281731A October.
 Photographic reconnaissance of 12th October shows about twenty probable midget U-Boats 30 ft. long at Norderney.
 (2) Photographs of Wilhelmshaven on 6th November show thirteen or fourteen similar craft.
 (3) A.G.M. 557A of 2nd September and N.I.D. U.C. Report 553 of 6th November refer.
 (D.N.I., 182204A to A.N.C.X.F.)

U-Boats at Bergen.

Norway U-Boats movements Bergen.
 (1) Following U-Boats all belong 11th Flotilla arrived Bergen in late October: U.256, U.650, U.6(?80), U.716, U.1113, (?U).1200.
 (2) Least serious damaged U-Boat from air attack of October 4th has now been salved and is in U-Boat garage number (?one). She has a large hole in her bow which cannot be repaired at Bergen. B.2.
 (N.A. Stockholm, 171759 to Admty.)
 O.I.C. Comment: Para. 1 Graded B.3. Para. 2 B.2 grading is acceptable.

U-Boats

U-Boat situation report.

No fresh information of two or three possibly in central English Channel.
 Contact attacked 0745Z/18th November in 51° 07'N. 10° 30' W. might be one of these U-Boats leaving patrol.
 (D.D.I.C., 181431A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSNavigational

Navigation
and shore
lights in
eastern
Channel.

A.M. 050057A Nov. and C. in C. Nore's 171559A Nov. Consider navigation lights should be shown from the eastern limit given in A.M. quoted above to Dumpton Buoy. In addition propose to show Dungeness and South Foreland Lights at reduced visibility of 9 to 10 miles in clear weather and full brilliancy in visibility of 5 miles or less.
(A.C. Dover, 181149A to Admty.)

Wenduyne
Bank Buoy
to be laid.

Your 172251A Red can light buoy marked Wenduyne Bank, group flashing 2 every 10 seconds at 2½ miles visibility, to be laid lit has been loaded into DISCOVERY II.

(2) Intend to sail DISCOVERY II escorted by PICKLE at 1000A tomorrow Sunday November 19th via Q.Z.S. 468, 596, 581, 584 to Ostend outer anchorage E.T.A. 1730A.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 181650A to C. in C. Nore.)

Avoidance
of Needles
Channel in
thick or
dirty
weather.

As ships arriving from westward way in bad weather find that conditions of the Needles are such that pilots cannot be embarked it is requested that all such shipping routed to Wight western entrance may also be given directions for passage south of the Island and entry through eastern entrance via Q.Z.S. 611, 552 and 373.

(2) Passage through the Needles Channel in thick and dirty weather is notoriously dangerous and difficult and this should be impressed upon Masters.
(3) Commodores of Convoys should bear these points in mind with a view to early consideration of leading convoy south of the Isle of Wight from A.1 Buoy or from H.2 Buoy as appropriate.
(4) Request N.C.S.Os. concerned may be instructed accordingly.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181742A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, C.T.G. 125.2, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.C.S.O. Poole.)

Technical CABLES.

Repair of
transatlantic
cable.

Cable ship JOHN W. MACKAY is required to repair transatlantic cables in approximate positions:
(a) 50° 25' N., 11° 16½' W. (b) 50° 00' N., 27° 00' W. Of these repairs (b) is the more important.

(2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail JOHN W. MACKAY as soon after November 24th as weather forecast appears favourable.
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide escort until ship reaches the area in which a special corvette can take over as arranged by C. in C. W.A.
(4) On completion of repairs JOHN W. MACKAY is required to proceed to Halifax.
(D.O.D.(H), 182246A to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

U.S.S. CAMP. CAMP in collision with tanker SANTA CECILIA off Scarweather lightship at 0522A/18th. Also inform those who need to know this area. Bow sheared off. One man missing.
(CAMP, 180715A to Admty., Comnavu.)

Refer my 180715A. Bow sheared off at frame 23. Foremost intact transverse bulkhead frame 27 A-305 and A-405 M flooded. Hole one foot square at frame 41 one foot below deck level. No. 1 3" gun carried away. Present position Scarweather lightship. Able to manoeuvre at slow speed. Require replacement bow section aft to frame 27. 3" gun. Ready service boxes for 3" ammunition and hedgehog. Both anchors and chain. Request instructions.
(CAMP, 180905A to Admty., Cominch.)
Assistance is being sent. Indicate position.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 180945 to CAMP.)
Now being towed to Swansea by British Minesweeper. Bow section is also being towed to same destination.
(CAMP, 181130A to Admty.)
Reference my 181130A to Inverforth. U.S.S. CAMP is to be held at Mumbles and docked at Swansea as tide serves p.m. today Saturday.
(2) Damage to be reported.
(3) If ship is seaworthy CAMP will be towed to Cardiff at earliest opportunity.
(4) Bow portion to be examined and if practical to be docked Swansea.
(5) Should para. 4 be unadvisable the bow portion is to be beached at Mumbles pending further instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 181429 to N.O.I.C. Swansea.)
CAMP docked Swansea. Bow portion being beached Mumbles.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 182011A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Admty.)
Main portion U.S. Destroyer CAMP safely docked Swansea.
Bow portion beached Mumbles.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 182150A to Admty.)

Unknown ship in distress between Cherbourg and Mumbles. Following is a repetition of BRISSENDEN's 181315 begins: Your 181113 Liberty ship CHARLES HENDERSON from Cherbourg to Mumbles Hd. was in this position at 1125. At 0400 she transmitted distress signal on behalf of small ship name unknown in position 49° 48' N., 03° 32' W. who was making S.O.S. by light.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181440A to U.S.S. KOINER.)

L.C.T. 1022. L.C.T. 1022 ashore Galloways lookout, broadside to at high water mark. Craft surveyed and condition considered serious and not practicable to salve. Midship double bottoms tidal, hatch coamings and frames port side craft buried in shingle to depth of 6 ft., shore moorings placed out fore and aft. Working party from Rye now stripping stores and fittings.
(Salvage Officer, 181530A to V.A. Dover.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

U.S. L.S.T.6. My 171804. Information has been received from C.T.U. 125.15.1 that U.S. L.S.T.6 was mined in River Seine and taken in tow by U.S.L.S.T.279. (F.O.B.A.A., 181833A to Admty.)

H.N.M.S. ROSE. Captain, Officers and ship's company of H. Nor. M.S. ROSE lost in collision on 26th October have now returned to U.K. and have been granted 14 days leave.

It is requested that favourable consideration be given to this fine company manning a new CASTLE class corvette which they are very anxious to do and for which they are strongly recommended.

(C. in C. W.A., 182048A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

Reykjavik Approaches. Two positions known as Ices 1 and Ices 2 have been established where local escorts will meet convoys as ordered by A.C.I.C.

Ices 1 - 63° 21' N., 22° 45' W.

Ices 2 - 64° 20' N., 25° 00' W.

(2) Following alternative routes are established.

Route E from Ices 1 via Q.Z.S. 407 to Reykjavik.

Route F from Ices 1 to (A) 63° 30' N., 23° 25' W. (B) 63° 30' N. 23° 42' W. (C) 64° 14' N., 23° 07' W. (D) 64° 10' N., 22° 15' W. thence by usual route to Reykjavik or Hvalfjord. This route is not to be used by inward bound convoys unless position is well established.

Route G from (W) 63° 00' N., 25° 00' W. to (X) 64° 20' N., 25° 00' W (Ices 2) (Y) 64° 20' N., 23° 00' W. thence 111° to Number 6 Buoy.

(3) It is desirable that convoys should normally arrive at Ices 1 just prior to darkness and sailing authorities should arrange time of sailing accordingly; speed of convoy is not to be adjusted, however, unless ordered by A.C.I.C.

(4) Names of stragglers should be reported to A.C.I.C. as escort will normally be detailed to await them at Ices 1 or Ices 2.

(C. in C. W.A., 181728A to F.O.I.Cs. Greenock, Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Aultbea, Com. (D) W.A.)

Cross-Channel personnel movements. Cross-Channel personnel movement requirements up to the end of 1944 are estimated as follows:-
(a) British: 2,000 per day using the Folkestone/Ostend and Dover/Calais routes as soon as the ships suitable for these ports are ready. (b) U.S.: 3,000 per day average with possible peak of 4,500 in Nov., 4,000 per day average with possible peak of 5,000 in Dec. All to be routed Southampton/Le Havre.

(2) On the basis of retaining for the time being the ocean-going troopships and EMPIRE class L.S.I.(L) in the Southampton/Le Havre service, request your views as to which cross-Channel type personnel ships you consider it necessary to retain to maintain programmes given in (1). (3) It is desired to withdraw the remainder for overhaul and preparation for cross-Channel service in readiness for likely increased requirements.

(D. of S.T., 181933A to D.S.T.O. Southampton.)

/Major ...

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Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Major
troopship
movements.

Following is summary 65 of major troopship move-
ments in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during
period to 18th December.

<u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
(A) In -				
(1)	S.D. 59	SOBIESKI	Clyde	20 November
(2)	A.T.167	AQUITANIA	Clyde	22 "
(3)	C.U. 47A	U.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON U.S. SANTA MARIA	Liverpool	26 "
(4)	A.T.165	ANDES	"	27 "
(5)	A.T.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	27 "
(6)	A.T.168	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	1 December
(7)	M.K.F.36	ALCANTARA ATHLONE CASTLE DUCHESS OF RICHMOND QUEEN OF BERMUDA REINA DEL PACIFICO HIGHLAND PRINCESS ORION ORONTES HIGHLAND BRIGADE HIGHLAND MONARCH TEGELBERG BERGENSFJORD	Liverpool Clyde	About 1st December
(8)	C.U. 48A	Ships not yet allocated to ports		4 December
(9)	M.K.S.68	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	Liverpool	4 "
(10)	A.T.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	5 "
(11)	A.T.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	7 "
(12)	A.T.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	"	11 "
(13)	A.T.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	12 "
(14)	A.T.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	14 "
(15)	A.T.173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	16 "
(16)	S.D. 60	Ship not yet allocated	Clyde	18 "
(B) Out-				<u>Sails</u>
(17)	T.A.165A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	20 November
(18)	U.C. 46A	U.S. ships ex C.U. 46A		22 "
(19)	T.A.166	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	22 "
(20)	T.A.167	AQUITANIA	"	26 "
(21)	U.C. 46B	Possibly MORETON BAY	Liverpool	26 "
(22)	U.C. 47A	U.S. ships ex C.U. 47A		30 "
(23)	T.A.168	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	5 December
(24)	T.A.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	2 "
(25)	U.C. 48A	U.S. ships ex C.U. 48A		8 "
(26)	T.A.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	10 "
(27)	D.S. 60	Ship not yet allocated	Clyde	11 "
(28)	T.A.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	12 "
(29)	K.M.S.72	DILWARA	Clyde	13 "
(30)	T.A.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	14 "

/(31) ...

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Home Commands

Shipping and Convoys

Major
troopship
movements.
(Contd.)

Summary 65 (Contd.)

<u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Sails</u>
(B) Out- (31)	K.M.F.37	Probably comprise - SIBAJAK SOBIESKI GEORGIC CHITRAL QUEEN OF BERMUDA TEGELBERG EMPIRE PRIDE CILICIA JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT STRATHNAVER NEA HELLAS INDRAPOERA BATORY DURBAN CASTLE ALCANTARA	Embarkation ports not yet decided	16 December
(32)	T.A.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	16 "
(33)	--	ANDES	Liverpool	About 17 December
(34)	T.A.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	17 December

(2) Allocation of ships to ports arriving in U.K. on and after 1st December has not yet been finally agreed by Port and Transit.
(3) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 25th November when further signal will be made.
(D. of S.T., 181934A to P.S.T.Os. Clyde, N.W. Ports.)

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18.11.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

ANNAMITE. F.S. ANNAMITE. Onward route from Europa Point 28 76 145 172 thence by current swept channels to Toulon. Your 171145 not to F.S. ANNAMITE refers. (F.O.G.M.A., 180927A to C.M.S.F.).

SCOTT (escorting FRAMENT, damaged). E.T.A. Horta delayed 5 hours by gales. 0900Z position 38.13 N. 25.06 W. 270 speed 12 S.B.N.O. pass to all others. (Comcortdiv 17 in SCOTT, 181030 to Cinclant etc.). Require 50,000 gallons fuel oil for each SCOTT and FRAMENT on arrival 2400Z/18th November. (Comcortdiv 17, 181315 to S.B.N.O. Azores, Comnavnor)

LORRAINE, route to Plymouth. LORRAINE C. in C.Med's. 151703 (not to all) refers. Ocean route. M. 35.59 N. 06.10 W. N. 36 N. 08 W. O. 39.00 N. 11.30 W. P.44.20 N. 11.20 W. Q. 180 degs. Bishop Rock 12 miles. R. 180 degs. Lizard 5 miles. (Plot O.D., 181150A to F.O.G.M.A.).

LORRAINE. Amend A.M. 181150 route direct from P to R omitting Q. (Plot (O.D.), 181902A).

Loss of SETTEMBRINI. Cancel my 171858Z (N.T. in W.D.) which was to F.O.G.M.A. for action. Comnavnor convene an investigation in which you are the investigating officer to investigate collision of U.S.S. FRAMENT and Italian submarine LUIGI SETTEMBRINI, resulting in loss of latter. Administer oath to witnesses. Delay departure SCOTT and FRAMENT, my 162109Z, pending completion of investigation. (Cinclant, 181529Z to Comnavnor).

South Atlantic

Simonstown Dockyard, work. Simonstown will be able undertake refit of a destroyer late December followed by others at fortnightly intervals. Alternatively a cruiser could be taken late December. (2) Request ships may be allocated to maintain continuity of dockyard work. Lists of defects and A's and A's to be forwarded in advance. (Cdre. Supt Simonstown, 181149B to C. in C.E.F.). Reply: 210456Z.

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SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

VAMPIRE Intend sailing VAMPIRE from Malta 27th November to comply with C. in C. Mediterranean's 091006. (S.l., 180942A to C. in C. Med.)

HIGHWAY (L.S.D). HIGHWAY will be ready to sail for U.K. end of November. Amdiralty's 102255 to C. in C. Med. only refers.
(2) Intend ship shall lift eight U.S. P.T. boats from Mediterranean for delivery to Com 12 Fleet at Clyde. (C. in C. Med. 181051A to Admty.)

VISIGOTH My 181200, not to C. in C., E.F. Pending satisfactory repair of port engine VISIGOTH is available for A/S training at Malta. Consider it is inadvisable that she should be employed elsewhere as she has only one engine available. (S.l., 181205 to C. in C. Med.)

Minesweepers Intend sailing G.Y.M.S. 2229, 2185, 2065, 2066 for Piraeus. and 2067 to Piraeus 19th November.
(2) Route S.O. to report E.T.A.
(3) F.O. 15th C.S. 161137B C. in C. Med. 132006A F.O.L.E.M. 112047B and my 151736B are all relevant. It is recommended that opportunity should now be taken for these ships to be made fully operational in all respects before they undertake any further M/S commitments.
(5) G.Y.M.S. 2186 is not required at Salonika.
(6) F.O. 15th C.S. 151151B refers. (S.O. M/S 12, 181457B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

Economy Shipping information as requested in A.M.071327 in November is or can easily be made available from communications. other sources. (Details).
(2) If the above is accepted, F.O.L.E.M. making corresponding arrangements under (a) and (b) above with M.W.T.R. and movements Mideast, great economy in Naval Communications is effected. (C. in C. Med. 181513/ to Admty.)

Situation Cominsitrep 62 ending 172400A.
Report (b) No change in front lines.
Riviera. (c) On 16th L'ALCYON fired 104 rounds at Pillboxes at 907856 and concentration troops in 885870 encountered accurate 150 mm. conter fire.
GEORGES LEYGUES fired 135 rounds at S Bridge at 879879 and 106 rounds at barracks at 888872. Five direct hits, Mission well accomplished. No counter battery.
(E) JEANNE D'ARC ready cruiser relieved by GEORGES LEYGUES at 161400A. L'ALCYON and PLUNKET relieved by FORBIN and LUDLOW at 160800A.
(K) One drifting mine sunk by LUDLOW and two by P.T. boats. (Comflanfor, 181600 to F.O.N.A.M.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cortdiv. 62 Request you will sail Cortdiv. 62 as soon as practicable to Casco Bay, Admty. is requested to provide Ocean route Cinclants 171931 not to Admty. refers.
 (C. in C. Med., 181617 to Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

BONN Your 101707. Concur that it is undesirable to turn over BONN to Partisans at the present time.
Hospital ship (enr) (2) If suitable employment can be found for vessel with British crew, she should meanwhile be retained by you.
 (A.C.N.S.(F), 181648A to C. in C. Med.)

GRADISCA Report from STORK (see his 151820) is being sent by air to you, and this confirms remarks in paras. 3, 4, 6 and 7 of German protest in my 181848*.
 (F.O.W.M., 181730A to C. in C. Med.)

*W.R. Note: Cannot be identified in War Reg.
 GRADISCA arrived Algiers a.m. today Saturday. Your 170600 refers. Her S.M.O. refused agreement to disembarkation of German sick and wounded until he receives reply to protest now being sent to Swiss Government. Text of this protest is in my 181848 (not to F.O.L.E.M.)
 (2) He was informed of contents of A.M. 170600 para. 1(a), (b), (c) and (d) and still refused agreement to landing of patients for whom he accepts full medical responsibility.
 (3) He has requested to see Swiss Consul Algiers. This has been refused pending your further instructions.
 (F.O.W.M. 181742 to Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M.)
 Text of German Protest (F.O.W.M. 181848A to Admty). See Lion Copy. (Reply: Admty. 200131A.)
 Cancel Admiralty Message 090131A. War Office have decided not to proceed with exchange, and GRADISCA should be sailed without repatriables.
 (2) Request air and operational authorities be warned of sailing.
 (Head of M. Branch, 182043A to C. in C. Med.)

Corsair Request you will:
 Squadrons (a) Comment on operations proposed in para. 2 from my 241910 October. C. in C. E.F.'s 261058
 FORMIDABLE. October also refers.
 (b) Arrange complete liaison between flying personnel and R.A.F. Squadrons under A.H.Q.E.M. so that operational experience of latter may be used to minimise possible losses.
 (C. in C. Med., 181748A to F.O.L.E.M.) Reply 201340.

SALVESTOR C. in C.E.F.'s 160914 not to F.O.L.E.M. Report date that it is anticipated SALVESTOR will sail to join Eastern Fleet. My 201408 refers.
 (C. in C. Med. 182016A to F.O.L.E.M.)

SECRET

IN

432 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.)

181848A November

From F.O.W.M.

Date 19.11.44.

Recd. 0312.

Naval Cypher XD By Cable

Addressed Admiralty,
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

GRADISCA Hospital Ship.
German Protest.

IMMEDIATE

Reference my 181742 following is translation of protest by Senior Medical Officer GRADISCA for transmission to Swiss Government. A.M. 170609 para.2 refers. Begins.

1. The Hospital Ship GRADISCA is under orders to take sick and wounded, who were lying in the Salonika hospitals when the German troops were withdrawn from Greece to Trieste. On the day of departure, 28th October the Hospital Ship was conducted to Alexandria no reasons being given. There a considerable proportion of the sick and wounded were disembarked. No reasons were given for this either.

2. The GRADISCA was then escorted further, no indication being given of port of destination, length of journey etcetera. In this situation, and indeed about 30 hours before leaving Alexandria, the demand was made (~~5 groups missing~~) for an interview with a representative of the Swiss Government. At the same time a protest was made, the text of which has already been handed over in Alexandria we neither came in contact with a representative of the Swiss Government, nor did we get an answer to our requests and protests.

3. GRADISCA is also under orders to fetch sick and wounded from Crete. At sea we requested the English escort vessel to enable us to carry out this task. This request was not granted, so that a protest had to be made against this too.

4. At sea the question as to further intentions and the future fate of the ship's wounded was several times put to the English escort vessel. No information was forthcoming however. On this account protest was made against a possible transfer to another Belligerent Power. Further protest was made against the lengthy detention of the ship, which is prejudicial to the sick.

5. These questions and protests have also remained unanswered to this day.

6. The 3 Military Chaplains who were embarked considered it their duty to point out this behaviour with regard to the GRADISCA is incompatible with the spirit and intentions of the International agreements, as the lengthy delay and the uncertainty in which the sick are kept contributed not to an amelioration, but to a deterioration of their lot. This signal was received only in part by the escort vessel, the rest of the text was not brought to the knowledge of the escort vessel.

7. The request was repeated at sea that provision be made in

/good

good time for an interview with the representative of the Swiss Government as soon as possible after arrival. The escort vessel assured us that this request would be transmitted to Algiers.

8. So far we do not know on what grounds the disembarkation of yet more sick and wounded is demanded, so that I can decide whether I, as responsible Medical Officer and as the person who has to carry out the orders of his superior formations, on the grounds of the International agreement, can give my approval to the disembarkation of yet more sick and wounded, I must be informed on what grounds this disembarkation is demanded. Should it be based on the claim that better care of the sick and wounded is necessary, I hereby declare that the same conditions and necessary principles for complete care are provided as in any German Hospital on land, and that I assume the full responsibility that my sick and wounded will be cared for as completely and successfully as is possible in any health institution on land.

9. On the contrary I refused the responsibility for the consequences of further transport and or need for the possible prejudicial effects on the sick of a disembarkation, and I can therefore not give any approval to another disembarkation.

10. I note the assurance that

- (A) Any sick to be disembarked remain in British hands.
- (B) The detention of the Hospital Ship GRADISCA ends after a possible disembarkation of sick and wounded, and the ship will be enabled to continue its voyage to its port of destination.

181848A

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(2).
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(H).
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
P.A.S.(S).
P.A.S.(L).
N.A. 1st S.L.
U.W.R.
Ops.(2).
Plot.
O.D.(5).
O.I.C.(3).
D.N.I.(5).
D. of P.(3).
M.(2).
W.D.
I.P.(2).
Ad.Blake.(4).

D.T.D.(4).
D.T.D.(C).
D.E.V.D.(3).
A.L.O.

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18.11.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Balkans. Special Operations Sitrep No. 79, November 18th.
 Capture of Yugoslavia.
 Durazzo (1) Plevlja WH.26 again in Partisan Hands.
 and (2) Pukis XW 9725 captured by Partisans.
 Tirana. (3) Knin WU 79 being evacuated by enemy.
 (4) Kioevo QH 35 fell to Partisans 15th November.
 Albania. Tirana area. (1) Tirana is now free of
 the Germans. Mopping up operations by Partisan
 Forces continue and not more than 300 German Troops have
 escaped North. German total casualties are estimated at
 1200 killed or PW. All the main German strong points,
 including the new Palace, the Ali-Riza Barracks and the
 Skanderbeg Place were captured by the Partisans.
 (2) The Partisans claim to have occupied Durazzo on 16th
 November.
 (3) A German battle group of three Bns. which attempted to
 move from Elbasan to Tirana was almost completely eliminated by
 Combined B.A.F. and Partisan efforts, 1,000 Germans are said
 to have been killed. Seaman PW admit admit at least 100 dead
 as a result of B.A.F. attacks on 15th November.
 (H.Q. Balkan Air Force, No T.O.O. 18)

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18.11.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Flag My 160604. Flag of Vice Admiral Power as
 Command V.A.E.F. will be struck in RENOWN at sunset on
 Changes. Tuesday 21st November. Following temporary
 command arrangements are to come into force at
 0800 FG 22nd November: C.S.5 wearing his flag in
 H.M.S. LONDON will take over duties of S.N.O.A.
 Trincomalee and use reduced V.A.E.F.'s staff and office in H.M.S.
 PORCUPINE. C.S.5 will also temporarily administer the 1st
 Battle Squadron. Correspondence and signals for B.S.1 and
 S.N.O.A. Trincomalee are to continue to be sent to H.M.S. RENOWN.
 Correspondence and signals for C.S.5 are to continue to be sent to
 H.M.S. LONDON. The appointment of V.A.E.F. lapses.
 (C. in C. E.F. 180327Z to Station, C 140 message)

A.F.D.55. Your 072032 to C. in C. E.F. Request destination
 port for A.F.D.55 be Bombay. Para. 3 my 271300
 Oct. to C. in C. E.F. only refers.
 (2) Ref. para. 2. of C.A.F.O.1677/44. Request
 confirmation that dock carries its own mooring gear and that
 dock's crew will be sent either with or in advance of the dock.
 (S.O. R.N. Establishments (India), 180338Z to Admty.)
 Reply: 231645A.
 / C.A.F.O.1677/44. Reinforced concrete floating docks.
 Designation. (P.07970/44 - 3 August, 1944)

U-Boat No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
 dispositions. (C. in C. E.F. 180351Z)

GENERAL It is anticipated that U.S.S. GENERAL POPE will
 POPE. leave Melbourne for Bombay about 28th November.
 (2) Ocean escort for this ship will not be
 provided.
 (3) Route.
 (4) Two destroyers to be detailed later will R/V with GENERAL
 POPE in position F. 004 degs. 10' S. 077 degs. 29' E. at
 0600Z/8th December.
 (5) GENERAL POPE and one destroyer will set watch on 4740 K/cs
 for 12 hours before time for R/V for inter-communication purposes.
 (6) N.O.I.C.Port Melbourne is requested confirm and report back
 date time and position of R/V in para. 4.
 (C. in C. E.F. 180505Z to N.O.I.C.Port Melbourne)

GENERAL It is now intended to afford U.S.S. GENERAL BUTNER
 BUTNER, and GENERAL MANN separate destroyer escorts from
 GENERAL Bombay to 005 degs. S. My 250507 October not
 MANN. to all refers.
 (2) It is anticipated that WESSEX and WAKEFIELD

/ will ...

18.11.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

GENERAL BUTNER, GENERAL MANN. (Contd.) will be available to escort GENERAL BUTNER from Bombay about 1st December.
(4) Cruiser escort will not be provided for GENERAL BUTNER.
(5) Destroyers are to part company in position (O) 005 degs. 10' S. 077 degs. 15' E. proceeding to Trincomalee.
(6) F.O. Bombay is requested to confirm date and time of sailing from Bombay as soon as known.
(7) Further signal will be made regarding escort arrangements for GENERAL MANN.
(C. in C. E.F. 180510Z to F.O. Bombay)

ARNDALE and escort. Sailed my 150431 (Intend sailing H.M.A.S. TOOWOOMBA, MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE and BURNIE for Colombo to R/V with R.F.A ARNDALE.) Shift from broadcast V to broadcast Baker at 19(00?) Z 28th November. E.T.A. Fremantle 0300Z/2nd December acknowledge to H.M.A.S. TOOWOOMBA.
(C. in C. E.F. 180829 to N.O.I.C.Fremantle)

STORM R. of P. P.233 (STORM) 7th Far East, first South West Pacific Patrol.
(2) 20th October vicinity Salayer Strait was bombed twice by A/C while at Periscope depth. Negligible damage caused.
(3) Between 29th October and 2nd November sank by gunfire or demolition charge 11 Schooners loaded with Nickel Ore.
(C. in C. E.F. 181152Z to Admty.)

F.O. Force W. Your 151515. Approved.
Request you will report by signal date of hoisting your flag afloat on East Indies Station.
(Head of M. 181259A to F.O. Force W.)

Destroyers. Request information when PENN, PETARD, D.S.VAN GALEN and D.S. TJERK HIDDES are expected to return to this station. It will also be appreciated if the expected date of arrival of the 24th D.F. could be signalled.
(C. in C. E.F. 181803 E.G. to Admty.)

Squadron numbers. The following squadron numbers have been allocated.

Battle Squadrons.	East Indies	3rd
	Pacific	1st
Cruiser Squadrons.	East Indies	5th
	Pacific	(2nd
		(3rd
		(4th

(Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 182143A to C. in C. E.F.)

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18.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Broadcast
by Admiral
Somerville.

Your 132231 and 132247. No Admiralty objection to broadcast, provided para. 5 is omitted. (D.P.D. 180159A to B.A.D.)

SOUTHERN
PRINCE.

Request you divert SOUTHERN PRINCE as follows for position T thence new Z 45.30 N. 48.30 W. A. 44.20 53.00 B. 44.20 59.00 C. 46.03 59.07. (C. in C. C.N.A. 181427Z to Admty.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(Cominch 181443Z, N.S.H.Q. 181457Z.)

TOURVILLE.

Executive Agent of C.C.S. Cominch with B.A.D. concurrence approves French request to employ F.S. TOURVILLE as a training ship at Toulon. (Cominch 181445Z to S.A.C. Med., Admty.)

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. D. Liberator K/10 sights suspected Schnorkel 46.35 N. 41.52 W. at 1315Z/17th. (N.S.H.Q. 181506Z.)

TENACITY.

A.M. 032154 (TENACITY to be sailed for St. Johns when SALVONIA arrives in vicinity.) Information requested when TENACITY will be available for return St. Johns. (F.O.N.F. 181528Z to Admty.)

SKEENA
(stranded
25/10.)

As A.C.I.C's 161634A indicates abandonment of SKEENA it is requested the department be advised if it is proposed to declare ship a constructive loss, if so what action is being taken to protect the department's interests in any possible salvage values and for removal of any specialist equipment and its disposal. (N.S.H.Q. 181834C to C.N.M.O.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
1032.

For November 17th. (9) Previous night, pair P.T. boats engaged 3 Japanese M.T.Bs. 5 barges off Apale Point proceeding S.W. apparently departing Ormoc Bay. 2 Japanese M.T.Bs. 2 barges sunk remainder escaped. Same time 3 other P.Ts. sank fuel laden lugger in Ormoc Bay and attacked 2 troop carrying barges northbound off Albuera sinking or destroying both. (14) Photographs of shipping Brunel Bay midday 16th taken during strike involving 39 Liberators escorted by 31 Lightnings. All

/13th...

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18.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
1032.
(Contd.)

13th Air Force from Morotai. Each heavy bomber dropped 6 half tonners from 9,500 feet in patterns scoring aggregate 5 or 6 hits on KONGO class battleship and 4 hits on NACHI class heavy cruiser. 5 enemy fighters intercepted bombers without effect although one Japanese probably shot down: intense A/A caused loss of three Liberators.

(15) Early following morning 3 ships sighted 50 miles W. (two groups missing) Bay course south and 6 warships observed in Marudu Bay: Brunei Bay not seen.

(16) Navy R/C plane strafed sea truck in Golok Bay (N.E. Borneo) midday 15th leaving vessel burning and being abandoned: also scored near miss further damaging tanker already beached

Hog Point. Following night search plane saw 4 ship convoy approaching southern entrance Sibutu passage from Veutv and dropped bombs on Tarakan. Next day 22 Lightnings attacked shipping off Tarakan exploding one freighter and setting 2 other cargo vessels afire and damaging 12 barges.

(17) Night 15th November 2 Liberators bombed Sandakan.

(18) 6 Liberators individually bombed seaplane base Tawi Tawi during day long negative shipping search north Borneo 15th.

(19) Before dawn 15th Liberator bombed Puerto Princessa. During subsequent daylight search 2 Liberators bombed strafed small freighter off northeastern Palawan without apparent effect. Straffed and damaged three sea trucks in Puerta Princessa Harbour, scored direct hit on small warship off N.W. coast Palawan leaving same sinking.

(20) Same time another 2 Liberators scored hits on 6A Merchant Ship in Mormoc Straits (Northern Sibuyan Sea) setting same ablaze while third pair sighted three small vessels Coron Bay.

(21) 22 Lightnings swept Davao morning 15th damaging buildings. Straffing one transport one Lugger off Davao. Following night 3 Mitchells one Liberator harassed Davao.

(22) P.T. boats sank or destroyed 6 supply laden barges encountered west coast Morotai night 16th.

(23) Previous night P.Ts. destroyed camouflaged barge Galela Bay.

(25) 24 Mitchells raided Tanamon strip in North Celebes and one bombed Langoan morning 15th (same next ?) day patrol plane attacked 3 small vessels Lembeh Strait and strafed 2 sea planes taking off Toli Toli.

(26) Also 15th November Navy Patrol Liberator strafed sea truck off S.E. Boetoeng Island leaving same burning and sinking. Next day 3 squadrons Lightnings swept Kindarc Drome destroying grounded transport and continuing to Makassar left large freighter burning there.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 180515Z.)

Bras Island
Landing.

Following from S.W.P.A. 17th November.

(2) Mapia Islands. 16th November. Assault forces from U. States 31 Div. landed Bras Island after preliminary air and naval bombardment. Resistance moderate. Satisfactory progress.

(B.AS. Washington 181800Q to W.O.)

18.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/18th November.

A. (1) E.G. 30 obtained contact at 0812/17th Nov.
in 51° 27' N. 11° 01' W.

(2) Tug EMPIRE WOLD reported lost before 1800/10
Nov. near 64° 08' N. 22° 38' W. Possible U-Boat
casualty.

B. (1) E.G. C.8 in contact at 0745/18th Nov. in 51° 07' N. 10°
30' W.

(2) U.S.S. KOINER attacked contact at 0625/18th Nov. in 49° 43'
N. 05° 40' W.

C. (1) A/C had disappearing contact at 1740/16th Nov. in 34° 43'
N. 07° 48' W.

(D.D.I.C. 181222A.)

U-Boat dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 181352A, 181402A.)

19.11.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands

1. Minesweepers ^{layers} MENESTHEUS and AGAMEMNON have sailed for the Pacific.

North Sea.

2(a) Calais entrance channel is now 250 ft. wide, and depth 11 ft. below datum.

(b) Six mines in all have been swept in the area off the Humber where SAPAROEIA and THEODORE PARKER were mined on the 16th.

Norway.

3. Force 3, consisting of DIADEM, PURSUER and PREMIER, has sailed on Operation "Handfast" for minelaying at Salhusttrommen (59° 22' N.)

Foreign StationsMediterranean

Riviera.

4. Last night, two enemy convoys met off Sestri Levante (Gulf of Genoa) and were engaged, first by shore batteries and then by each other. Our coastal forces then attacked each in turn with torpedoes. One ship was blown up. Both attacks were made without casualties, despite very heavy enemy fire.

Adriatic.

5. Coastal craft last night fired six torpedoes into an enemy base at Cigale Cove, Lussinpiccolo, (Northern Adriatic), where a concentration of human torpedoes and enemy small craft had been reported. Five torpedoes were seen to explode in the Cove. Beaufighters attacked today with rocket projectiles, and many strikes were seen in the anchorage and camouflaged area of the base.

6. The A/A ship COLOMBO berthed in the harbour at Zara at 1630, and her C.O. assumed duty as Senior British Naval Officer. He reported full co-operation from the local section commander.

7. At Leghorn, three Italian limpeteers were apprehended early this morning while attempting to climb over the northern breakwater.

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19.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.
(Contd.)

8. After an interval of 12 days due to bad weather, coastal craft patrolled between Vado and Spezia, but made no sightings. While returning to harbour P.T.311 struck a floating mine and was destroyed.

Suez Canal,
VALIANT.

9. Trials with the battleship VALIANT in Suez Bay having convinced the Canal Company that she cannot be controlled at low speed sufficiently to pass through the Suez Canal, even with the assistance of tugs, she is to return to the United Kingdom via the Cape. The C.O. considers that the VALIANT can reach home without docking, and the Cape without refuelling.

East Indies

TRENCHANT.

10. On her third Far East patrol, the submarine TRENCHANT reports that on October 28th she carried out successfully an attack by two chariots on Puket Harbour. A recently salvaged 5,000 ton merchant ship was sunk, and another wreck being salvaged was severely damaged. All the chariot personnel were recovered. On November 10 she sank by gunfire a 30 ton junk in 03° 05' N., 100° 03' E.

Australia and New Zealand

Borneo.

11. Before dawn today, 3 Liberators raided 2 warships described as light cruisers in Brunei Bay. Three half-ton hits were scored on one, causing an explosion. The other was hit, but the result was not observed.

Philippines.

12(a) Ships in Leyte Gulf were under attack five times today, including three by suicide dive-bombers, and suffered slight damaged.
(b) Seven Liberators bombed the waterfront at Palompon, destroying buildings and a number of small craft.

/Mapia ...

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19.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Mapia
Islands.

13. Allied forces completed by midday today the occupation of the Mapia and Asia Islands (north of the western end of Dutch New Guinea), four days after the initial landing on Pegun Island.

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19.11.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

N.C.S.O. Request N.C.S. Ramsgate may be placed under me
Ramsgate. operationally. A.C. Dover concurs.
(C. in C. Nore, 191031A to Admty)

Movements

INDEFATIGABLE. My 181625A sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191430 to Admty, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)
INDEFATIGABLE, GRENVILLE, UNDINE, URANIA sail from Spithead 1100Z to-day 19th November in accordance with Admiralty Message 132355A November and R.A.(A) B.P.F.161637A.
(2) Routed from vicinity of Smalls to Straits of Gibraltar as in A.M. 161143.
(3) Unless otherwise reported by R.A.(A) B.P.F. ships will pass Straits of Gibraltar night 24th/25th November.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191508A to F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.)

SUTTON. H.M.S. SUTTON is to commence destoring and reducing reserve fleet category C on Monday 20th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191440 to Capt. D. Plymouth)

MAURITIUS. Sailed MAURITIUS in accordance with my 182018A.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 191604A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

DUGUAY I have only just sufficient fuel to reach Plymouth.
TROUIN. Desirable to sail 0800/20th to arrive Plymouth by daylight. Brest Channel taking 4 hours due to following M/S at low speed fuel remaining will not allow sailing after 21st.

B.N.L.O's 161605A para. 1 some later Q.Z. messages are held but lists remain only complete up to number mentioned.
(DUGUAY TROUIN, 191735A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Your 191735. DUGUAY TROUIN can be received at Plymouth. On leaving Brest swept Channel ship should proceed to 180 Lizard 3. thence by Q.Z.S. 607 and 601.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 192350A to DUGUAY TROUIN)

ATTACKER, Admiralty message 151458 ATTACKER and STALKER
STALKER. will be ready to sail a.m. Monday 27 November
A/C will be embarked on sailing.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 192153A to Admty)

OperationsSituation Report

Naval. Correct my 182255A November to read Cositintrep
228 (R) 228.
Captured Ports.
Calais. Date of completion of L.S.T. Hards

/delayed ...

19.11.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report

Naval. (Contd.) delayed due to weather and heavy demolitions. Width of entrance channel is now 250 feet and depth is 11 feet below chart Datum. Deepening and widening continues. Unloading figures for 18th November.

	Troops.	Vehicles.	Stores.	Pol.
British				
E. Calvados	5	102	-	-
Dieppe	221	-	4,063	-
Boulogne	-	-	953	-
Ostend	<u>2,983</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>1,341</u>	<u>-</u>
Total:	<u>3,209</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>6,357</u>	<u>-</u>

U.S.				
Cherbourg	-	-	15,041	9,750
Brittany Ports	-	-	6,032	-
Rouen	762	407	4,345	510
Havre.	<u>21</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>4,211</u>	<u>-</u>
Total:	<u>783</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>29,629</u>	<u>10,260</u>

Off loading at U.S. Beaches discontinued and all shipping diverted to other Ports.

Combined Total: 3,992 694 35,986 10,260
 (A.N.C.X.F. 192235A to Admty)

Operations

North Sea

Surveying arrangements for Dutch Waters. F.O.N.P.181150 concur. HYDROGRAAF would be useful not only for this special operation but for general surveying duties in Dutch Waters. (2) Consider surveying boats fitted E/S would be valuable and request they be supplied. (A.N.C.X.F. 191314A to Admty) *see 30/11 732*

Patrols. Harwich M/S Patrol and position 51 withdrawn owing to weather. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 192002A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations

Channel

Suspected U-Boat. Have obtained a first class bearing 035 degs. of U-Boat naval enigma transmission 18 Group on 3770 K/cs at 0028Z my position 049 degs. 54' N. 004 degs. 30' W. (LOCH MORLICH, 190155A to Admty)

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19.11.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

Cross-
Channel
oil-pipe
line.

Operation "Pluto Hamel I".
Regret to report Conun broke away morning of
Friday 17th off Dungeness in gale and drifted
ashore. Position Lade Signal Station 017 degs.
8 cables. No damage done to Pluto Installation.
No casualties. Flanges of drum badly damaged.
Main hull appears intact.
(S.N.O. Pluto, 190915A to Admty)

Patrols.

My 181710 on completion VANOC, VIDETTE, VAN-
QUISHER, BRILLIANT R/V 135 degs. Portland Bill 26
search to H.5 buoy thence H Channel to 49 degs.
50'.

- (2) Night Patrol 19th/20th search Z.114, 113, 112, 108.
(3) F.O.I.C. Portland instruct M.T.B's Night Patrol Z.126, 127,
128 if weather suitable.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191215 to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)
Dispositions at 2000. All positions are North and West.
HELMSDALE, BRAITHWAITE, LOCH DUNVEGAN. Patrolling between 49 degs.
34' 06 degs. 45' and 49 degs. 41' 05 degs. 40'.
BAYNTON, FOLEY patrolling between 50 degs. 04' 06 degs. 32'
and 50 degs. 56'.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191458A to S. & A. Plymouth Command.)
Day A/S Patrols 20th November.

- Search Areas given. (2) VANOC, VIDETTE, Z.113, 112, 108.
(3) VANQUISHER, BRILLIANT Z.120, 121 and 120 N. of 49 degs. 47'.
(4) ANTHONY relieve VANOC.
(5) M.T.B's if weather suitable, Z.125 S. to 50 degs. 10' F.O.I.C.
Portland instruct them accordingly.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191750A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

Operations

Western Approaches

Reliefs for
BUTTERCUP
and
GODETIA.

A.M.171952 para. 1 CROIX DE LORRAINE and LA
SURPRISE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191558A to Admty.)

Operations

Northwestern Approaches

Patrol.

At 0001 tomorrow 20th 2nd E.G. is to establish
Gamma patrol on 57 degs. N. between 08 degs. 30'
and 10 degs. W.
(C. in C. W.A. 191256A to S.O. Force 33.)

Your 192042. If not in contact by daylight resume patrol as in
my 172314. Cancel my 191256.
(C. in C. W.A. 192316A to S.O. E.G.2)

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation "S.C". Intend sailing S.C. operation from Shetland.
(1) 0001A/21st November from Scalloway.
(2) 066 degs. from Sumburgh Head 12 knots.
(3) 1900A/21st November.
(4) Between 1900A/21st November and 0600A/22nd November.
(5) 246 degs. to Sumburgh Head 16 knots.
(6) p.m. 22nd November.
(7) 066 degs. Sumburgh Head. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 190915A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. VENTURER is to proceed diving by day except between lat. 068 degs. and 065 degs. and S. of lat. 062 degs. My 161931 refers.
(Capt. S/M.9, 191217A to S/M's North of 51 degs. N.)

Zone A times. S/Ms at 0800/20th and movements in following 24 hours.
(A) VENTURER 69 degs. 01' N. 10 degs. 02' E. course 210 degs. diving by day but probably on surface seven knots between 68 degs. and 65 degs. N.
(B) ULA 64 degs. 18' N. 06 degs. 36' E. diving by day through 64 degs. 01' N. 02 degs. 40' E. 120 miles per day.
(C) RUBIS at 1000/20th and SOKOL at 1600/20th leave Lerwick through 090 Muckle Flugga 10 to 61 degs. 13' N. 000 degs. 01' E. to 61 degs. 01' N. 02 degs. 53' E. then southeast probably on surface eight knots until crossing 001 degs. E. then diving by day 130 miles in 24 hours.
(F.O.S/M, 191559A to Admty)

Operation "Handfast". My 181754. Force 3 sailed at 1700A to-day Sunday.
(C. in C. H.F. 191813A to Admty., F.O.S. H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group, C. in C. W.A.)
Your 171226 and 172112. A/C will show I.F.F. as requested *(aircraft)*
(2) WARWICK, J.281 carrying air-borne lifeboat will operate from Wick. Wireless callsign K.M.U.79, R/T PLAINSONG 79.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 191901A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations

Northern Waters.

Russian S.Cs. for Convoy J.W.62. It is proposed to include up to 16 Russian S/Cs in J.W.62.
(2) 10 of these are expected to arrive Londonderry from St. Johns p.m. 23rd November and the

/remaining ...

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S.C's. for
Convoy
J.W.62.
(Contd.)

remaining 6, of which 3 have defects, are now in the Clyde area. The majority will therefore be unable to carry out fuelling practice as previously arranged.

(3) C. in C. W.A. should sail as many S.C's to fuel at Skaalefjord as can arrive by 28th November. Escorts should be provided from ships detailed by C. in C. W.A. for J.W.62.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 190050A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C.W.A. Info: C.S.1, A.C.O.S., F.O.I.C Greenock, F.O.I.C. Glasgow, F.O.I.C.N.I., Com. (D) Londonderry. N.O.I.C.Faeroes, N.O.I.C.Lamlash)

Patrols.

My 181934, if not in contact by daylight establish Gamma patrol between position 061 degs. 01' N. 003 degs. 24' W. and 060 degs. 38' N. 002 degs. 45' W. Probable course U-Boat 230 degs.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 190130A to S.O.E.G.17)

If not in contact my 1400A to-day 19th proceed to establish new Gamma between 060 degs. 00' N. 004 degs. 00' W. and 060 degs. 31' N. 004 degs. 52' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 191054A to S.O.E.G.17)

Enemy Air ActivityReconnais- German air force activity Nov. 1st to 15th as
sance flights. reported by Russians.

(A) ZECOT and sea R/C flights. Barents sea. 2nd 6 aircraft only. Greenland sea. 1st 3 aircraft, 2nd 5 aircraft, 3rd 3 aircraft, 4th 4 aircraft, 8th 4 aircraft, 10th 1 aircraft, 11th 5 aircraft, 12th 12 aircraft, 13th 2 aircraft, 15th 3 aircraft.

(B) Other activity: ? at night 6th/7th 1 Ju.88 flew over the entrance to Kola Inlet and along the Murman coast.

(C) No further activity reported.

(S.B.N.O.N. Russia, 190920A to C. in C. H.F.)

MiningMinelayers
MENESTHEUS
and
AGAMEMNON
to the
Pacific.

Admiralty message 311425A October refers. Sailed MENESTHEUS (S.O) and AGAMEMNON in convoy O.N.267 detaching in position RV thence through K. 41 degs. N. 35 degs. W. L. 35 degs. N. 47 degs. W. M. 27 degs. N. 59 degs. W. N. 20 degs. N. 67 degs. W. O. Mona Passage. P. 11 degs. N. 78 degs. W.

(2) Vessels maintaining constant watch on 500 K/cs and L/S Watch on 2410 K/cs, reading general

/periods ...

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Minelayers
MENESTHEUS
and
AGAMEMNON
to the
Pacific.
(Contd.)

periods on broadcast BN whilst in convoy, changing to constant watch on broadcast BN at 1200Z/24th November, thence in accordance with A.F.Os. 1/44 Section WA Table 2 line 3 for single line ships, thence to Panama in Areas D and E. (3) S.P.'s held (A) WIMS one Mersigs 1, 2 and 3 and S.P.02272 Series. (B) S.P.2524(5) S.P.2525 (5) with J, DA, B, K and XA recoding tables. (C) S.P.02522(7) S.P.02523 (7) with M and S recyphering tables.

- (4) W/T call signs from S.P.2489(3) and S.P.2490(12) Series.
- (5) Vessels carry minor war recognition signals only.
- (6) Request B.A.D. Washington inform U.S. Authorities concerned. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 190118A to Admty)

Mines laid
off Humber.

My 181805 Weather conditions at present unsuitable for clearance.

- (2) Waiting off Northern end of area.
- (3) Weather report 2866 9246.
- (S.O.M.S.F.15 190905A to Capt. M/S Grimsby.)

My 181805A 3 mines cut in approx. position $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of position (B) given in your 171715A.

(S.O.M.S.F.15, 191615A to Capt. M/S Humber)

My 191615. For 3 mines read 2. Return Humber light vessel anchorage. Further signal will follow.

(S.O.M.S.F.15, 191716A to Capt. (M/S)Humber)

My 191716. 2 laps swept making a total of 6 and clearance of area considered completed except for small gaps round H.2 and number 15 buoys. Check sweep not considered necessary.

- (2) 2 mines cut and sunk making total of 6 GIR type. 3 in position 279 degs. H. 2 buoy nought point 55 miles. (2?) 020 degs. H. 2 buoy one point 7 miles and one and nought dragged but detonated in position 003 degs. H.2 buoy one point two.
- (3) As 2 and possibly 3 mines were outside of area propose a small area should be declared and swept to northwards of position (B).
- (4) Request instructions.

(S.O.M.S.F.15, 192014A to Capt. M/S Humber, Admty, C. in C. Nore.)

North Sea
Sweep.

Your 141720 and 191219.

6 more laps completed, clearance now completed. Negative results. About 8 Dan left down.

- (2) Intend anchoring flotilla in Margate Roads detaching GLEANER at N.F. 3. Passing N.F.3 at 2030. E.T.A. Margate 0030.
- (JASON, 191705A to C. in C. Nore.)

North Channel
deep mining.

APOLLO 181646A. In the event of further delay in arrival of mines it is requested that APOLLO should not be sailed until a minimum of 120 mines are embarked, and that the mines are laid at 200 foot spacing, the lines being shortened accordingly.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 191901A to C. in C. W.A.)

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Situation Report. Attacks were made northwest and south of Lands End and southwest of Cape Clear on 18th November but situation in southwestern approaches and in central English Channel remains obscure and there is no reliable indication of whereabouts of 2 or 3 U-Boats possibly in this area.
(D.D.I.C.191351A to Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

Information desired in Schnorkelling U-Boats. Information regarding detection of Schnorkelling U-Boats is considered of great importance. Reference para. 17 of your 181410 request ranges at which Schnorkel H.E. was first heard and Schnorkel sighted and estimated speed of U-Boat at that time.
(C. in C. W.A. 192009A to A.C.I.C.)

Navigational

Navigation lights to be shewn in Eastern Channel. Following has been received from C. in C. Nore. Begins. In view of increasing volume of shipping consider all traffic between Dover and Southend and also between Dumpton and N.F.2 buoys should be instructed to burn navigation lights. A.C. Dover concurs. 171559A. Ends. Request routing authorities be informed.
(D.T.D.190351A to C's in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F.)

To facilitate the issue of a comprehensive "A" message and of consolidated instructions for C.A.M.S.I.191, request early consideration be given to agreed joint proposals for burning navigation lights in a well-defined area, to be bounded on the west by a meridian or a line joining two salient points on English and French Channel coasts and on the north and east by a line to be proposed by C. in C. Nore.

A.M.050057A, 190351A and A.C. Dover, 181149A refer.
(D.T.D. 191555A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, V.A. Dover)

Your 181149A Concur.
(D.T.D. 191616A to V.A. Dover)

Port Facilities

Great Yarmouth Floating Dock. A.M. 182232A. Owing to increased docking commitments in this sub-command due to additional C.F. and M/S Flotillas based here, it is requested that A.F.D.38 be retained at Great Yarmouth for docking C.F. craft, for which it was converted in May last and for which it has since proved invaluable.

(2) Even if A.F.D. (B.A.2) is substituted and converted for coastal craft, the docking capacity for these craft in Yarmouth will be halved.

Further considerable alteration would be necessary to existing quay site and moorings due to the different dimensions of B.A. Dock.

During the delay thus caused, serious docking congestion will result with consequent reduction in available operational craft.
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 191141A to C. in C. Nore)

/Terneuzen...

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Port Facilities - Contd.

Terneuzen. Your 181052. Port repair ship SWIFT arrived Ostend 1500 to-day for onward routing to Terneuzen.
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 191632 to V.A. Dover)

Casualties and Defects

L C.T. Reference Fleet Notice 858/41.
1022. (1) L.C.T.1022.
(2) Ran ashore due to stress of weather 17th November 1944.
(3) Broadside to shore, buried in shingle to depth 6 feet not practicable to salve.
(4) 50 degs. 55' 00" N. 00 degs. 53' 42" E. (approx.)
(5) Not buoyed.
Not considered dangerous to navigation.
(A.C. Dover, 191130A to Admty.)

CANTAL. CANTAL ashore Western end Christchurch Bay. Weather conditions unfavourable for any salvage operations.
(2) Will inspect directly weather moderates, with view to refloating when conditions permit.
(C.S.V.O.Cowes, 191135A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Shipping and Convoys

ILE DE Master A.T.166 reports that position (M) as given
FRANCE. him by routing officer Boston was 42 degs. 20' N.
54 degs. 10' W. This is confirmed by routing instructions now in possession of N.C.S.O. Clyde. Position (M) as given in signal 091501 November from Port Director Boston was 40 degs. 20' N. 54 degs. 10' W.
(2) At 1430Z/12th November at which time Connav 121248 was received on the bridge, ship was in position 42 degs. 18' N. 53 degs. 41' W. The new position (M) thus bearing 190 degs. 120' from the ship.
(3) The Master considered that the word "preferably" in the interpretation of NKNU gave him a certain amount of latitude as to obeying the instructions and as (a) He had the other convoy in sight. (b) He would have to alter 98 degs. to starboard. (c) Boston authorities informed him they had no knowledge of any submarines in the area he decided to continue on his present course to position (N).
(4) Signal 121412 was not corrected immediately as Master had made a position report some 12 hours earlier and he did not wish to break W/T silence in daylight. It was decided therefore to make another position report on the night of the 13th November A.M.171723A November refers.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 191044A to Admty.)

/Southampton ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Southampton-Ostend route still needed. Your 181933. Understand that there is a commitment to transport a number of mixed A/A Regiments to Ostend which must sail from Southampton owing to lack of suitable transit accommodation elsewhere for A.T.S.

(2) This does not increase the total figures given in your para.A but will necessitate some ships being retained on the Southampton Ostend service.

(3) It is not known when 21 A.G. will be ready to receive troops at Calais.

(A.N.C.X.F. 191153A to D. of S.T.)

Release of L.S.T's. (1) A.N.C.X.F. 161805 and Comnavau 171001. Following L.S.Ts. withdrawn from "Overlord" for transfer to Royal Navy.

A	B	C
Ship No.	Location.	Date of Readiness to move.
157	Portland	November 25th
386	Falmouth	" 25th
289	Southampton	" 25th
73	Portland	" 28th
309	Portland	" 28th
315	Falmouth	" 25th
326	Southampton	" 25th
381	Falmouth	" 30th
373	Portland	" 25th
347	Portland	" 30th
351	Plymouth	" 25th

(2) Request transfer be effected at Base Two Roseneath.

(3) When your instructions are received Com. L.S.Ts. 11th Phib. will co-ordinate.

(Comphibsukay 191211A to Admt)

Sailings for Far Shore. A.M. 091642A and your 101533A refer. It is hoped that Thames ships for Le Havre will soon be routed independently by French Coastal Route.

(A.M.111803)

(2) It is proposed that ships from the west for Le Havre should sail from St. Helens as at present arriving Le Havre at daylight. Escort then to sail at dusk with returning ships routed via H.10 buoy to collect joiners and thence proceed to R/V with T.B.C. Convoy at A.3 buoy about noon whence local escort will return to Portsmouth.

(3) To enable R/V at A.3 buoy to be at noon and to facilitate daylight junction with O.G.C. convoy the next morning it is proposed to make all times shown in para. 2 of A.M. 091642 ninety minutes later.

(4) The difficulties of night sailings are realised but need to save ship time is acute.

(5) Request your concurrence or remarks on para. 2 above.
 (D.T.D.191606A to C.T.F.125)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- FRAMENT (damaged in collision) Arrival Horta 0901Z/19 U.S.S. SCOTT and U.S.S. FRAMENT. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 191122Z.)
- ANCHUSA. Returning to Gibraltar in accordance with your 161123A E.T.A. 1400/20. P.C.S. 038° 02', 009° 19', 153°, 10½. 10½ knots is maximum speed possible owing to broken fuel oil feed pipe. Weather. (ANCHUSA, 191209A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- TENACITY. TENACITY arrived Horta and available as rescue tug. (S.N.O. Azores, 191246 to Admty.)
- ANNAMITE. My 171145A and 181608A refer. F.S. ANNAMITE and TIBIA (T) depart Casablanca 200900A amend speed 10.5 to Europa Point E.T.A. 210600A. ANNAMITE S. of A. 13 in Med., E.T.A. Toulon 231900A. (Commorseafon, 191300A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- CALPE. Sail at 1800A today (Sunday) for Chatham. (2) Route. (3) S. of A. 16 knots. (4) Codeword "Nightwing" 233. (6) E.T.A. Chatham 0700A November 23rd. (F.O.G.M.A., 191621A to CALPE.) Sailed CALPE. (F.O.G.M.A., 191854.)

South Atlantic

- C. in C. S.A. Intend to visit Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth leaving Capetown by air 19th November and returning 29th November. (C. in C. S.A., 190958B to Admty.)

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VORACIOUS. Sailing from Malta VORACIOUS at 1658A/21st (route) to arrive Port Said 0856A/26th.
(2) Speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(Capt. (S) 1, 191115A).

ROBERT MAERSK. A.S.I.S. ROBERT MAERSK is to be sailed Fremantle on completion of loading. Admiralty's 211313A October. C. in C.E.F. 151328Z and Admiralty's 152113A(?) not to all refer.
(F.O.L.E.M., 191345B to S.N.O.R.S.C.A.).

Enemy unit San Remo. Air R/C. signals large merchant vessel at San Remo at 190830A. P.T. Boats are to patrol line A during night and endeavour to sink this ship if she tries to sail during night. The two destroyers will remain on patrol out of the 200 fathom line and in the east of the San Remo meridian to support the P.T. boats. MONTCALM will be at 0730 on 20th in South of San Remo to destroy this ship if still in harbour. Air observer has been requested from N.G.L.O. at dawn. WOOLSEY pass these instructions to P.Ts.
(Comflanfor, 191521A to P.T.Boats, WOOLSEY, BENSON).
Before daybreak proceed out of range of shore batteries and join MONTCALM in position 20 miles 160 degs. from San Remo at 200700A.
(F.O. Flanfor, 191750A to WOOLSEY and BENSON Info. F.O.N.A.M.).

Capture of Tirana and Durazzo. Special operations Sitrep No.80.
(B) Albania.
(2) Germans are said to be evacuating Verre and Scutari.
(3) From 1300 hours 15 November till daylight 16 November there was continuous traffic north along the Verre - Scutari.
(4) At 0800 hours on 17th November German resistance ceased in Tirana and the city was liberated.
Fierce fighting continues along the road Tirana - Verre - Scutari.
(5) It is confirmed that Partisan Forces now hold Durazzo - Shijak and Kavaje.
(6) Partisans Brigade has been sent to strengthen other Anla Forces along the road Tirana - Verre.
(H.Q. Balkan Air Force, 191535A to W.O.).

Italian ships in Spain. No. Mediterranean 006066140 18th July.
Following corrections are to be made to Head of Royal Italian Naval Party to C. in C. Med., N.994 of 16th June.
(5) B.N.A.Madrid is requested to pass to Italian Embassy for immediate information of Italian ships concerned and report when amendments have been received by them and understood.
(C. in C.Med., 191636A to B.N.A.Madrid).

/FORMIDABLE...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

FORMIDABLE
aircraft
employment.

In view of probable date of completion of FORMIDABLE an alternative employment for 848 Squadron Avengers and a number of Corsairs is now possible.
(2) Aircraft would operate under M.A.A.F. probably based Foggia area to cover targets in

Yugoslavia.

(3) Observing the benefit to No.4 Naval Fighter Wing during similar attachment prior to "Dragoon" consider this provides better opportunities of implementing C. in C.E.F's. 261058 October not to all, than bombing of Crete and Rhodes is my 241910 October also refers.

(4) Aircraft would be attached to existing R.A.F. squadrons and obtain benefit of their experience prior to operating.

(5) Estimated duration of commitment is one month from end of November.

(6) Propose therefore to embark FORMIDABLE'S maintenance personnel stores and limited range of spares in THANE sailing Alexandria about 26th November for Taranto. THANE to continue to U.K. on completion of move.

(C. in C.Med., 191750 to Admty.).

COLOMBO
at Zara.

COLOMBO berthed in Zara Harbour 1630. Section Cmdr. returned my call and stayed to tea. Atmosphere now most cordial. Instructions from Tito received. Fuel co-operation and accommodation promising.
(S.B.N.O. Zara, 191845 to F.O.T.A.L.I.).

Situation
report
No. 487.

(1) COLOMBO has arrived at Zara where her C.O. has assumed duty as S.B.N.O.

(2) LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD bombarded enemy positions at Kr(?)ist)ofor on (corrupt group) (?Island) in North Adriatic on 17th November.

(3) At Leghorn 3 Italian Limpeteers were apprehended early this morning while attempting to (?dive) over Northern Breakwater.

(4) After an interval of 12 days due to bad weather Coastal craft were on patrol from Vado to Spezia but made no sight. While returning to harbour P.T.311 struck a floating mine and disintegrated. There were 5 survivors.

(5) Near Franco - Italian border allied (?warships) bombarded a bridge, barracks and a (troop?) concentration with success.
(C. in C.Med., 191915A).

EMILE
BAUDOT.

Request you sail EMILE BAUDOT to area limit for onward routing to Gibraltar. C. in C.Meds. 020945 not to all.
(F.O.L.E.M. 192017 to N.O.I.C.Port Said).

BLACK
PRINCE
ARGONAUT.

On completion serial number 13 vide my 191217 (not to all) BLACK PRINCE and ARGONAUT are to proceed to Port Said to arrive for Canal transit as early as possible after dawn 22nd reporting P.C.S. and E.T.A. 399 by immediate signal.

/Codeword...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

BLACK
PRINCE,
ARGONAUT
(Contd.)

Codeword "Gabardine 969".
(2) After transit S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to
onward sail ships to Aden for Colombo.
Admiralty 311210/October and my 051945 neither to
all refer.
(3) Attention is called to Q.B.C.930.
(F.O.L.E.M., 192025B to BLACK PRINCE, ARGONAUT,
S.N.O.R.S.C.A.).

HAYDON
and M/V
for
Skiathos.

Sail to pass Boom1200/20th (November) escorting
EMPIRE HALDANE and proceed by Great Pass west
channel to 1309 thence route Coffee north to R/V
with SALAMNIA and FRED in position 700 1700/21st.
S. of A. 11 knots.
F.O.L.E.M., 172043 and 191(809) codeword "Bunter
534".

Priority low. Conshore. Shift to area broadcast L.B. at 1445/
21st. From position 700 proceed in company by route Cider and
Sherry to Skiathos reporting speed and E.T.A. to C.S.15.
(R.A. Alexandria, 192032B to HAYDON).

VALIANT
to return
by Cape..

Trials of VALIANT in Suez Bay have convinced
Canal Company that ship cannot be controlled at
low speed sufficiently to transit canal even with
assistance of tugs. They consider that transit
of ship should not be attempted. Intend therefore
that ship should proceed round Cape. Ship will be ready to
proceed from Suez to Aden unescorted A.M.22nd. After having
fuelled at Aden C.O. considers that VALIANT can proceed direct to
U.K. without docking or refuelling. Request C. in C. E.F. will
inform me date on which VALIANT should arrive Aden for onward escort
My 101220 refers.
(.F.O.L.E.M. 192239 to C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.F.).
See also 201348.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

TRENCHANT 3rd Far East patrol.
 R. of P. (2) 28th October special operation carried out successfully.
 (3) 3rd November proceeded for Air Sea Rescue duty which were subsequently cancelled.
 (4) 9th 0916, Commenced attacks escorted convoy consists of 2900 tons Merchant ship in ballast similar to GIHU MARU 500 ton loaded tanker and 2 300 ton coasters 0953 position 002° 59' N. 100° 05' E. fired 5 torpedoes at 2700 yards range. No hits counter attacks 11 charges, none close.
 (5) 10th position 003° 05' N. 100° 03' E. sank by gunfire 30 ton Junk.
 (C. in C.E.F. 190325Z to Admty.)
 My 190325Z para. 2. Special operation was attack by 2 Chariots on Puket Harbour. Recently salvaged 5,000 tons Merchant Ship was sunk. (?First) wreck being salvaged was severely damaged. All (?personnel) recovered safely. Fremantle pass P/L to Capt. (S) 8th S/M Flotilla.
 (C. in C. E.F., 190327Z to Admty.)

Survivors from My 100521. Total number of survivors now SS. FORT LEE. rescued 50 including Master leaving 1 boat containing 16 survivors to be accounted for. Survivors state 2 torpedoes were fired and ship sank in 027° 35' S. 083° 11' E. at 2100 FG 2nd. 9 of crew presumed killed by explosion. S/M described as large and German closed 3rd officer's boat, queries name of ship and when built then steered away to Northward at high speed.
 (C. in C.E.F., 190345Z, to S. and A. E.I. Stn.)

U-boat No fresh information. Scales unchanged.
 disposition (C. in C.E.F., 190504Z.)

FINDHORN, Sailed FINDHORN and SPEY routed in accordance
 SPEY with C. in C.E.F.'s 120601 not to all S. of A. 16 knots E.T.A. Colombo 0001Z 25th.
 (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 190820Z to Admty. etc.)

Pacific Request docking plan and any special docking
 Fleet, instructions for ships in the British Pacific
 docking. Fleet may be forwarded to VA (Q) Pacific Fleet for distribution to docking authorities at earliest possible date.
 Particular attention is requested to any limiting conditions which should be observed in respect of oil fuel water or ammunition in capital ships and fleet A/C carriers when docking in the new graving dock at Sydney or in a suitable floating dock.
 (C. in C.E.F. 191152Z to Admty.)

East Your 141340Z. Title East Indies Fleet approved.
 Indies (1st Sea Lord, 192327A to C. in C.E.F.)
 Fleet.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Troop Following is revised programme. My 202111 para.
Transport 3 and 271731 not to all refer.
Programme. A. From United States.

Ship	Sail U.S.	Sail Melbourne	Arrive Bombay.
GENERAL MANN	1 November	Nil	5 December
GENERAL POPE	10 November	28 November	11 December
ADMIRAL BENSON	30 November	18 December	31 December
2 transports of similar class	20 December	7 January	20 January.

B. From Bombay. Sailing dates scheduled at 20 day intervals are subject to earlier sailings when ready at discretion of C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Ship	Sail Bombay
GENERAL BUTNER	When ready about 28th November.
GENERAL MANN	8 December (unescorted).
GENERAL POPE	18 December.
ADMIRAL BENSON	7 January.
Two transports	27 January.

(2) It has now been requested that GENERAL BUTNER shall sail when ready and not in company with GENERAL MANN from Bombay. C.N.O. 171840 not to all refers.

(3) Subject to your requirements it is desired that GENERAL MANN shall sail unescorted and in ballast from Bombay to Melbourne or if this is not acceptable to you in company with GENERAL POPE.

(4) It would appear convenient for EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND to sail in company with two transports from Melbourne about 7th January. Your 100901 not to all para. 6 refers.

(B.A.D. 190137Z to C. in C. E.F.)

SOUTHERN PRINCE. Request I may be informed what action has been taken on my 181427.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 190236Z to Admty.)

Departure 1800Z/19th SWANSEA S.O.A. 15 knots by most direct route from buoy two Q.J.A. 272 to position V. 46° N. 58° W. thence on reciprocal route of SOUTHERN PRINCE until R/V effected.

(2) SOUTHERN PRINCE signal R/V position and time.

(3) From position V. ships proceed through (route). SWANSEA instructed to part company at Red Islet and proceed Halifax.

(4) This acknowledges SOUTHERN PRINCE 191300 to C. in C. C.N.A. (N.O.I.C. Sydney 191901Z to C. in C. C.N.A., SOUTHERN PRINCE.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 191316Z. Cominch 191501Z.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
1033.

Covering November 18th.

- (4) Three Mitchells attacked one small coaster one lugger several barges southwest Timor near Koepang morning and another four attacked during afternoon: largest vessel gutted, lugger probably destroyed and barges damaged.
- (5) Eleven Liberators from Darwin dropped demolition bombs and heavy incendiaries amongst shipyards and jetties Polewji (Mandar Bay, southwest Celebes) causing fires.
- (7) Midday R/C flown over Mindoro saw three Sea trucks Paquan Bay and one destroyer dead in water off Semirara Island.
- (8) R/C for 17th attacked and damaged two probable sea trucks Puerto Princessa Bay, also sighted two destroyers one large merchant ship apparently anchored southern exit Palawan Passage.
- (9) Same time search Ventura straffed and possibly sunk sea truck in Northern Sibuyan sea.
- (10) Night 16th November five Liberators raided shipping Brunei Bay with unobserved results. Early hours 18th search Liberator contact six Warships there including two large and four destroyers four unidentified type ships, bombs dropped and direct hit claimed on destroyer. Midday 18th search plane observed 23 ships Brunei Bay including one light cruiser two destroyers one sizeable merchant ship and remaining 19 all small freighter transports or small tanker type ships.
- (11) Search plane North Borneo noon 17th sighted three sea trucks Sandakan, another three sea trucks with one tug one dredger observed proceeding into Cowie Harbour, (4° 20' N. 117° 40' E.) Tug and dredge straffed without apparent effect.
- (12) Later that day patrol Liberator damaged sea truck off Basilan Island (Zamubanga area) by near misses.
- (25) Shipping entering Ormoc Bay morning 17th attacked by Leyte based Lightnings and Kittyhawks: two small transports reported sunk.
- (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 190800Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/19th November.

- Para. B. (1) A/C H/86 attacked contact possibly Schnorkel with depth charges at 1825Z/18th Nov. in 61° 15' N. 02° 02' W.
- (2) A/C D/304 obtained disappearing radar contact at 1657Z/18th November in 58° 42' N. 08° 23' W.
- (3) A/C obtained disappearing radar contact at 0833Z/18th Nov. in 55° 48' N. 08° 03' W.
- Para. C. (1) A/C P/206 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1740Z/18th Nov. in 61° 23' N. 03° 37' W.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(2) Position of contact by E.G. C.8 reported in A.M. 181222A para. B 1 amended to 51° 07' N. 10° 08' W. H.M.C.S. LEASIDE made 3 attacks on this contact before 1041Z/18th November. E.G.4 made further attacks before 1317Z/18th November in 51° 08' N. 10° 07' W. and reported still in contact at 1933Z/18th November.

(3) E.G. 10 carried out attacks on contact before 1740Z/18th November in approx. 50° 18' N. 06° 10' W.
Para. D. (1) 9th U.S. Air Force reported U-Boat in 1400Z/18th November in approx. 51° 11' N. 02° 22' E.
(D.D.I.C. 191118A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 191352A, 191353A.)

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

(1) KENT is to be paid off into Category B. C.S.1 will transfer his flag to NORFOLK on December 19th.

North
Sea.

2(a) The Schelde balloon barrage will be inaugurated November 23rd with 50 balloons, increasing to 550 by Christmas.
(b) Three magnetic mines have been swept off the Belgian coast, but no more have been found in the area off the Humber, which is now probably cleared.
(c) Ghent can receive one or two 24ft. draught ships through the Terneuzen locks each tide.

Channel

3(a) Le Havre now has berths available for 3 tankers, two of them capable of discharging to shore; 18 Liberty ships; 21 coasters; and 3 L.S.T. hards capable of discharging 12 L.S.Ts. daily.
(b) Dieppe has available 9 large berths, 4 medium and 8 small.

Northern
Waters.

(4) Ice between Spitzbergen and Bear Island has been reconnoitred for by the Russians as far as 75° 46' N., but none has been found.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

5(a) San Remo harbour was shelled from 0745 to 0800 by Allied warships. No merchantmen were seen.
(b) In the Gulf of Genoa last night, coastal craft again found north and southbound convoys meeting off Sestri Levante. Both convoys stopped and were attacked with 8 torpedoes. Hits were obtained on 2 coasters. One disappeared from the radar screen, the other was possibly sunk; and 2 lighters may also have been sunk. After our craft were clear both convoys were heavily shelled for 20 minutes by shore batteries, and after some hesitation the convoys joined in and engaged each other.

/Adriatic...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

(6) Four German saboteurs landed last night on the partisan-held island of Silba (N.N.W. of Zara), from folbot canoes paddled from Lusino or Asinello Island. Their canoes were wrecked but the Germans were still at large on the 21st. Any of our anchorages would be vulnerable to this form of attack, but the efforts of the four Germans are described as "childish", and the Partisans suffered negligible damage.

Aegean.

7(a) There is an urgent food scarcity in Crete, and famine definitely exists in the Candia area. A German aircraft has brought a Greek delegate under safe conduct from Crete to Athens. S.B.N.O. Greece proposed to send relief from the Piraeus to Suda Bay in the Swedish ship VIRGINIA, but as there could be no reliable guarantee that this would not be seized by the enemy garrison the C. in C. Mediterranean decided that Heraklion and ports to the eastward may be used.

(b) Salonika Bay was swept by the 12th M/S. Flotilla for moored mines with negative results. Up to today, 253 mines had been swept in the Bay and its approaches, made up of 102 contact mines, 45 moored magnetic, 90 ground and 16 unidentified.

A/S
defences.

(8) In view of the U-Boat situation, certain A/S fixed defence stations are now being dismantled as opportunity offers. (A list is in C. in C. Med's. 201600A).

TOURVILLE.

(9) The Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved of the French cruiser TOURVILLE, now laid up in care and maintenance at Bizerta, being employed as a training ship at Toulon.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

(10) P.T. boats operating from Ormoc Bay last night sank 4 barges approaching Ormoc from the south, and probably sank two luggers apparently making for the same destination from the west. Intense rifle fire indicated that the barges were carrying troops.

/Borneo...

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Borneo. (11) Five Liberators last night attacked shipping in Brunei Bay, sinking one medium merchantman, causing explosions on a second one, and probably damaging a large transport. Three laden Japanese barges were also sunk.

Moluccas. (12) M.T.Bs. destroyed an enemy barge beached on the west coast of Morotai Island at daylight today.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

(13) Today's estimate by the Admiralty of U-Boat positions in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean areas is "nil", nor is there any indication of the whereabouts of any U-Boats which may be in the North-East Atlantic.

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MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

MAURITIUS Scapa arrival - MAURITIUS.
(A.C.O.S. 201115A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

SELENE H.M. S/M SELENE will be ready to sail 22nd
November for Eastern Fleet. Request she may be
sailed in suitable convoy to Gibraltar.
(F.O.(S) 201132A to C. in C. W.A.)

DUGUAY Report immediately your intended movements and
TROUIN. E.T.A. at Plymouth. My 192350A refers.
(2) Will all passengers from Brest for Casablanca
have been embarked before leaving Brest.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201233A to DUGUAY TROUIN)
Your 201233. French Cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN sails from
Brest 1430A 21st. Speed of Advance 11. Route as laid down in
your 192350 E.T.A. Plymouth 0830A 22nd.
(2) C.T.U.125.14.7 informed.
(3) All passengers embarked.
(DUGUAY TROUIN, 201536A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Pass the Gate at 0930/21 and proceed to R/V with DUGUAY
TROUIN at seaward end of Q.Z.S.617 (approach to Brest) at 1830/21.
Escort her to Plymouth through 180° Lizard 3, Q.Z.S.607 and 601.
DUGUAY TROUIN E.T.A. Plymouth is 0830/22.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 202154A to BRISSENDEN.)

SCIMITAR Further to my 140711A Nov. Extensive repairs
are now required to SCIMITAR to render her
operational. Propose SCIMITAR also to be paid
off into reserve category "C" in accordance with
A.M. 012301 October.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201444 to Admty.)

KENT The following programme for KENT is proposed;
(a) December 19th transfer C.S.1's Flag to
NORFOLK.
(b) December 20th. Sail from Scapa to pay off
into Category B.
(2) Request destination for para. (b).
(3) Admiralty's 092137 October refers.
(C. in C. H.F. 201954A to Admty.)

OperationsSituation Reports

Naval Cositintrep No. 230.
Part 2. Naval.
Para. (a). Captured ports, Le Havre. Berths
available.
3 Tanker berths, two equipped for shore discharge, 18 Liberty
berths, 21 Coaster berths, 3 L.S.T. Hards completed capacity
12 L.S.T per day
Para. (b). Unloading figures for 19th:-

/British...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval (Contd.)	<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
	E. Calvados	509	271	Nil	Nil
	Dieppe	133	10	3,353	Nil
	Boulogne	Nil	Nil	2,293	Nil
	Ostend	<u>326</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>3,719</u>	<u>1,092</u>
	Total:	<u>968</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>9,365</u>	<u>1,092</u>

U.S. figures not yet received.
(A.N.C.X.F. 202350 to Admty)

Military

G.2 Summary N.59 dated 20th November.

(1) Operations.

Soft spot found in Nineteenth Army line by Allied drive east of Montbeliard which reached Dannemarie (K.48). Enemy withdrawn from Champagny (K.21). To north stubborn pocket of resistance encountered east of Raon L'Etape (V.3779). Enemy disorganised and is withdrawing along front east of Blamont. Report 553 Infantry Division now using band and other services as combat troops, reflecting battered status of division. St. Quirin (Q.50) and St. Georges evacuated by Germans. Rechicourt (Q.30) and Moussey occupied by Allies without opposition. Civilians report bridge north of Dieuze (Q.22) destroyed. Further enemy withdrawals made Benestroff area (Q.23). Tactical reconnaissance reported roads clogged with enemy traffic moving east. Allied force from south made junction with drive from north at Silly Sur Nied (Q.06) completing ring around Metz. Fort Plappeville (U.86) reported evacuated by enemy. Panzer reinforcements reports by tactical reconnaissance arriving 18th November at Merzig (Q.29) area and at Saarbruecken. Improved weather conditions favoured ground and air operations. To north enemy opposition spotty and light against Allied drive. Bouzonville (Q.17) and Schwerdorff (Q.18) reached. Considerable enemy vehicle traffic vicinity Roscheid (P.67) during night. Vianden (P.94) occupied by enemy patrol. Opposition heavy Stolberg area (K.94), where street fighting reported in town. Allies held to small gains. Wire mines and booby traps encountered. Tanks of 9 Panzer and 15 Panzer Grenadier Divisions have considerably stiffened enemy resistance. Linnich Geilenkirchen area though latter town captured by Allies. Clear weather aid to manouevres. Opposition stiffened after Allies entered Helden (E.70). Little resistance encountered as Allied bridgeheads over Deurne Canal established in area E.71. Further indications of arrival elements 6 Panzer Army east of Roer River.

(3) Movements. Air cover 18 and 19 November gave reasonably complete picture of rail movements in Western Germany: there appear to be 2 main trends:

(a) Movement of armour from direction Paderborn and Lohne towards Ruhr.

(b) Movement of possibly both infantry and armour along main line Gottingen Fulda Frankfurt (Infantry?) and Cassel Gressen Frankfurt (Armour?) towards area Saarbrucken and Saargemund.

/(4) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Military
(Contd.)

(4) Prisoners of War.
Accumulative total to 2400 hours 16th November
(excluding First French Army 14 to 16 November
and First Airborne Task Force 16 November):
685,796.

(5) General.

Some degree of disorganisation prevails along whole sector of Army Group G. In far south remainders of 338 and 189 Divisions forward of Mulhouse being hastily reinforced by troops withdrawn from southern Vosges: 159 Division moving to assistance of Belfort, where strong points still defended but weakening. In Balmont sector battered 361 and 553 Volks Grenadier Divisions are finally beginning to crumble. No evidence yet of arrival of reinforcements for 19th Army though Division from Norway, if coming west, is overdue: 306 Volks Grenadier Division, reported some time ago by prisoner of war, still not contacted. First Army evidently getting at least 1 Panzer Division by rail as reinforcement, but still no contact: Air reconnaissance also makes plain that 91 Infantry Division is moving, possibly southwards and other reinforcements from 7th Army possible. General trend of vehicular movements in Army Group G area forward of Siegfried Line is noticeably eastwards and northwards: on night 17/18th November, however, very numerous road convoys up to sector Saarbruecken Zweibruecken, which suffered considerable losses from air attacks. In Ruhr battle enemy putting up solid and desperate resistance all along the line with very formidable concentrations of artillery and flak, latter being used in ground role. Defence has so far been more successful in Cologne sector than in Dusseldorf sector. More armour, believed to belong to 5th Panzer Army, continues to arrive in latter where 3 Panzer Grenadier, 9 Panzer and 15 Panzer Grenadier Divisions all now committed in support of much battered 183 Volksgrenadier. 116 Panzer Division still in old area at Uertgen apparently not in good shape. Still no sign of 6th Panzer Army in action though elements of all 4 SS. Panzer Divisions (not the less conspicuous Panzer Lehr) have now been reported as present immediately in area of battle by prisoners war from other formations. Probably the army has still not completed move up: enemy also perhaps determined not to commit this final reserve until compelled and only when a definite allied penetration has taken shape. Still no sign either of reformed parachute divisions in action.
(S.H.A.E.F. No T.O.O. to War Office.)

Operations

North Sea

Defences
of Schelde

Matter fully discussed with officer named in Admiralty message 151559.

(2) Unlikely loops will be ready before middle January.

(3) H.D.As. not considered necessary.

(4) Most desirable all H.D.M.Ls. be fitted with Asdic type 134 C. Understand 151st Flotilla allotted by Admiralty Message 131240 are not so fitted.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Defences of Schelde (Contd.) (5) Consider two flotillas will be required until loops are working.
 (6) Anticipate H.D.M.Ls. will be required about 25th November.
 (Com. Belgium, 201501A to A.N.C.X.F.)
 Request H.D.M.Ls. may be sailed to arrive Terneuzen 26th November, your 161040 refers.
 (Com. Belgium, 201736A.)

State of Landing Craft of Force T. A.N.C.X.F. 101936 November, 131215 Nov.
 (1) Following is present state of support Squadron. (A) L.C.G.(L) 9 and 10 refitting L.C.T.
 (5) C. Unknown L.C.G. (L) 11 not yet arrived in Southampton. Will require Major refit and docking
 (b) L.C.S.(L) 254 and 259 operationally fit L.C.S.(L) 260 requires major repairs (see para. 4).
 (c) L.C.F.24, 29, 30, 39 and 19 all will be operationally fit by 23rd November, L.C.F.36 and 35 complete repairs 1st December L.C.F.32 complete repairs 1st December if new oerlikon available L.C.F.42 requires Major repairs, and docking L.C.F.25 requires repairs and new engine.
 (d) L.C.T.(R) 331 and 378 complete refit 1st Dec. L.C.T.325, 334 and 363 require major repairs and docking.
 (e) L.C.P.(L) 130, 135, 144, 148, 153, 168, 4 and 301 and L.C.P. (S.Y.) 292 require refitting in most cases E.T. of completion 1st December.
 (f) L.C.P. (S.Y.) 177 requires major repairs.
 (2) Propose L.C.P. (S.Y.) 177 is exchanged for an unarmoured L.C.P. (S.Y.) at 712th Flotilla due to their improved seaworthiness and speed.
 (3) Propose L.C.S.(L) 253 be allocated to bring total up to 4 craft L.C.S.(L) 251 hull is understood to be in poor condition.
 (4) Request consideration may be given transferring Valentine turret from L.C.S.(L) 260 to L.C.S.(L) 255 and recommissioning L.C.S.(L) 255 with L.C.S.(L) 260 ship's company. L.C.S.(L) 255 to be allocated Force T. and L.C.S.(L) 260 to reduce to C and M. (N.C. Force T. 201754 to Com. L.C.B.)
 A.N.C.X.F. 131215, para. 1. Following is present situation.
 (a) L.C.T.(4). Craft requiring 4 days slipping. L.C.T.(4) 864 and 712, 7 days slipping. L.C.T.(4) 528, 513, 944, 892, 611, 10 days slipping. L.C.T.(4), 1065, 961, 506, 650, and 980, 14 days slipping. L.C.T.(4) 812, 952, 1020 and 960, 7 days refit but no slipping. L.C.T. (4) 1005, 1109, 1132 and 737. L.C.T.(4) 959 and 979 believed operational at Ostend this giving total 22 craft which could be operational in 14 days given necessary priority. L.C.T. (4) 1068 and 532 estimated period required over 14 days.
 (b) L.C.T. (3) 428 and 471 now at Ostend will require 7 days slipping. L.C.T. (3) 461 requires over 14 days, this gives total of 2 craft which could be operational in 14 days given necessary priority. (c) L.C.T. (5) none yet allocated.
 (d) L.C.I.(S) 525 require new starboard engine. 527, 503, 508, 538 539, 514, 528 and 510, engines fitted have minor defects, all can

/be.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

State of Landing Craft of Force T. (Contd.) be operational in 14 days' time. Authority required for 525's new engine.
 (e) L.C.A. 508 and 509 flotillas of 12, each operational.
 38 L.C.As. being returned to U.K. for refit. Further signal will be made. Total now in force T.62.

(f) L.C.S.(M) 8 only available being prepared for service by V.A. Dover.

(G) L.C.P. (L) and (S.Y.), see my 201754.

(H) L.C.H. Flotilla 187 and 269 absolutely operational in 14 days.

(I) M.L. Further signal will be made.

(N.C. Force T. 201756 to Com. L.C.B.)

*Eagle
 Ships-
 Schelde.*

—Your 201015 October, C. in C., Nore's 201917 October following Eagle ships allocated for defence Schelde Estuary. ROYAL EAGLE, ARISTOCRAT, SKIDDAW, SCAWFELL, GLENMORE and GOATFELL. C. in C., Nore is requested to arrange for assembly of these vessels at Sheerness and to sail them to the Schelde at A.N.C.X.F.'s request with the exception of GOATFELL which requires refit, vide C. in C. Nore's 031828 and C. in C. Portsmouth's 151157. Request report whether refit can be arranged in Nore Command.
 (V.C.N.S., 201800A to A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore.)

Schelde Balloon Barrage. Schelde balloon barrage will commence to fly with effect sunset Thursday 23rd November. Area of barrage will be the same as Schelde IAZ.
 (2) From sunset to sunrise all balloons will fly two thousand feet. From sunrise to sunset land sites will be bedded down, waterborne sites will be flown at one thousand feet or in the case of controllable waterborne balloons below cloud base if this is less than one thousand feet. Majority of waterborne sites are moored buoys and are not controllable.

(3) Proposed to allow aircraft corridor between Antwerp and the Dutch border by day only but in special circumstances this corridor could be instituted by night if at least four hours notice is given to eight five group R.A.F.

(4) Total barrage will be employed at first but balloons flying will increase daily from fifty to final total of five hundred fifty in one month's time.

(5) Request Air Ministry issue navigational warning to all concerned and make necessary amendment to S.D.533
 (S.H.A.E.F. 201815 to Admt.)

Dutch Fishing Your No. 0119/259 dated 17th November is generally concurred in. Copies should be sent to Admiralty and C. in C. Nore.

(2) Dutch authorities should raise question of release of trawlers with Admiralty.

(3) Areas and restrictions on fishing should be discussed initially with Admiralty and C. in C. Nore.

(4) There is no naval objection to use of landing ports referred to in paragraph 9 of minutes.

(A.N.C.X.F., 201823A to F.O. Naval Party, 1731.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols My 191750 paragraph 3 for Z.120. 121 and 120 read Z 120, 121 and 122.
(Portsmouth C.C.O., 200800A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force, etc.)

Night A/S Patrols 20th/21st.

Special object contact U-boat at Schnorkel depth.

(2) Ships zig-zag search at steady 8 knots through positions and areas given.

(3) VIDETTE J buoy 1730 thence Z 10, 11, 14, 8, 9, 102 G 1 buoy 0830.

(4) ANTHONY KANSAS, 1730 thence Z.17, 13, 12, 16 J buoy 0830.

(5) BRILLIANT limits 49° 47' 50" 30' N. 01° 16' 01" 30' W.

(6) VANQUISHER limits Q.Z.S. 636 and 10 miles west 49° 47' 50" 30' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201504A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

If not in contact, 6th E.G. is to leave patrols so as to enter Plymouth for short lay over at 0900A/21. S.O.E.G.6 instruct OUTREMONT and LOCH MORLOCH accordingly.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 201506A to S.O.E.G.6.)

(1) If not in contact, 10th E.G. is to leave present patrols so as to take up following new patrols by 0700A/21.

(2) 1st Division zig-zag search between 49.36 N., 06.17 W. and 49.45 N., 05.00 W.

(3) 2nd Division zig-zag search between 180° Start Point 12 and 180° Portland Bill 18.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 201508A to S.O.E.G.10.)

Day A/S Patrols 21st November.

Search areas given.

(2) VIDETTE ANTHONY Z.9, 102.

(3) VANQUISHER, BRILLIANT Z.114, 113, 112, 108.

(4) M.T.Bs. St. Albans Head to St. Catherines Point North of 50° 30' .

(5) VESPER relieve VIDETTE.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201640A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Portsmouth Escort Forces Portsmouth Escort Forces are at present more than fully employed.

(2) Up to 50% of the ships are liable to be out of action at one time.

(3) This is largely due to the lack of time available to make good minor defects and carry out maintenance, particularly in the case of the old escort destroyers which need constant attention.

(4) In addition to the 4 ships now on A/S patrol, 1 or 2 fast escorts are required in bad weather for rescue work on the cross channel routes.

(5) An increasingly frequent commitment is the provision of escorts for coaster convoys sailing from France when the wing escorts which should have arrived for this duty are weather-bound in Nore or Bristol Channel.

(6) The return of personnel convoy escorts is often delayed owing to bad weather.

(7) By the end of November the Escort Force will be reduced by one Frigate, temporarily, to Plymouth and one escort destroyer to the Mediterranean.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

Portsmouth
Escort
Forces.
(Contd.)

(8) In view of the present enemy S/M threat I do not consider that the patrols or escorts can be further reduced and it is, therefore requested that one escort destroyer or frigate may be allocated as relief for ACTIVE. A.M. 161430 refers (C. in C.Portsmouth, 200932A to Admty.).

Operation
"Nestegg".

ELDORADO's 191300 not to Portland. The following cable is required for forthcoming operation. Patt. 1989 five miles. Patt. 13149 five miles. Patt. 13135 five miles.

Understood that this amount is now on board. Request confirmation. Vessel should be sailed for Portland to load cable laying stores and be ready to leave U.K. by 26th November. (D.A/S.M., 201248A to C. in C.Plymouth).

Operations

Western Approaches.

(Note:- As from this day "Operations, Western Approaches" will include the areas hitherto covered by "Operations, Western Approaches" and "Operations, Northwestern Approaches".

Patrols

Your 192316. No contact. Am resuming patrol. (S.O.E.G., 2, 200756A to C. in C.W.A.).

On completion of duty in my 201135 patrol area 55° to 57° N. between 07° 30' and 08° 30'. Vicinity of Barra Head is to be examined at dusk tomorrow. (C. in C.W.A., 202249A to S.O.E.G.2.).

When ready request you will sail 30th E.G. at best speed to 52° N. 11° W.

(C. in C.W.A., 202254A to Com. D.W.A.).

Re-
allocation
of Rescue
Tugs.

The following re-allocation of tugs for rescue duties will be made. A.N.C.X.F.(Cotug) concurs. Your 130025 refers.

(a) EARNER from N.W. Approaches to Iceland (C)
(b) THAMES and ZWARTE ZEE from "Overlord" pool to N.W. Approaches.

(c) SAUCY from "Overlord" pool to Milford Haven. (d) JUSTICE from Milford Haven to "Overlord" pool.

(2) SUPERMAN (Class B) is already available at Milford Haven and is suitable for employment in the most likely area for casualties.

(3) There will then be available:- Iceland 1, N.W. Approaches 2, Milford Haven 2, Plymouth 1, St. Johns 1, Azores 1.

(4) It is appreciated that this number is inadequate to deal with a heavy scale of casualties, but in view of the importance of supporting the armies in France this is accepted, and para. 2 of A.M. 281715 March still stands.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 201253A to C. in C.W.A.).

Situation
Report.

Force 33: E.G.1, AFFLECK (S.O.), 4 Frigates E.G. 19 HESPERUS, 4 Frigates, operating general area

/North...

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Situation North Irish Coast to Barra Head.
 Report E.G.1 leaves area 0300A 21st for Belfast.
 (Contd.) E.G.2 WILD GOOSE, LOCH FADA, LOCH RUTHVEN,
 TOBAGO, LABUAN supporting S.D.59.
 E.G.9 ST.JOHN 4 frigates, operation Cape Wrath
 area.
 E.G.4 BYARD 3 Frigates vicinity 051° 05' N. 010° 03' W.
 APOLLO 051° 29' N. 006° 31' W. to vicinity 050° 34' N. 008° 12' W.
 thence returning Milford Haven.
 (C. in C. W.A. 201434A, Situation Report.)

Suspected QU'APPELLE in firm A/S contact with wreck or
 U-boat. U-boat in position 051° 29' N. 007° 51' W. at
 2040A. ST. LAURENT and CHAUDIERE hunting with
 QU'APPELLE.
 Weather report 9080 1363 suitable.
 (S.O.E.G. C.6, 202142A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 201951A contact classified non-submarine hunt abandoned
 at 2244A after about 4 attacks. QU'APPELLE, ST. LAURENT,
 CHAUDIERE rejoining O.N.267. Weather report 9080 1363 3536.
 (S.O.E.G. C.6, 202309A to C. in C.W.A.)

OperationsNorway

Patrols F.S. RUBIS left Lerwick 1108A/20th Nov. through
 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles 061° 13' N. 000° 01' E.
 and 061° 01' N. 002° 53' E. thence to S.E. diving
 by day east of 001° E.
 (S.O.(S) Lerwick 201235A S/Ms north of 51° N.)

Cancel my 151219.

Request A.C.O.S. will sail H.M.S/M TORBAY escorted by HASTINGS
 at 0800A/21st to position 059° 02' N. 001° 35' W. Thence
 TORBAY is to proceed independently on the surface at C.O.'s
 discretion direct patrol line length 30 miles direct 000° to 180°
 mid point 058° 45' N. 001° 15' E.

(3) HASTINGS is to proceed to Lerwick to act as onward escort
 for SCYTHIAN as required by Capt. S(3).

(Capt. S.(9), 201501A to A.C.O.S., H.M.S/M. TORBAY, etc.)

Pass to Polish Naval Headquarters. SOKOL sailed for
 patrol.

(S.O.S/MsLerwick, 201650A to Admty.)

Submarine positions at 0800/21st and movements for
 following 24 hours. All times Zone A.

(a) VENTURER 66° 22' N. 05° 59' E. course 210 probably on
 surface 8 knots north of 65° N. diving by day 120 miles in 24
 hours south of 65° N.

(b) ULA 63° 50' N. 02° 30' E. course 210 diving by day 120 miles
 in 24 hours.

(c) RUBIS 61° 06' N. 01° 34' E. diving by day through 61° 01' N.
 02° 53' E. and 59° 05' N. 04° 03' E. 120 miles in 24 hours.

(d) SOKOL 61° 08' N. 01° 10' E. diving by day through 61° 01' N.
 02° 53' E. and 59° 05' N. 04° 03' E. 120 miles in 24 hours.

/(1)...

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Operations

Norway

Patrols
(Contd.)

(1) TORBAY escort HASTINGS leaves Scapa 0800/21st to 59° 02' N. 01° 35' W. thence TORBAY probably on the surface 10 knots direct to patrol line length 30 miles direction 000° 180° mid point 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E.
(F.O.S/M 201814A to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrols

If not in contact by 1800 today 20th carry out zig-zag patrol through position 061° 00' N. 004° 30' W. and thence proceed south-east to arrive Lerwick a.m. 21st reporting E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 201054A to S.O.E.G.17.)

Ice
report

Air R/C from Kola Inlet yesterday Sunday indicates no Ice seen up to 075° 46' N. (?032°) 33' E. your 141230A refers.
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 201326A to C. in C.H.F.)

Landing Craft
for North
Russia in
Convoys
J.W.63 et seq.

For your information Cominch has directed me to turn over 22 P.T. from this Theatre and 8 that will arrive U.K. from Med. in HIGHWAY to the Soviets for shipment as deck cargo to North Russia. In addition to the above, 2 L.C.T.(6), 2 L.C.M.(3), 2 L.C.V.P. and 2 L.C.S.(S) are to be turned over for similar shipment. It is highly desirable that the above craft be loaded in the Clyde area so that the loadings can be staged out of U.S. Base two, Rosneath. Preliminary arrangements have been made for movements of craft including P.T. Cradles to Base Two. Cradling plans have been given to Soviet Naval Mission for delivery to M.O.W.T. and Soviets have been asked to set up priority of deck space. Request addressees will render such assistance as is asked by proper authority to implement the above movement commencing with J.W.63.
(Commaveu, 201728 to Admty., M.O.W.T.)

Russian
S.Cs.
in Convoy
J.W.62.

Request you will arrange for 20 drums U.S.Navy Symbol 9250 Lubricating oil to be available at Skaalefjord for Russian S.Cs. A.M. 190050 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 201758A to A.C.O.S.)

Convoy
J.W.62

J.W.62. A.M. 091723A paragraph (1) add from Liverpool EMPIRE GARRICK (T) Alcohol and aviation)
(D.T.D., 201830A to C. in C.W.A.)

/Request...

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Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy
 J.W.62
 (Contd.)

Request passage for following in escorts of
 J.W.62:-
 (2) Personnel. R.N. 7 officers, 40 ratings.
 R.A.F. 1 N.C.O. Norwegians (Crofter party)
 40 Officers, 14 other ranks. 2 Government
 officials.

Party will be instructed to report on board DUNLUCE CASTLE a.m.
 28th November unless otherwise ordered.

(3) Stores and baggage. 108 tons, including 22 tons explosive
 suitable for magazine stowage.

(4) Mails. 2½ tons.

(D.O.D.(H), 201845A to C. in C.H.F.)

E.T.A. 1100A/21. ASCENSION, LOCHKILLIN, CRANSTOUN require
 boiler fuel. BURGESS requires 416 tons diesel oil and 1400
 gallons lubricating oil, 2416 100 tons diesel oil and 600
 gallons lubricating oil.

(S.O.E.G.17, 202315A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Schnorkel
 particulars.

Your 192009 range when first heard 100 yards and
 sighted at 5 yards on port side. Speed 3 to 5
 knots.

(A.C.I.C., 202330A to C. in C.W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Aircraft
Areas.

Your S67471 of 10th November is being passed to Admiralty my views as follows:-

1. Aircraft areas in C. in C. Plymouth 171820 were primarily designed to safeguard coastal command aircraft engaged on anti U-boat operations. In view of present favourable air situation however consider that after capture of Dunkerque proposed area could be extended eastwards to line Deal-Gravelines.

2. As this area would also be in force by night it is not considered desirable to extend it further to the eastward due to enemy air minelaying/torpedo attack threat in the Ostend - Antwerp Shipping Channel. It is also anticipated that enemy surface forces will attempt to operate in these waters.

3. Consider height restrictions in all corridors now in force can be reduced to 3,000 feet by night and 1000 feet by day when weather conditions permit. Lower heights being accepted in bad weather.

4. Admiralty 161708 and 181845 refers.
(A.N.C.X.F., 201710 to S.H.A.E.F.)

Noted that in C. in C. Plymouth signal 171802A Admty. may possibly promulgate establishment of an Aircraft Area with English Channel between line joining Lands End to Ushant and meridian 0° 30' W., in which all aircraft will be treated as friendly unless definitely recognised as hostile, and where recognition procedure will no longer be necessary.

2. In view of projected institution of two way airways between Le Treport/Beachhead and Nieuport/Deal intended for regular use of large numbers of non-operational aircraft strongly desired if you concur to ask Air Ministry to take appropriate steps with Admty. to extend above mentioned Aircraft Area to line joining North Foreland to Ostend after capture of Dunkerque. In fact with inception of proposed airways, probable that nearly all cross-channel non operational aircraft will tend to use these airways in poor weather conditions because of special Radar facilities which will be provided.

3. Felt that when aircraft using these airways are under contact control and in any event during greater portion of winter weather conditions they will often be obliged to fly of necessity below one thousand feet and therefore even the recent moderated rules for engagement in waters concerned, whereby comparative freedom of engagement up to one thousand feet is given to A.A. guns on ships, might cause unjustifiable risk to this essential airborne traffic. Although ships A.A. fire control has been exemplary, felt that possibility of endangering own aircraft should be removed from existing rules for engagement, because it is considered that neither present nor expected scale of enemy air attack on shipping in these waters justifies any incongruity in such rules.

4. Your comments are requested please.
(H.Q. A.S., S.H.A.E.F., No T.O.O.)

Air
Patrol
Areas.

Anti U-boat air patrols by Swordfish aircraft will be flown in the Portsmouth command area during daylight when ordered by 19 Group.

2. Patrols are approximate rectangles width and ends of centre line given below.

3. Patrol 46, 50° 23 ' N., 01° 27' W. 49° 52' N., 01° 23' W.
width 6 miles.

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Allied Air Activity.

Air Patrol Areas. (contd).	4. Patrol 47 50° 22' N. 01° 08' W. 49° 51' N. 00 degs. 58' W. width 6 miles. 5. Patrol 48 50° 24' N. 00 degs. 38' W. 49° 53' N. 00 degs. 16' W. width 13 miles. 6. Patrol 49 50° 27' N. 00° 03' W. 50° 05' N. 00° 11' E. width 13 miles. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 201752A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)
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Enemy Intelligence

Suspected German mail in M.V.LA PLATA. ^s Motor Vessel LA PLATA. Thoroughly search Motor Man Kark Einar Skonvall his belongings and quarters for third party Mail which is believed to include some for Germany.
(2) If that search is fruitless, inform Master you intend to hold ship until satisfied Mail not on board and make a general search of all likely places including remainder of crew.
(3) Actually even if not found you must not detain ship more than 24 hours.
(4) Send any third party mail to Censorship London.
(D.E.W.D. 201724A to N.O.I.C.Faeroes)

Mining

German M/S gear.	Intend sailing trawler G.D.D. IRVINE in convoy A.T.C.60 sailing to-day Monday. Ship will proceed Chatham to discharge 30 sets German mark 5 M.S. gear. E.T.A. 1200/21. It is requested ship is returned Ostend as soon as possible to take on further German M.S. gear. (Com. Belgium, 201230A to C. in C. Nore.)
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Sitrep. Operation "Hoover" cancelled owing to weather. Negative result from "Progress", "Link" and other operations.
(Capt. M/S.N.F.201433A to C.T.F.125)

Daily Minesweeping Report Monday, 20th November. S.A/L.L. I.G. M.S., Q.Z.S. 632 3 ships Q formation widening N.F.9 to N.F.12 from 3 cables to 7 cables each side of centre line. N.F.12 to N.F.13 3 ships Q formation covering the channel. 3 magnetic mines detonated 1 in position N.F.10, 134° 1.1 miles and 2 in (?position) N.F.10, 067° 2.4 miles.
Not reported yesterday, S.A/L.L. (I.G?) M.S. Q.Z.S.632, 3 ships Q formation N.F. 10 to N.F.13 both sides. Single O search 4 ships H formation N.F.10 to N.F.13 both sides. Negative result.
(S.O.M.S.F. F.B. 201741A to C. in C. Nore.)
Late last night Y.M.S.231 sustained damage from near miss explosion (corrupt groups) no casualties. Report of sweeping carried out to-day at Brest. All sweeping abandoned due to inclement weather.
(Comdr. Y Squadrons, 201902A to C.T.F.125)

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Sitrep. Operation "Calendar".
(Contd.) (1) Sweeping to-day Monday (20th) November S.A/
L.L. (A) Honte to N.F.13 South side of Channel
6 Actuations.
(B) S.A/L.L. and L.L.A. sweeping at Antwerp.
Oropesa (A) to Honte to N.F.13.
(2) Nil.
(3) Surveying work is continuing but has been curtailed owing to
weather conditions.
(4) Nil.
(5) M.M.S.274, 237, 216, 175. M.F.V.1020, B.Y.M.S.2040, 2221.
(Capt. M/S.F.A.201959A to C. in C. Nore)

East Schelde Your 191554 not to all para. 1 reports graded
anticipations. B.2 and higher indicate East Schelde probably
heavily mined on same scale as West Schelde from
outer approaches to at least 4 degs. E. including
Veregrt.

(2) Experience in West Schelde indicates following may be
expected:
(A) Moored mines in approach.
(B) All channels mined with acoustic magnetic and combined
magnetic acoustic ground mine set to fire after anything from
one to 15 actuations.
(C) Katie mines probable off beach.
(A.N.C.X.F. 201723A to N.C. Force T.)

Mines laid Your 192330. Complied with result negative.
off Humber. (2) E.T.A. Grimsby Roads 1700A.
(3) Weather report 5872, 8708.
(S.O.M.S.F.15, 201435A to Capt, M/S Humber.

U-Boats

Situation One in 62° 30' N. 15° 00' W. from report at
Report. 0635Z/20th November.
Several others on passage between area N. of
Faeroes and S. Norwegian coast.
One or two still likely to be in each of areas
off Cape Wrath and N. Ireland.
One probably Southbound in 52 degs. 50' N. 14° 30' W. from con-
tact 0940Z/20th November.
Nothing fresh on one probably Northbound between Azores and
Lisbon.
Weather reporter in 55° 00' N. 28° 00' W. from D/F 1050Z/20th
November.
(D.D.I.C.201337A to Cominch)

Navigational

Burning of In view of increasing volume of shipping all
Navigation traffice between Dover and Southend and also
Lights in between Dumpton and N.F.2 buoy is to burn navi-
Eastern gation lights. Sailing authorities are to ensure
Channel. that this order is brought to the notice of all
ships sailing from British operated ports in
Northern France.
(F.O.B.A.A.200935A General to B.A.A.)/A.M....

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Navigational.

Burning of
Navigation
Lights in
Eastern
Channel.
(Contd.)

A.M. 191555. Under present circumstances propose the meridian of Greenwich as the western limit of area in which navigation lights can be permanently displayed.
2. This is subject to reconsideration should shipping be attacked.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 202210A to Admty).

Port Facilities.

Ipswich and
Gt.
Yarmouth.

A.M. 182232A and 191141 A.F.D.38 was provided for use of combined operation craft and is urgently required at Ipswich.

(2) Regret this dock cannot be retained at Yarmouth, but application will be made for the

A.F.D. (B.A.) 2 to be transferred from Inverness.
(C. in C. Nore, 201417A to F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth).

Your 201417A and 201418A para. two Yarmouth cannot accommodate A.F.D. (B.A.) 2 until necessary additional piles and quay moorings are ready and A.F.D.38 has left.

(2) These piles and moorings cannot be commenced until details of A.F.D. (B.A.) 2 are available and owing to soft state of quays considerable work is anticipated.

(3) My letter 1013 of 29th January 1944 with plan and my signal 191141A (November) para. 2 refer.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 201759A to C. in C. Nore).

Steam
drifters for
harbour work
at
Cherbourg.

Ref. C.T.F.125 161721 and my 181159. S.D. DOORLE BRAE and FIDGET sailed p.m. today.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201615A to Admty).

Moorings
for Morlaix.

F.O.B.A.A's 041123 and Admiralty's 161924A. KIRRIEMOOR is loaded with 10 sets of L.S.T. (2) moorings and backing up material for Liberty Ship moorings already laid.

BARCOCK and BARCOMBE will accompany KIRRIEMOOR and 3 vessels will be ready at 1200 tomorrow November 21st. Request they be sailed for Morlaix. KIRRIEMOOR also has on board 2 light buoys complete with moorings and they will be laid by these vessels. Lt. Howell and Mr. Henderson Bo'sun will sail in KIRRIEMOOR and carry out the work under supervision of C.O. KIRRIEMOOR. On completion of work it is requested that KIRRIEMOOR and Bar vessels be sailed for Portsmouth.

To expedite work, PLANTAGENET, now on far shore, should assist and C.T.F. 125 is requested to sail her for Morlaix if not already there, C.T.F.125 is also requested to arrange for pilots on arrival so that vessels may enter Morlaix for shelter.

(B.D.O. Gosport, 201645 to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.B.A.A., C.T.F. 125).

Southampton

There is a growing demand for repair berths at Southampton and the situation is very acute. There are now 5 vessels of considerable size

/in the...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities.

Southampton (contd). in the port suffering from collision damage of a sufficiently serious nature as to preclude their being sent outside the area until certain repairs are effected, and some of them will be here for protracted periods. It is anticipated that this form of ill will continue in a varying degree throughout the winter months. This consequently affects the number of ships with small defects that can be dealt with simultaneously. The presence of DUCHESS OF FIFE, RYDE and WHIPPINGHAM which are waiting Admiralty orders as to disposal adds to the congestion, and as some of these from necessity have to be placed in repair berths it prevents other craft being taken in hand. An early decision regarding these vessels is requested. In addition 3 U.S. L.S.Ts. were sent to Southampton without previous consultation and these have had to be placed in repair berths to facilitate transfer to Royal Navy. The dredging of the Ocean Dock, one side at a time, is about to commence (vide A.M. 102056A November), but as regards repair berths this will be largely offset by the release of the train ferry berth at 49. It will, however, affect the general berthing in the port, and accommodating arrangements with M.W.T. will consequently be more difficult to effect.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton, 201647A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Ghent. Ghent. There is only 11 feet above LW on Sill of Terneuzen main locks. It must therefore be appreciated that only 1 or 2 ships drawing 24 feet could be locked through at each high water.
(Com. Belgium, 201721 to N.O.I.C.s Antwerp and Terneuzen).

Dieppe My 180034A Oct. and 151230A Nov. Following is present availability at Dieppe:-

	Berth No.	Effective Quay Length.	Class of Coaster	Length of Coaster	Maximum Draught.
Avant Port	W7	240'	1 medium	200'	15'
Arriere Port	E2	25'	1 medium	220'	15'
	2X				
	W17	200'	1 small	180'	10'
Duquesne Basin	{ W11	420'	2 small	180'	12'
	{ W12		3 small	180'	12'
	{ W13	600'			
	{ W14	400'	2 small	180'	12'
	{ W15				
Canada Basin	E3)	480'	1 large	300'	18'
	E4)				
	W18)	480'	1 large	300'	18'
	W19)				
Paris Basin	W20)	2040'	1 medium)	200'	15'
	W21)				
	W22)				
	W23				
	W24)				
W25)		5 large	300'	18'	

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HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities.

Dieppe.
(contd).

Berth No.	Effective Quay Length.	Class of Coasters	Length of Coaster	Maximum Draught.
E5 E6	1000' }	1 medium	200'	15'
E7	}	and 2 large	300'	18'

Summary.

- 9 Large berths. 4 medium berths. 8 small berths. Plus Hospital Carrier H.M. Ship berth, and train ferry berth.
- 2. Experience has proved that it is not possible for five medium draught coasters to be berthed at Dieppe.
- 3. Reference my 151230A Nov. This berth is only temporarily out of commission and is included in above figures.
- 4. Agreed P.E.C. (N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 201745A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Calais. Can amended date for arrival of first train ferry at Calais yet be given. My 181659 refers. (F.O.B.A.A., 201916A to Exfor (Rear)).

Technical.

Training Submarines. Commodore Western Isles 101420/November and A.M. 061102/October, concurring in my 041711/October, With the present paper strength of 12 training submarines, Capt. S/M 7 can barely meet existing allocations which are as follows:
Campbeltown, et. 5. Tobermory, 1. PHILANTE, 1. ROCKABILL, 2. Inskip etc., 1. C.C.D.U., 1.

2. It is clear therefore that Commodore Western Isles need for a second submarine, though fully appreciated, can only be met at the expense of other requirements. It is regretted that none can be spared from the Irish Sea allocations at this important time, indeed more are required fully to meet the increasing demand for air and surface practices and trials.

(3) By the end of the month, however, three additional submarines are expected by Capt. S/M.7, and, with a paper strength of 15, he may then be able to provide for 12 or 13 continuous allocations.

4. It is for consideration how these additional allocations should be apportioned to preserve the balance between long-term basic training and urgent operational trials and practices. (C. in C. W.A. 201040A to Admty)

/Schnorkel ...

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Technical - Contd.

Schnorkel Trials. C.A/S.E.E's letter D.8097 of 15th November to D.A/S.W. copy to C. in C. W.A. and D.A.U.D. has been read with interest. Having regard to the experience of our own S/Ms against enemy hunting craft employing hydrophone detection it is felt however, that a more ambitious procedure for the detection by H.E. of a Schnorkelling U-Boat than that suggested in para. of the letter should be pursued.

(2) It is recommended therefore, that further trials be carried out with a submarine simulating Schnorkelling conditions as nearly as possible to determine.

(A) A more positive knowledge of noises produced by submarine under these conditions.

(B) The capabilities of Asdic sets for H.E. detection of Schnorkelling U-Boats.

(C) Any practicable modification to improve hydrophone properties of surface craft Asdics.

(3) For such trials the employment of a submarine fitted with an actual Schnorkel would of course provide the most reliable results. In view of the many other calls on submarines at this time, however, it is not desired to ask for this unless trials with a Schnorkel would also be of value to the submarines themselves

(C. in C. W.A. 202037A to Admty)

Casualties and Defects

U.S.S. CAMP. My 181429A. U.S.S. CAMP - Damage report - vessel has been cut down at 23 station 23 bulkhead is in place but leaking.

27 bulkhead is intact and holding.

(2) Ship on even keel berthed in Prince of Wales Dock, Swansea.

(3) Bow portion ashore near Mumbles, not considered to be of use in restoring vessel but secret and important fittings are being removed.

(4) Propose to dry-dock at Cardiff after divers examination.

(5) If vessel is to be repaired in U.K. it is for consideration whether a fabricated bow up to 27 station could be obtained from U.S.A.

(6) Estimated time in dry dock at least 2 months after delivery of new bow.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 201052A to Admty)

SKEENA. Request you will make interim reply to N.S.H.Q's 181834 and give assurance that specialist equipment is being protected, a representative of C.N.M.O. will visit Iceland as soon as possible before final decision as to possibility of salvaging of SKEENA is made.

(C.N.M.O. 201131A to A.C.I.C.)

See 4.12.44. P91-92. (America & W. Indies) A.C.I.C. DL2050A to N.S.H.Q. C.N.M.O.)

Empty pontoon barge. N.O.I.C. Swansea's 141105A. Pontoon barges broke adrift from tug in heavy weather off Eddystone and drifted ashore in Bigbury Bay. One is moored up on a beach and will be recovered when weather moderates.

20.11.1944
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and DefectsEmpty
pontoon
barge.
(Contd.)The other is on the rocks, and will probably break up before salvage is possible.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201639A to A.N.C.X.F. Admty.)L.C.V.(P)
1103.

Your 181000A November. L.C.V.(P) 1223 arrived in tow of L.C.M.(3) 1288, L.C.V.(P) 1103 abandoned in West Pole Sands. Ferry crew of L.C.M.(3) 1288 being accommodated at Itchenor tonight. Intend sailing L.C.M.(3) 1288 to TORMENTOR tomorrow Tuesday weather permitting. (SEA SERPENT, 201657A to TORMENTOR)

IROQUOIS.

Forecastle deck and supports between 10 and 25 stations in IROQUOIS have been damaged by weather.
(2) Permanent repairs are being carried out by A.S. Devonport consisting of:

- (A) stripping of underside of forecastle deck,
 - (B) removal of capstan engine and holders and breakwater,
 - (C) releasing of ventilation trunks and valves, beams and girders and beam arm brackets,
 - (D) the whole deck reset to normal lines of beam round and sheer and re-secured and new pillars fitted.
- (3) Anticipated time required about three weeks.
(4) Work is being done at the expense of new construction.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201744 to Admty.)

Shipping and ConvoysAntwerp
Convoys.After discussion with N.O.I.C. Antwerp, the following procedure is intended for U.K. Antwerp convoys. (1) S. of A. 8 knots.
(2) Ships to and from Ostend capable of maintaining $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots to be included.

- (3) Time of sailing from U.K. to be adjusted so as to arrive off Flushing at daylight, due allowance being made for tide and speed instructions as laid down in A.M. 161915A.
- (4) Ships for Antwerp to anchor off Hansweert when waiting for tide and between Royer and Kruischans when waiting for locks.
- (5) Ships for Ostend to leave convoy at N.F.8 buoy thence proceeding to Ostend anchorage to pick up pilots and entering Ostend when tide permits. This will involve ships remaining at anchor in dark hours off Ostend and it is considered that this risk must be accepted as separate escorts for Ostend section of convoys are not available.
- (6) Westbound convoy to be formed up off Terneuzen and to sail so as to pass Flushing at dusk.
- (7) Ships awaiting westbound convoy to anchor off Terneuzen when river pilots will land and sea pilots board.
- (8) Pilot service for Antwerp ships to be carried out in vicinity of N.F.8 Buoy. When weather prevents pilots being put on board, pilot cutter will lead convoy to off Flushing where sea pilots will board. Pilots for westbound convoy will land off Flushing in these conditions, C. in C. Nore being informed by signal.
- (9) C. in C. Nore will provide escorts as considered necessary

/from ...

20.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Antwerp
Convoys.
(contd).

from U.K. to Terneuzen, escorts to eastbound
convoy returning with westbound.
10. Arrangements to be made for traffic control
vessels of Borseln to be in R/T communication with
S.O. Escort. Details will be arranged separately.

11. Ships to and from Downs and S. Coast Ports will part company
or rendezvous at Dumpton Buoy with main Southend convoy.

12. Request your early remarks or concurrence.

13. Antwerp pass P/L to Ostend.

(C. in C. Nore, 201445A to Com. Belgium, N.O.I.Cs. Antwerp and
Ostend, V.A. Dover, N.C.S.O. Ramsgate).

Thames
ships
independently
to Le
Havre.

Your 191606A. Concur but in view of fact that
departure in darkness will result in loss of
entire night pumping time to tanker sailed daily
from Cherbourg, request schedule be agreed with
SEARAIL.
(C.T.F., 125, 201720A to Admty).

Cross -
Channel
personnel
requirements
to end of
1944.

(A) The following vessels are recommended to
maintain the proposed programmes. Reference your
181933 and A.N.C.X.F. Buco 191153A November 1944.
From Folkestone CANTERBURY capacity 1 thousand
PRINCESS MAUD capacity 836.
From Dover ISLE OF THANET capacity 850, BIARRITZ
present capacity unknown.

The first 2 ships should be ready for service at
Folkestone about 26th November. BIARRITZ is at present fitting
out in Bristol Channel and reported to be completed early
December. ISLE OF THANET is fitted with belting but has no bow
rudder. Latter is at Liverpool and suggest ship be sailed
Liverpool for same to be fitted. If it is proposed to commence
lift of 2 thousand personnel forthwith from Southampton and
Folkestone until such time as ships for Dover detailed for service
are ready following ships would be required.

From Southampton LADY OF MANN, BEN MY CHREE, QUEEN EMMA, ULSTER
MONARCH.

From Folkestone CANTERBURY, PRINCESS MAUD. VICTORIA is fitted
with bow rudder and belting and could be based at Southampton
as reserve ship for depot chart service.

(B) Proposed U.S. programme can be effected by large L.S.I.(L)
and troopships now based at Southampton plus 2 L.S.I.(H) i.e.
BEN MY CHREE and LADY OF MANN.

(S.S.T.O. Southampton, 201833A to D. of S.T.)

W.D.C.
Convoys.

My 231954A Sept. para. 2.
For forthcoming winter months and in view of longer
nights W.D.C. convoys will leave St. Helens at
about 1530A for an E.T.A. at first light of 0730A.

2. This will be modified on days when a.m. high water at Dieppe
occurs between 0700A and 1000A, on which days convoy will sail
at 1400A for E.T.A. 0600A.

3. Dates until end of year for para. 2 - above will be Nov. 24th
to 27th December 9th to 11th and December 24th to 26th.

4. To come into force with W.D.C. leaving St. Helens, Wednesday
22nd November.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201838A to N.O.I.C. Dieppe).

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Release of
Eagle
ships.

A.M. 131325 October and C. in C. Nore's 201917
October, approved to return following Eagle ships
to trade:-

RYDE, SANDOWN, GELN USK, JEANNIE DEANS, GOLDEN
EAGLE, THAMES QUEEN, WHIPPINGHAM.

2. Disposal instructions will follow.
3. Remaining Eagle ships are reallocated for defence of Schelde.
A.M. 201800A refers.
4. QUEEN OF KENT will be subject of separate instructions.
(Adnty. 202129A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Nore).

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BROOKLYN. Sail at 1230A today Monday S.O.A. 20 knots to R/V with U.S.S. BROOKLYN and U.S.S. KEARNEY proceeding as in Comnob Oran's 191258 (N.T. in W.D.)
(2) Proceed through position 57 then steer for position 10.
(3) Estimated you will make R/V in position X 36° 09' N. 03° 16' W. at 1630A today Monday.
(F.O.G.M.A. 200929A to U.S.S. ERICSSON.)

South Atlantic.

KROMAN Your 181525 following is a repetition of my
(Polish) 171430 and 171715 (quoted).
at Ibicuy. (British Consul St. Vincent 201102 to F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary

20.11.1944
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

GRADISCA. Your 181742. Protest has been passed to Swiss Government by Foreign Office.
Hospital
Ship
(2) S.M.O. should be permitted to see Swiss Consul in presence of British representative.
(3) He should be informed that disembarkation must proceed forthwith and that any attempt to obstruct legitimate exercise of H.M. Government's fighter under Article 12 of 10th Hague Convention will constitute gross abuse of his privileged position and if persisted in may endanger the protected status both of his ship and her crew.
(4) Sick and wounded should be removed but if you are satisfied move endangers life of any person he should be left on board.
(5) You should see that sailing orders given to GRADISCA are noted in her log in compliance with Article 4 of Convention. Naval Prize Manual page 104 refers.
(Hd. of M. Branch Approved V.C.N.S. 200131A to F.O.W.M.)

San Remo Shelled. Shelled San Remo harbour from 0745 to 0800. No Merchantman seen. Harbour area well covered. (Comflanfor, 200815A to F.O.N.A.M.)

French Warships. Intend to sail to Gibraltar F.S. LORRAINE, F.S. BASQUE, F.S. SIMOUN at 1500A/20.
(2) 15. (3) (Route).
(4) 1530A/22.
(6) "Anyhow" E.595 E High.
(Comar Toulon, 201300A, to F.O.G.M.A.)

TOURVILLE. C.C.S. have approved TOURVILLE being employed as Training Ship, Toulon. My 091811 (not to all) refers. She may be sailed as convenient. (C. in C. Med, 201307A to F.O.W.M. etc.)

F.A.A. Sqdns. (A) Present targets on Cape Spada, Crete, have from FORMIDABLE. been selected and agreed by R.A.F. who consider Flak is light. Use of Gambut as forward base agreed by R.A.F. If attack on Crete is priority attack on targets in Melos with A/C refuelling in Athen areas is under consideration.
(B) Liaison established, your 181748 refers (liaison between flying personnel and R.A.F. squadrons under A.F.Q.E.M.). R.A.F. are provided with bombs and anticipated A/C will be ready to operate about end of December depending on arrival Corsairs ground party from Gibraltar.
(F.O.L.E.M. 201340 to C. in C. Med.)

VALIANT. Amend my 192239 to read: C.O. considers VALIANT can proceed to U.K. without docking and to Cape-town without refuelling. Original signal is being repeated to C. in C. S.A.
(F.O.L.E.M. 201348 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/Cortdiv ...

20.11.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cortdiv 62 for Casco Bay. C. in C. Med's 181617 being passed to you. Escort Commander desired routing via Azores for fuelling, E.T.D.21 November. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 201414 to Admty)

A/S Defences. In view of U-Boat situation following A/S fixed defence stations are now being dismantled as opportunity offers:- Eastern Med. Fort Agami, Ras el Krum Beirut and Port Said.

Central Med. Capizzo and Brindizi. (2) A/S fixed defence stores accumulated at Alexandria are available for shipment elsewhere. My 051659A. (C. in C. Med. 201600A to Admty.)

A.F.D.18. Your 191456A October to Admiralty only. Tug ENFORCER tentatively allocated to tow A.F.D. 18 from Oran to Pacific. A.M. 201535, not to all refers. Earliest anticipated date of arrival Oran 15th December. (2) Request preparation of dock for towage be advanced, and training and transfer to Oran of skeleton crew vide my 182121 October (not to all) be arranged accordingly. (3) Request U.S. Authorities be kept informed. (D.O.D.(F), 201648A to C. in C. Med.)

Food Relief for Crete. Extremely urgent demands are being made from Crete for food. Famine definitely exists in Candia area. (2) German plane has brought Greek delegate under safe conduct to Athens from Crete. (3) Proposals are being made to Stockholm by Swedish Minister to send relief from Piraeus to Suda Bay in Swedish ship VIRGINIA. (4) Route as at present to position 036 degs. 00' N. 024 degs. 34' E. Thence position 035 degs. 30' N. 024 degs. 17' E. Germans will lead into harbour. (5) V.1 probably ready to sail 28th. (6) Request approval by immediate signal. (7) If necessary may I communicate direct by W/T with German Commander in Crete, and if so what frequency should be used. (S.B.N.O.Greece,201705 to F.O.L.E.M)Reply: 211806A. In view of decision not to supply relief to enemy territory request instructions on S.B.N.O. Greece 201705. (F.O.L.E.M.202250 to C. in C. Med. as amended 210920B)

EMPEROR, GARLAND. Amend my 172231. (A) Times in para. 1 to read 051545B/21st to 034 degs. 26' N. 017 degs. 02' E. at 2330B/21st. (B) Para. 2 - 17 knots. (F.O.L.E.M. 201808 to EMPEROR)

/ Minesweeping ...

20.11.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Minesweeping Salonika Approach.
Salonika. (1) Approach Channel extends 1 miles either side of mean line running 325 degrees from A. Black and White vertical stripe buoy in position 187 degs. Kassandra Point light 6.8 miles.
B. Flashing green light buoy in position 195 degs. O.5 Epanomi light 14½ cables (Further details).
(4) Salonika Bay has been swept for moored mines with negative results. (?77) ground mines have been detonated believed to have been German wooden box type capable of R.D.Ms setting up to 12. There is no direct evidence of British ground mines in Q.B.246 having been detonated.
(5) Although there has been no definite evidence of P.D.S.Ts. at least 6 actuations have been given in whole of Salonika Bay.
(6) Sweeping by M.M.S. is being continued in channels defined in para. (2) and (3) until at least 12 actuations have been given.
(S.O. M/S. F.12, 201957B to C.S.15)

Situation (1) Night of 18th Nov. coastal craft fired 6 report torpedoes into Cigale Cove on Lussinpiccolo No.488, (?where) concentration of Human torpedoes and and enemy small craft had been reported on previous day. 5 torpedoes seen to explode in the cove.
(2) (?Sweeping) operation in progress in Valona Bay and approach to Sibenik.
(3) Off Sestri Levante in Gulf of Genoa on night of 18th Nov. enemy south ~~of~~ (?and) northbound convoys met. They were engaged first by shore batteries and then by each other. Our coastal forces having observed this engagement attacked each convoy in turn with torpedoes. Results against northbound convoy not observed but in southbound one ship blew up with terrific explosion. Both our attacks made without casualties under very heavy enemy fire.
(C. in C. Med. 202130A)

Folbot Partisan Island of Silba was attacked last night Raid on by German Saboteurs who paddled from Lusino Silba. or Asinello Island in Folbot canoes. Their canoes were wrecked and they are still at large in the island. Among equipment was compass recognition lights special swimming suit and an operation order which indicates that other groups may repeat may be in the area.
(2) Any of our anchorages would be very vulnerable to this form of attack but the efforts of the 4 Germans in Silba were childish and the Partisans suffered negligible damage.
(L.C.H.282, 202143 to F.O.T.A.L.I. etc.)

GUARDIAN. On completion of refit and after exchange of Commanding Officers GUARDIAN should be sailed as convenient for Colombo to embark photographic equipment prior to proceeding to Sydney Australia to arrive by 1st January. Only 1½ miles of indicator not to be carried on passage.
(D.B.D. approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 202217A to F.O.L.E.M.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Area V.P. Scale X 5 P. Area C.B. 2 north of 006°
N. and east of 081° E. scale X 5 P.
Remainder C.B. 2 and other areas scale W.5.
(C. in C. E.F. 200407Z.)

Troop
Transport
Programme.

GENERAL BUTNER is being sailed from Bombay in
accordance with my 180510 B.A.D. 190137 para. 2
refers.

(2) It is agreed that GENERAL GAMBLER should sail
from Bombay empty and unescorted for Melbourne
when ready about 8th December. B.A.D. 190137 para.
3 refers.

(3) Cruiser will be available as ocean escort for the 2 General
class troopships and EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND leaving southwest
Australian waters in company early January. B.A.D. 190137 para.
4 refers. Cdr. S.W. Passeafron is requested to assemble and sail
these ships accordingly. Advise dates as soon as known.
(C. in C. E.F. 201003Z to B.A.D. etc.)

U.S.S. GENERAL BUTNER sailing from Bombay in accordance with
my 180510. Destroyer escort is not available before December
first P.S.T.O. India's 160537 refers. Agree that ship may be
embarked to capacity on passage to Melbourne, your 171840 refers.

(2) Delhi pass to Commander General U.S.A.A.F. G.B.I. Rear Echelon.
(C. in C. E.F. 201007 to Opnav.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 201346Z, Cominch, 201531Z.)

Task Units. This constitutes Task Units as follows:
Task Unit 27.1.1 Cdr. Bowling in OTTER, HUBBARD,
HAYVER, VARIAN.
Task Unit 27.1.2 Lt.-Cdr. Isaac in WILLIAM T.
POWELL, SPANGENBERG, ALEXANDER J. LUKE, ROBERT I. PAYNE.
Task Unit 27.1.3 Cdr. Headland in BUCKSEY, RUEBEN JAMES,
SCROGGINS, JACK W. EFLKE. On 27th November Task Unit 27.1.2
depart Casco and proceed Argentia. On arrival Cortdiv 62
at Casco Task Unit 27.1.1 and 27.1, 27.1.3 remain that port
until further orders. Cominch serial 003256 of 9th November
not to all refers. When directed by Cinclant Task Units
proceed from bases to destroy enemy submarines. Detailed
instructions follow by letter. Previous orders Cortdiv 66
modified accordingly.
(Cinclant, 201806Z to Comcortdiv. 62 and 66.)

HURON. 2200Z/20th November sailed HURON independently
to Horta, Azores. My 161912* not to all refers.
Route.
(2) S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. Horta 1000Z/24th.
(4) "Chop" 1400Z/22nd.
(5) Upon arrival Horta request HURON be fuelled and given
onward routeing to Cardiff.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 202223Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
* Sailing HURON for Cardiff via Azores.

AKAROA, AKAROA due Balboa 1st December has on board 109
suggested service personnel, 34 D.B.S., 12 civilians and
independent 39 women and children total 194 passengers.
sailing. This vessel normally qualifies for C.U. convoy but
observance of existing rules will result in
passage from Cristobal to New York in 9 knot
convoy.
(2) Suggest exception to passenger rules to permit independent
sailing Cristobal to New York.
(3) Suggest that provisions of C.A.F.O. 2393/44 be relaxed
for all vessels qualifying for C.U. convoy in passage between
Cristobal and New York or proceeding independently after breaking
off from U.C. convoy. Your 171415 (Use of troopships with
speed of 18½-19 knots for naval personnel lift to Australia)
refers.
(B.A.D., 202301Z to Admty.)
Concur in para. 2. (Admty., 221951A.)

20.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

- Digest
No. 1034.
- Covering November 19th.
- (2) Occupation of Mapia and Asia groups (north of Manokwari) completed by midday. Mitchells supported operations since initial landing Pegun Island 15th November. 159 Jap dead counted.
- (7) Ships in Leyte Gulf under air attack 5 times during day including three suicide dive-bombers. Slight damage suffered. Land based combat air patrol shot down 7 planes making total enemy losses 10.
- (9) Night 17th November P.T. Boats sank southbound rice laden barge 10 miles west of Surigao and other boats shot one engine out of medium bomber over Ormoc Bay.
- (10) Successive flights Thunderbolts attacked barge hideouts and barges plying Cebu - Ormoc destroying or firing 8 plus 1 coaster. Majority in Pacijan Island.
- (11) Amended report shipping sighted Cebu Harbour 17th Nov. included 4 medium freighters totalling approx. 20,000 tons 12 sea trucks, over 20 small craft. Reported aircraft tender discounted. Next day 7 Mitchells swept Cebu Harbour sinking one barge. 3 - 5 Jap fighter ineffectually attempted interception.
- (12) Night 18th November patrol plane attacked small merchantman off Basilan Island in Sulu Archipelago and hit same. Possible wreckage observed during later search.
- (14) Noon 18th November 13th Air Force hit Tarakan oil storage centre. 50 Liberators dropped nearly 110 tons bombs including heavy incendiaries from medium altitude while 28 Lightnings each dropped one quarter ton incendiary from tree tops and 5 Mitchells attacked shipping in harbour. Almost immediately afterwards 31 Lightnings followed adding fire bombs and straffing installations and shipping from minimum altitude. Several explosions occurred with flames enveloping entire target and smoke billowing to 15,000 feet. 5 small freighters, 1 gunboat all at least damaged.
- (18) Forenoon 18th Liberator unsuccessfully attacked torpedo boat 80 miles south of Boeroe Island while 4 Lightnings straffed and damaged sea truck off south coast Ambon.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 200950Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

- S/M attack
and sighting
summary.
- For 24 hours to 0900Z/20th November.
- Para. B. (1) A/C V/58 attacked contact at 0018Z/19th November in 58° 33' N., 10° 34' E.
(2) A/C reported possible U-Boat at 0635Z/20th November in 62° 25' N., 14° 20' W.
- Para. C. (1) A/C B/423 attacked suspicious wake or swirl at 1618Z/19th November in 56° 16' N., 09° 00' W.
(2) Ref. A.M. 191118A para, B. (1) Position of attack by H/86 amended to 60° 51' N., 02° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 201109A.)

/ U/B ...

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Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U/B
dispositions.

Nil indication of U-Boats in Atlantic.

(D.D.I.C., 201336A to A.I.G. 332.)

No indication of whereabouts of any U-Boats
which may be in this area.

(D.D.I.C., 201338A to A.I.G. 331.)

21.11.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. 1(a) Dieppe has available, in addition to the berths enumerated in yesterday's report, a Hospital or H.M. Ship berth and a Train Ferry berth.
(b) Calais received its first train ferry.
- Norway. 2. Submarine VENTURER is returning from a stores-laying operation on Senja, N.E. of the Lofotens, in the course of which she sank a 740 ton U-Boat on November 11th. *[Assumed 'B' probably sunk, A/S Report, December]*
- Northern Waters. 3. The Norwegians desire to send a force of 3 corvettes, 6 minesweepers, 2 armed whalers, one headquarters ship, and ancillary vessels to the Russian-liberated port of Kirkenes on Varanger Fjord.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Steaming Lights. 4. C. in C. Mediterranean, suggests the use of a second steaming light by merchant ships except in areas known to be dangerous due to enemy air or submarine attack. This is desirable in view of the introduction of independent sailings, which makes the risk due to collision far greater than that due to any other cause.
- Aegean. 5. The destroyer KELVIN reported ~~two~~ small enemy craft at 2210B in 36.21N 27.48 E. (off Khalkia, Dodecanese). Both were sunk and 11 prisoners taken.

East Indies

- Burma. 6. Six aircraft laid 42 mines in Moulmein and Tavoy Rivers.

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21.11.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

- Philippines. 7. 5th Air Force bombers in a number of sorties against enemy shipping in the Ormoc Bay area sunk one sea truck and one coaster, set on fire another small coaster, and damaged one sea truck and one lugger. A minimum of 15 barges were damaged or destroyed along the coast southeast of Ormoc.
- Celebes. 8. Eight Lightnings raided Makassar, sinking five sea trucks and probably sinking a medium merchant ship, besides destroying one float plane and probably another. A search Liberator sank one sea truck off Kark^hseruin, Makassar Strait.

21.11.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Closing of
office of
R.N.O.
Exmouth.

The office of the R.N.O. Exmouth was closed down and the duties of the port were taken over by C.O. TENNYSON on Monday 20th November 1944.
(C. in C. Plymouth 211045A to Admty.)

Norwegian
Naval Force
to Kirkenes.
(see also
Operations,
Norway,
211300.)

C. in C. Royal Norwegian Forces has requested the despatch of a naval force to liberated territory in Norway under Russian control (Kirkenes). It is desired that the force should be composed of the following Norwegian ships: one small H.Q. ship. 3 corvettes, 6 minesweepers, 2 armed whalers, 8 motor fishing vessels, 1 tanker of 10,400 tons, 1 tanker of 500 tons, 2 cargo ships of 3000 tons each, 4 to 5 smaller ships combined for cargo and personnel. British Foreign Office is satisfied that the Russians have agreed to this proposal and the plan is approved by this H.Q. subject to the agreement in detail of the Admiralty War Office and Ministry of War Transport. It is the intention to include 2000 tons of civil relief supplies in this expedition and the provision of these supplies is also approved. Agreement of Admiralty War Office Ministry of War Transport should be transmitted direct to Scotco who will co-ordinate the operation in conjunction with the appropriate interested authorities and keep this H.Q. informed.
(S.H.A.E.F. 211735A to Scott. Comm., Admty. W.O. M.O.W.T.)

Movements.

NEWFOUNDLAND. My 161521A. Propose following programme subject to completion of tilt test on 23rd November and completion of gunnery equipment trials on 24th November.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow 201817A refers.

25th November. Pitometer log trials, machinery and gun trials. Radar trials with W.A. W.C. and 2.S. W.S. sets.

26th November. D.G. ranging M/F D/F calibration, further radar trials on completionsail for Scapa.

(NEWFOUNDLAND 211357A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DUGUAY-TROUIN. Subject to confirmation of para. 3 of DUGUAY-TROUIN's 201536 on arrival request you will sail ship for Casablanca after fuelling. S.O.A. to be reported.

(2) Route will be promulgated by Admiralty.
(D.O.D.(H) 211539A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Your 201536A. A higher S.O.A. than 11 knots is desirable if fuel permits.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211556A to DUGUAY-TROUIN.)

ROYALIST.

ROYALIST A.M. 201346, route
S. 180° Lizard 3 miles. T. 43° N. 10° W.
U. 38° N. 10° W. V. 36° N. 09° W. W. 35.51 N.
06.10 W. thence to Gibraltar.
(Admty. 211824A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

21.11.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

INDEFATIGABLE. From position J. 51.30 N. 07.47 W. on standard route B alter course for new positions O. 47.58 N. 08.25 W. P. 44° N. 11° W. thence to position M. Estimated P.C.S. of S.L. 176/M.K.S. 67 at 0800A/22 47.15 N. 08.20 W. 020° 7½ knots.
(Admty. 211930A to INDEFATIGABLE.)

MAURITIUS. (1) Leave Scapa as convenient p.m. Wednesday 22 November and proceed by standard route to Rosyth arriving Oxcars Gate at 0800A/23 November.
(2) Pass over deep D.G. range on entering harbour.
(3) Seven 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. Monday 11th December.
(C. in C. H.F. 212233A to MAURITIUS.)

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Military. G.2 summary No. 60 dated 21st November.
Para. 1 operations.
Resistance deteriorated southern flank of 19 Army and Rhine River reached by Allies who hold line along Huningue Canal from Huningue (A.88) to Kembs (A.89.) Enemy withdrawn to southern outskirts of Mulhouse (A.70). Altkirch (A.69) and Chalonvillars (K.30) and Belfort (A.39) reported lost by enemy. In Vosges enemy continues to withdraw probably having sent many troops to reinforce south, but mines slowing Allied progress. Gerardmer lost to Allies. Enemy remanned strong-points at St. Die (V.46). Light resistance offered Raon L'Etape area. Enemy withdrawn from Dieuze (Q.22) and Insviller (Q.33), Lelling (Q.24). Pocket of resistance encountered west of Helliner (Q.34). Resistance light in approaches to Saverne Gap. However, Niderhoff (Q.4604) strongly defended by dug-in tanks and fire fight developed at Nitting (Q.4708). No definite enemy line yet encountered Bebing (Q.4512) Heming (Q.4310) sector. In Metz area pockets of resistance continue to make stubborn stand. North of Metz heavy enemy fire received from Cottendorff (Q.18). Strong anti-tank defences reported established between Waldisse (Q.19) and Noukirchen (Q.18). Dry weather improving ground for cross-country operations.
Southwest of Duren (F.14) enemy counter-attack repulsed and slow Allied progress made. Germans reported withdrawing into Eschweiler (K.94) leaving only rear guard behind. Engineer and artillery troops being employed as infantry. Enemy reinforcements with tanks arrived area Pattern (F.05) Laurenzberg (K.95) area, strongly suspected of being 116 Panzer Division. Enemy fighting fiercely in attempt to hold Aldenhoven (K.95) Freialdenhoven and Ederen (K.96). Durboslar (K.95), Kinzweiler, St. Joris taken. Enemy action mostly infantry. Further reinforcements arriving Linnich (K.96). In Holland, Kessel (E.80) captured. Slight opposition encountered north of Helenaveen (E.71) along canal. Indications reinforcements arriving rear area possibly 10 S.S. Panzer Division. Little activity rest of front.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Military.
(Contd.)

(5) General. In Vosges, consequences of sending reinforcements to south flank apparent in weakened resistance all along mountain chain: if threat of encirclement from south and north grows, divisions in mountains will have to withdraw hurriedly.

Seven pontoon bridges ready for installation on Rhine Basle to Strasbourg 19th November.

In Metz sector, enemy already withdrawn to outworks of Siegfried Line east of Thionville as far as inclusive 21 Panzer Division, but further south, in St. Avold area, is still forward among fortifications of Maginot Line. If finally forced back on to whole length of Siegfried Line in south, length of line will be nearly double what it was when Allied offensive started.

Ardennes being milked both for Metz and for Cologne battle, 347 Division going south and 91 going north.

(S.H.A.E.F. 211730A to W.O., Agwar.)

Naval.

Cositintrep No. 231 part II Naval.

Captured ports. Dieppe. Summary of berths available at present: 9 large, 4 medium, 8 small, plus Hospital Carrier H.M. ship berth and train ferry berth.

U.S. Unloading figures for 19th November.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
Cherbourg	52	-	15,546	-
Rouen	178	125	6,025	2,218
Brittany Ports	-	-	6,259	-
Le Havre	5,198	108	5,144	720
Total	5,428	233	32,974	2,938

Unloading figures for 20th November.

British				
E. Calvados	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	4,511	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,205	-
Ostend	2,246	193	4,048	2,334
Total	2,246	193	10,764	2,334
U.S.				
Cherbourg	21	-	11,288	12,380
Rouen	1,866	552	5,175	3,831
Brittany Ports	-	-	3,379	-
Le Havre	4,069	459	6,847	1,613
Total	5,956	1,011	26,689	17,824
Combined total	8,202	1,204	37,453	20,158

(A.N.C.X.F. 212305A to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Eagle ship
for Schelde.

Your 201800A. Owing to congestion at Sheerness it is proposed that SKIDDAW be sailed direct from Portsmouth to Schelde when required by A.N.C.X.F. (C. in C. Nore 211600A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel.

Patrols.

Night A/S patrol 21/22.

Special object contact U-Boat at Schnorkel depth.
(2) Ships zig zag search steady 8 knots through positions and areas given.

(3) VESPER G.1 Buoy 1730 thence Z.102, 9, 8, 14, 11, 10 J Buoy 0830.

(4) ANTHONY J Buoy 1730Z 16, 12, 13, 17 Kansas 0830.

(5) VANQUISHER, BRILLIANT limits Q.Z.S. 636, 633, 49° 50' 50° 30' N. north and south of 50° 10' respectively.

(6) M.T.Bs. ordered search in company Z. 125, 126, 127, 130.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 211256A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Day A/S patrols November 22nd. Search area limits given.

(2) VESPER, ANTHONY, BRILLIANT, VANQUISHER 50° 00' 50° 20' N. 01° 20' 01° 50' W.

(3) VANOC relieve VANQUISHER.

(4) M.T.Bs. ordered search Z.128 and north to 50° 30'.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 211431A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Air patrols 22nd November. My 201852, patrols 46, 47, 48, 49 will be flown call signs below.

(2) 842 Squadron aircraft R/T "Occult" W/T NRZ.

(3) 838 Squadron aircraft R/T "Mothburn" W/T JYK.

(4) W/T frequency 6480 k/cs.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 211521A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Cross Channel
pipe line.

Intend to carry out operation "Dumbo 6" with ALGERIAN on Thursday November 23rd. Zero time 1000.

(2) Dover advise Sandycroft party.

(3) Sandycroft advise ALGERIAN on arrival.

(S.N.O. Pluto 211229A to V.A. Dover.)

Control of
French
Fishing.

A.N.C.X.F's 140215. Following proposals for control of fishing by Chasseurs have been agreed with French Authorities.

(1) Extension of present facilities including night fishing to area defined in my 141607 not to all.

(2) Two Chasseurs to be based on French ports as

shown in para. 3 and to be relieved monthly.

(3) Owing to seasonal movement of centre of fishing grounds Chasseurs to be based as follows.

A. Until 1st December. One at Havre, one at Dieppe.

B. 1st December to 15th December, two at Havre.

C. 15th December to 1st January one at Havre, one at Boulogne.

If a third is then available to be based at Havre.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Control of French Fishing. (Contd.)

(4) Chasseurs based on Dieppe to obtain fuel for Havre from U.S. sources. Those at Boulogne from British sources.

(5) Operational control to be vested in S.F.N.O's Havre, Dieppe and Boulogne under direction of N.Os. i/c subject to approval by C. in C. Portsmouth

(6) Administrative control for victualling and fuelling to be under Capt- M/S N.F. under C.T.F. 125 at Le Havre and under N.Os. i/c at Dieppe and Boulogne.

(7) F.O.B.A.A. will issue general instructions subject to their approval by C. in C. Portsmouth and A.C. Dover.

(8) Fishing fleets normally operate in an area of not more than 8 to 10 miles diameter. Intend therefore that one Chasseur will be at sea and one in harbour.

(9) C.T.F. 125 is requested to remark on paras. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. (F.O.B.A.A. 211429A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C.T.F. 125.)

Liberator fired on off Jersey.

Liberator A/C M/103 reports that at 1305A/21 it was attacked and damaged by light A/A fire from 2 vessels in position 49.02 N. 02.10 W.

(2) One vessel only appeared to be armed and carried small arms and 20 millimeter or larger gun forward which fired explosive shells. Vessel was about 100 feet long with superstructure forward of amidships. No funnel. Second vessel was about 50 feet long and had broad beam.

(3) Both vessels appeared loaded with deck cargo and were heading south at the time of attack.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211611A to C.T.F. 125.)

Engagement of aircraft by ships.

Subject is rules for engagement of aircraft by ships in English Channel.

(1) Contents of your signal 201710A which was in reply to S.H.A.E.F. Main signal S. 67471 dated 19th November 44 much appreciated.

(2) Owing to objections raised by formations in United Kingdom proposed airway between Deal and Nieuport has been temporarily abandoned but instead most likely that airway between Cap Gris Nez and Dungeness will be substituted.

(3) Therefore propose request Air Ministry to approach Admiralty for aircraft area to be established between line drawn from edge of port defended areas of Calais to Folkestone and to line drawn from Landsend to Ushant where no recognition procedure will be necessary as fall of Dunkirk does not affect this issue. Propose making above mentioned request forthwith if you concur.

(4) Question of height restrictions in corridors will form subject of separate signal.

(S.H.A.E.F. 211700A to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

- 14th E.G. Sailed 14th E.G. (less FORESTER) and SERAPH.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 210901A to C. in C. W.A.)
- 1st E.G. Your 201135A para. 2. Arrived 1st E.G. H.M.
frigate AFFLECK, GARLIES, COOKE, BENTLEY, CAPEL.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 210904A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Patrols. If contact shows no signs of life proceed forthwith
to establish Gamma patrol between 51° 40' 12° 25'
and 52° 00' 12° 00'.
(C. in C. W.A. 211005A to S.O.E.G.4.)
- Force 33 2nd E.G. WILD GOOSE S.O. 3 frigates vicinity Barra Head.
19th E.G. HESPERUS 4 frigates vicinity Minches proceeding to Cape
Wrath area 15.
9th E.G. ST. JOHN 4 frigates operating Cape Wrath area 4th E.G.
BYARD 3 frigates vicinity 052° 00' 012° 00'.
30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE 4 corvettes sailing Londonderry about
1600A/21st to 052° 00' 011° 00' 14 knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 211538A to Situation report.)
- Procedure My 191445 Sept. section B. In Sub-Section 1
with in- for 46° N. substitute 44° N. In sub-section 2
coming con- for 49° N. substitute 48° N.
voys south (C. in C. W.A. 211255A to S. & A. in W.A.
of Ireland. Command.)
- E.Gs. 9, 19. 19th E.G. is to proceed forthwith to relieve 9th
E.G. in Cape Wrath area on operation C.E. 1.
(2) On relief 9th E.G. proceed to Scapa and
operate under the orders of C. in C. H.F.
(C. in C. W.A. 211517A to Force 33.)
- Your 211517A. E.T.A. Cape Wrath area 0900A/22nd.
(S.O.E.G. 19 211805A to C. in C. W.A.)
- 30th E.G. Sailed PEVENSEY CASTLE, PORCHESTER CASTLE, LAUNCES-
TON CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE and CAISTOR CASTLE
in accordance with your 202254A.
(Com. D. W.A. 211633A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Suspected COBOURG attacked firm A/S contact with wreck or
U-Boat. U-Boat in position 049° 40' N. 010° 44' W. at
(1534A.) QU'APPELLE, CHAUDIERE, ST. LAURENT
hunting, COBOURG rejoining. Weather report
3845 0556 unsuitable.
(S.O.E.G. C.6 211700A to C. in C. W.A.)
- My 211700A. Classified non submarine, wreck. All escorts re-
joining. P.C.S. 2000A 049° 24' N. 011° 29' W. 238° 8 knots.
Weather report 0945 0655 unsuitable.
(S.O.E.G.C.6 211927A to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operation
"Hangman".

Operation "Hangman" completed morning 13th. Daily activity apparent vicinity of original Cache. Stores hidden in 4 groups behind 8 large boulders formed in rough Rick about 280 metres north of a stream and 30 metres inland from large flat boulder at water edge.

(2) New position is 069° 28' 38" N. 017° 33' 42" E. Apex Tick is marked by twin trees 3 metres tall, one bleached white. Stores are imperfectly hidden from close observation from landward.

U.771*

(3) 740 tons U-Boat sunk 11th. My position 068° N. 008° 20' E. Weather report 5677 8883.

* (VENTURER 210143A to F.O. S/M, Capt. S.9.)

Sunk in 69° 17' N. 16° 28' E. (T.A.S.W. list annotated by W.B.R.)

Temporary
transfer of
Flag to
IMPLACABLE.

The flag of C. in C. H.F. will be transferred to IMPLACABLE at 1430A/22nd November. This time operational signals are to be addressed to C. in C. H.F. in IMPLACABLE and repeated C.S. one and are also to be sent to RODNEY. C. in C's office will remain in RODNEY.

(2) A full set of C. in C's S.P's less Typex will be held in IMPLACABLE.

(3) IMPLACABLE will not keep watch on broadcast B.N. (C. in C. H.F. 211049 to Home Fleet.)

Operation
"S.C."

Ramose Tornado. HESSA returned at 1100A/21st November. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 211109A to A.C.O.S.)

Norwegian
Naval Force
to Kirkenes
(see also
Policy
211735,)

(444 492)

C. in C. Royal Norwegian Forces has requested the despatch of a naval force to liberated territory in Norway under Russian control (Kirkenes) It is desired that the force should be composed of the following Norwegian ships. One small H.Q. ship. Three corvettes, six minesweepers, two armed whalers, eight motor fishing vessels, two cargo ships of 3000 tons each, one tanker of 10,400 tons, one tanker of 500 tons, four to five smaller ships combined for cargo and personnel. British Foreign Office is satisfied that the Russians have agreed to this proposal and the plan is approved by this H.Q. subject to the agreement in detail of the Admiralty, War Office and Ministry of War Transport. It is the intention to include 2000 tons of civil relief supplies in this expedition and the provision of these supplies is also approved. Agreement of Admiralty, War Office and Ministry of War Transport should be transmitted direct to Scotco who will co-ordinate the operation in conjunction with the appropriate interested authorities and keep this H.Q. informed. (S.H.A.E.F. 211300A to Admty., Scott. Comm. W.O.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

9th E.G. Request you will sail PORT COLBORNE to Scapa when
to Scapa. ready. My 211517 refers.
(C. in C. W.A. 211617A to Com. D. W.A.)

Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/22nd and movements for
following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
A. VENTURER 65° 02' N. 04° 05' E. course 210°
diving by day 120 miles in 24 hours.
B. ULA 62° 23' N. 00° 40' E. course 210° diving
by day until lat. 62° thence probably on surface 9 knots through
090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick.
C. RUBIS 59° 42' N. 03° 41' E. through 59° 05' N. 04° 03' E.
patrol off Egersund. Diving by day advance 120 miles in 24 hours.
D. SOKOL 59° 55' N. 03° 30' E. through 59° 05' N. 04° 03' E. to
patrol off Skudesnes. Diving by day advance 120 miles in 24 hrs.
L. TORBAY on patrol line 15 miles 360° and 180° either side mid
point 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E.
(F.O. S/M 211746 to Admty.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Operation "Acumen"
(Convoy J.W. 62.) Owing to bad weather H.X. 319 is unlikely to
arrive Clyde before 26th November.
Request you will defer sailing of J.W. 62 until
p.m. 29th November A.M. 311319A refers.
(D.O.D.(H) 210100A to C. in C. H.F.)
My 182216 para. I amend D day to read Wednesday
29th November.
(2) Add F.O.S. to address my 182203, 182216 and
182233.
(C. in C. H.F. 211303A to Admty., etc.)

Russian submarine chasers 1482 and 1486 pass Clyde Boom outwards
at 1200A tomorrow Wednesday for Lamlash on completion of repairs.
(2) Request you sail tanker LUCULLUS to R/V with these craft off
Cumbraes at 1330A to carry out oiling at sea exercises. LUCULLUS
return Greenock on completion.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 211558A to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

C. in C. W.A. is requested to transfer two fast support
groups to C. in C. H.F. as hunting force for J.W./R.A. 62, one
to arrive Loch Ewe on D minus one, and the other as arranged with
C. in C. H.F. A.M. 160110 refers.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 211641A to Cs. in C. W.A., H.F.)

Patrol. Complete with fuel and ammunition. You will be
required to sail at daylight tomorrow 22nd.
(C. in C. Rosyth 211025A to S.O.E.G.17.)
Sail with 17th E.G. at 0900A tomorrow 22nd for
position 60° 30' N. 02° 30' W. Further orders will be signalled.
Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Rosyth 211402A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Deep mining
in N.
Channel.

Operation "C.F." serial B.2 completed.
(APOLLO 210420A to C. in C. W.A.)

Le Havre
minesweeping.

CYRUS broke adrift from her moorings in the M/S anchorage off Havre during a severe gale and is now reported ashore in the entrance to the Seine. Salvage attempts are being made today Tuesday. All operations cancelled owing to gale.
(Capt. M/S N.F. 210943A to C.T.F. 125.)

Minesweep
of up-Channel
route.

My 061254. My 061554 and your 161501. Report your intentions for completing this search and for searching this route widened to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles either side of centre line, using all available ships of 16th M.S.F. proceeding at last light today Tuesday.
(C. in C. Plymouth 211224 to M.S.F. 16.)

My 211224. Proceed when convenient to commence sweeping first light tomorrow Wednesday.

(C. in C. Plymouth 211257 to M.S.F. 16.)

Your 211224 and 211257A November, not to all addressees.

- (1) p.m. 21st November. 16th M.S.F. SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC, QUALICUM, PARRSBORO, DORNOCH anchor in Sound.
- (2) 0100/22 Flotilla proceeds to complete last 20 miles of previous search and commences new search up Channel, anchoring in St. Mary's Roads, Scilly Isles by dusk.
- (3) 0800/23 proceed and continue search. Anchor in Helford River at dusk.
- (4) 0600/24 proceed and continue search. Anchor in Start Bay at dusk.
- (5) 0600/25 proceed and continue search. Anchor in Weymouth Bay at dusk.
- (6) 0600/26 proceed and continue search. Anchor in Torbay or Dartmouth at dusk.
- (7) 0600/27 proceed and continue search. Anchor in Helford River at dusk.
- (8) 0600/28 proceed and complete search. If not completed anchor in St. Mary's Roads, Scilly Isles.
- (9) 0800/29 flotilla returns to Plymouth if search is completed by 28th.

(M.S.F. 16 211431A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Minesweeping
of Schelde.

Operations "Calendar".

- (1) Sweeping today made 21st Nov. SA. LL. (A) Erndrachtpolder to Hansweerd Edges of Channel 4 actuations.
B. Intensive L.A.A. sweeping at Antwerp. Cropsa sweep A N.F. 13 to Honte.
 - (2) Nil. (3) Surveying work continuing.
 - (4) A. 24 in number English Electric Tappet adjusting screws.
B. 6 in number English Electric Inlet Valve Guides.
C. 6 in number English Electric Exhaust Valve Guides.
 - (5) A. B.Y.M.S. 2040, 2057. B. M.M.S. 175/274, 237 and 92.
C. M.F.V. 10(?20).
- (Capt. M/S F.A. 211959A to C. in C. Nore.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Midget U-Boats. A.M. 182204A November.
Photographic R/C of 29th October showed seventeen probable midget U-Boats at Borkum.
(2) In every case, at Nordeney, Wilhelmshaven and Borkum, the midget U-Boats have been seen on shore.
(N.I.D. 211748A to A.N.C.X.F.)

U-Boats.

Situation report. No fresh information on several on passage between S. Norway and Iceland (C).
At least one probably in each of areas off Reykjavik, in N. Minch and in N. Channel. One probably southbound within 150 miles W. of Bantry Bay.

One weather reporter in area 55° 00' N. 27° 30' W.
One unfixed northbound in area 42° 00' N. 20° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 211426A to Cominch.)

Navigational.

Burning of Navigation Lights. My 202210. On further consideration and to avoid complication for ships entering and leaving Havre by Q.Z.S. 619, propose Western Limit be 00° 10' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 212046A to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Ostend. A.N.C.X.F.'s 191025 not to all. Following is a re-encyphered version of my 031232. Begins:-
Berths available Schuildok numbered 2 to 7 total length 1500 ft. depth 11 ft. H.W. but dries out.
Car ferry Quay 8 to 10 1140 ft. but 300 ft. obstructed by CEDARWOOD.
Rail Quay 12 to 16, 1600 ft. 1100 ft. of this cargo berths.
Sunken crane fouls part of 13 and 12 is only wooden decked, suitable hospital carriers and personnel.
Petrol Quay 17 to 22, 2450 ft. of this 500 ft. is stores berth.
Timber jetty 23 - 24, 750 ft. Of this 560 ft. is clear for petrol ships, minimum depth in the Voorhaven 15 ft. to M.L.W.S. but berth 23 has minimum depth of 17 ft. M.L.W.S. Vlotdok 25 - 28 on the west side 1900 ft. clear 29 - 33 on the east side 2000 ft. minimum depth in Vlotdok is 21 ft. The Demay code lock gates are now in working order, can now accept vessels drawing 7 ft. in excess of high water as shown in Admiralty tide tables page 21.
Berths 1 and 11 suitable only for small craft.
Agreed P.E.C. Flot Dock can accommodate 8 ships of about 350 ft. length and 20 ft. draught or a greater number of smaller vessels.
Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend 211345A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Schnorkel exercises.

No. 18 Group urgently desire to carry out Schnorkel training with submarines in Moray Firth Area and as a result of consultation with R.A.N.A.S. (N) and Captain S/M (9) the following arrangements are intended:-

- A. Submarine to exercise in an area bounded as follows: (i) north 58.08 N. (ii) east 02.28 W. (iii) south 57.58 N. (iv) west 02.47 W.
- B. C. in C. Rosyth to arrange escort for submarine.
- C. Submarine and escort to work from Invergordon and to be operated by Captain S/M (9)
- D. Captain S/M (9) to inform N.A.S. Fearn and Crimond when exercises will take place.
- E. No restrictions to be placed on the use of the Spey Bay bombing range (A.F. 127).
- F. Target destroyers of other vessels working for N.A.S. Crimond to be free to use the Moray Firth Area (N. 918) but to avoid entering the exercise area unless proceeding to the assistance of a ditched aircraft.
- G. Night training, to exercise illuminating with Leigh Light to be carried out, during which the submarine will remain on the surface with the escort in company.
- (2) Request a submarine sanctuary to be known as the Moray Sanctuary and bounded by lines joining the following points, may be established: (i) No. 32 Buoy (37.46.5 N. 01.49.3 W.) (ii) Moray Buoy (57.50.7 N. 03.26.0 W.) (iii) No. 35 Buoy (58.28.3 N. 02.42.0 W.) (C. in C. Rosyth 211745A to Admty.)
C. in C. W.A's 202037.
- (1) No Schnorkel fitted submarine is likely to be available for some time.
- (2) For trials referred to in para. 2 the nearest approach to Schnorkelling would be achieved by a trimmed down submarine running main engines for charging and/or propulsion. In well sheltered waters a submarine could trim down considerably further than is acceptable under open sea conditions. A submarine can be made available when required.
- (3) Facilities at D.S.R's disposal for measuring and analysing noise of such a submarine exist at Loch Goil.
- (4) Para. 3. My views on fitting our own submarines with Schnorkel were expressed in my submission No. 2114/SM 0657 of 1st November 1944 to the Admiralty only. In this it is proposed to fit one of each of U, S, T and A class submarines with Schnorkel for experimental purposes with a view to adoption in operational submarines should it be required.
(F.O. S/M 211748A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

U.S.S. CAMP. Dry dock is now available at Cardiff. Request CAMP may be sailed as early as possible, and to arrive with not more than 40 tons of oil fuel. Ammunition will need to be removed before vessel goes into dock.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 211112A to N.O.I.C. Swansea.)
Intend to sail CAMP to Cardiff in tow of tug BROCKENHURST and escorted by M/S PEKEN and ROSETTE. E.T.D. Swansea Bay 0900A/22nd

/November...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

U.S.S. CAMP. November. S.O.A. 5 knots. Ship will arrive in
(Contd.) time to dock on the p.m. tide 22nd November.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 211440A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

CANTAL. Boarded French ship CANTAL ashore Christchurch Bay
on Hard Sand cargo 2470 tons meal cake in bags.
Holds tight leakage reported in double bottoms.
Now laying out heavy heaving off tackle for
recovery with LEITH and tug EMPIRE VINCENT.
Have released SEAMAN for original duty. Draft of vessel before
grounding 17.5 feet forward 21 feet aft.
Draft of present H.W. 14.6 forward 16 feet aft. Salvage officer
on board. Propose lightening vessel into small coaster if weather
permits after ground tackle laid out will report when this
operation completed and coaster required.
(S.O.I.C. Cowes 211950A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Withdrawal Within the next few days the use of the Lynn of
of N.C.S.Os. Lorne as an overflow merchant ship anchorage will
from Oban. cease. Thereafter only an occasional coaster will
call at Oban. It is accordingly proposed to with-
draw all N.C.S. Officers from Oban to date 1st
December.
(2) Request your remarks or concurrence.
(D.T.D. 210115A to C. in C. W.A.)

U.K.-Antwerp Your 201445A concur.
Convoys. (V.A. Dover 211144A to C. in C. Nore.)
Remarks on your 201445 after discussion with
N.Os. i/c Antwerp and Ostend.
(2) About 70% of ships hitherto using Ostend cannot
maintain 8½ knots hence special Ostend convoys will still be
necessary arriving at the time that suits the tide all possible
ships should be included in these convoys as it is most undesirable
for ships to have to remain at anchor off Ostend particularly at
night.
(3) Timing in your para. 3 has advantages but involves pilots
boarding a number of ships in a narrow exposed channel in the
dark. Some lights would be necessary and might invite attack.
(4) Reason for timing in your para. 4? not clear but is has
above disadvantage and also that Ostend ships join during dark-
ness.
(5) I consider it would be preferable for transfer of pilots to
be in daylight at any rate until they have gained experience of
dealing with a large number of ships at the same time. (6) The
2 Dutch and 1 Belgian pilot boats allotted should just meet the
combined requirements of Antwerp and Ostend. To provide for rest
and refit request another pilot boat may be made available.
(Com. Belgium 211841A to C. in C. Nore.)

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21.11.1944.

Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticGroup 1
sweep.

On completion of exercises p.m. 21st November, USK is to proceed to R/V with Group 1 (corrupt group) Y.S. NADA and instructor S.O. Group 1. (2) KILMINGTON is to arrange R/V position and time.

(3) NADA (Y.S.) is to return Gibraltar on relief.

(4) Group 1 consisting KILMINGTON S.O., KILBURNIE and Y.S. NADA is to carry out patrol "Bacon". (My 051130 being passed to USK refers).

(5) On arrival of USK Group 1 is to make line abreast A/S swept through following positions, return carry out patrol (repeat word spelt) B.A. on completion.

(E) All following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated 036 degs. 10' 006 degs. 20'

(F) 036 degs. 50' 009 degs. 00'. (G) 034 degs. 20' 009 degs. 00'. (H) 034 degs. 20' 006 degs. 50'. (J) 035 degs. 00' 006 degs. 00'.

(6) USK is to keep F.O.G.M.A. informed as follows:-

(a) Percentage of fuel remaining in all ships at (08) (00) daily.

(b) Whether state of sea suitable for use of Schnorkel.

(c) Minimum every 8 hours level sweep.

(7) USK acknowledge.

(F.O.G.M.A., 210938A to Group 1, USK).

B.Y.M.S.

B.Y.M.S. 2261 (S.O.), 2234, 2244, 2043 sail at 1400A/22nd November for Falmouth.

(2) Route.

(3) S. of A. 9 knots. (4) E.T.A. November 27th.

(5) Codeword "Corner" 587.

(F.O.G.M.A., 211238A). W.D. Note:- Delayed, see 220845A.

Escort
carriers.

A.M. 201346 para. 4. (Escort for 4 Escort Carriers). It is anticipated that CALCOLM and VERITY will be available for this duty to sail approx. 28th or 29th November from Gibraltar.

(2) If additional escort is required a frigate will be available. (F.O.G.M.A., 211530 to Admty., C. in C.Med.).

BROOKLYN,
KEARNEY,
ERICSSON.

KEARNEY, ERICSSON, arriving Horta 0830/24 each require 270 tons bunker fuel. Request confirmation While destroyers fuel BROOKLYN originator intends anchor in Man of War Anchorage Horta Bay weather permitting. Is this anchorage patrolled and secure from submarines? If not will fuel destroyers singly.

(U.S.S. BROOKLYN, 211759Z to S.B.N.O. Azores).

Your 211759. Anchorage patrolled by Portuguese A/S ship and considered secure in present S/M. situation.

(2) Bunker fuel for destroyers is available.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 212200Z to BROOKLYN).

E.G.58.

E.T.A. 1000 Wednesday 22nd. WEAR requires medium pressure on starboard engine re (corrupt group). Relief for Captain (D) is in CIRCASSIA. Weather report.

(S.O.E.G.58, 211606Z to F.O.C.W.A.).

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21.11.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

EMPEROR. Your 202255A. Owing to head wind my best speed 16 knots. My position 220700A 032° 55' N., 023° (corrupt group) (corrupt group) (presumably "East" intended) E.T.A. Gibraltar 250300. (EMPEROR, 210645Z to V.A.M.)

Convoy "Sale". My 201701*. Convoy "Sale" No.1 sailed. (S.B.N.O. Northern Aegean, 210929B to ?R.A.L.) * Sailing of Convoy "Sale".

GRADISCA, German hospital ship. Action in para. 2 of your 200124* is being taken. (2) Before complying with para. 3 I would point out that (A) Germans have already quoted the footnote to article 12 of 10th Hague convention shown on page 16 of Naval Prize Manual. (B) I am not aware of circumstances of the original detention of GRADISCA but it seems unlikely that it was covered by foot-note in (A) above. (C) Germans will undoubtedly refuse to land sick and wounded until answer to protest to Swiss Government has been received (see my 181742 para. 1) (D) In the likely event of a further refusal I shall have no alternative but to use force which would be almost impossible to do humanely. Do you wish me to do this? (F.O.W.M., 211056A to Admty.) * Disembarkation of sick and wounded from hospital ship GRADISCA. Swiss Consul had interview with GRADISCA p.m. today, my 211056. (2) In course of conversation paras. 2A and C of my 211056 were confirmed. (3) Germans emphasised that patients were landed at Alexandria under compulsion. (4) GRADISCA is aware of fate of TUEBINGEN and states GRADISCA is only German Hospital Ship in this area. (5) Swiss Consul stated he would report the facts to German Government and could only ask British Authorities to delay proposed disembarkation until replies had been received to representations at present being made. (F.O.W.M., 211834A to Admty.)

A.F.D. 18. Ref. A.M. 102134 para. (2) (Tug ENFORCER tentatively allocated to tow A.F.D.18.) For ENFORCER read ASSIDUOUS (new single screw 1350 h.p. tug, White Ensign) sailing with L.C.Ts. about 19th December. A.M. 201648 also refers. (D.O.D.(H), 211236A to C. in C. Med.)

Food Relief for Crete. The situation at present is that S.A.C.M.E.D. does not agree to relief supplies being sent to Suda Bay where there can be no reliable guarantee that they will not be seized by beleaguered garrison. S.B.N.O. Greece 201705 refers. (2) Heraklion and ports to the eastward may be used.

21.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Food Relief for Crete. (Contd.) (3) There is to be no direct communication with the German Commander, Crete. (C. in C. Med., 211806A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Steaming Lights. Request consideration may be given to reintroducing use of a second steaming light by merchant ships except in areas known to be dangerous due to enemy air or submarine attack. This change is desirable in at any rate the Mediterranean where introduction of independent sailings makes risk due to collision far greater than that due to any other cause. C.A.M.S.I. 191 para. 5 and messages 186B and 235B refer. (C. in C. Med., 211837A to Admty.)

Escorts for Eastern Fleet, refits. From C. in C. Med. at Admiralty. It is now essential that escorts for Eastern Fleet should be taken in hand for refit forthwith as a matter of urgency as follows:-
(A) BIDEFORD, DART, EVENLODE for 2 to 3 weeks.
(B) INVER, AIRE, ODZANI for 3 to 4 weeks.
If ERNE could be taken in hand for 3 to 4 weeks in addition it would be of considerable assistance.
(2) Only such alterations and additions as can be completed in the time given are to be undertaken.
(3) Request report to reach me by noon Thursday 23rd as to when and where these ships will be taken in hand. They will be sent to U.K. to adjust complement and give leave on completion of refit and must arrive in Far East at earliest possible moment.
(4) Some deferment of Station refits must be accepted if necessary, but it would appear that Levant and Malta at any rate can take on more than is at present planned for them. This commitment is in addition to CALPE.
(D.O.D.(F), 211852A to C. in C. Med. Naples.)

Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 499. 270255. MX 37713 Cipher 21 November. Cite FHGCT FHGBI. Signed Wilson. Coastal Air Force. Day 20th November. One of two Wellingtons on armed R/C Maestra Pt. Trieste bombed Chioggia. Another Wellington attacked three E-Boats near Piave Vecchia with unobserved results. Two Beaufighters scored R.P. hits on 100 foot barge off Merlera Pt. and two Beaufighters and four Spitfires set* to a 70 foot barge and attacked a caique in Lake Marano. (H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O./21.) * (?Fire intended).

BROCKLESBY, Zara. Your 211334 (N.T. in W.D.) BROCKLESBY will be sailed from Mulat to arrive at Zara at 0800/22nd. (? After) embarking prisoners request you sail her as convenient about 1000/22nd to Ancona, E.T.A. 1600/22nd.
(2) S.N.O.N.A. is requested to return BROCKLESBY to Mulat on 23rd November after refuelling at Ancona. (L.C.H.282, 211955 to S.B.N.O. Zara.)

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21.11.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

MUSKETEER, My 201908 (N.T. in W.D.) KELVIN may leave
KELVIN, patrol to arrive Khios by noon 22nd. MUSKETEER
TUSCAN. will leave Khios 0500B speed 22 knots. TUSCAN
appoint R/V.
(MUSKETEER, 212007B to C. in C. Med., Force 54.)

Aegean Propose 7 destroyers form one group and four
Groups. corvettes the other. Destroyer Group to be
divided into two Divisions of four and three
ships respectively. Corvettes to be based at
Piraeus primarily for control of west coast
ports. Four Ship Destroyer Division to be based Piraeus for
escort and general duties inside Aegean. Remaining Destroyer
Division based Alexandria for personnel convoy escorts to
Greek ports. As many Piraeus based ships to be maintained by
Greeks as their facilities permit which at present is capacity
of HYPHESTOS.
(F.O.L.E.M., 212049 to C. in C. Med.)
Approved. (C. in C. Med., 261155.)

Enemy Your 201115A (N.T. in W.D.) If the battery
Battery. should be located as far north as 03 minutes and
its neutralization required more than its
destruction, (which means using high explosive
shells) the swept channel, if feasible, should be
moved 1,000 yards to the north.
(Comflanfor, 212100 to F.O.N.A.M.)

Situation Coastal craft on night of 19th Nov. again found
Report north and southbound convoy meeting off Sestri
No. 489. Levrous (?Levanti). Both convoys stopped and
were attacked with 8 torpedoes. Hits obtained
on 2 coasters. One disappeared from radar
screen the other was possibly sunk. 2 lighters
may also have been sunk. Enemy fire during both attacks and
withdrawal was ragged and ineffectual. After our craft were
clear convoys were heavily engaged for 20 minutes by enemy
shore batteries. After some hesitating convoys joined in and
engaged each other.
(C. in C. Med., 212109A.)

Enemy small 2 enemy small craft in 036° 21' N., 027° 48' E.
craft sunk, (KELVIN, 212210B.)
Aegean. Following received from Force 133. "Information
received that Germans preparing attack on Symi
Beach Signal Station" date 21 November. Suggest
one destroyer remain Piskopi area and patrol south
of Symi.
(Call sign 3DFV, 212240B to TUSCAN, KELVIN, (R) R.A.
Alexandria.)
My 212210, both sunk.
(KELVIN, 212335B.)

21.11.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat
dispositions. No fresh information.
Scales unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 210348Z)

Simonstown Refit programme, my 181103 (N.T. in W.D.) should
Dockyard be taken as reply to your 181149.
work. (C. in C. E.F. 210456Z to C.S. Simonstown)

Ships ex Intended programme for ships bound Bombay or
K.M.F. Ceylon ex K.M.F. convoys. Admiralty's 141948
Convoys, refers.
Programme. Leave U.K. D. day. Leave Aden D plus 21 arrive
Bombay D plus 26 or Colombo D plus 27. Leave
Colombo D plus 33 or Bombay D plus 34. Arrive
Aden D plus 39 giving two days for escort turn
round before next convoy leaves Aden on D plus 41.
(2) F.O.C.R.I.N. in requested to pass Admiralty's 141948 to
D.D.S.T.I.
(C. in C. E.F. 210543Z to P.S.T.O. Admty.)
Reply: P.S.T.O.I. 280956A.

R.A. Brind. Pending Admiralty instructions, I have
appointment. ordered R.A. E.J.P. Brind, C.B., C.B.E. to hoist
his flag as R.A. Commanding Cruisers B.P.F.
(Short Title C.S.B.P.F.) in SWIFTSURE at 0800/22nd
November, 1944. E.I.S.C.143 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 210650Z to Admty.)
Reply: V.C.N.S. 252236A.

The flag of R/Adl. E.J.P. Brind, C.B., C.B.E., as R.A. Commanding
Cruisers, British Pacific Fleet: (short title C.S.B.P.F.) is
to be hoisted in SWIFTSURE at 0800, Wednesday 22nd November,
1944. This title may be altered at a later date.
(2) His staff have not yet joined and he will not therefore
carry out Administrative duties for the present.
(C. in C. E.F. 210748Z to E.I. Stn. 143C)

Command at S.D.3(d) OO/BM, 84. 491614.
Trincomalee. G.O.C. Ceylon has put forward following proposals.
(1) Main concern of Trincomalee now one of
planning, adm., and control of port to meet needs
East Fleet.
(2) Senior Officer should therefore be Naval, Army interests
being looked after by Brigadier. Present appointment Major
General but unlikely Army commitments will warrant such an
appointment in future.
(3) Above approved by W.E.C. at 42nd meeting 8 Nov., and shows
saving Army personnel.
(4) Finally rank G.O.C. Ceylon should be Major General.
(5) H.Q. Sacsea C. in C. Ceylon agree. Grateful your early
agreement.
(Adv. H.Q. Alfsea, 211100FG to W.O)

/TUDOR ...

21.11.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

TUDOR, Report. Traffic passing seaward of buoy half mile West of look out tower on Indrapura Point. Beached coaster badly damaged lies 9 miles further South. (2) Coast quiet. Only (corrupt group) (group missed) air escort. 2 A/S trawlers now probably in Padang area 3382 0153. (P.326) TUDOR, 211207Z to Capt.(S) 4)

VALIANT. F.O.L.E.M's. 192239 and 201348 not to all. It is not considered that VALIANT should proceed unescorted from Aden to Cape en route to U.K. (2) Separate escort cannot be provided from resources of East Indies Station during December and January without prejudice to future operation or protection of KR personnel convoys. (3) VALIANT could be included in convoy M.C.14 (11-12 knots leaving Aden 10th December) for passage to Durban. It is considered ship should not attempt to enter Kilindini in her present condition and she would, therefore, require to anchor off the port for three days, duration of convoy's stay. (4) Unless a through escort can be provided from Mediterranean resources, only alternative to para. (3) appears to be provision of two destroyers from those allocated to British Pacific Fleet who could escort VALIANT from Aden to the Cape. (C. in C. E.F. 211212Z to Admty)

TAFF. Sailing TAFF for Port Louis for onward passage to Durban for refit. C.S. Simonstown's 3110(52?) (?) October. (2) Route. (3) E.T.A. Port Louis 0400Z/27th November. (4) Request you will sail TAFF for Durban on completion of fuelling. (C. in C. E.F. 211326Z to N.O.I.C.Mauritius)

Fireflies. R.N.A.S. Cochin's 110244. Priority of erection should be given to these 6 Fireflies. (2) Two should be retained to provide replacements if required by INDEFATIGABLE on arrival. Remaining four should be included in load for Sydney by C.V.E. as in A.M. 311724 October, para. 3. (D.N.A.O.211930A to C. in C. E.F., R.A.N.A.S.I.O.)

Assault Carriers for Ceylon. Following is provisional programme for sailing of Assault Carriers to Ceylon.

Ship	Arrive Alex.	Ready for service in Ceylon	Remarks.
SLINGER	} 21st Jan. }	} 1st March }	} After group training period of 10 days at Alexandria under C.O.M.E.C.
SPEAKER			
RULER			
KHEDIVE			

21.11.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Assault Carriers
for Ceylon.
(Contd.)

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Arrive Alex.</u>	<u>Ready for service in Ceylon</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
SEARCHER } HUNTER } STALKER }	31st Jan. }	1st March }	Programme will not permit of any group training being carried out before leaving Alexandria.
ATTACKER } EMPEROR }	15th Feb. }	10th March }	
CHASER } ARBITER }	2nd March } 22nd March }	April }	
PURSUER	17th March	April	Programme assumes refit in U.K. after KHEDIVE.

(2) Programme is based on dates of arrival at Alexandria allowing for ten days passage from U.K. Movements signals for individual ships will be made in due course.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. on P.D.0194/44 212150A to C. in C. E.F. etc.)

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21.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SOUTHERN PRINCE. SOUTHERN PRINCE met P.C. and S. 041° 25' N., 053° 13' W., 250° 12 knots. Weather report 4672 1084, unsuitable.
(SWANSEA, 210701Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

HURON Departure p.m. November 20th. HURON to U.K. via Horta.
(C.O.P., Halifax, 210815Z to Admty. etc).

NORSYD The following transfer is effective to date 21st November from the Western Escort Force to the Mid Ocean Force for duty with C.2, H.M.C.S. NORSYD.
2. Pay accounts to be held in AVALON. F.O.N.F. pass to NORSYD.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 211253Z to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q., 211336Z, Cominch, 211514Z).

S/M O.21 refit. Following for B.D.Z. from C.O. H. Neth. M.S/M O.21. (Begins): Date of completion of refit at Philadelphia about 28th November ex trials. O.21 sails for War Station from New London about 18th Dec. (Ends).
A.M. 161827 refers. Request mails be diverted.
(B.A.D. 211522Z to Admty).

T.F.62, U.G.S.62, G.U.S.62. Task Force 62 reconstituted, Captain Hoffman in MOFFETT, Comcortdiv 15 in AMICK, Cortdiv 15, Comcortdiv 85 in WOODSON, JOHNIE, HUTCHINS, WALTON. Escort convoy U.G.S.62 departing Hampton Roads 1st December to Europa Point then escorts proceed to Oran. Return escorting G.U.S.62 when directed by C. in C. Med. Bermuda Station Tanker KENNEBEC. A.O. Eastern Terminus ELOKOMIN. My letter 03129 of 4th November not to all refers.
(Cinclant, 212210Z, to C.T.F.62) W.D. Note - Composition amended by 222129Z, q.v.

Foxer Trials. Reference view expressed in A.M. 121859 (not to all) that single Foxer may be inferior to twin Foxers against fine bow shots offer has been received to carry out a trial with British twin Foxers using A/S setting under such conditions as Admty. desire.
2. Request particulars for a run which Admty. considers will demonstrate relative advantage of Twin over Single Foxers. Details to be specified within reasonably broad limits outside which runs would not count.
3. To check Foxers request specification minimum acceptable sound level measured at 150 feet with equipment at counter-measures Solomons. Hill has details.
4. Intention is run should be made three times under identical conditions as and when present programme permits.
(B.A.D., 212241Z to Admty). Reply: Admty. 281658A.

21.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
No.1035.

Digest for 20th November.

2. Midday reconnaissance Liberator over North Borneo dropped bomb load on Dudoa Barracks stirring up fires started by similar raid previous day when one small coaster one (?gunboat) were also strafed in Marudn Bay.
8. Seven Liberators bombed waterfront Ialompon 19th Nov. destroying buildings and small craft: nil A/A nor interception.
9. Carrier based aircraft over Manila 19th found shipping light: four small merchant ships were only undamaged units there.
10. United States submarine contacted three unidentified ships with four escorts 13° 17' N., 115° 31' E. course south west at 17 knots morning 19th.
11. Navy search Liberator bombed and exploded sea truck off (?Westernend) of southern Mindoro Island early afternoon 19th and shortly afterwards straddled small gunboat with two bombs same vicinity.
12. Earlier that day? another patrol Liberator sank two luggers off Xadboanga.
14. Before dawn 19th November 3 Liberators raided two warships described as light cruisers Brunei Bay scoring three half tonner direct hits on one ship causing explosion also hitting other ship with unobserved results.
15. Following midday R/C plane saw two destroyers one large transport three large freighters Brunei Bay.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 210725).

FORT LEE
(sunk
2/11).

Following is a repetition of my 140347.
Addressed. C. in C. E.F. (R) A.C.N.B., D.N.I.
(Begins):- Ref. your 100521, 17 survivors from
SS. FORT LEE landed at Albany yesterday. 16
survivors including Master landed Fremantle in

M/V ERNEBANK. 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 explosions. Submarine not sighted before vessel sank at 2100 in latitude 27.35 S., longitude 83.11 E. 30 minutes after sinking submarine surfaced and closed third Officer's boat asked only name of ship and when built then steered away to the northwards at high speed. A large German submarine is the only description available. (Ends).

FORT LEE was sunk 2nd November p.m.
(N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 210752Z to Admty).

Minesweeping

Anticipated that ?sweeping referred to in your 140157 (sweeping of Prince of Wales Channel and Great North East Channel) will be completed by end of December.

(A.C.N.B., 211150Z to Admty).

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21.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M
attack and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/21st November.

Para. A.

1. VENTURER attacked U-boat on 11th November in vicinity of Lofoten Islands.

Para. B.

1. A/C obtained disappearing contact at 0940Z/20th Nov. in 52° 53' N., 14° 32' W.
(D.D.I.C., 211050A).

Attacks.

My 221059 July, 1942.

2. 11th November in position 170° Cape Clear 60', E.G. 30 attacked asdic contact after Radar contact. Considerable oil, and possible bridge woodwork.

Contact held until 14th with oil still rising.

3. 13th November in position 020° North Rona 30', E.G.17 obtained asdic contact following radar contact. Several attacks produced large quantities of oil and grease.

4. 15th November in position 270° Mizen Head 46', E.G.30 attacked firm asdic contact. Joined by E.G.4. Attacks were continued until 17th producing much oil and air bubbles.

5. 15th Nov. in position 020° Muckle Flugga 33', E.G.17 attacked asdic contact. Hedgehog pattern exploded at 50 feet. Several attacks carried out until 17th resulting in small quantity of oil.

6. 18th November in position 210° Mizen Head 22' escort of Convoy H.X.318 and E.G.4 carried out several attacks on firm contact producing much oil and paraffin wax.

(D.A/U.D., 211925Z to Cominch etc).

U/B
dispositions.

Nothing fresh to report up to 1200Z/21st Nov.

Possibly two may be in general area, S.E. of Port Elizabeth.

(D.D.I.C., 211355A and A.I.G.332).

No reliable reports to confirm U-boat situation.

One or two may be in area.

(D.D.I.C., 211402A to A.I.G.331)

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

(1). Some 600 German aircraft reacted to our air sorties over Germany of which over 80 were shot down by our aircraft, but the fighting was confined to overland areas.

Channel.

2(a). The oyster-minesweeping barge CYRUS, which dragged ashore at le Havre in the recent gale has not yet been refloated. Further efforts will be made.

(b). Ammunition barge B.K.6757, loaded with 148 tons of "Nobel 822" liquid explosive, broke adrift from her tug and ran ashore just west of the West Pier, Newhaven. She exploded and did damage as far afield as Lewes.

Northern Waters.

(3). The U-Boat situation is obscure. There are indications of several between South Norway and $62\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ N., $12\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. and of two, weather-reporting, 750 to 1000 miles out in the Atlantic approx. on the 55th Parallel, but none have been brought to book or action.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

(4). The cruisers ARGONAUT and BLACK PRINCE left Suez today for Aden.

French visit to Bierut.

(5). The French Ministry of Marine ask that the cruiser EMILE BERTIN, flying the flag of Admiral Auboyneau, may proceed to Beirut with relief naval personnel from France.

The G.O.C. in C., the High Commissioner, and the F.O. Levant and Eastern Mediterranean, consider the visit most undesirable. H.M. Government's political objections are to be represented in Paris. Meanwhile, Admiral Auboyneau is being asked to postpone the visit pending the outcome of these discussions.

Adriatic.

(6). Ten Beaufighters of the Coastal Air Force attacked human torpedo, M.A.S. and F-boat targets at Porto Vignole (9 miles E.N.E. of Pola) with unobserved results. Venturas near missed two barges in Sestri Levante.

22.11.1944.
Wednesday.War DiarySITUATION REPORTEast IndiesFlag
Commands,
Pacific,
East Indies.

7(a). The flag of Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser as C. in C. Eastern Fleet, was struck in H.M.S. CARADOC at Colombo this morning and hoisted in H.M.S. TARANTULA as C. in C. British Pacific Fleet.

(b). At the same time, the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Power as Vice-Admiral, 2nd in Command Eastern Fleet, was struck in H.M.S. RENOWN and hoisted in H.M.S. CARADOC as C. in C. East Indies Station.

(c). The following temporary command arrangements came into force simultaneously. C.S.5 with his flag in the LONDON, takes over the duties of Senior Naval Officer Afloat, Trincomalee. He will also temporarily administer the 1st Battle Squadron. The appointment of Vice-Admiral, Eastern Fleet, lapses.

(d). The flag of Rear-Admiral E.J.P.Brind, C.B., C.B.E., was hoisted in the SWIFTSURE this morning. He succeeds Rear-Admiral A.D.Read in command of the 4th Cruiser Squadron, British Pacific Fleet.

(e). All the cruisers which will remain in the East Indies Fleet will form the 5th Cruiser Squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral H.T.C. Walker.

E.I.Fleet.

(8). As the number of ships scheduled to remain makes the name East Indies Squadron inappropriate, the Admiralty have approved that they shall be known as the East Indies Fleet.

Submarines.

(9). The submarine SPIRIT (P.245), on her third Far East patrol, sank an 870-ton tanker at anchor off Car Nicobar at 1243 on November 12. The SPIRIT sustained slight damage in a counter attack by the tanker's escort, but at 1012 on the 13th set the escort on fire in 09.30 N. 92.52 E. until the action had to be broken off as her gun jammed.

Escort
Carriers.

(10).The STRIKER and FENCER arrived at Trincomalee today from Suez.

Burma.

(11). Nineteen Liberators attacked shipping in the Pakchan River (Burma-Siam border), sinking a merchant vessel and setting another on fire. One wooden coaster and several barges were damaged or set on fire. Machine gun attacks were made on five waterborne Navy T.O1 R/C. aircraft and hits scored on two.

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Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

China

(12) Six Liberators bombed installations in the Samah Bay area and started large fires. An object possibly a submarine was sighted east of Hainan.

America and West Indies

Loan of
Escort
Carriers.

(13) In view of an urgent need for escort carriers by Cominch, we are prepared, despite all our carriers being fully occupied, to lend one for transport duty in the Pacific, leaving the United Kingdom about the end of November, and two for transport duty in the Atlantic, ready to leave the United Kingdom about the end of Nov. and mid-December respectively.

This is on the understanding that we retain the right to withdraw the ships if casualties, the U-Boat situation, or other reasons make this necessary.

The Navy Dept. accepted the offer on these terms on November 27.

U.G.S.62

(14) A limit of 116 ships is authorised for Convoy U.G.S.62, due to sail from Hampton Roads on December 1st. It will be escorted by Task Force 62, under Captain Hoffman U.S.N. in the U.S. destroyer MOFFETT.

Australia and New Zealand.

New
Britain.

(15) Dauntless and Corsair aircraft which dropped 22 tons of bombs on small craft at Kerawara Bay, Duke of York Islands, sunk or damaged several already disabled barges and small patrol craft.

Philippines.

(16) A search aircraft straffed and left sinking a small coaster off the central east coast of Luzon. Last night, P.T.-Boats destroyed two luggers and a sea truck, all carrying ammunition, north of Ponsoon Island, heading for Ormoc.

/Borneo...

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Borneo.

(17) Early today four Liberators claimed two hits with 1000 lb bombs on a merchant ships in Brunei Bay, north-west coast of Borneo.

Celebes.

(18) Twenty Lightnings which raided an airfield and shipping off Makassar this morning sank a medium merchant ship and damaged one gunboat and 10 sea trucks.

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

More Escort
destroyers
for Nore
Command.

Daily Commitments in the Nore Command for patrol and escort duties (including Antwerp convoys) are (1) destroyers 13½. (2) frigates 8. (3) corvettes 4½. (4) corvettes (Duck class) 3. (5) trawlers 7.

(2) Present resources are 28 destroyers (including ARENDAL, MACKAY and WALPOLE), 14 frigates, 12 corvettes (including GODETIA), 7 Duck class corvettes, 13 trawlers. These are insufficient taking into consideration casualties, refits, boiler cleans, rough weather damage, navigational hazards and normal maintenance upkeep and repairs.

(3) It is therefore requested that an additional 6 escort destroyers may be allocated to the Command.

(4) East coast convoy escorts and nightly convoy route patrols are now cut to the minimum and additional patrol commitments off the Dutch coast may shortly be expected.

(C. in C. Nore 221910A to Admty.)

Rescue tugs
for Nore
Command.

There are no rescue tugs based in this command. With the onset of winter and the very large amount of traffic in the command casualties to both H.M. ships and merchant ships will occur from both enemy action and marine risks.

Previous experience with far less traffic than at present has proved that rescue tugs were fully employed during winter.

(2) Request at least two tugs may be allocated without delay.
(C. in C. Nore 221911A to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Relaxation
of lighting
restrictions.

Further relaxation of lighting restrictions is under urgent consideration and might be to peace time standards. Coastal areas now subject to blackout are not affected. Admiralty opinion is that in general no further concession can yet be given in other coastal areas.

(2) Request your very early remarks.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 220526A to Cs. in C. W.A., Nore, Rosyth, V.A. Dover.)

A.M. 220526A in areas other than those in which blackout is in force, dim out should continue in coastal towns, but use of full head lights should be allowed to vehicles. Total relaxation should be allowed inland.

(C. in C. W.A. 221130A to Admty.)

Admiralty message 22056A? All areas in Dover Command are subject to blackout but controlled lighting is in use for night loading etc. for ships at Dover and Folkestone with special arrangements for blackout in the case of air raid warnings.

/So...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Relaxation
of Lighting
Restrictions.
(Contd.)

So far as purely Naval considerations are concerned no further relaxation is necessary.

(V.A. Dover 221854A to Admt.)

A.M. 220526A. Concur with C. in C. W.A.'s remarks. Dock and shipyards in the north should be allowed full lighting during working hours, i.e. 0700 to 1900, outside lighting being controlled by master switch.

(C. in C. Rosyth 222158 to Admt.)

Your 220526. Further relaxation of lighting restrictions in inland areas is recommended. No relaxation can be permitted in coastal area of Nore Command outside areas scheduled in appendix to CAFO 2115/44 i.e. between Spurn Head and Flamborough Head.
(C. in C. Nore 222209A to Admt.)

Movements.

KENT.

C. in C.H.F. 201954 to Admiralty only, approved.

(2) Destination for KENT is Rosyth.

(3) On arrival about 21st December, KENT is to be reduced to Reserve (Category B.)

(D.O.D.(H) 220010A to Cs. in C. H.F., Rosyth, F.O.C.R.F.)

DUGUAY-TROUIN. Arrived, F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN, escorted by BRISSENDEN.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 220923A to Admt.)

Intend to sail DUGUAY-TROUIN at 1730A/22nd November to Casablanca in accordance with Admiralty message 211539A.

(5) S.O.A. 19 knots, E.T.A. port entrance Casablanca 0900A/25th November.

(6) DUGUAY-TROUIN carries approx. 500 passengers from Brest.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221259A to Commorseafon.)

Sailed DUGUAY-TROUIN escorted by BRISSENDEN at 2120A/22 to comply with my 221259A.

(2) Latest messages held QB 443, QBB 441 QBC 928 QBH 697 (C-311) QBY 111.

(C. in C. Plymouth 222122A to Commorseafon.)

AQUILLA.

Your 141151 request E.R. 13594 be sailed for Plymouth on completion.

(D.A.S.M. 221045A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

TRUCULENT.

My 141056, passed to Admiralty. Request you will arrange route to St. Johns N.F.

(F.O. S/M 221139A to C. in C. W.A.)

CERES.

Request 2 tugs may be detailed for towage of CERES to Portsmouth a.m. Friday 24th November.

F.O.C.R.F. 071600 not to all refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221317A to Admt.)

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

GODETIA, A.M. 171942A and 151948A. GODETIA and BUTTERCUP
BUTTERCUP. will be taken over by French with nucleus crews
at earliest convenient date and will be fully
commissioned by French by end of December.
Pending further instructions which will be sent
shortly BUTTERCUP should not be sailed to Hartlepool, as refitting
port is under consideration.
(Hd. of M. 221624A to Cs. in C. W.A., Nore.)

ATTACKER, A.M. 201346 aircraft should be flown on in Irish
STALKER, Sea between 052° 45' N. and line joining Tuskar
HUNTER. Rock and Strumble Head. Submarines exercise areas
existing north of 052° 52' and west of route K.
(C. in C. W.A. 221815A to ATTACKER, STALKER,
HUNTER.)

A.M. 201346 subject to concurrence of R.A.N.A.S. it is intended
to arrange ATTACKER and STALKER to fly on aircraft in Plymouth
area between 27th and 29th November.

(2) Ships would then be ready to proceed on passage after effec-
ting R/V with HUNTER on 29th November as in para. 1B of A.M.
quoted.

(3) Request R.A.N.A.S. signal concurrence or remarks.
(C. in C. Plymouth 221842A to R.A.N.A.S., Admty.)

MAURITIUS. Scapa departure MAURITIUS.
(A.C.O.S. 222101A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Admiralty Request you will sail A.F.D. 20 in tow of EMINENT
Floating Dock and DESTINY when ready about third week in December
No. 20. to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Trincomalee.
(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange escort
to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(H) 222128A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.
W.A.)

Operations.

Situation Report.

Military. G.2 summary No. 61 dated 22 November.
Para. One Operations.
In Mulhouse-Belfort area enemy situation continues
fluid, Allied forward elements reported in
Southern outskirts of Mulhouse and Bruebach (A.70) reached. Marne-
Rhine Canal crossed by Allies at Montreaux Chatteau (A.49) and
Eschene Autrage (A.48). N.E. of Gerardmer mines, booby traps
and enemy fire encountered Clercy (V.45). Light and scattered
resistance offered north of St. Die where little organised
opposition shown. Moyemoutier (V.37) reached. Along approaches
to Saverne Gap Allied armour fanning out to East, N.E. and north
from Sarrebourg (Q.51), appears to have broken German defences

/and...

22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Military. and enemy reported in flight. Dabo (Q.60),
(Contd.) Schaeferhof, Hommarting (Q.51) Herange,
Mittelbronn (Q.61), Schalbach (Q.52), Ottwiller
(Q.63) taken. In Allied rear Sarrebourg (Q.51)
being mopped up. Some enemy action also to north
area Bettborn (Q.42). Main restriction to Allied advance east of
Dieuze caused by road blocks, mines and mud. No enemy line yet
formed and Allies in Bois de Fenetrange (Q.4528), Boise de
Guessling (Q.2246). Foret de Remilly (Q.1050) cleared.
In Metz area resistance spotty and disorganised. Enemy reported
still holding Ile du Daulcy and S.W. portion Ile Chambiere where
General Lieutenant Kittel reported Commanding General 462
Infantry Division and small group officers cornered. Some forts
south and west of city still resisting. Opposition much heavier
as Allies approach outer defences of Siegfried Line Merzig area
(Q.29). Intense artillery concentrations encountered.
Stubborn fighting continues Hurtgen Forest Schmidt area and slow
progress made by Allies. Enemy counter attack repulsed vicinity
F. 0345. House to house fighting continued in Hehlrath (K.95).
Allies advance beyond Fronhoven to K.9956 and Ederen cleared
with advances made to S.E. with tanks and infantry. Enemy well
dug in and resisting fiercely in area Beeck-Wurm (K.96).
In Holland further Allied advances made Helenaveen area (E.71)
against light opposition with main delay caused by mines.
No activity rest of front.
(S.H.A.E.F. 221530A to W.O.)

Naval. Cositintrep 232. L.S.I. EMPIRE CUTLASS was mined
leaving Le Havre p.m. 21st November she has been
towed back into harbour.

(2) Mines have been swept in the approaches to
the Schelde today these were probably laid by E-Boats on the night
15/16 November.

(3) Captured ports. Calais, the first train ferry was accepted
p.m. 21st November.

(4) Le Havre, two liberty ships can now be accommodated alongside
pontoon dock increasing total to 12.

(5) Unloading figures for 21st November.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
British				
East Calvados	33	114	711	-
Dieppe	611	-	3,114	-
Boulogne	18	52	1,233	-
Total	662	166	5,058	Nil

Ostend figures not yet received.

United States.

Cherbourg	-	-	11,786	1,427
Rouen	540	126	3,300	-
Brittany Ports	-	-	1,643	1,100
Le Havre	2,202	122	3,916	-
Total	2,742	248	20,645	2,527

Combined total 3,404 414 25,703 2,527
(A.N.C.X.F. 222359A to Admty.)

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Eagle ships
for Schelde.

My 211600A. For SKIDDAW read SCAWFELL.
(C. in C. Nore 221005A to Admty.)

First Antwerp
Convoy.

Request confirmation that in present circumstances first Antwerp convoy can arrive Schelde Estuary a.m. 28th November and that necessary tugs and auxiliary craft can proceed up river on 27th. Request very early reply.

(A.N.C.X.F. 221130A to C. in C. Nore, Com. Belgium.)

Your 221130. Confirmed in respect of minesweeping in River and approaches subject to acceptance of risk from Oyster mines and provided no future enemy minelaying occurs.

(C. in C. Nore 221903A to A.N.C.X.F.)

My 221130. First convoy of 20 ships can be accepted in Schelde Estuary a.m. 28th November.

(2) Three coasters not carrying ammunition or Pol can be accepted on 26th November and up to 6 coasters on 27th November.

(A.N.C.X.F. 222115A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Schelde
Defence
loops ready
in mid Jan.

Commodore Belgium 201501 para. 2. Request every effort be made to improve on this completion date.
(A.N.C.X.F. 221150A to Admty.)

Clearance
of Beveland
Canal and
Flushing.

Further to my 181600 and your 201132. Can it be confirmed that P parties now working at Antwerp are at my disposal when next available.

(2) May I be given a date for above.

(3) Intend using these parties Beveland and Flushing

(4) Would also like some small M.M.S. for Port clearance, can they be immediately provided.

(F.O.N.P. 1731 221630A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Schelde
Balloon
Barrage.

Reference S.H.A.E.F. (Main) S.67703 November 20. Request you warn all concerned. No Navigational warning will be issued by Air Ministry.
(Air Ministry 221925A to General.)

Operations.

Channel.

Facilities
for French
Fishing.

Your 291105 para. 2. French authorities have again asked for consideration of release of French mine-sweepers to clear following areas for fishing fleets

A. Minefield known by fishermen to exist north of Cap d'Antifer, but limits unknown.

B. Bay of Somme and vicinity of St. Valery sur Somme.

C. Area defined in my 121111.

D. On the Bassure de Bas.

E. Channel width one mile from Dieppe to Gravelines 5 miles off low water mark.

/F...

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Facilities
for French
Fishing.
(Contd.)

F. At a later date entrance to Gravelines and Gravelines Harbour.
(2) My 211429A also refers.
(F.O.B.A.A. 220849A to A.N.C.X.F.)
Your 061752 para. 4. French authorities have requested that fishing may be extended to this area on 15th December. They have been informed

that this must depend on operational circumstances.

(2) My 211429 also refers.
(F.O.B.A.A. 220850A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrols.

Night A/S patrols 22/23 November.

Unless in contact search areas as follows between 50° 05' N. and 50° 15' N.

(1) Destroyers between 02° 10' W. and H Channel starting at eastern limit.

(2) M.T.Bs. 743, 737 if weather is suitable between 02° 10' W. 02° 19' W. and Z.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 221247A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Pass the Gate at 0830A tomorrow Thursday and proceed to take up following patrols:-

1st Division, zig-zag search between 49.36 N. 06.17 W. and 49.45 N. 05.00 W.

2nd Division, zig-zag search between 180 Start Point 12 and 180 Portland Bill 18.

(2) W/T organisation one.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221726A to E.G. 6.)

E.G. 10.

If not in contact leave patrol so as to arrive Plymouth at 1030A tomorrow Thursday for short lay over.

(C. in C. Plymouth 221723A to E.G. 10.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

4th E.G. shift patrol forthwith to line between 50.50, 11.10 and 51.08 10.50.

(2) 30th E.G. on arrival establish Gamma patrol between 50.08 10.50 and 51.30 10.25.

(C. in C. W.A. 221034A to S.O.E.Gs. 4, 30.)

Commencing patrol at southern end 1600 your 221034 refers.

Following is a special eight figure weather report 2945 0254 suitable.

(S.O.E.G. 4 221151A to C. in C. W.A.)

PASLEY, DRURY rejoin S.O.E.G. 4 forthwith S.O.E.G.4's 221405 refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 221715A to PASLEY.)

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. (Contd.) In view of S.O. 30th E.G. 221739 not to all 4th E.G. leave present patrol at 0630 /23rd and establish new patrol between 50° 35' 10" 30' and 50° 55' 10" 17'. 30th E.G. proceed direct to new patrol between 50° 55' 10" 17' and 51° 20' 10" 00'. (C. in C. W.A. 222304A to S.O.E.Gs. 4, 30.)

Situation report. E.G. 19th HESPERUS 4 frigates operating in vicinity of Cape Wrath to Butt of Lewis and in north Minches.
2nd E.G. WILD GOOSE 5 frigates patrolling between Barra Head and north Irish coast.
E.G. 4th BYARD, 3 frigates and E.G. 30th PEVENSEY CASTLE 4 frigates operating off south west Irish coast.
APOLLO sailed Milford Haven 1800A/22nd to vicinity of 050° 14' 008° 10' 21 knots. Add to my 221203.
(C. in C. W.A. 221347A to Home Section.)

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols. All times Zone A. Positions of submarines at 0800/23rd November and movements for following 24 hours.
A. RUBIS on patrol off Egersund.
B. SOKOL on patrol off Skudesnes.
C. ULA approaching Lerwick from northeastwards.
D. VENTURER 63° 16' N. 01° 48' E. course 210° diving by day to 62° N. thence probably on the surface 9 knots through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick.
E. TORBAY on patrol as in my 211746.
(F.O. S/M 221801A to Admty.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

E.G. 9. E.T.A. 1415A.
(S.O.E.G. 9 220915A to A.C.O.S.)
Scapa arrivals S.O.E.G.9 in ST. JOHN with NENE, MONNOW, STORMONT and LOCH ALVIE.
(A.C.O.S. 221458 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol. Establish Gamma between 060° 33' N. 002° 57' W. and 061° 02' N. 003° 50' W. Probable course of U-Boats 225°. Day and night air patrol in this area.
(C. in C. Rosyth 221019A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

/Attempted...

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters - Contd.

Attempted enticement of enemy out of Norwegian bases.

If U-Boat situation with R.A. 62 allows intend to detach BELLONA and Fleet Destroyers from convoy to carry out W/T stratagem with object of enticing enemy destroyers from base. Your 131359.

(2) This will include transmission of dummy messages of high priority routed to create linkage with other convoy traffic which it is intended to simulate.

(3) Request force number be allocated and

Admiralty is requested to allocate an additional convoy radio distinguishing group.

(4) S.B.N.O. N. Russia will be informed on my arrival Kola. (C.S. 1 221244A to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 221244. Force 10 allocated.

(C. in C. H.F. 221755A to C.S. 1.)

Civil supplies for Norway.

Civil supplies to Kirkenes. Shipment of 2000 tons is subject to agreement of Admiralty, War Office and Ministry of War Transport. Co-ordination will be effected by Scottish Command. Proposal has been approved by S.H.A.E.F. Norwegian military mission G.1 of 17th November and Admiralty 192101A refer. (S.H.A.E.F. 221425A to Admty., Norw. Mil. Mission.)

Convoy R.A. 61.

Intend sailing White Sea Group 16 consisting of FORT YUKON (special Commodore). FORT CREVECOUER (Vice), DOLA BELLA (T), SAN VEHANCIO (T), MARATHON (Nor.) (T), B. SCHLESINGER, W. PRESTON, C. HUNTINGTON, STAGE DOOR CANTEEN, 9 ships

from Dvina Fairway buoy at 1300A/24th November.

(2) Local escorts consisting of 8 Russian destroyers and five Russian M/S arranged.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 221625A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Convoy J.W. 62.

Further to C. in C. H.F.'s 182203 November and C. in C. W.A.'s 211753 November intend (1) KEPPEL, WESTCOTT to proceed to fuel at Skaalefjord in company with Capt. D. 17 in ONSLOW after convoy conference on D day.

(2) 9th E.G. to leave Scapa in order to R/V with J.W. 62 in position A. p.m. on D day.

(3) C.S. 1 in KENT to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. on D minus 2. (C.S. 1 221701A to Admty., A.C.O.S., etc.)

Allied Air Activity.

Loss of an aircraft, believed Hudson.

Master of SS. LEVENWOOD independent Southend to Sunderland reports that at 1130 on 20th November when 028° $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from West Rocks Buoy a twin engined bomber, believed to be a Hudson, came out of very low cloud in a spin out of control and crashed into the sea about 100 feet ahead of the ship. Avoiding action was taken and position

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Loss of an
aircraft
believed
Hudson.
(Contd.)

searched for some time but no trace of the machine or crew was seen. LEVENWOOD called the ROUGH TOWER with ALDIS LAMP to pass this report but could get no reply. The visibility at time approx. 3 miles, wind strong south west and rough sea. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 221625 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Resurgence
of Luftwaffe.

Air. German air force activity: during escort duties fighters of the 9th Air Force sighted and engaged 60 Me. 109s, 10 miles south of Düsseldorf, and 100 F.W. 190s at Leipzig. Claims were 11/4/3. Fighters of Second British T.A.F. sighted 44 F.W. 190s in the Gelderen area, engaged them destroying two. Three Me. 262s were observed in the Nijmegen area at 10.45 hours. Enemy reaction to the Eight Air Force's operations over Germany was considerable. Approx. 400 Me. 109s and F.W. 190s were encountered en route and at the target and during the engagement seventy one aircraft were destroyed, 6 Me. 262s were sighted in the Zwollen area but there was no engagement. (S.H.A.E.F. 221100A to Admty.)

Mining.

Situation
report.

Oropesa sweeping operation "Link" completed by 31 M.F. Negative result from other operations. Hoped to refloat CYRUS today. (Capt. M/S N.F. 221125A to C.T.F. 125.)

Deep mining
of N. Channel.

My 221139. Sailed APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 221851A to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats.

Situation
report.

Report at 2209Z/21st November may indicate one U-Boat southwest bound, in 62° 45' N. 12° 30' W. Several others are probably on passage between this area and S. Norway one or two of which may be N. of Shetlands or entering Faroes-Shetlands passage.

Nothing fresh on coastal areas of U.K.

One reporting weather in approx. 55° 00' N. 32° 00' W. another also reporting weather within 120 miles of 55° 30' N. 21° 00' W. One very indefinite northbound in 42° 30' N. 21° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 221411A to Cominch.)

Navigational.

Portsmouth
closed.

Port of Portsmouth Needles Channel closed due to fog. (C. in C. Portsmouth 221752A to Admty.)

/Portsmouth...

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22.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational. - Contd.

Portsmouth
open. Cancel my 221752A, channel now open.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 221856A to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Great
Yarmouth. A requirement has arisen for floating docks at Gt.
Yarmouth for C.F. craft. The only docks that
can be made available are A.F.D. (B.A.) 1 and
A.F.D. (B.A.) 2, both still held in reserve for
your requirements, vide A.M. 261531 March and
221708 August.

(2) Request you will release A.F.D. (B.A.) 2 now and A.F.D. (B.A.)
1 in the near future if required.
(D.C.O.D. 221834A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Technical.

Training
submarines. Your 201040. In consultation with F.O. (S/M)
it has been ascertained that the present paper
strength of training submarines available is 13,
rising to 14 the first week in December.
(2) U-class completing refit in the near future
will replace the old H-boats now awaiting to be scrapped.
(3) With the exception of a few weeks at the beginning of the new
year, when UNTIRING will be running prior to refit, the total of
14 will not be increased.
(4) This number can only provide for 11 or 12 continuous
allocations and it is therefore not proposed to alter the exist-
ing allocations as enumerated in your para. 1.
(D.A.S.W. 220055A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

Minesweeping
barge CYRUS. Efforts to refloat CYRUS by ELFREDA and tug
ATTENTIFR unsuccessful on Tuesday 21st, Capt.
M/S N.F. 210943A refers. Assistance by U.S. Naval
Salvage is being provided for further attempts.
(C.T.F. 125 221105 to A.N.C.X.F.)

H.M.C.S.
JOLIETTE. Regret to report that H.M.C.S. JOLIETTE grounded in
position 1.5 cables 030° from Warren Point Light
when entering Foyle on return from exercises at
about 2100/21st, easterly gale with heavy rain
showers at the time. Two tugs arrived at mid-
night, salvage pumps and life saving apparatus sent by road, but
weather and falling tide prevented salvage which will be
attempted at high water at about 1330 today. Compartments
forward of forward boiler room apparently holed, and abaft this
bulkhead apparently intact. Weather now calm. Salvage tug
RANGER proceeding from Liverpool. Salvage party from Belfast
expected by 1400 today. Further report will follow.
(Com. D. W.A. 221150A to C. in C. W.A., C.N.M.O.)

/My...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

H.M.C.S.
JOLIETTE.
(Contd.)

My 221150A. JOLIETTE refloated at 1220/22nd and is being towed to Lisahally. (Com. D. W.A. 221516A to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE
CUTLASS.

At 1745/21 November EMPIRE CUTLASS was damaged by underwater explosion while outbound for Le Havre position 700 yards 294° Digue Nord Light. Towed back into harbour. No personnel casualties. After engineroom bulkhead is buckled in several places. Number 4 hold is flooding and Number 5 hold is taking in some water. There are two cracks in the Port Main Deck plating from the fore and after ends of Number 4 hatch. Coaming the forward crack extending down the side one strake. There is one small crack on the starboard after corner of Number 4 hatch coaming. Some damage to auxiliary machinery but main engines are believed to be in operating condition, pending further tests. Question of towage will depend upon further examination of underwater damage by divers as well as test of the main engines. (C.T.F. 125 221447 to A.N.C.X.F.)

EMPIRE CUTLASS when mined was on northern edge of Q.Z.S. 595. Explosion starboard side aft near miss. Mine believed to be either acoustic or Oyster acoustic. (C.T.F. 125 221625 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Barge B.K.
6757,
AGGRESSIVE,
NEWT.

Group of L.C.T. and tows, including tug ST. MELLONS towing barge B.K. 6757 left Spithead 1300/21st November for Dover.

(2) Information available to C. in C. was that barge B.K. 6757 contained ammunition, and no special precautions were taken. It has since transpired that this barge was loaded with 148 tons of liquid explosive known as "Nobel's 822".

(3) When gale warning was received p.m. 21st November, group was ordered to shelter at Newhaven.

(4) Following is reported from N.O.I.C. Newhaven regarding barge B.K. 6757: begins,

"Regret to report that ammunition barge thought to be B.K. 6757 broke adrift from tug ST. MELLONS when approaching Newhaven for shelter from the gale, barge ran ashore and exploded at 0515/22nd approx. two cables to westward of inshore end of W. pier. Regret to report that one rating was killed, one dangerously injured and about 12 minor casualties. No serious civilian casualties so far reported. Considerable structural damage and extensive damage to windows and doors were suffered in AGGRESSIVE and NEWT. Some slight damage to seagoing ships in harbour. There are few houses in Newhaven town which have not suffered broken windows and doors. Some damage to glass in Seaford and Peacehaven and a small amount of glass damage in Lewes. Newhaven town and harbour station are temporarily out of action. It is hoped they will be working by this evening." Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 221942A to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

GREENFINCH. My 181511A November (confidential.)
N.C.S.O. Mersey reports vessel ashore at Morfa
Duffryn Cardigan Bay 22nd November.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 222050 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Movement of small craft to Schelde. Your 162008. Understand forty of smaller craft will be embarked in barges and car floats.
(2) Intend to request A.N.C.X.F. to permit one lift of M.T.L. and Fire boats from Plymouth to Antwerp by L.S.D. Remainder to follow subsequently as opportunity offers.
(3) It would be difficult to assemble the tugs barges and car floats in the Portsmouth Command. Moreover, paucity of harbours to eastward and changeability of weather would necessitate releasing craft from the Isle of Wight area in small units, and little would be gained by assembling them there.
(4) Suggest therefore that units not exceeding two tugs and four barges or car floats should proceed in stages to a succession of selected harbours along the south coast. No unit to move eastwards until unit in next harbour to eastward has proceeded.
(5) Operation to be named "Governess"* Port holding the easternmost unit to pass a telephone message confirmed by signal to the next port to the westward. "Governess" proceeding if conditions are considered suitable, or "Governess" halted if otherwise.
(6) Each port in turn to pass a similar message to the next port to the westward. Messages must be passed in sequence from east to west. Any authority may alter "Governess" proceeding to "Governess" halted, but a "Governess" halted message must continue to all other ports to the westward.
(7) The harbours selected in Portsmouth Command are Portland, St. Helens Roads and Newhaven.
(8) C. in Cs. Plymouth, Nore and A.C. Dover are requested to nominate harbours in their commands.
(9) If leading unit reached easternmost harbour nominated as above before Antwerp was opened, movement would be suspended with one unit waiting in each harbour.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 221207A to H.Q. U.K. base.) * et seq.
Your 221207A. As Ramsgate is nearest port in U.K. to Antwerp there appears to be no object in nominating any port in Nore Command in connection with this movement.
(C. in C. Nore 222346A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Hospital ship LETITIA. After completion of preparation for service and embarkation of invalids hospital ship LETITIA should be sailed on 26th November for Halifax. E.T.A. Halifax 8th December, agreed War Office.
(D. of S.T. 221211A to P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports.)

Warning of U-Boats. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Masters of merchant ships should be informed that U-Boats may now be encountered in coastal waters.
(2) On this account they should be urged to maintain the utmost vigilance and, if in convoy,

/close...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Warning of U-Boats. (Contd.) close formation until their ships are safely in harbour.
(3) Masters of ships being routed to U.K. ports must at the same time be warned that para. 12 of U.K.A.R. part I remains in force, emphasis being laid on sub-para. B.
(D.T.D. 221216A to N.S.H.Q. C. in C. S.At., C. in C. Med. F.O.L.E.M. V.A.M., F.O.W.M., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.Af. S.B.N.O. W.At., S.O.I. Jamaica, A.C.I.C N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Clearance of Eagle ships from Portsmouth. A.M. 202129. Decision also requested regarding DOUW AUKS.
(2) Request vessels named in para. 1 of A.M. 202129 and also in A.M. 241944 October and 030009 may be removed from ports of this command as early as possible. They are occupying berths and requiring attention urgently needed for operational commitments. (My 181307 and F.O.I.C. Southampton 201647 refer.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth 221505A to Admty.)

Convoy T.B.C/B.T.C. escorts. Through Channel convoys T.B.C/B.T.C. My 141549 para. 2. Considerations show that change over of escorts need not necessarily take place in Isle of Wight area and might equally well be effected at the other meeting which occurs in vicinity of Mounts Bay Cornwall.
(2) Change over off Cornwall is very much to be preferred as it would greatly simplify arrangements in the Wight area.
(3) The escort duties must in any case be unequally divided as between the Nore and Plymouth Commands on a 2 to 1 basis.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 221744A to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Tug position in re Phoenix movements. Your 191317A November to Admiralty. It seems appropriate to state the position on December 1st regarding tugs capable of towing Phoenix. The following will be left in U.K.
ZWARTE ZEE rescue Western Approaches.
THAMES rescue Western Approaches.

BUSTLER Pluto. GROWLER "Overlord" towage (lent from Pluto.)
MARAUDER Pluto (then to be released.) RESOLVE rescue Portsmouth.
SEA GIANT "Overlord" towage. FREEBOOTER C. in C. H.F.
BANDIT C. in C. H.F. BUCCANEER C. in C. H.F.
(2) The above indicates desirability of as much notice as possible in order that releases and assembly of tugs may be negotiated.
(A.N.C.X.F. Main 221745A to A.N.C.X.F. Cotug.)

Antwerp convoys. Your 211841. (2) Intend continuing 6 knot daily convoy under trawler escort to Ostend and return. All ships capable of proceeding at this speed will be included. Ships whose accelerated speed

/precludes...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Antwerp
convoys.
(Contd.)

precludes their sailing in 6 knot convoys will sail with Antwerp convoy as stated in para. 5 of my 201445.

(3) Consider this risk must be accepted until night passage of river Schelde is possible.

(4) As river Schelde can only be open in first stage for daylight traffic westbound convoy passing Flushing at dusk will collect max. number of ships which have made river passage that day. Daylight arrival in Downs is also desirable in view of probable congestion in that area.

(5) Daylight all sea routes service would prevent ship making Antwerp in daylight thus involving 24 hours delay in this vital traffic. Pilot service has been carried out in dark hours off Dungeness successfully except when weather has not permitted.

(6) Agrees. Regret no Pilot Boat available in The Nore Command.

(ii) In view of urgent necessity for max. turn round of U.K. - Antwerp shipping it is considered risk of joiners and leavers in dark must be accepted. This practice has been carried out on south and east coast under similar conditions throughout the war.

(iii) Intend to base 2 Isle Class trawlers at Ostend in order to lead leavers and joiners from Antwerp convoy from N.F. 8 to Ostend anchorage and vice-versa.

(C. in C. Nore 221929 to Com. Belgium.)

Major Troop-
ship move-
ments for
December.

Troop convoy programme for December is planned as follows:-

Code	Ship	From	Due U.K.	Port	Sail U.K.	Desti- nation
A.T.168	MAURETANIA	N.York & Halifax	1st Dec.	L	5th Dec.	Hali- fax
A.T.170	ILE DE FRANCE	N.York	8th Dec.	C	13th Dec.	Hali- fax & N.York
D.S. 60				C	11th Dec.	Ice- land (C)
A.T.171	PASTEUR	N.York	7th Dec.	L	12th Dec.	Hali- fax.
A.T.170B	MOUNT VERNON	Boston	16th Dec.	L	19th Dec.	Bos- ton
K.M.F.37				C/L	16th Dec.	Med.
A.T.172	N.AMSTERDAM ATHLONE CASTLE	N.York	12th Dec.	C	16th Dec.	N.York
A.T.172A	WAKEFIELD	Boston	14th Dec.	L	17th Dec.	Bos- ton
	ANDES			L	17th Dec.	W. & S. Africa
A.T.173	Q.M.	N.York	16th Dec.	C	21st Dec.	N.York
A.T. 174	Q.E.	N.York	22nd Dec.	C	28th Dec.	N.York

/A.T. 175...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Major Troop-
ship move-
ments for
December.
(Contd.)

Code	Ship	From	Due U.K.	Port	Sail U.K.	Destination
A.T.175	MAURETANIA	Halifax	22nd Dec.	L	28th Dec.	Halifax & N. York
A.T.176	AQUITANIA	N.York	26th Dec.	C	31st Dec.	Boston
A.T.177	PASTEUR	Halifax	30th Dec.	L	5th Jan.	N. York

(2) K.M.F. convoys will sail from U.K. at 20 day intervals after K.M.F. 37.
(D.O.D.(H) 221931A to C. in C. W.A., F.Os. 1/c Greenock, Liverpool, N. Ireland, Cardiff.)

O.S/K.M.S. O.S/K.M.S. and S.L/M.K.S. convoys. As a further measure to expedite flow of shipping particularly to and from the east it is under consideration to close cycle to 5 days whenever U-Boat situation allows this to be done with existing escort forces as under:-

- (2) A. One escort to proceed with the convoys between U.K. and Gibraltar.
- B. Two additional escorts to sail with the outward bound convoy to approx. the 100 fathom line and then transfer to the homeward bound convoy.
- C. If necessary two local escorts to afford additional protection in Gibraltar Approaches.
- (3) If routes are clear of U-Boats:-
 - A. O.S/K.M.S. convoys to disperse as soon as practicable, the through escort proceeding independently to Gibraltar.
 - B. Northbound shipping from the Cape, South America and West Africa to proceed independently to Gibraltar for inclusion in M.K.S. convoys.
- (4) To allow change over of escorts proposed in para. 2B, M.K.S. convoys (and S.L. convoys if in operation) may have to be sailed one day later.
- (5) Cycle to be reverted to 10 days whenever U-Boat situation requires present scale of protection.
- (6) Request your concurrence or remarks.
- (A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 222005A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. S.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Horta arrivals. OSTER, HUBBARD, HAYTER, VARIAN, SCROGGINS, WILKE
E.T.A. Horta 1330Z/24 will require 48,000 barrels
fuel oil.
(Comcordiv, 62, 220013Z to S.B.N.O. Azores etc.).

B.Y.M.S. for Falmouth. My 211238 (B.Y.M.S. 2261 (S.O.), 2264, 2244,
2043 sail 1400/22 for Falmouth).
Delayed sailing owing to weather. Further
signal will be made.
Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
(F.O.G.M.A., 220845A, to C. in C.Plymouth etc.).

LORRAINE,
BASQUE,
SIMOUN. Your 201300 arrived.
(F.O.G.M.A., 221641A to Comar, Toulon).

DART. Return to Gibraltar. Acknowledge forthwith and
report your P.C. and S. and E.T.A.
(2) One escort will be sailed either to join O.S.95
or to arrive Freetown in time to escort S.L.180.
(F.O.G.M.A., 221747A to DART).

Your 221747A received and understood. My P.C. and S 034
degs. 50' 009 degs. 16' 067° 16 knots. E.T.A. Boom 0930
tomorrow 23rd.
(DART, 221959A to F.O.G.M.A.).

SETTEMBRINI survivors. Departed Horta at 1824/22nd WOLVERINE and M.L.
MACKAY in accordance with your 221055A.
S. of A. 7.5 knots.
(2) MARIE LOUISE MACKAY has been issued with
stragglers routes of S.L. Bay route.

(3) Communications.
(4) 2 officers and 6 ratings, survivors from Italian submarine
SETTEMBRINI are taking passage from Horta to Gibraltar in
WOLVERINE for onward passage to Italy.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 222058Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

804 Sqdn. C. in C.E.F. 201141 and 201201. Intend
AMEER. following programme for 804 Squadron: 25th
November, squadron hands in training aircraft and
proceeds on leave and takes over operational
aircraft fitted V.H/F. Squadron will be
available for embarkation from 2nd December.

(2) Propose following programme for deck landing training,

/(details)...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

804 Sqn.
AMEER
(Contd.)

(details). AMEER to continue training with squadron aircraft until departure from Capetown.
(3) If AMEER has no crystals available for training of squadron during passage propose loaning of one set which should be returned by air from Ceylon.
(N.A.S. Wingfield S.Africa, 221226B to C. in C. South Atlantic).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

AURORA. My P.C.S. at 0100B/22nd 032 degs. 26' N. 030 degs. (21' or 32') E. 084 degs. 23 knots. (AURORA, 220103B to S.N.O. L.A. (Haifa)).

ARGONAUT. F.O.L.E.M.'s 192025C E.T.A. 399 - 0600B. My present P.C.S. 032 degs. 00' N. 030 degs. 41' E. 115 degs. 15 knots. (ARGONAUT, 220105B to S.N.O.R.S.C.A..)

GRADISCA, German Hospital Ship. Your 211056. Right to take sick and wounded prisoners under Article 12 is absolute and unqualified. U.K. reservation has no bearing on present case since it was directed to case of sick and wounded in neutral hospital ships or merchant ships. It was based on theory of inviolability of neutral flag and reserves right

to refuse surrender of sick and wounded of a belligerent from ships of British flag when Britain was neutral.

(2) Right to remove sick and wounded from GRADISCA is therefore beyond argument and we have gone further than our strict legal obligations in passing S.M.O.'s protest to the Swiss and in agreeing to allow him to see Swiss Consul. It is emphasised that Swiss are in no sense umpires and can only act as agents to represent views of German Government. Latter have made no complaint against their sick and wounded being taken prisoners of war although informed of our intentions three weeks ago.

(3) You should give S.M.O. brief period to reconsider his position in light of the above, before proceeding to compulsion. If he continues to obstruct, responsibility for ill consequences to sick and wounded resulting from the drastic action we may have to take will be his alone.

(P.A.S.(L) Approved V.C.N.S. 220120A to F.O.W.M.)

In reply to a memorandum from me embodying sense of para. 3 and 4 of your 200131 and your 220120 GRADISCA has now agreed to disembarkation of sick and wounded in view of my assurance that (A) They will remain in British hands, and

(B) That ship will subsequently be released. Disembarkation will begin tomorrow Thursday.

(2) On completion and after coaling intend to sail her in accordance with C. in C. Med's 051246 para. 3 and 061131.

(3) E.T.D. will be signalled later.

(W.D. Note: A.M. Sunday 26th, see 241540A)

(F.O.W.M. 221822A to Admty)

EMILE BERTIN. Further to my 171006. Marine Paris request that French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN after leaving Piraeus may proceed to Beirut with relief naval personnel from France now embarked.

(2) F.C. EMILE BERTIN would proceed thence to Alexandria to embark 200 tons Red Cross Stores for Toulon.

(3) Admiral Auboyneau's Flag is to fly in F.C. EMILE BERTIN. (F.O.W.M. 221612 to C. in C. Med.)

W.D. Note - Visit undesirable. See 241620 etc.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

ST. MARGARETS, My 011733 October not to Falmouth or Plymouth
 LASSO. ST. MARGARETS will shortly be sailed from
 U.K. for Malta. Request LASSO be sailed for U.K.
 on relief destination Falmouth for refit.
 (D.A/S.M. 221639A to C. in C. Med.)

Italian C. in C. Med.'s 151927A. Para. 1(a) and (b)
 S/Ms. approved.
 (2) JALEA, BANDIERA and MENOTTI are allocated
 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F.'s 141301 (not to
 B.A.D.) refers.
 (3) As it is under consideration to pay off K.11
 and NICHELIO and PLATINO are in operational condition C. in C.,
 E.F. is requested to state whether he would like latter two
 vessels to join his command.
 (Hd. of M. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 221816A to C. in C. Med.
 C. in C. E.F.) Reply: C. in C. E.I.281202Z.

Proposed Submit orders contained in your 220958(N.T. in
 Operation, W.D.) be reconsidered for the following reasons:
 Greece. (1) Military force available 30 L.O.C. troop
 insufficient to successfully carry out operation.
 (2) ELAS. in complete possession of town, strongly
 held by possibly 2000 men, mostly well armed.
 (3) All craft in harbour manned by E.L.A.S. who patrol and
 guard dock area.
 (4) Craft concerned. CYCOPS salvage ship 400 tons damaged Red
 Cross barge 450 tons. Coaster SEASTERN 230 tons and small
 landing craft 30 tons. Consider that acquisition of above craft
 at present by display of force might aggravate a delicate
 situation with grave consequences. Use of craft and port
 facilities have always been at our disposal but under control of
 E.L.A.S.
 (B.N.L.O.Volos, 221940B to S.B.N.O. Greece, (R) G.O.C.3 Corps.
 Greek C. in C. Alex.)

NEILDS, Intend to sail U.S.S. NEILDS with C.T.F.66 embark-
 BURKE, ed U.S.S. BURKE, U.S.S. ENRIGHT to New York at
 ENRIGHT. 231500.

(2) S. of A. 18 knots.

(3) Routed in Med. 109, 68, 16 thence northern
 half of Gibraltar Straits to 35 degs. 59' N.

06 degs. 10' W thence as routed by Admiralty to Ponta Delgada
 for fuel.

(4) E.T.A. position 16, 240400.

(5) (codeword) "Batten" 333, priority low.

(6) Guards N.S.S. F throughout voyage Gibraltar broadcast to
 20 degs. W.

(7) All times Z.

(8) Part 2 of message will follow when route is received.

(Commob Oran, 221945 to Admty. etc.)

* See 231137.

ARGONAUT, Departure.
 BLACK PRINCE. (N.O.I.C.Suez, 222001B to Admty)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

- U-Boat
dispositions. No fresh information. Scales in 27 area remain unchanged.
(C. in C.E.I., 220404Z).
- 21st and
22nd M/S.F. Intend to transfer administration of ships mentioned in para.2 of my 011010 Nov. to A.C.N.B. Melbourne, when they enter Australian Station.
(C. in C.E.F., 220419Z to A.C.N.B.).
- SPIRIT
R. of P. SPIRIT (P.245) third Far East Patrol.
2nd to 9th November. Employed on Air Sea Rescue duty.
12th November 1243 Car Nicobar hit 870 ton tanker at anchor off Malacca with 2 torpedoes. Target considered sunk, counter attack of 15 depth charges caused slight damage.
13th, 1012 position 009 degs. 30' N. 092 degs. 52' E. attacked previous day's escort by gunfire scoring hits and set it on fire. Action broke off as gun jammed. No retaliation.
(C. in C.E.F., 220621Z to Admty.).
- HOWE Sailing date and destroyer escort. (C. in C. B.P.F. 220540, repeated in 250336Z).
(See also C. in C.E.I., 240626).
- C. in C.E.I. Vice Admiral Sir Arthur J. Power K.C.B., C.V.O. has relieved Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser G.C.B., K.B.E. and assumed command of the E.I. Station today 22nd November 1944.
(C. in C.E.I., 220900Z).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

^{CLEO}
 CLEOPATRA, CLEOPATRA light Cruiser 212000Z P.C.S. 037° 15' N.
 (from 044° 20' W. 083° 20 knots.
 Bermuda). (Cominch, 220150Z to Admty.)

U-boat Estimates.
 dispositions (N.S.H.Q. 221324Z, Cominch, 221529Z.)

U.G.S.62 Limit of 116 ships is authorised to sail in
 U.G.S.62.
 (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 221526Z to Comastsea-
 fron.)

Loan of Your 141725Z. The Royal Navy is, as you know,
 Escort hard pressed for men, and we are manning no
 carriers ships of which we do not intend to make full use
 to U.S. as soon as they can be made ready for service.
 We have at present 35 American and 4 British
 Escort Carriers in commission. Each of these
 is either in service or is being prepared for a
 specific duty, and squadrons are provided for them.
 (2) In March 1945, all British carriers will be fully employed
 in:
 (a) Operational service with North Russian convoys;
 (b) Harrying the German traffic up and down the Norwegian coast;
 (c) Supporting or preparing to support assault operations in
 the East Indies;
 (d) Supplying aircraft to the British Pacific and East Indies
 Fleets;
 (e) Deck landing training;
 (f) Anti-U-boat operations in Indian Ocean.
 Further, we have to be prepared for resumption of the U-boat
 offensive in the Atlantic which will take some of the carriers
 in (a) and (b) above.
 (3) Nevertheless in view of Cominch's urgent need we are
 agreeable to:-
 (a) One C.V.E. being lent for transport duty in the Pacific
 (will be ready to leave U.K. about end November);
 (b) Two C.V.Es. being lent for transport duty in the Atlantic
 (will be ready to leave U.K. about end November and mid December
 respectively), on the understanding that we retain the right to
 withdraw these ships if casualties, U-boat war situation, or
 other reasons make this necessary.
 (4) It is proposed the ships should remain British manned while
 on loan.
 (1st S.L., 221546A to B.A.D.)

^K
 ANAROA Concur in Para. 2 of your 202301. Reply to para.
 independent 3 will be made shortly.
 sailing (D.O.D.(H), 221951A to B.A.D.)

O.21 When ready about 28th November sail H.M.C.S.
 O.21, from Philadelphia to New London for working up
 Comeastseafon provided escort throughout.
 Further orders later.
 (Cominch, 222103Z to Comeastseafon.)

/T.F.62...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

T.F.62 My 212210. Delete WOODSON, JOHNNIE, HUTCHINS, WALTON, include HURON in Task Force. (Conclant, 222129Z, to C.T.F.62.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest For November 21st.
No.1036 (6) P.T. boats operating Ormoc Bay night 19/20th sink 4 barges approaching Ormoc from south and probably sank 2 luggers apparently making same destination from west. Intense rifle fire indicated barges carrying troops but contents of luggers unknown. (Later details, see 230800Z.) (13) Night 19th November, 5 Liberators attacked shipping Brunei Bay sinking 1 medium merchantman, causing explosions on second similar vessel and probably damaging large transport. Reconnaissance next day saw 1 transport 2 cargo vessels only in Brunei Bay. (G.H.Q., G.W.P.A., 220755.)

British Pacific Fleet, publicity. I am anxious to fix a policy for dealing with the press in Australia so that my P.R.Os. and Australian censorship can have clear directions in press matters. (2) I assume that no public announcement will be made either of my appointment or of the arrival of the British Pacific Fleet in Australian waters until that fleet is ready to operate. I therefore propose the following policy:- (a) That about the end of December an announcement be made that Admiral Fraser is in the Pacific area for consultations with Allied and Australian Naval authorities. (b) That the press be allowed to announce at a suitable time that units of the Royal Navy have been transferred to the Pacific from other waters, but with no mention of a Pacific Fleet. (c) That the Australian press be allowed to visit ships when they arrive at Australian ports and write about them. Publication to be delayed as necessary for security reasons. (d) That every effort be made nevertheless to give the Australian press a series of releases on harmless subjects. (e) That finally when the Fleet is operational the fact that there is a British Pacific Fleet be announced with full publicity. (3) In General I assume from the very complete press set up which is being provided that every effort is to be made to see that the undertakings of the British Pacific Fleet are not soft pedalled by normal American press methods. (4) I, therefore, propose to give our people the maximum support

/to...

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22.11.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

British
Pacific
Fleet,
publicity.
(Contd.)

to enable them to hold their own by providing all practicable facilities and by speeding up the processes of censorship and despatch.
(5) May I be informed whether my views are agreed with and if so I shall be glad of any assistance possible to enable me to put them into being.
(C. in C.B.P.F. 231315Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z 22nd November.

Para. A.

(1) FORT LEE torpedoed and sunk about 1400Z 2nd November in 27° 35' S. 83° 11' E. A.Ms. 051118A and 061124A refer.

Paragraph C.

(1) Iceland A/C sighted suspicious object course 235° at 2209Z 21st November in 63° 10' N. 11° 38' W.
Paragraph D.

(1) Bomber Command A/C from 8,000 feet sighted U-boat shape and periscope wake course 125° at 1615Z 21st November in 50° 33' N. 00° 40' E.

(D.D.I.C. 221050A.)

U-boat
dispositions

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 221406A, 221413A.)

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23.11.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea

- 1a. The first 6 coasters to enter Antwerp are to fly the Belgian ensign at the force, "for political considerations."
- b. M.M.S.175 has been damaged by a near-miss in the Schelde.
- c. Two more magnetic mines have been detonated at the mouth of the Humber.

Channel

2. The American freighter WILLIAM D. BURNHAM struck two mines in quick succession off Cape Barfleur. She has been towed into Cherbourg and beached, with a 20 ft. hole in her side, two of her crew of 69 killed, and 10 missing.

Northern Waters

3. A U-boat has been reported by an Icelandic fisherman, and another as probable by an aircraft of Coastal Command off Iceland, but there are no definite results owing to the full S.W. gale now making.

Weather reports

4. The U.S. Chiefs of Staff ask that the British Chiefs of Staff consider placing a British weather reporting vessel in about 58° N. 20° W., south of Iceland and about 500 miles from the British Isles, to fill a blind spot in the weather reporting organisation.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

5. A re-organisation of the units of the Gibraltar Escort Force is outlined in F.O.G.M.A.'s 231616A.

South Atlantic

6. The Admiralty cable ship MEAD has been taken over by the South African Naval Forces as from August 27, 1944.

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic

7. Wellington Beaufighters and Spitfires of the Coastal Air Force last night attacked 4 F-boats east of Venice and probably damaged one, and also set two tankers of 2000 - 3000 tons on fire north-east of Tagliamento Point. Several barges were attacked on Lake Marano and hit with R.P. and cannon fire.

Aegean

8. Eight Baltimore light bombers from the Middle East attacked Kos Harbour, scoring hits on the quay and silencing enemy A/A guns.

Black Sea

9. General Spalding, U.S. Army (Supplies), and Captain Frankel, U.S. Navy, are now visiting Odessa in connection with the use of the Black Sea route by U.S. ships.

East Indies

Return of
VALIANT

10. The Admiralty today directed that the battleship VALIANT (c.f. November 19th) is to be escorted throughout her passage from Aden to the United Kingdom via the Cape. As all suitable escorts are being withdrawn from the Mediterranean for later service in the East Indies, and it is not acceptable to divert destroyers allocated to the British Pacific Fleet, the VALIANT is to sail in Convoy M.C.14, A/S protection being provided during the three days the convoy will be at Kilindini. Two destroyers from West Africa are to meet her at Durban to provide protection to Gibraltar.

S/M K.11.

11. Owing to the bad mechanical condition of submarine K.11, the Dutch Naval Authorities propose that she should be paid off at Fremantle, her crew being used as a reserve for other Dutch submarines and for maintenance in MAIDSTONE. The C. in C., East Indies states that her removal will not adversely affect A/S training on the Station.

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Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

China

12. Two Mitchells (one of which is missing) attacked oil installations, a jetty, a floating dock and two vessels near Haiphong, French Indo-China. One vessel was damaged.

13. The Hankow and Yochow areas were bombed last night by 21 Liberators and 3 Mitchells and explosions caused in the waterfront and warehouse areas.

America and West Indies

Future of
Navicert
system.

14. The U.S. Chiefs of Staff ask whether the present Navicert system will be continued after the defeat of Germany, and if not, what alternative measures are planned to maintain the censorship control of international mail, particularly that between Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula.

Australia and New Zealand

Borneo.

15. A Navy Mariner aircraft over North Borneo early this morning bombed and hit one destroyer off the south coast of Balabac Island. Fire opened over the entire ship, and 40 minutes later only a superstructure remained above water.

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Division of responsibilities between C. in C. Nore and Com. Belgium. My 021225 October para. (D). To avoid divided control of shipping in channel between N.F.8 and N.F.16 Buoys where both E-Boat attack and mine-laying may be expected, propose C. in C. Nore shall be responsible for diverting and stopping traffic in that channel. Com. Belgium being responsible between N.F.16 Buoy and Antwerp also in Ostend approach channels. Propose however that Com. Belgium shall take over responsibility for minesweeping between N.F.8 Buoy and both Antwerp and Ostend also for applying through C. in C. Nore for promulgation of Q.Z. messages. (A.N.C.X.F. 231452A to C. in C. Nore.)

Weather Reporting Vessels. Suggestion for another British weather reporting vessel in vicinity of 58 degs. N. 20 degs. W. (J.S.M. Washington, 231853Z - see America and West India)

Salute to Belgium. Following from M.W.T. Buco. Political considerations make it desirable for the first 6 Coasters to Antwerp to wear the Belgian Ensign at the Fore. Request the Ensigns be placed on board the following Coasters LYSLAND, THYRA III, FANO, MOSES, GAY, MAURICE ROSE, REDCAR. M.O.W.T. were unable to supply the vessels prior to sailing from London. (A.N.C.X.F. 231910A to Com. Southend)

Three more drifters for the Nore. A.M. 231154A and my 011717 November. It is considered that it will be necessary to maintain at least 3 drifters on patrol at a time. Request therefore that a further three drifters may be allocated for this work. (V.A. Dover, 231918A to Adnty)

Movements

MAURITIUS. Your 211233 arrived. (C. in C. Rosyth, 230811A to C. in C. H.F.)

CERES. On arrival of U.S.N. Tug OWL, my 210926A November refers, request this tug be used for towage of CERES, C. in C. Plymouth 221317A November refers. (2) No second tug is available from Cotug resources. (3) Towage of N.L. Pontoons in my 191415A is being undertaken by other tugs. (A.N.C.X.F.(Cotug), 231101A to C. in C. Plymouth etc.)

/BACHAQUERO ...

War Diary

23.11.1944
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements - Contd.

BACHAQUERO. Intend sailing BACHAQUERO (S.O) escorted by HAZEL and KARMOY at 0900A Friday 24th Nov. to Skaalefiord routed Q.Z.S.15 through position 061 degs. 50' N. 005 degs. 30' W. speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 0900A/25th. A.M. 201758 refers.
(2) (Call Signs.)
(3) HAZEL part company in Nolso Fiord for Thorshavn with passengers. My 211612 to N.O.I.C.Faeroes only refers.
(4) Request BACHAQUERO and escort be sailed for Scapa on completion.
(A.C.O.S.231319A to N.O.I.C.Faeroes.)

H.M.S. Your 231146 not to all.
CAVALIER. Request you will sail CAVALIER to Scapa to work up.
(D.O.D.(M), 232300A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

ARETHUSA. F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to sail ARETHUSA when ready about 29th November to Scapa.
(2) On completion of sufficient preliminary work up, for which about 10 days is estimated, C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail ship for Gibraltar.
(3) On arrival ARETHUSA is to come under the orders of C. in C. Med. who is requested to complete work up.
(D.O.D.(H), 232317A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. H.F. and Med.)

Operations

Situation Report

Military French drive in South was counter-attacked in area Dannemarie and German troops reached Swiss frontier near Delle. Allies eventually re-stored situation but Dannemarie still in LXXXV Corps hands. French now along Rhine for about 12 miles, and Mulhouse, Altkirch and Belfort lost by Germans. Six miles North of Belfort, Girmagny also fell. In battle for St. Die Germans made some progress on Southern Flank in area Fraize (V.4553). They were unable to prevent small Allied gains near St. Leonard despite bitter defence. Northern side town Allies within one thousand yards of the city which is by-passed. East of Raon L'Etape Allies now through Senones (V.4377). In Saverne Gap considerable Allied advances made beyond Sarrebourg including capture of Saverne and points six miles to North and South of it. South-East of Metz advances made towards Sarrebourg from the North-West. North of Falkenberg, Laudrefang (Q.2054) fell to Allies. Germans still resisting at two points South-West of Metz.

/German ...

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(Contd.)

German defence East and North-East of Aachen assisted by deterioration of going, though in general Allies advancing slowly. Further advances of about two thousand yards made towards Duren into Wenau Forest against heavy opposition from elements, 3 Panzer Grenadier Division. Allies took Eschweiler and two villages to the North-East: Durwiss and Putzlohn where resistance somewhat lighter. Lohn (K.9952) however still stubbornly held and Bourheim, 2½ miles to the North reinforced with elements 340 Infantry Division newly come to Western Front. Allies reached Merzenhausen to the North West where resistance put up by all arms including some Tiger tanks. East and North of Geilenkirchen resistance very determined and favoured by bad ground conditions. Further withdrawal made by 86 Corps in Venlo area and Allies now very close to town. Not believed many Germans left West of Venlo.

General. In Army Group G area, enemy trying to restore situation by counter-attack to cut through to Swiss Frontier South of Belfort. A sort of Avranches attempt, but forces too weak, and enemy must now concentrate on preventing extension of our drive towards Colmar. He must also stop our Northern Pincer on Strasbourg. Fresh forces particularly needed here and probable one division will arrive. Armour required to deal with Second French Armoured Division. Vosges Mountains now very thinly held. Situation East of Metz unchanged but enemy probably endeavouring to settle down on Maginot Line. No signs of reinforcements believed to have arrived in Merzig sector. Ardennes front quiet. Very stubborn and spirited offensive-defensive fighting on both sides of Aachen with all local army reserves committed. Enemy obviously holding back Sixth Panzer Army until forced to commit it. Own progress likely to be slow. Further north signs of thickening up 1 Parachute Army front. 15 Army hibernating and probable thankful for chance of licking its wounds.
(S.H.A.E.F. No T.O.O/23 to War Office)

OperationsNorth Sea

Patrols.

Patrols for tonight Thursday, 1 COTTESMORE, 2 PYTCHLEY, 3 COTSWOLD, 4 SEYMOUR, 5 HAMBLEDON, 6 DAKINS, 7 GARTH, 8A MALLARD, 10, SHELDRAKE, 17A WIDGEON.

(2) N.F.2 to N.F.4 DUFF with Coastal Force from BEEHIVE 15 G.S. ADMIRAL HASTINGS 16 STAYNER with Coastal Force from (corrupt) 19 THORNBOROUGH and SLAZAK. SLAZAK to R/V THORNBOROUGH at N.F.8 Buoy at 1730.

(C. in C. Nore, 231050A to Nore Command)

/Functions ...

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Functions
of Senior
Officer
Inshore
Squadron.

Your 181911 not to all. Letter referred to in para. 2 not yet received but gist of it has been received by telephone. From this it is clear that the full functions of S.O.I.S. as visualised by me in my 091105 October, not to all, are not agreeable to you.

(2) No good permanent solution to our differences suggests itself to me at the moment but in order to tide over the imminent and critical time of the initial opening of Antwerp these are my intentions.

(a) Captain Pugsley to be appointed as S.O.I.S. in addition to his appointment as N.C. Force T and to set up a temporary H.Q. at Ostend.

(b) Captain Pugsley to be responsible to Com. Belgium for the local defence of the Schelde and Ostend and for minesweeping in the channels for which Com. Belgium is responsible. Commander M/S Belgium acting on his behalf in this matter. My 231452AE refers.

(c) Although not now operationally responsible to C. in C. Nore, Captain Pugsley will be responsible for the efficiency of the Ostend Plot and that all relevant information from it is passed to C. in C. Nore.

(3) Discussions here have done nothing to modify my view that at some stage it may well be found expedient for Captain Pugsley to be given greater responsibility for control of operations under C. in C. Nore as proposed in my 091105 October.

(4) It would be appreciated if your C.O.S. could meet mine with Com. Belgium and Captain Pugsley in Brussels at noon at Saturday 25th November to settle any outstanding points at detail.

(A.N.C.C.F. 231455A to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 231455 para. 2(A) (B) and (C) concur. Para.4 this will be arranged. Request place of meeting and transport at Aerodrome name of which will be reported later.

(C. in C. Nore, 231847A to A.N.C.X.F.)

139th M.S.F. F.O.1731's 222140A.
to Request 139th M.S.F. may be transferred to F.O.
F.O. Holland. Holland when required by him. A.L.M.010297/44
of 16th October refers.
(A.N.C.X.F. 231730A to Admty)

Operations

Channel

Patrols.

Night A/S Patrols 23/24 November.

(1) Special object contact U-Boat at Schnorkel depth.

(2) Zig-Zag search at 8 knots through positions and areas given.

(3) VANOC from J buoy at 1730, thence squares Z.10, 11, 9, 102 to G 1 buoy at 0830.

(4) VIDETTE from Kansas buoy at 1730, thence squares A.17, 16, 12 to J buoy at 0830.

(5) VESPER between 49 degs. 55' 50 degs. 30' N. and 01 degs. 16'

/ 01 degs...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Patrols. 01 degs. 30' W.
(Contd.) (6) ANTHONY between Q.Z.S. 636 and 10 miles W. and 49 degs. 55' 50 degs. 30' N.
(7) M.T.Bs if weather suitable sweep in company squares Z.125, 126, 127, 130.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231147Z to Portsmouth, A/S Patrol Force.)

Day A/S Patrols 24th November.
(1) Search the following areas.
(2) VANOC, VIDETTE. Squares Z.9, 10Z.
(3) VESPER, ANTHONY Squares Z.113, 114, 109, 110.
(4) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE relieve VESPER and ANTHONY.
(5) M.T.Bs if weather suitable from St. Albans Head to St. Catherine's Point North of 50 degs. 30'.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231222A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Air Patrols Nov.24th.
My 201752. Patrols 47 and 48 will be flown. Call signs below.
(2) 842 Squadron A/C R/T Occult W/T J.Y.G.
(3) 838 Squadron A/C R/T Mothburn W/T N.K.A.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 231224A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

Rules for engagement of Aircraft. Your 211700 being passed to Admiralty, concur with para.3.
(A.N.C.X.F.231231A to S.H.A.E.F.)

Cross-Channel pipe-line. My 211229 postponed 24 hours zero time 1000/24 weather permitting.
A.C. Dover is requested to sail M.L.197 to arrive Dungeness East Roads 0900.
(S.N.O. Pluto, 231500A to V.A. Dover)

Operations

Western Approaches

Suspected U-Boat. Group attacking moving contact classified S/Ms by CAISTOR CASTLE and PORTCHESTER CASTLE in position 51 degs. 10' N. 10 degs. 16' W.
(S.O.E.G.30, 230949A to C. in C. W.A.)
My 230949A consider this contact probably the same as that held a few days ago by 4th E.G.
(S.O.E.G.30, 231053A to C. in C. W.A.)
Consider contact definitely that previously attacked by S.O. 4th E.G. am continuing patrol. Suitable (1 group missing) average B.
(S.O.E.G.30, 231235A to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 231053 Report reasons for this assumption.
Has target bottomed.
(3) Continue hunt until proved dead or non-submarine.
(C. in C. W.A. 231316A to S.O. E.G.30)
Target ascertained by PEVENSEY CASTLE to be definitely on the bottom within one quarter of a mile of S.O. E.G.4's previous contact. Your 231316A.
(S.O.E.G.30, 231458A to C. in C. W.A.)

/ Your

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Western Approaches

Suspected
U-Boat
(Contd.)

Your 231458 and 231235.
Contact was reported as initially moving
and classified S/M in your 230949. Is this
confirmed or not. If confirmed was target lost
and regained on bottom or was it held while
bottoming.

(C. in C. W.A. 231708A to S.O.E.G.30.)

Contact was held the whole time. Consider escorts first in
contact were misled by tide and drift in their report that
contact was moving. Dan buoy laid by PEVENSEY CASTLE definitely
proved that contact was stationary. Contact was non-S/M.
(S.O.E.G.30, 231754A to C. in C. W.A.)

Programme
for Support
Groups.

Following programme for support groups supersedes
my 211815 October.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Sail</u>
1	-	Dec. 3	Dec. 27	-
2	Dec. 3	" 22	-	-
3	-	Nov. 30	Dec. 24	-
4	Nov. 26	Dec. 13	-	-
5	" 28	" 10	Jan. 4	-
6	" 26	" 8	" 1	-
9	Dec. 18	" 30	-	-
10	" 8	" 26	-	-
14	-	Nov. 25	Dec. 17	Dec. 29
15	-	" 26	" 8	" 20
17	Dec. 1	Dec. 13	-	-
18	-	Nov. 29	Dec. 23	Jan. 4
19	Dec. 12	Dec. 24	-	-
20	-	Nov. 27	Dec. 18	Dec. 30
21	-	Dec. 7	" 31	-
25	-	Nov. 28	" 22	Jan. 3
26	-	Dec. 7	" 29	-
30	Dec. 3.	" 15	-	-
31	-	Nov. 29	Dec. 12	Dec. 24

(C. in C. W.A. 231056A to Com. D. W.A., Capts. D. Liverpool,
Greenock, Belfast.)

Patrol.

Shift Gamma patrol 20 miles 100 degs.
(C. in C. W.A. 231951A to S.O.E.G's 4 and 30)
Intend to sail ANTIGUA to rejoin Group at 0900A/
24th. Request you arrange R/V.
(Com.D. W.A. 232247A to S.O.E.G.19)

/14th ...

550.

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14th and 4th E.G's. On completion of training T.C. Rockabill is requested to sail 14th E.G. less FAME to fuel at Milford Haven for onward routeing to join 4th E.G. and 30th E.G. in vicinity Cape Clear. Patrol orders will be signalled later.

(2) 4th E.G. will be detached to arrive Belfast p.m. 27th November.
(C. in C. W.A. 232331A to T.C. Rockabill)

OperationsNorway.

Operation "S.C". Intend to sail S.C. Operation from Shetlands 204.
(1) 2300A/25th November from Scalloway.
(2) 058 degs. from Sumburgh Head 12 knots.
(3) 1800A/26th November.
(4) Between 1830A/26th November and 0600A/27th November.

(5) 238 degs to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.
(6) p.m. 27th November.
(7) 058 degs. Sumburgh Head.
(8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231635A to A.C.O.S.)
My 231635.
(1) 036 degs. 42' N. 004 degs. 51' E.
(2) Ramose, Sanity.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231637A to A.C.O.S.)
My 231635. (1) 061 degs. 42' N. 004 degs. 51' E.
(2) Ramose, Sanity.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231637A to A.C.O.S.)
Intend to sail S.C. operation from Shetlands.
(1) 1400A/25th Nov. from Scalloway.
(2) 042 degs. from Muckle Flugga to 065 degs. 48' N. 009 degs. 00' E. thence 062 degs. 12 knots.
(3) 1700A/27th November.
(4) Between 1730A/27th November and 0600A/29th November.
(5) 225 degs. to Muckle Flugga 12 knots.
(6) A.M. 1st December.
(7) 045 degs. Muckle Flugga. (8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231703A to A.C.O.S.)
My 231703 (1) 066 degs. 26' N. 011 degs. 59' E.
(2) Ramose, Amestuous. (3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 231705A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. S/Ms at 0800/24th November and movements for following 24 hours Zone A times.
(A) SOKOL, TORBAY as in my 221801.
(B) RUBIS position uncertain, about 59 degs. 28' N. 03 degs. 49' E. proceeding through 61 degs. 01' N. 02 degs. 53' E. and 61 degs. 13' N. 00 degs. 01' E. to Lerwick.
Diving by day while East of 01 degs. E. 130 miles daily advance then 9 knots on surface.

/(C) ...

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Patrols (Contd.) (C) VENTURER 61 degs. 30' N. 000 degs. 07' W. on surface to Lerwick 9 knots. (F.O.S/M, 231752 to Admt.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Patrol. If not in contact by 1400/23rd shift centre of Gamma 215 degs. 30 miles. Air patrols will probably be resumed at 1500. (C. in C. Rosyth, 230956A to S.O.E.G.17)
If not in contact by 0400A/24th shift centre of Gamma 232 degs. 36 miles. Air patrol will be maintained throughout the night. (C. in C. Rosyth, 231555A to S.O.E.G.17)

Repair ship for Iceland. A.M.242108 June, 1944. Withdrawal of GREENWICH and A.F.D.17 has removed practically all service repair facilities from Iceland (C), consequently for some months repairs have been carried out at great expense by local firms who have frequent strikes and whose work is not always reliable. At present these firms are just able to cope with situation but any further increase in local forces will make repair facilities inadequate. Request information whether return of GREENWICH to Iceland (C) may be expected or failing that, whether another repair ship can be allocated. (A.C.I.C. 231358A to Admt)

Suspected U-Boats. (1) Bottom contact attacked at 0800 by LOCH KILLIN in position 060 degs. 17' N. 002 degs. 41' W. brought up fuel oil. Classified as wreck.
(2) LOCH KILLIN has rejoined group.
(3) Group is being hove to in full south-west gale in position 060 degs. 46' N. 003 degs. 23' W. making good about 4 knots on course 215 degs.
Weather report 2862 6859 unsuitable. (S.O.E.G.17, 231405 to C. in C. Rosyth)
(C) 366 23rd Nov. At 1225A X/162 reported investigating suspicious wake or swirl in position 62.47 N. 21.58 W. Later high sea contact probable sub.noises heard. (H.Q. R.A.F.Iceland, 231415A to H.Q. Coastal Command)
U-Boat reported in position 16 miles West of Sandgerdi 64.02 N. 22.43 W. between 1900/22 and 0001/23 by Icelandic Fishing Boat C.2. (A.C.I.C. 232210A to Admt)

Rescue Tug MEDIATOR to Iceland. Intend to sail H.M.R.T. MEDIATOR at 1600 tomorrow Friday by searched channel to Kirkwall for onward routing in accordance with A.M. 160310A Speed of Advance 15 knots. E.T.A.0900/25. Communications - constant on appropriate port wave W/T 5 JDC R/T H.A.S.A.N. Codes Carried Loxo. Mails to Iceland. (N.O.I.C.Leith, 231652 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary

23.11.1944
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Deep mine-laying in North Channel. Operation C.F. Serial B. Three completed. (APOLLO, 230453A to C. in C. W.A.) My 221139. Arrived APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 231139A to C. in C. W.A.)

Sweeping in Western Channel. Your 211224A and my 211431A. Owing to continual unfavourable weather and heavy swell conditions in West Channel, intend to proceed at first light tomorrow Friday, to position 180 degs. Eddystone 22 miles. Weather permitting to sweep to Eastward limit of search thence to Westward limit and completing search in position 180 degs. Eddystone 22. My 211431A paras. (4) to (8) remain unaltered. Further intentions will be made when west limit is reached. Request other authorities affected may be informed. (M.S.16, 230841A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Mine detonated off Humber. Magnetic mine detonated at 0937A in position 344 degs. H2 1.2 miles. (F.O. Humber, 231123 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mine clearance of Schelde. The possible presence of Katie mines in the shallow parts of the channel in the river Schelde must not be overlooked. Exploratory improvised bottom sweeping should be carried out to ascertain whether such mines exist. (C. in C. Nore, 231647A to Capt.(M/S)F.A.)

Situation Report. Following mines detonated to-day.
(1) 0937/23/11/44.
(2) Q formation M.M.S.1050, 1052, 1064.
(3) O.N. (4) 2½ cables.
(5) M.M.S.1050, 345 degs. H.2 1 mile 175 degs.
(6) Green 177 degs. 2 cables.
(7) On pluse blue to Starboard. (8) 3 seconds.
(9) 16/11/44. (10) No. (11) - (12) - (13) - (14) -
(1) 1514/23/11/44.
(2) Q M.M.S.1064, 1052, 1050.
(3) O.N. (4) 2½ cables.
(5) M.M.S.1042 120 degs. H 2 5 cables N. 30 degs. W.
(6) Red 120 degs. 1 cable.
(7) On pulse red to Starboard. (8) 4 Secs.
(9) 16.11.44. (10) No. (11) - (12) - (13) - (14) -
(F.O. Humber, 231901A to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

German mail in M.V. LA PLATA. Karl Einar Skonvall of Swedish ship LA PLATA thoroughly searched without result (A.M.201724A refers). Consequent general search of crews

/quarters ...

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German mail in M.V. LA PLATA. (Contd.) quarters and (belongings?) yielded 5 third party letters which are being forwarded as instructed in A.M.201821 Sept. Skonvall had passport and military registration documents stolen in Buenos Aires in 1941 and was issued with duplication. He stated that (?correspondence) (corrupt group) during recent period in Buenos Aires was with personnel from other Swedish ships. Expect he (frequently) visited Swedish porter at building 456, a large block of flats and offices. He had been approached by member of crew of Swedish ship BOOLONGENA to take a letter to sister in Stockholm but ship sailed before he received it. (Master?) and Control officer co-operated to fullest extent. Ship was allowed to sail? a.m. to-day 23rd. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 231526A to Admty)

German Military Transport from Norway. My 181317 and 171707. Following are recent troop transport movements.
(A) Norway to Denmark. MOLTKEFELS and MARS arrived Aarhus from Moss November 14th with one infantry battalion, one battery and three or four hundred leave troops.
(2) November 16th WINRICH VON KNIPRODE arrived Aarhus in company with SUDERAU and disembarked one infantry battalion staff of artillery section one battery horse drawn 10.5 centimetre guns and one company anti-A/C troops. Infantry stated to have come from Narvik district.
(3) JUPITER and BRETAGNE arrived Frederikshavn from Norway November 13th escorted by one Sperrbrecher, one armed trawler and three torpedo boats. Each carried about 700 troops some of which were stated to have come from Finland. B.2.
(B) Transport of troops North Norway: Following are reports of vessels employed transporting troops and wounded in North Norway.
(1) (?MAPIA) left Mosjoen November 4th fully loaded with troops.
(2) ULANGA left Mosjoen same day with 3000 men including 800 wounded. She arrived Narvik November 9th with 700 mainly anti-A/C troops.
(3) LOFOTEN arrived Mosjoen with wounded November 6th.
(4) PERGAMON arrived Mosjoen with troops from North November 9th and was observed next day fitting out for evacuation purposes.
(5) RAGNVOBI JARL and POLARLYS arrived Mosjoen with wounded November 10th.
(6) LOUISE LOENHARDT left Narvik for Mosjoen November 11th fully loaded with cars, motor cycles and troops. Same day 3 unidentified naval patrol vessels now used for transport purposes arrived Narvik.
(7) CARL ARP arrived Narvik November 12th from Porsanger with number of civilian evacuees, cars and war material.
(8) WESERSTROM arrived Trondjham November 14th with 600 Russian prisoners below deck, German troops on deck and 20 field kitchens B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 231647 to Admty.)
N.I.D.Comment: Movements of shipping reported in (A) considered a good report.

/Norway ...

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German Military Transport from Norway. (Contd.)

Norway movements of ships which are affecting German Military movements by rail.
(1) Transport locomotives. See my 221101. It was reported from Norway to-day November 23rd that arrival SASSNITZ Ferry with locomotives was still awaited in Skien. Large crane will be required for discharging and will probably be sent from Larvik, Sandefjord or Horten.

(2) Coal shortage. See my Top Secret 181851 and my 171717 part one.

(3) Emphasising effect of shortage of coal on railway transport in North of Norway, it is now reported Collier SUDERAU arrived Oslo November 10th and discharged coal at Dispebryggen.

B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 231826 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment: Para. (1). According to another report five locomotives were being unloaded at Skien on 20th Nov. Para. (2) A ship called SUDERAU has been frequently reported recently trooping between Oslo and Aarkus. It is unlikely that the ship being used as a transport which is of 1453 GRT speed 12 knots, would carry coal.

U-Boats

Situation Report. Attack on S/M contact by E.G.30 at 0849Z/23rd November appears to confirm one in lat. 51 degs. 10' N. long. 10 degs. 15' W. Otherwise no information for English Channel area. (D.D.I.C. 231340A to A.I.G.331., Cominch, S. & A. Area C.)

Port Facilities

Flushing. My 221630 not to all addressees. It is important to make Flushing useable as base for minesweepers and coastal forces. Dutch are starting on the work and have a quantity of skilled labour and engineering facilities but lack certain things. Request expert in dock repair and salvage may be sent at once to see what assistance we can give. Netherlands Navy also specially ask that Dutch owned suction hopper NOVIO at Liverpool and Dutch coasters MIES, NOORDSTAD, BARENTSZ, VIDAR understood to be working now with the R.E. may be sent to assist in above and further similar work in other Dutch ports and waterways. (F.O.Holland, 231400A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Great Yarmouth. A.M. 221834, A.F.D.(BA) 2 can be released now. It is desired to retain A.F.D.(BA) 1 for the present. My 291755 October, not to all refers. (A.N.C.X.F. 231420A to Admty)

/Antwerp ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities - Contd.

Antwerp. Request SEA GIANT and FREEDOM be held in the Nore and sailed to Antwerp as Rescue Tugs. N.O.I.C. Antwerp's 221234A November and my 231520A November refer.

(2) Request EMPIRE VINCENT, EMPIRE POLLY and EMPIRE BELLE may also be held and sailed as above. Tugs named in para.2. are temporarily allocated as River and Harbour Tugs to N.O.I.C. Antwerp until balance of Tugs named in D.of S.T. 120134A November become available. These tugs may be used for towage of barges to Antwerp provided no undue delay is incurred. (A.N.C.X.F. 231712A to C. in C. Nore)

C. in C. Nore's 161550A it is intended to establish a stores transit depot at Antwerp, and to transfer personnel now at Dieppe for this purpose, they should be available shortly. (2) Consider it would be advantageous to one store carrier to be transferred now to run from Chatham as in para.4 of my 221720A October. (A.N.C.X.F. 231845A to Admty)

Casualties and Defects

WILLIAM D. BURNHAM. Please send tug as vessel may be salvaged, sinking very slowly. (WILLIAM D. BURNHAM, 231458Z to C.T.F.125) S.O.S. de (KYDU) WILLIAM D. BURNHAM hit mine 49 degs. 46' N. 01.15 W. at 1420Z/23 at 1445Z vessel is sinking slowly. (Niton Radio, 231541 to C. in C. Portsmouth, R.A.F. 11 Group)

KRAKOW. Coaster KRAKOW en route Rouen hit underwater obstacle 4 miles from Rouen. KRAKOW was drawing 15 ft. forward and charts show 25 feet at place she hit obstacle. Coaster rests on bottom at low water alongside Darseaux Docks. Water at high water. Salvage operation proceeding Obstacle has been marked by buoy. (C.T.F.125, 231545 to D. of S.T.)

TRANSVAAL.. (1) Regret to report the presumed loss H.M.T. TRANSVAAL in following circumstances: TRANSVAAL sailed from France for Plymouth in E.B.C.38 on 16th November and has not arrived Plymouth or any intermediate Port. Convoy was scattered in gale on night 16th/17th. TRANSVAAL was last seen by escort at 0230/17th in position 225 degs. Portland Bill 6 miles and was reported erroneously as having put into Portland. (2) U.S. Liberty Ship CHARLES HENDERSON reported at 0310/18th a ship in position 049 degs. 48' N. 003 degs. 32' W. making S.O.S. by lights but was unable to render assistance owing to gale. Search by ship and A/C 18th proved negative.

/(3) ...

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TRANSVAAL. (3) On 21st BAYNTON recovered 4 bodies of Naval ratings in approx. position 222 degs. Portland Bill 32 miles. Meagre evidence of identity obtained but name of one thought to be A Lloyd. It is understood Stoker A. Lloyd is borne on ship's books of TRANSVAAL.

(Contd.)

(4) EUROPA is requested to inform Admiralty of personnel borne on ship's books of TRANSVAAL.

(5) Following signals not to all addresses refers. (U.S.) Cmde. T.G.125.2, 161032 CHARLES HENDERSON 180310Z (?C. in C. Plymouth) 191552 N.O.I.C.Cardiff, 211533 BAYNTON (?)1655. (C. in C. Plymouth, 231701 to Admty)

L.C.M.340, F.O.I.C.Liverpool's 221716A not to F.O.I.C. Falmouth. M.V.JOHN L. MANSON reported that two L.C.M.'s were lost overboard from deck cargo in Mount's Bay.

L.C.M.424.

(2) L.C.M.340 sank about 50 yards off shore from Looe Bar, Porthleven on - 19th November. L.C.M.424 has not been sighted.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231740A to Admty, Info F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C.Liverpool, F.O.L.I.O.T.)

M.M.S.175. M.M.S.175 has been severely damaged by a near miss mine subsequently striking a wreck. It is intended to complete docking and hull repairs in Antwerp and as much engineering and electrical work as can be carried out during period before return of ship to U.K. for replacing equipment and completing engineer defects.

(2) Further reports will be made. (N.O.I.C.Antwerp 231742A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Antwerp
outward-
bound
shipping.

A.M. 011145 November has been repeated to those not previously addressed. It is also intended that ships from Antwerp for South Coast and ocean convoys shall assemble in the Downs.

(D.T.D. 231154A to C. in C. Nore, V.A.Dover.)

Request following information: (i) Limits of assembly anchorage in The Downs for Antwerp

ships waiting O.N. westbound convoys.

(ii) Cycle of days and number of O.N. convoys 1st Dec. onwards. (N.O.I.C.Antwerp 231230 to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 231230 para.2. O.N.270 sails from Southend on December 1st thereafter every five days.

(2) A.C. Dover will reply to para. 1.

(C. in C. Nore, 231800A to N.O.I.C.Antwerp.)

N.C.S.O.
Oban closed
down.

Your 210115A/November. N.C.S.O.closed down as from p.m. to-day 23rd November. (N.O.I.C.Oban, 231607A to Admty. Info. C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C.Greenock)

/Convoy ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoy - Contd.

Convoy
T.B.C/B.T.C.
escorts.

Refer C.T.F.125's 201720 SEARAIL have been consulted and agree schedule in A.M. 191606. Your 221744 escorts will not change during passage between Southend and Bristol Channel. Request you will confirm that the general arrangements and revised schedule will now meet your requirements. Your 141549 refers.

(2) On receipt of your confirmation and as soon as date of completion of sweeping referred to in A.M. 111803 is known, comprehensive signal with date of commencement of through convoy, will be made to all authorities concerned.
(D.T.D. 231822A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

UNTIRING

Sailing with M.K.S.68, UNTIRING, destination
Rothesay.
(F.O.G.M.A., 231118A to Admty. F.O.(S)).

Gibraltar
Escort
Groups.

The following re-organisation of units of the
Gibraltar Escort Force intended in view of
C. in C. Med's 311809 Oct. 221218 and 221331 none
to all.

2. 38th Escort Group LEIT (S.O.), BARLE, ANCHUSA;
39th Escort Group ENCHANTRESS (S.O.), SHIEL, HYDERABAD; 40th
Escort Group BALINDERRY (S.O.), USK, CYCLAMEN; 41st Escort
Group STORK (S.O.), NESS, STONECROP.

3. The above 4 groups will be employed on continual cycle of
O.S/S.L. convoys.

4. JONQUIL, CONVULVULUS and NADA plus all running boats of the
51st Auxiliary A/S Group will be held for local escort and A/S
duties in Med. Approaches.

5. My 051212 Oct. is thereby cancelled.
(F.O.G.M.A., 231616A to Admty).

CLEOPATRA
(from
Bermuda).

Sailed from Horta at 1645Z/23 CLEOPATRA routed
through (F) 47.01 N., 17.01 W.
(G) 50.11 11.03 thence by eastbound route C to
52.17 05.16 thence route A to Clyde. S. of A. 21
knots, E.T.A. Greenock, 1500Z/26.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 231938Z to F.O.G.M.A., F.O.I.C.
Greenock).

South Atlantic.

MEAD

MEAD taken over by S.A.N.F. as from 27th August
1944. S.A. Memorandum No.06/1/19 of 30th May
44 forwarded under S.A. No, 588/06/1 of 30th May
44 refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 231601 to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

PLUNKETT When relieved in Bombardment Area by MADISON about 1300A/23 proceed Oran compliance C.T.G. 80.6 despatch 201046A. Not to all. Make own sailing despatch.

(C.D.D.25, 230830A to PLUNKETT.)

PLUNKETT sails from (corrupt group) (2 groups missing)

Oran 1400A/23rd.

(2) 25.

(3) Direct 20 39° 45' N. 04° 37' E. thence direct.

(4) 1500A/24th.

(PLUNKETT, 231330A to C.T.G.80.6.)

NEILDS,
BURKE,
ENRIGHT.

This is part 2 of my 221945. New York.

(10) E.T.A. 20° W. 2000/25?) Chop 0700/26.

Ponta Delgada 1200/26 NY XM December 2nd.

(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 231137, and Admty. etc.)

Note: First part of this message has already been circulated under same T.O.O. and relates to sailing of U.S.S. NEILDS etc.

Ships for
B.P.F.

Intend to train ships working up for British Pacific Fleet in bombardment procedure laid down in C.O.G.I.2 (BR.765/44) and C.O.S.B. 2 (BR.766/44.)

(2) Advance copies are being sent to V.A.M. and F.O.L.E.M.)

(C. in C. Med., 231156A to Admty., C. in C. B.P.F.)

Use of
Black Sea
Route by
U.S. ships.

Admty. 211832. General Spalding U.S. Army (supplies) and Captain Frankel U.S. Navy are at present visiting Odessa in connection with use of Black Sea route by U.S. ships.

(2) Frankel is briefed to ascertain safety of routes in Black Sea and approaches to ports etc.

(3) Pending the return to Moscow of these officers in a few days time intend to defer

approach to Soviet Naval Ministry.

(4) Head of U.S. Naval Mission concurs. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Med. and F.O.L.E.M.)

(Admiral Archer, 231215A to Admty.) Further details see 270915A.

Part 3,
Air
Cositintrep
No. 451.

Day 22nd. Coastal Air Force. 10 Beaufighters attacked human torpedo, M.A.S. and F-boat targets at Porto Cigale* with unobserved results.

4 Spitfires destroyed 2 large trucks and damaged 2 M/T and 4 rail trucks in sweep over north east

Italy. Venturas near missed two barges in Sestri Levante. P.999 escorted convoy and

Walruses and Catalina minespotting off South France. Beau-fighters and Mosquitoes patrolled.

(H.Q., M.A.A.F., 231228A.)

*W.D. Note: Air Staff Op. Summ. No.1464, says Porto Vignole, 9 miles E.N.E. of Pola.

/Yugoslavia...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Yugoslavia Summary. G.2 Summary No. 85.
(b) Balkans.
(1) Yugoslavia.
(a) Mitrovica occupied by Bulgars by 21st November.

(b) 21 Corps making determined effort break through Via Podgorica - Niksic road, head of column being reported area Djurovica 22nd November. Troops from Kotor and Radevici moving via coastal road back to Scutari since Cetinje route blocked.

(c) German saboteurs landed Silba night 19/20. Boats reported wrecked but saboteurs had not been rounded up by Partisans by 21st November.

(A.F.H.Q. 231845A to W.O.)

EMILE
BERTIN

F.O.W.M.'s 221612*. Request your very early remarks on view of authorities in Middle East on advisability of French Flag Officer proceeding to Beirut in his Flagship. Ship is due to leave Algiers 26th November. F.O.W.M.'s 171006/ refers. (C. in C. Med., 231903 to F.O.L.E.M.)

Arrival F.S. EMILE BERTIN.
(F.O.W.M. 232026A.)

* Details of movements.

/ Proposed programme for Fr. Cruiser EMILE BERTIN.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- ENGADINE. Departure ENGADINE (?as ordered) in C. in C. E.I. Station's 081237 Nov. E.T.A. Aden 0500Z/29th November, S.O.A. 12.5 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin 230130 to Admty., etc.)
- Troop movement. Arrival U.S.S. GENERAL BUTNER, H.M.S. WESSEX and WAKEFUL.
(F.O. Bombay 230404A to Admty., etc.)
- Fleet minesweepers. 22nd M.S. Flotilla S.O. ship GERALDTON, second S.O. ship H.M.A.S. FIRIE, A.M. 261606Z October para. 6 refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 230514Z to Admty.)
- Convoy programme. War Office message 172120 has been received, para. 2 of which gives a schedule for K.M.F/M.K.F. convoys when 20 days cycle is in operation.
(2) Schedule does not take into account necessity for escort to get back to Aden with homeward bound convoy in time to escort succeeding outward bound convoy, para. 1 of my 210543 refers. Such programme most wasteful of escort even if sufficient were available which is not expected.
(3) Request matter be taken up with War Office and D. of S.T. and programme similar to that in my 210543 agreed to.
(C. in C. E.I. 231214Z to Admty.)
- A.F.D. 55. Your 180338 Nov. para. 2 A.F.D. 55 carries its own mooring tackle with the exception of concrete clumps which require to be manufactured in India.
A.L. M/N.S. 29878/44 of 9th Nov. refers.
(2) Crew will accompany dock.
(D.C.O.D. 231645A to S.O.R.N.E.(I), Info. F.O.L.E.M. C. in C. E.F., CHINKARA.)
- VALIANT, escort to U.K. C. in C. E.F. 211212 not to F.O.C.W.Af. VALIANT should be escorted throughout her passage from Aden to U.K. via the Cape.
(2) All suitable escorts are being withdrawn from Mediterranean for later service in East Indies.
(3) It is not acceptable to divert destroyers allocated to British Pacific Fleet.
(4) Following escort arrangements should therefore be made:-
A. Sail VALIANT in M.C. 14 as proposed in C. in C. E.F. (?211212Z) para. 3, A/S protection being provided while she is anchored off Kilindini.
B. C. in C. S.A. to arrange with F.O.C.W.Af. for two suitable escorts to be sailed to Durban to provide protection to Gib.*
(5) VALIANT is required in U.K. by early February.
(V.C.N.S. 231646A to C. in C. E.I., etc.)
* Names, 241337Z.

/Submarine...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

S/M K.11. In spite of refit Dutch Naval Authorities do not consider K.11 will be satisfactory for further A/S duties. They state that her mechanical condition especially batteries is bad and propose she should be paid off at Fremantle as soon as possible.

(2) Crew would then be available as reserve for other Dutch submarines and for maintenance in MAIDSTONE.

(3) Request your remarks.

(4) B.A.D. is requested to keep Cominch informed.

A.C.N.S.(F) 231851A to C. in C. E.I.)

Reply: 251244Z.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

SOUTHERN PRINCE (for Montreal) E.T.A. Father Point 0500Z/24th. Request pilot for H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE. (SWANSEA, 230659P to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U-boat dispositions Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 231348Z, Cominch, 231511Z.)

T.B.R Aircraft Piarco. Following received:- F.O.N.A.S., Info. S.B.N.O. Trinidad, from Piarco. Reference S.B.N.O. Trinidad's 230917 June to Admiralty. It is anticipated that shortage of T.B.R. aircraft for R/C exercises requiring radar will continue to be acute during period of change-over from Albacore to Barracuda and from A.S.V.Mk. II(N) to A.S.H. As Albacores are also the only aircraft held suitable for air firing it may be necessary to choose between further reduction of radar flying and non-completion of the air firing syllabus. In this eventuality intend to reduce number of air firing flights. 211648 Nov. (2) Suggest approval may be granted provided number of air firing flights does not fall below 9. (F.O.N.A.S. 231635 to Admty.)

T.G.21.6 C.U.49. Task Group 21.6 Capt. Connelley in MAYO, Comcortdiv. 55 in EISNER Cortdiv. 55 Comcortdiv. 35 in CATES, GANDY, OLSEN. Escort Convoy C.U.49 departing New York and Boston 1 - 2 December for U.K. and Continent. (Cinclant, 231805Z to C.T.G.21.6)

Weather Reporting Vessels. J.S.M.385. Following Memorandum (C.C.S.734) received from U.S. Chiefs of Staff: (Abbreviated by W.D.) (Begins). (1) At present the U.S. maintains eight weather reporting and aircraft rescue vessels in western portion of North Atlantic Ocean.

- (2) In that portion of North Atlantic which lies within European Theatre of Operations the British Admiralty maintains only one weather reporting vessel, although this area is about two-thirds as large as area in which U.S. maintains eight such vessels.
- (3) The result is an adequate weather reporting network along airways and sea lanes from U.S. to Iceland, with a large weather blind spot between Iceland and British Isles.
- (4) The blind spot to the south of Iceland is a serious handicap to weather forecasting for bases in British Isles which are the terminals for operational missions over Europe and Trans-Atlantic flights from North America.
- (5) Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces, European Theatre of Operations, has urged that a weather reporting vessel be

/stationed...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Weather
Reporting
Vessels.
(Contd.)

stationed in vicinity of 58° N. 20° W. which is about 500 miles from the British Isles and well within British controlled waters.

(6) U.S. Navy has no vessel available for this assignment without utilizing one of those now on an assigned station.

(8) U.S. Chiefs of Staff, therefore, request that British Chiefs of Staff give consideration to stationing of a British weather reporting vessel in vicinity of 58° N. 20° W. (Ends.)

(2) May we have your instructions, please?
(J.S.M. Washington, 231853Z, to A.M.S.S.O.)

Navicert
System

J.S.M. 388. Following Memorandum received from U.S. Chiefs of Staff (C.C.S.735).
(Begins).

(1) U.S. Chiefs of Staff have received information which indicates that British

Government may not continue the present Navicert system for long after the defeat of Germany.

(2) The Navicert has made it possible for Allied censorship to control completely trans-Atlantic mails. According to U.S. Office of Censorship, by far the most important part of these mails, from a censorship, point of view, is that which passes between Latin America, particularly Argentina, and the Iberian Peninsula. In this channel, a great deal of information has been intercepted relative to activities of enemy agents in Western Hemisphere.

(3) In order to be adequate under the present system of international communications, censorship must be applied on a world-wide bases. Abandonment of Navicert system would mean that many ships and aircraft could begin to carry mail directly from Argentina and other Latin American countries to destinations in Europe which are outside Allied Censorship control. Since one of the fundamental principles of censorship is that where an uncensored channel exists alongside a censored one, the important communications will flow inevitably to the uncensored channel, this condition would probably apply with respect to really important mail, even in a case where the uncensored channel was by sea and the censored one by air. The inevitable conclusion is that if the Navicert is abolished and nothing effective substituted therefore, it is likely that censorship of whatever residue of Latin American-European mail may fall into our hands will be largely wasted effort. Therefore, U.S. Chiefs of Staff would appreciate knowing whether or not present Navicert system will be continued in effect until termination of the present war. In the event that British Authorities propose to abandon the existing Navicert system shortly after termination of war in Europe, it is further requested that U.S. Chiefs of Staff be informed as to what alternative measures are planned to maintain the control of international mail.

(J.S.M. Washington, 232311Z to A.M.S.S.O.) Reply: 041150Z/Dec.

Italian
submarines

Cominch does not agree to allocation DIASPRO, PLATINO and NICHELIO suggested in your 121525,

/and...

23.11.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesItalian
Submarines
(Contd.)

and uses following argument. Allocation of additional submarines on an equal basis in accordance with most recent agreement (communicated to Admty. in B.A.D. 181627 April), gives BANDIERA, JALEA and MENOTTI to British, ATEOPO and SETTEMBRINI to U.S., a three-two distribution in British favour. End of Argument.

(2) We consider BANDIERA should be excluded as being theoretically allocated before the equal basis share-out, although in fact her readiness was much later than that which explains Cominch's attitude.

(3) Even without BANDIERA complication and supposing that equality has been achieved up to allocation of SETTEMBRINI we are faced with problem of assigning three boats equally between two parties.

(4) Would it be possible to include CAGNI with the other three so that a better balance could be offered? C. in C. Med.'s 141250 Sept. suggests Diesel spares for this boat might be available, and it is assumed that with spares she would be the equal of DIASPRO for purposes of negotiation.

(5) Thus we might offer NICHELIO and CAGNI to U.S. and retain PLATINO and DIASPRO ourselves, or some similar division. (B.A.D., 232355 to Admty. etc.)

Australia and New ZealandSerial
No.1037,
Digest
for
Nov. 22nd.

(3) (Day 21st) 8 Lightnings raided Makassar, sinking 5 sea trucks and probably sinking 1 medium merchant ship besides destroying 1 float plane plus probably (?another) float plane. A.A. from escort vessel with barges in Tiworo Strait shot 1 Lightning down.

(4) 1 small cargo vessel with barge seen approaching Guemaras Straits (Panay) from South.

(5) Same time search plane straffed small coaster off central east coast Luzon leaving same sinking. Afternoon previous day (W.D. Note: 21st?) lugger straffed and damaged in San Fernandino Strait.

(8) (Corrupt Group) report Japs landed personnel from 2 launches near Paltmaon night 19th.

(9) Night 21st November P.T. boats destroyed 2 luggers and sea truck, all carrying ammunition, North of Ponson Island heading for Ormoc. Reference activity reported digest 1,036 para. 6, additional 3 laden Jap Barges sunk night 19th making total 7 - 2 luggers.

(10) Submarine sighted Kbievay/10 miles East of Cebu Town noon 21st.

(15) Motor Torpedo Boats destroyed enemy barge beached West Coast Morotai daylight 20th.

(17) 8 Beaufighters swept North Coast Celebes damaging 10 Luggers or barges between Bolaanazeni and Bilrup Bays.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 230800Z.) / (sic)

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23.11.1944
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/23rd November.
(D.D.I.C., 231118A.)

U-boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 231330A, 231335A.)

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24.11.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Prisoners taken since D-day now exceed 700,000.
2. Ostend can now receive ships drawing up to 7 ft. more than the tabulated height of High Water for the day.
3. A U-boat's schnorkel was seen some 17 miles S.S.E. of St. Catherine's Point at midnight, and was attacked by the destroyer ANTHONY, but no wreckage results were seen.

North
Sea

Channel

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

4. Decisions reached during a visit of the C. in C., Mediterranean, to the Admiralty, for the transfer of escort forces to the East Indies and the United Kingdom are outlined in A.M. 241641A and 241720A.

Adriatic

- 5(a) Allied Force Headquarters today reported that Risan, in the Gulf of Kotor, had been recaptured by Partisans, who landed at the village of Perast (immediately opposite Le Catene Channel). They are also operating in the Tivat Peninsula in the Gulf of Kotor. The enemy appears to have withdrawn from the whole of this area.
- (b) M.T.Bs. 287 and 374 went aground last night on Isolotto Levrera Island, in the Great Quarnero Channel, (connecting with the Gulf of Fiume). V.56, with three motor gunboats sailed from Velirat this morning in bad weather, with instructions, if salvage was not practicable, to destroy the boats. This was done after attempts to tow them off had failed, all movable equipment being first taken off. [p.667]

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24.11.1944
FridayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTEast Indies

- Escort Force 6. The title of the Eastern Fleet Escort Force is changed to East Indies Escort Force (E.I.E.F.). The Captain of the Escort Force becomes Captain, East Indies Escorts (C.E.I.E.).
- U-boat 7. The American SS. PIPE SPRING, ^{which} ~~while~~ left Melbourne on November 1st on her way from San Francisco to Colombo and Madras, reported at 1655 that she had sighted and fired on a U-boat in 19.14 N. 86.17 E. (off Puri, Bay of Bengal, north-east). The range was 1,000 yards and visibility very good. Two torpedoes were fired at the ship, the tracks being very close and confirmed by an officer.
- Air Mining. 8. Eight Liberators laid 40 sea mines in the Bangkok River and off Koh Si Jang Island, 48 miles south-east of Bangkok.

China

- Air attacks. 9. Hankow waterfront was attacked last night by 21 Liberators and several fires and explosions were caused, one in a presumed ammunition dump. One Liberator bombed Kowloon Docks and another Samah Bay, Hainan.

America and West Indies

10. The SS. BEAVERHILL, 10,041 tons, grounded at 1040Z on Hilyards Reef, St. John N.B., while leaving harbour, and was abandoned after a tow line had parted.

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24.11.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Raid on
Tokyo

11. Of 111 U.S. Super-Fortresses sent ^{from Saipan} to bomb Tokyo, 44 attacked the Cushashino engine plant of Nakajima, and 56 the docks and urban areas. In visual bombing, 214 tons were dropped from 27,000 to 33,000 feet. Fires were started in the dock area.

Philippines

12(a) Enemy shipping, including three transports and one escort vessel, seen this morning off southern Masbate Island, and believed to be carrying reinforcements for Ormoc, was attacked by fighter bombers from Leyte. Two transports and the escort were sunk, and a third transport set on fire and beached.
(b) A search Liberator probably sank one sea truck westbound off the central west coast of Palawan Island and shot down a covering seaplane.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- M.F.V's. It is proposed to assemble 90ft. M.F.Vs. 1508, 1539 now at Grimsby, 1519, 1520 now at Cardiff, 1518, 1549 now at Holyhead at a Southern port prior to sailing in company to East Indies Station. Request information if these vessels drawing 11 ft. can be accommodated at Falmouth in about 14 days time.
(D.S.V.P., 240038A to F.O.I.C.Falmouth).
- BACHAQUERO. Scapa departure 0921 BACHAQUERO escorted by HAZEL and KARMOY.
(A.C.O.S., 240953 to N.O.I.C.Faroes).
- H.34, My 121908 April and my 042153. Scrapping of H.44, H.50 is to be deferred until A/S Training Commitments decrease and/or these submarines can no longer be economically maintained.
(F.O.S/M, 241012A to Capt. S/M.7.).
- TRUCULENT F.O.(S/M.) 221139.
Route for TRUCULENT escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY from vicinity Thurso by standard route to - all the following positions are north and west:-
A 058° 35' 006° 00' through B 058° 35' 014° 01' C 057° 10' 023° 59' D 055° 02' 034° 03' E 051° 58' 043° 15' F 047° 57' 052° 02' thence St. Johns N.F.
(C. in C.W.A., 241154A to Capts. S/M.3, S/M.9, F.O.I.C.Liverpool).
- ATTACKER, In view of F.O.N.A.S. 231842 (not to Admiralty) STALKER, concurring in C. in C. Plymouth's 221842, my HUNTER. 221851 is cancelled.
(C. in C.W.A., 241150A to ATTACKER, STALKER, HUNTER).
- NEWFOUNDLAND Intend to sail NEWFOUNDLAND passing Clyde light vessel at 1900A/26th November for Scapa E.T.A. 1000A/27th November Gate required 1045 speed of advance 23 knots, NEWFOUNDLAND 211357 refers.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 241456A to A.C.O.S.).
- ROYALIST Admiralty's 201346 and C. in C.Portsmouth 221020 Intend to proceed in ROYALIST at 100 hours 26th E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800 hours 29th. Average S. of A. 18 knots.
(F.O.E.C., 241537A to C. in C.Portsmouth).
- CERES. My 221317 and A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug)'s 231101. Experience has shown that two tugs are most desirable in Coastal towage of C Class Cruisers.
(2) Request a second tug may be allocated.
(C. in C.Plymouth, 241821A to Admty.).

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24.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situations Reports.

Naval.

Cositintrep No.233 Part II Naval.
Unloading figures for 22 November.

British:-

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	-	210	1356	-
Dieppe	78	-	4284	-
Boulogne	9	50	3610	-
Calais	-	24	85	-
Ostend	1444	115	3561	340
Total	<u>1531</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>12896</u>	<u>340</u>
U.S.				
Cherbourg	21	-	12717	9641
Rouen	750	520	3548	140
Brittany Ports	-	43	2342	370
Le Havre	2106	85	5498	-
Total	<u>2877</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>24105</u>	<u>10151</u>
Combined Total	4408	1047	37001	10491

(A.N.C.X.F. 240005A to Admty.).

Cositintrep No.234 Part 2 Naval. Unloading figures for
23rd November.

British:-

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	-	81	1238	-
Dieppe	-	-	2053	-
Boulogne	-	-	3716	-
Calais	-	28	-	-
Ostend	No figures received for 23rd November.			
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>7007</u>	<u>-</u>
U.S.:-				
Cherbourg	-	-	15026	800
Rouen	1978	519	3659	1410
Brittany Ports	-	46	2334	50
Le Havre	1523	363	4715	-
Total	<u>3501</u>	<u>928</u>	<u>25734</u>	<u>2260</u>
Combined Total	3501	1037	32741	2260

Ostend unloading figures for 21st Nov.

657 . 198 4017 6657

(A.N.C.X.F., 242340 to Admiralty).

Military

Enemy resistance to French drive stiffened considerably Mulhouse region. 19th Army counter-attack regained Ensisheim (V.71) Battenheim, Sausheim and Humburg (V.80). Morschwiller Le

Bas (V.60) and Ballersdorf (A.59) lost by the enemy. Over 1,000 prisoners taken at Mulhouse including staff officers of 19th Army. Enemy continues to resist strongly Belfort area holding forts covering eastern exits of town.

In the Vosges enemy withdrawing area Le Thillot-Gerardmer and considerable Allied gains made. St. Die (V.64) cleared of enemy who after fighting stubbornly to east withdrew to north-east

/along...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Military.
(Contd.)

along St. Die - Strasbourg railway to Saales - St. Blaise area (V.57). Allied armour pushed quickly through Saverne Gap as German opposition crumbled. General Gilsa Commander 89 Corps captured. Strasbourg entered by Allies meeting moderate resistance in south-west part of town. Advance north of Saverne captured Ingweiler (Q.83). Advance elements Panzer Lehr Division at Q.6233 to west Ingweiler arrived to help check this drive. Last organised resistance ended in Metz at 221435A. Allied drive within 3 kms. of Merzig captured Fitten (Q.19). In drive west of Cologne heavy opposition and counter-attacks together with bad weather held Allies to small gains to O4 Easting in Hoch Wald forest. After to and fro fighting Peutz-lohn (K.95) lost by elements 3 Panzer Grenadier, 12 and 47 Volksgrenadier Divisions. Pattern (F.05) captured despite enemy infantry and tank opposition. Heavy German counter-attacks launched at Merzenhausen (K.96). Elements 10 S.S. Panzer Division arrived area Gereonsweiler (K.9464) attacking south-west from Linnich (K.96). Weather this sector clearing but road conditions continue poor. After heavy fighting and enemy counter-attacks Hoven (K.8968) three miles north-east of Geilenkirchen captured by Allies during afternoon. In Holland western bank of Meuse Roermund area (K.79) clear of enemy. Light opposition against further Allied advance to within two miles west of Venlo. Difficult ground conditions and booby traps delaying progress however. East of Nijmegen enemy appears sensitive. Prisoners of War. Accumulative total to 2400 hours 20th Nov. (excluding 1st French Army 17-20 Nov., 1st Allied Airborne Task Force 20th Nov.) - 701,614. General. North of Mulhouse enemy not believed to have any prepared or suitable defence position across Rhine Valley. Essential for him to hold at Mulhouse especially in view of his bulge south-westwards towards Belfort, 269 and 30 S.S. Divisions have however taken heavy losses in recent counter-attacks. In area of Saverne Gap and to north and east of it enemy's positions now very involved and difficult, not helped by recent capture of headquarters of Corps responsible. Panzer Lehr Division alone will not be enough to restore situation; 553 and 361 Volksgrenadier Divisions are in a very reduced state and have little fighting value. (S.H.A.E.F., 241630A to War Office.)

Operations

North Sea

Tugs and
balloon
barges for
the Schelde.

Your 171124.
(1) 4 in number Belgian tugs, namely INFATIGABLE, DIRECTEUR GELING, P.V. LETZER and D. JACK LETZER all with Belgian crews, will be ready to leave Medway a.m. Saturday 25th Nov. Request you

/will ...

24.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Tugs and
balloon
barges for
the Schelde
(Contd.)

will sail them as convenient.
(2) Each tug can tow one of the four following
balloon barges SPARTAN, SAXON, HELEN OF TROY,
MARY if this arrangement is acceptable.
(3) Remaining tugs have been delayed by extended
repairs and bad weather on the coast, but it is
anticipated that 2 tugs, EMPIRE ANDREW and
EMPIRE MAPLE will be ready at Tilbury on 28th

November and 6 additional tugs by 2nd December. Confirming signal
will follow later.

(D. of S.T., 240558A to C. in C.Nore).

Patrol.

SOLENT is to establish patrol as follows: length
30 miles direction 000 degs. 180° mid point 058°
45' N. 001° 15' E.

(2) After reaching position 059° 01' N. 001° 35' W. (Capt. (S) 3rd
S.F., 230941 refers) and when TORBAY has made contact, SOLENT is
to proceed on the surface at C.Os. discretion direct to patrol
position in para.1.

(Capt. S/M. 9, 241053A to SOLENT).

Functions of

Your 231455A concur.

S.O.I.S.

(C. in C.Nore, 241539A to A.N.C.X.F.).

*Senior Officer Fishery
Subaction*

Schelde

Your 221234 Nov. and further to my 231712A para.1.

Rescue

The provision of two additional Rescue Tugs to the
Schelde has only been made possible by a
corresponding reduction in the U.K. below the safe
limit and is therefore only admissible provided

tugs.

the mining situation is found to warrant it. (2) Request
therefore that FREEDOM and SEA GIANT may be returned to the Nore
immediately the situation is under control.

(A.N.C.X.F., 241605A to N.O.I.C.Antwerp).

Administration

A.M. 201800A, not to all addressees. Propose that

of Eagle

Eagle ships allocated for defence of Schelde

ships in

Estuary be administered by N.O.I.C.Antwerp. Cdr.

Schelde.

G.T. Blake, D.S.C. R.D. R.N.R. will proceed in

ARISTROCAT, as S.O. of Flotilla. (2) ARISTROCAT

and SKIDDAW will sail on Monday 27th Nov. from

Sheerness. Remaining ships will be sailed when ready. (3) Request

C. in C.Ports. sail GOATFELL direct to Antwerp when ready.

(C. in C.Nore, 241730A to Com. Belgium).

Position

(1) Dredging in Royer Sluis and approaches com-
pleted. Ships up to 30ft. draught can be accepted.

at Antwerp.

(2) Repairs to docks at Ruischanns Sluis due to be
completed by 28th. Dredging in entrance commenced

and will be sufficiently advanced to allow empty ships due this
way by the time they have been discharged. Dredging to 30ft.

will take a few weeks. (3) Mine clearance of river between Hemi-
zem and Bat has been given. Considerable movement of small craft

has taken place so far without mishap. (4) Salvage of wrecks at

river berths has recommenced. (5) Fifty balloon sites are now in

operation rising to 550 in a month. (6) 101 mine watching posts

are in operation. (7) Air defence preparations are completed.

(N.O.I.C.Antwerp, 241844A to Com. Belgium).

/Allocation...

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Friday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.- Contd.

Allocation of
Eagle ships
with Balloon
Barrage.

A.M. 202129A not to all. Arrangements are being made to inspect GLEN USK, JEANIE DEANS, GOLDEN EAGLE, THAMES QUEEN, QUEEN OF KENT, and additionally DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY at Brightlingsea for suitability as accommodation ships for relief R.A.F. personnel to be employed on Schelde Balloon Barrage (D. of S.T.'s. 172040A not to all refers).

Four vessels will be required and disposal instructions for those not selected will follow.

(2) RYDE, SANDOWN and WHIPPINGHAM. Negotiations are in hand with a view to Owners taking over.
(D. of S.T., 242215A to Cs. in C.Portsmouth and Nore).

OperationsChannel.

U-Boat
off St.

Am over submarine position 050° 17' N. 001° 03' W. am attacking Schnorkel seen.

Catherine's Pt.

(ANTHONY, 240001 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

S/M. has dived no contact. Thrower fired by I at Schnorkel, carried out observant, my 240001 refer.
(ANTHONY, 240025A to C. in C.Portsmouth).

Gained contact and carried out attack, contact lost on run out observant.

(ANTHONY, 240123A to C. in C.Portsmouth, VANOC, WALDEGRAVE).

Lost contact. Intend to carry out 'Scabbard' in datum position.

(VANOC, 240456 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

Completed 'Scabbard'. Carrying out box search.

(VANOC, 240553A to C. in C.Ports.).

Your 231222. Intend VIDETTE to remain with VESPER and then to search with VANQUISHER and LE'ESCARMOUCHE join VANOC.

(VESPER, 240650A to C. in C.Ports.).

Cancel my 231222.

(2) VESPER, VANOC, VIDETTE and ANTHONY search area limits given 50° 05' 50° 25' N. 01.00 01.25 W.

(3) VESPER, ANTHONY and WALDEGRAVE return to harbour on relief by VANQUISHER and LE'ESCARMOUCHE.

(4) M.T.Bs. search 5 miles to eastward of H channel between 49° 50' and 50° 10' N.

(C. in C.Ports., 240833 to Ports. A/S Force, VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE, F.O.I.C.Portland).

Search area limits given.

(2) VANOC, VIDETTE 49° 50' 50° 15' N. 00° 55' 01° 15' W.

(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE 50° 00' 50° 23' N. 01° 20' 01° 38' W.

(4) M.T.Bs. 49° 55' 50° 15' N. 01° 45' 01° 55' W.

(C. in C.Portsmouth, 241452A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force at sea in Portsmouth Command).

Cancel my 241452.

(1) VANOC, VIDETTE, VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE carry out search datum position 50.21 N. 01.08 W. Contact in this position was obtained and buoyed by 6 E.O.

(2) M.T.Bs. search limits 01.20 01.38 W. and 49.55 50.15 N.

(C. in C.Ports., 241834A to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).

/Unless...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

U-Boat off St. Catherine's Point. (Contd.) Unless in contact search areas as follows:- VANOC, VIDETTE, VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE 50° 05' 50" 22' N. 01° 07' 01" 25' W. (C. in C.Portsmouth, 242338 to Ports., A/S Patrol Force).

Patrols. E.G.10 pass the gate at 1330A tomorrow Saturday and proceed towards position 180 Wolf Rock 15 miles. (2) Patrol area will be signalled later. (C. in C.Plymouth, 241626A to S.O.E.G.10).

Air Patrols Nov. 25th.

My 201752 patrols 47 and 48 will be flown, call signs below:-
(2) 842 Squadron aircraft R/T "Occult" W/T U.G.T.
(3) 838 Squadron aircraft "Mothburn" W/T S D V.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 241746A to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).
Day A/S Patrols 25th November.

Unless in contact search the area limits given.
(2) VANOC, VIDETTE 50.10 50.20 N. and 01.10 01.35 W.
(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE 49.50 50.10 N. and 01.10 01.20 W.
(4) M.T.Bs. Squares Z.127, 128.
(C. in C.Ports., 241914 to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).
Assume W/T organisation one forthwith and proceed with despatch to carry out zigzag search between 050 degs. 10' N. 002 degs. 45' W. and 049 degs. 50' N. 002 degs. 45' W.
(C. in C.Ply., 242141A to OUTREMONT, LOCH MORLICH).

Operations

Western Approaches

E.Gs. 15 and 6. On completion of training on 25th November N.O.i/c Campbeltown is requested to sail 15th E.G. to Longships thence as ordered by C. in C.Plymouth. (2) On arrival of 15th E.G. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail 6th E.G. to Londonderry for lay over. (C. in C.W.A., 241211A to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown, C. in C.Plymouth).

Situation Report. E.G.19 HESPERUS 3 Frigates operating general area Butt of Lewis. E.G.2 WILD GOOSE 5 Frigates patrolling between North Irish Coast and Barra Head. E.G.4 BYARD 3 frigates and E.G.30 PEVENSEY CASTLE 4 Corvettes operating off south west of Irish Coast. APOLLO sailing Milford Haven 1801A/24th to vicinity 050 degs. 40' N. 008° 30' W. 21 knots. Add to my 241212. (C. in C.W.A., 241430A to Admt.).

Summary of position in Irish Sea. All the Irish Sea in area bounded in the south by a line from Tuskar Rock to St. David's Head and in the north by 55° N. is now a submarine sanctuary. (2) East of 07° W. escorts proceeding to Irish Sea and Bristol Channel ports are to set watch on 2190 kc/s in addition to B.N. Escorts proceeding up English Channel are to set additional watch on appropriate

/port...

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24.11.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches.

Summary of
position
in Irish
Sea.
(Contd.)

port wave and Broadcast C.N.
(3) K.3 and K.4 buoys in Irish Sea are missing from station.
(4) An area dangerous due to suspected enemy mines is enclosed within a circle of 2 miles radius about position 49° 41' N. 06° 47' W.
(5) Milford Haven. Middle Channel Rocks buoy has dragged to the eastward of the rocks and should be disregarded.
(C. in C.W.A., 241542A to Escorts of C.U.47).

Doubtful
U-Boat.

PETROLIA in firm contact position 053° 46' N. 005° 04' W. in 50 fathoms. Report whistle effect no doppler. Peculiar hydrophone on bearing heard from time to time. BOWMANVILLE in company. In view of nearness Rockabill Sanctuary and 480 A.Z. request instructions whether to attack.
(WENTWORTH, 242030A to C. in C.W.A.).
Do not attack, your 242030.
(C. in C.W.A., 242202A to WENTWORTH, PETROLIA).
My 242030A, your 242202A. Both ships now consider contact non-submarine. Rejoining convoy.
(S.O.E.G. C.4, 242250A to C. in C.W.A.).

Necessity
for
exercises
and drills
at sea.

Recent reports of proceedings have shown serious falling off in number and value of exercises carried out at sea whilst on operational duties or on passage.
(2) Except when in actual contact with enemy, no day should pass without exercises or drill of some sort being carried out, be it simple recognition exercises between 2 ships or full scale tactical exercises involving all arms and weapons.
(3) Such exercises are to be reinstated in all groups forthwith on next return to harbour of each group, Comdre.(D) and Capts. (D) are to assist and advise S.Os. in devising suitable exercises and drill for all branches and for all occasions, varying ideas of S.Os. being pooled for common good.
(4) Lists of exercises, S.O. devised and which prove of value at sea should be forwarded by Captains (D) to C. in C. for general promulgation in W.A.G.Os.
(C. in C.W.A., 242354A to S.O.E.Gs.).

Operations

Norway

Patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800/25th November and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
(a) SOKOL, TORBAY as in my 221801.
(b) RUBIS position uncertain. Approx. 61 degs. 01' N. 01° 40' E. through 61° 13' N. 00° 01' E. and 090° Muckle Flugga 10 to

/Lerwick...

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24.11.1944.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Norway

Patrols
(Contd.)

Lerwick. Diving by day east of 01° E. 130 miles in 24 hours. 9 knots on surface west of 01° E. (F.O.S/M, 241828A to Admty.).

VENTURER'S
U-Boat.

U. 771

VENTURER reports, Operation "Hangman".

(1) Nothing to add to her 210143.

(2) 11th November 0837A attacked 740 ton unescorted U-Boat course and speed 195 degs. 13 knots in approx. position 110° Andennes 7 miles.

Fired four torpedoes at 2000 yards range. Loud explosion after 95 seconds followed by small sharp explosions and a rushing noise after a further 80 seconds.

(3) VENTURER prevented from subsequent investigation by approaching H.E.

(4) No other shipping sighted except Fishing Vessels and small coasters.

(F.O.S/M, 242103A to Admty.).

Operations

Northern Waters.

Supplies for
Finmark
via
Murmansk.

S.H.G.D.Ss. 211300 is being passed to you with reference to my 161513. (Adm. Archer, 241121Z to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Russian
S/M.Chasers
for Convoy
J.W.62.

C. in C.H.Fs. 182203 para. (3) E. and C. in C. W.As. 211753 para. 4 (E).

(2) N.O.I.C.Lamlash is requested to sail Russian S/M. Chasers 1482, 1486, 1511, 1493 and 1505 to R/V with BULLDOG (S.O.), off Lamlash entrance at 0800A/27th November where BULLDOG will embark

Capt. Zinovieff and Liaison Officer.

(3) Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail S/M Chasers from Londonderry to R/V with BEAGLE at Lough Foyle Buoy at 1100A/27th November thence in company to join BULLDOG and 5 S/M Chasers off McArthur Head at 1600A/27th November.

(4) Route via Sound of Islay west of Skerryvore through Minches to position (A) of Red route 059° N. 005° 30' W. to

(b) 059° 40' N. 004° 25' W. to (c) 062° 05' N. 004° 30' W. thence to Skaalefiord E.T.A.1700A/29th November.

Estimated speed of advance 10 knots.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 241204A to N.O.I.C.Lamlash, Com.D.W.A.).

P.C.S. 1300Z 55.28 N. 16.19 W. (X) 087 14 knots.

Altering in 55.40 N. 10.01 W. 093 MONTSERRAT PARRY SOUND 5th and 6th Groups Russian Submarine chasers in company E.T.A.

Lough Foyle present speed 1300Z/Saturday. Weather report, 4578 9273.

(GLACE BAY, 241315Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Patrols.

Situation 2000 position Friday 17th E.G.S.O. ASCENSION patrol between 059° 46' 004° 30' W.

/and...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters.

Patrols and 060° 16' 005° 20' W. E.G.19th HESPERUS
(Contd.) S.O. patrolling Butt of Lewis Area, BACHAQUERO,
KARMOY, HAZEL 060° 15' 004° 40' W. to Faroes 10.
(A.C.O.S., 241232 to Admty.).
Position at 2103A/24th Nov. U.R.144 OXLIP 061°
52' 019° 50' (7322°) 7.
HONEYSUCKLE, CHARLOCK patrolling between Reykjanes and 063° 00'
022° 30' U.S.S. SPRY vicinity 063° 00' 031° 30'.
(A.C.I.C., 241330A to Admty.).

Convoy My 221625A group 16 sailed at 1400A.
R.A.61 (2) All ships hold S.P.2272 (33) and (34).
(3) Signalman Hartley in Russian destroyer BAKU
S.O. escort, for Polyarnoe.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel, 241830A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia,
(Polyarnoe)).

Convoy	Following tankers expected sail in J.W.62.		
J.W.62	BRITISH RESPECT	10294	Alcohol.
	EMPIRE GARRICK	7144	Aviation Spirit.
		2109	Alcohol.
	LONGWOOD	10005	Aviation Spirit.
	LAURELWOOD	8023	Fuel oil.
		490	Diesel.
	LUCULUS	7574	Fuel oil.
		777	Diesel.

All arrival draughts about 26 feet.
(M.W.T., 242145A to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Suspected Investigate A.S.V. contact grade 1 by aircraft
U-Boat. G/330 in position 060 degs. 30' N. 004° 50' W.
homing procedure Charlie. Wireless call sign
of aircraft Jig George Yoke 85.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 242246A to S.O.E.G.17).

Mining

Seine Cherbourg Y Squadron making search sweep H.10 to
Mouth 14 E 24 November. Meantime request all shipping
minesweeping. be routed H channel.
(C.T.F.125, 24007 to C. in C.Ports.).

Deep mining C. in C.W.A's. 152336. Carry out operation
in St. C.F.B.4 at 1800 November 24th.
George's (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 241021A to APOLLO).
Channel. My 241031A. Sailed APOLLO.
(F.O.I.C.Milford, 241809A to C. in C.W.A.).

Sweeping of Your 231647 arrangements are in hand.
Katie mines (Capt. M/S F.A., 241301A to C. in C.Nore).
in Schelde.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

42nd and
40th M.S.Fs.
to Dieppe.

Pass Spithead Gate 0800A/25th and proceed with all available ships of the 42nd and 40th M/S. Flotillas in company to Dieppe.
(2) Route by channel Z.K. and route K.E. to 58E buoy. Carry out E.G.M.S.LL and S.A. sweep from 58E buoy to HD2 buoy on passage.
Capt.M/S N.F. 230929A refers.
(C. in C.Ports., 241457A to M/S 42).

M.M.S. to
Ostend.

Ref. Cdr. M/S and P. Lowestoft 231109. Intend to sail M.M.S.252 (S.O.), 251, 257 at 1700 anchoring Cork Light vessel for tonight proceeding at daylight tomorrow Saturday 25th in company for Ostend. Route via 263, 446, 468, 596, 581 and 584 Q.Z.S. Ships to act accordingly.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 241710A to Com. Belgium).

Mines
detonated
off Humber.

My 231901 and C. in C.Nore's 251708A October 1943. Two groups of M.M.S. were used and in each case mine was detonated by follow-up formation. Time interval between sweeps approx. 20 minutes.
(F.O. Humber, 241810 to C. in C.Nore).

Minesweepers
for Le
Havre.

Reference M/S 182 181310 November ESMEALDA and BRYNMARIC expected arrival Portsmouth p.m. today, Friday, 23rd November. These ships are urgently required for special M/S. operations and completion of defects should be given the highest priority.
(2) ESMEALDA will require slipping on arrival.
(Vice Controller, 241944A to A.S.Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence

Hospital
ships
revert.

Germans intimate, ships GIESSEN, GONTTINGEN and GRIEFSWALD are no longer in service as hospital ships.
(Air Ministry, 241145Z to H.Qs. Bomber and Coastal Commands).

German
military
transport
movements.

My 231647.
(1) Following convoy left Aarhus November 17th believed en route to Norway MOLKTEFELS, MARS, SUDERAU, BERKENAU and Hospital ship GLUCKAUF escorted by 1 Sperrbrecher 1 torpedo boat 4 M class M/S and 2 patrol vessels.
(2) Details of cargo are lacking except in case of BIRKENAU which carried oil, furs, boots and deck cargo of reserve petrol tanks for fighter A/C see my 201041.
B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 241222 to Admty.).
N.I.D.Comment:- Para.1 believed to be a good report.

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HOME COMMANDS

U-Boats

U-Boat situation report N.E.Atlantic. One estimated within 45 miles of Fastnet moving east or south east. Attacks by ANTHONY at 2301Z/23rd, and LOCH MORLICH at 0815Z/24th indicate one possibly between Isle of Wight and Cherbourg. (Admty., 241348A to Cominch).

Port Facilities.

Morlaix. KIRRIEMOOR arrived Morlaix p.m. 23rd November. BARCOMBE and BARCOCK did not sail from Plymouth owing to defect which requires dockyard assistance. PLANTAGENET is at Morlaix. KIRRIEMOOR is proceeding into inner road a.m. today 24th and work will be started forthwith on backing up Liberty ship moorings. Request mails for all ships be forwarded to C.T.G.125.14. Carentec. Request signal be transmitted through C.T.G.125.14. (KIRRIEMOOR, 241002A to C. in C.Portsmouth).

Great Yarmouth. As A.F.D.(B.A.2) would draw two feet more water than A.F.D.38 when docking coastal force craft there is insufficient water in dock berth to use A.F.D.(B.A.2) here. Further dredging impracticable owing to danger of quay collapse and no other berth is available. (2) Overall length of A.F.D.(B.A.2) is 117 feet, overall length D class Fairmiles is 115 feet which leaves no space in A.F.D.(B.A.2) for withdrawal of shaft. (3) Consider therefore A.F.D.(B.A.2) will be of no use here. Admiralty 182232A November. C. in C.Nore's 201417A November and 201418A November refer. (F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 241732A to C. in C.Nore).

Ostend. My 161501A/October N.O.I.C.Ostend reports ships drawing up to 7ft. more than height of high water at Ostend can now be accepted. (C. in C.Nore, 241900A to V.A. Dover, C. in C.Ports. N.O.I.C.Newhaven).

Casualties and Defects

CYRUS. In view of damage and resultant defects sustained by JAUNTY and GRIPER making it impossible for either tug to tow, intend to sail GRIPER in tow of tug ATTENTIF with JAUNTY in company to Portsmouth a.m. Saturday 25th. Request suitable tugs may be sailed with ELFREDA to attempt salvage of CYRUS before November 30th. (Capt. M/S. North Africa, 241419 to C. in C. Portsmouth, Info. F.O.B.A.A., N.O.i/c. Arro. (U.S.), Cmdr. Task Force 125, Admty., ELFREDA, A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug)).

GRETHE MORTENSEN. Regret to report loss of M.F.V. GRETHE MORTENSEN abandoned in sinking conditions in position 040° Foreland buoy 4 miles at 0900/7th

/November...

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Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

GRETHE November. Crew safe. Capt M/S. Sheerness
MORTENSEN 071431 about confidential books refers.
(Contd.) (C. in C.Nore, 241707A to Admty.).

Shipping and Convoys

First Cdre. Belgium 222052 and A.N.C.X.F. 222115.
convoy Intend sailing for Antwerp from Southend tomorrow
for 25th LYSLAND, THYRA III, FANO, M.F.Vs.
Antwerp. RENAISSANCE, BLANCHE, MARGUERITE, PHARAWDE,

ELIZABETH GILBERT, LUCIENNE CHRISTIAN and DE DIE
GEZUSTERS, tug SEA GIANT. Also for Terneuzen.
Trawler ANDYK and WARDOUR. Also join at Dumpton from Dover for
Antwerp tug ANTIC and DEXTEROUS. Groups escorted Terneuzen by
corvette MIMICO.

(2) Time table Thames Gate 1400A/25th Dumpton Buoy 2000A/25th
N.F. 8 Buoy 0415A/26th N.F.18 Buoy 0830A/26th speed of advance
6 knots.

(3) Request sea pilot may board all ships including escorts in
vicinity N.F.8 buoy and River pilot be provided off Terneuzen.

(4) Ships will be routed N.F.18 buoy.

(5) Your 231850 MERKOP proceed to Ostend tomorrow 25th in
T.A.C.56A PASOP will be ready to sail 27th.

(6) My 231659 cancel reference to ANDYK and WARDOUR proceed to
Ostend for onward routeing.

(C. in C.Nore, 241845A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp).

Calling My 231007 following procedure has been agreed
forward with Com. Zone for calling forward and diversion
and of U.S. ships to Antwerp.
diversion (a) Com. Zone will make all such requests for
of U.S. ships for action to N.O.I.C. Antwerp. Info to Admiralty Com.
Antwerp. Belgium, A.N.C.X.F.(Buco), C. in C.Nore, C.T.F.125
and other U.S. Army Authorities as desired by
Com. Zone.

(b) N.O.I.C. Antwerp will finally call ships forward in
accordance with priorities given by Com. Zone and situation in
port.

(2) To facilitate initial working Com. Z. will attach an officer
to N.O.I.C. Antwerp, N.O.I.C. Antwerp is to report at once if
any difficulties are experienced.

(A.N.C.X.F., 241853A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp, Com. Belgium).

It is requested that vessels destined Antwerp now anchored
Solent be routed to last anchorage Downs at least three days in
advance of date set for final sailing. Vessels other U.K.
anchorages will be sailed by Admiralty and placed in position last
anchorage to assure arrival when due. U.K.510A August U.S. ST.
GAUDENS outloaded Cherbourg due Antwerp A plus 2 should be sailed
Solent in time to permit onward routeing for Antwerp.

(H.Q.U.K.Base London, 242248A to Admty.).

Procedure My 201445 U.K. - Antwerp convoys are to be formed
of Convoys into 2 columns between Dumpton and N.F.8 buoy.
between (C. in C.Nore, 242347A to N.O.I.Cs. Southend,
U.K. and Antwerp).
Antwerp.

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Friday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

INDEFATIGABLE C. in C. Med. 231523 A.M. 221(008? or 115)
(from Home) neither to all. Onward route from position (N)
direct to position (Q) 035° 51' N. 006° 10' W.
thence through position 37, 50, 109, 122, 120
thence by QBB 29 to Algiers.

(2) Request you report your E.T.A. Algiers on passing Europa
Point.

(F.O.G.M.A. 241035A to INDEFATIGABLE)

HURON

Arrived Horta at 1015Z/24th HURON.

(2) C. in C. C.N.A. 202223* Para. (5).
Request route.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 241318Z to Admty.)

* Onward route to Cardiff.

HURON. Your 241318.

(H) 43.01 N. 25.02 W. (J) 46.50 N. 20.08 W.
(K) 49.11 N. 15.35 W. (L) 180° Fastnet 10 miles and by
standard coastal route C. to Cardiff.
(Plot (O.D.) 241656A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

ACTIVITY,
EMPEROR,
E.G.5,
M.K.F.36.

ACTIVITY and EMPEROR, both non-operational, plus
merchant vessels as in my 241129, not to all,
escorted by E.G.5 in AYLMER with TYLER, BLIGH and
GARLAND will join as convoypasses between
Europa and (corrupt group).

(2) Gibraltar section and escort will burn
navigation lights until joined up.

(3) After passing Europa Point keep to northern half of strait
thence through new position BZ 35.59 N. 06° W. BA 36.50 N.
09.30 W. thence to HK omitting HJ.

(4) Amend position HM to read 270° Bishop Rock 23 miles.

(F.O.G.M.A. 241734A to Ships escorting M.K.F.36 for Commodore)

South Atlantic

R.N.A.S.
Hastings.

F.O.C.W.A. 241035. Received undecypherable.
Repeated in 260545Z. q.v.

VALIANT
escort
to U.K.

Admty. 231646A. WYE and DOVEY only two long
endurance frigates in my command will be made
available from 2nd December.
(F.O.C.W.A. 241337Z to C. in C. S.A.)

/KILHAM...

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

KILHAM
(Collision
damage
14/11.)

KILHAM (auxiliary A/S vessel) has been damaged on the port quarter as follows (details).
(2) Request you will inform me if ship can be repaired at Dakar and if so it is intended that CROCUS should tow her with most of the materials for repair on board to arrive on 4th December.

Desired that repairs should be carried out without prejudice to docking of escort vessels.
(3) Materials not in stock at Freetown are being ordered from U.K. for delivery at Dakar (list).
(F.O.C.W.A. 241817Z to Comar Dakar.)

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanAdriatic
Operation

My 232027 para. 3. (N.T. in W.D.) Request air arm strikes whenever possible. Can the R.A.F. set fire to the woods round some of these caves?
(L.C.H.282, 240325, to S.N.O.N.A., Info. F.O.T.A.L.I., N.L.O.B.Af.)

M.T.B.287
and 374
aground

V.56 with 3 M.G.B. sailed from Velirat routed west of San Sego and Unie Islands to Levera Island. (?Isolotto Levrera). E.T.A. 1200A to assistance of Vospers, aground on Levera. Request fighter protection and friendly aircraft be warned.
(L.C.H.282, 240852, to F.O.T.A.L.I., S.N.O.N.A., N.O.I.C. Bari, N.L.O.B.Af., Info, 287 Wing, 323 F.R.U.)

My 240852. Weather outlook bad. V.56 has instructions to destroy M.T.B.287 and 374 if salvage is not practicable. N.L.O.B.A.F. pass my 240852 to C.F.W.
(L.C.H. 241153)

Raid
on
Kos.

Daily Opsum No. 576. 23rd November, 8 Balmores (A.30) bombed small craft in Kos Harbour. Cloud hampered observation, but photographs taken by another Baltimore show bursts on quay and slips nearby. A/A guns on slips silenced.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 241121Z.)

Electrician
Shortage,
delays

Following is repetition of C. in C. Med.'s 061638* November. (Begins) Addressed as above from C. in C. Med. Completion of three L.C.T.Rs. and conversion of Fairmiles by 31st January in Levant is doubtful owing to shortage of electricians. A.M. 311133 July and A.M. 182321 October refer.

(2) Work cannot be undertaken elsewhere on the station.
(3) Request priorities may be allocated. (Ends). (2) Alex. C.C.O. 231710 not to all refers.
(Caserta C. C.O., 241126A, to Admty.)

* No trace of former receipt in War Registry.

Air
Report

Summary of operations ending 1800 hours 23rd November.

Coastal Details. A Wellington and 2 Beaufighters on night armed R/C from Maestra Pt. to Cape Promontore, having no sightings, bombed Grado.

3 Wellingtons on same patrol, attacked 4 F-boats E. of Venice and probably damaged one, and bombed 3 vessels N.E. of Tagliamento Pt. and the wakes of others. 2 Beaufighters with 2 Spitfires patrolling over the area later saw 2/3000 ton tanker on fire and another similar tanker nearby was attacked with R.P. and cannon and exploded in flames. A cluster of barges was also attacked on lake Marano and hit with R.P. and cannon.

/Venturas...

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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Air Report (Contd.) Venturas on armed R/C Spezia - Genoa bombed two barges and 8 F-boats off Spezia without results. (H.Q., M.A.A.F., 241140Z)

Air Communique, Aegean It was announced from H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, today. R.A.F. Light Bombers of Middle East Command operating from Eastern Mediterranean Bases yesterday attacked Kos Harbour. Bursts were seen on the quay and nearby slips and guns firing from the quay were silenced. Since the beginning of October Eastern Mediterranean Aircraft have been continuously engaged in cleaning up operations in the Aegean. Among the targets attacked have been Maleme Aerodrome, Crete; Calato Aerodrome, Rhodes; Coastal Defence Batteries at Melos; and enemy held buildings and camps at Naxos, Calinos and Rhodes. Intruder operations have been maintained over Crete and the Dodecanese. From all these operations two of our aircraft are missing. (G.H.Q. Cairo, 241130B.)

South Aegean Summary. Up to 0900 hours 24th November. Rhodes. Departed since November 21st two landing craft sunk by Naval Force night 21/22 near Calchi. Este Lighter Anna reported by ground source to have taken 500 Turks from Rhodes to Turkey November 21st. This evacuation suggested in our signal November 20th. Alinnia. Departed one launch 40/60. Latest report states Naval Force sank one craft near Calchi p.m. 23rd November. This probably one launch last located Alinnia. (C. in C. M.E. 241205B.)

Black Sea N.L.O. Black Sea 241255. See F.O.L.E.M. 250925.

GRADISCA Ref. para. 3 of my 221822 (Disembarkation of sick and wounded from German Hospital Ship GRADISCA. Expected time of Departure) a.m. Sunday 26th November. (F.O.W.M., 241540A to C. in C. Med.)

EMILE BERTIN, proposed visit to Beirut. French visit considered most undesirable by G.O.C. in C., High Commissioner and myself. (F.O.L.E.M. in AURORA, 241620 C. in C. Med.) Reply: 271147A. Your 231903. F.O.L.E.M. in AURORA 241620 has been passed to Admiralty, F.O.W.M. and S.B.N.O. Greece. (F.O.L.E.M., 242211B, to C. in C. Mediterranean, Info. Admty., F.O.W.M., S.B.N.O.(G))

/Transfers...

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FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Transfers
of Escort
Forces.

Following decisions arrived at during C. in C. Mediterranean's visit to Admiralty:

(1) Mediterranean Escort Force (British) to be limited to 18 Hunts, 10 Corvettes and 12A/S trawlers and whalers.

Escort Force of 4 Corvettes to release an equivalent number of frigates.

(3) Transfer from Mediterranean Command to East Indies Stations:

A.A. Sloops: STORK, ERNE.

Sloops: FLEETWOOD, BIDEFORD, DEPTFORD.

Frigates: DART, SHIEL, BARLE, USK, EVENLODE, NESS, INVER, AIRE, ODZANI.

Hunts: BLACKMORE, CALPE and 10 to be nominated by C. in C. Mediterranean to include as many Type III and IV as possible. [Names - p. 465]

(4) Transfer from Mediterranean Command to U.K. 1 Corvette and 5 A/S trawlers or whalers nominated by C. in C. Mediterranean.

(5) Arrangements will be made for all ships allocated to East Indies to return to U.K. to give leave and adjust complement, and for refits where necessary. Separate signals will be made.

(V.C.N.S., 241641A to C. in C. Med.) Reply C. in C. Med. 271227A. A.M. 241641A para. 5.

Following arrangements proposed for refit of escorts joining East Indies Station.

(1) Group I. FLEETWOOD, DEPTFORD, BARLE, USK, SHIEL, NESS return to U.K. for leave and adjustment of complement on completion of present escort duty. Vessels to be docked in Mediterranean during passage to East Indies.

(2) Group II. BIDEFORD, DART, EVENLODE to be taken in hand in Mediterranean as soon as practicable for short refit, returning to U.K. for leave and adjustment on completion.

(3) Group III. ERNE, INVER, AIRE, ODZANI to be taken in hand for about month's refit returning to U.K. on completion

(4) STORK to return to U.K. by end December for one month's refit at Portsmouth including replacement of port gearing.

(5) Request you will remark on above programme and make proposals for refit of 10 remaining Hunts.

(6) Requirements for practices in Mediterranean on passage out will be communicated as soon as extent of personnel adjustments is known.

(7) Target date by which as many vessels as possible should reach the East Indies is 1st March 1945.

(D.O.D.(F) 241720A to C. in C. Med.)

KISTNA,
KOLA.

KISTNA E.T.A. Trincomalee early January, KOLA end of December.

Your 171206.

(F.O.L.E.M. 241750 to C. in C.E.F.)

Italian
S/Ms.

Italian A/S training S/Ms A.M. 221016 not to all addressees. MENOTTI and BANDIERA (Sister ships) are allocated F.O.L.E.M., F.O.T.A.L.I. (Taranto) is requested to sail MENOTTI to destination desired by F.O.L.E.M.

(2) JALEA allocated to F.O.G.M.A. F.O.L.E.M. is requested to sail her for Gib. as convenient.

(3) ZOEA is to return to Taranto for refit.

(C. in C. Med., 241909A to F.O.T.A.L.I. (Taranto), F.O.L.E.M., V.A.M.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Yugoslavia,
Army
operations.

G.2 Summary No. 84.
B.1. Yugoslavia. Risan recaptured by
Partisans who also landed Perast and also operating
Tivat Peninsula of Gulf Kotor. Latter place and
Radovice reported evacuated by enemy who appears
to be withdrawn from whole area.
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O. Recd. 1212/24.)

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SS. PIPE
SPRING
attacked
by U/B.

SSSS now 19.14 N. 86.17 E. submarine sighted,
firing at same.
(PIPE SPRING No T.O.O.)
My 241553 (N.T. in W.R.) Can sighting be confirmed
as submarine? What was range?
(C. in C. E.F. 241646Z to PIPE SPRING.)
My 241646*. Could this have been motor fishing
vessel?
(C. in C. E.I. 241728Z, to PIPE SPRING.)
* Possible submarine sighting.

Your 241655. Were tracks close and clearly seen? Were they
confirmed by an officer?

(C. in C. E.I. 241907Z to PIPE SPRING.)

Refer your 241228Z (241728 intended). Report of enemy
submarine correct. Range was 1000 yards. Visibility very good
and easy to identify surface vessels. Two torpedoes were
definitely fired. Periscope wake definitely identified.

(PIPE SPRING 242130Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Your 241908Z (?241907 intended.) Tracks were very close
and clearly seen. They were confirmed by an officer.

(PIPE SPRING 242240Z to C. in C. E.I.)

S/M
STOIC

STOIC sailing (?on) 1st December for 7 days
patrol in west Sunda Strait, proceeding thence to
Ceylon passing through

(A) 006° 30' S., 104° 00' E. at 1100Z/17th

December. C. in C. East Indies Station is requested to signal
onward route from (A) Speed of advance 9 knots. STOIC will guard
"Baker" until 12(00)Z/17th and broadcast V from 1200Z/17th.

(C.T.F.71, 240221, to C. in C. E.I.)

U/B
dispositions.

Area VP and CB 2 north 005° north and east of 080°
East, scale X 5 P. Area KD 3, scale X 5. Other
areas, scale W.5.

(C. in C. E.I., 240442).

ATHELING,
BATTLER,
STRIKER,
FENCER,
ACHILLES.

Intend sailing ATHELING (A.M. 021806 Nov. refers).
BATTLER (A.M. 021805 refers) STRIKER, FENCER and
ACHILLES from Ceylon 9th Decmber for Sydney.

2. Request mail for ACHILLES, BATTLER, STRIKER
and FENCER be diverted accordingly.

(C. in C. E.I., 240621Z to Admty).

HOWE,
QUILLIAM,
QUADRANT,
QUALITY,
QUIBERON.

4 destroyers accompanying HOWE are QUILLIAM,
QUADRANT, QUALITY, QUIBERON; C. in C. British
Pacific Fleet 220540 'N.T. in W.D.) refers.

(2) Request mail for above ships be diverted to
Sydney.

(C. in C.E.I. 240626Z to Admty.)

E.I.E.F.
C.E.I.E.

The title of British Pac. Fleet Escort Force* is
changed to East Indies Escort Force short title
E.I.E.F. Capt. Fleet Escort Force will become

/Capt. ...

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24.11.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

E.I.E.F.,
C.E.I.E.
(Contd.)

Capt. East Indies Escorts short title C.E.I.E.
(C. in C. E.I. 240829, 154C)
*W.R. Note. Presumably Eastern Fleet Escort
Force intended.
Appropriate Groups in Codes and Cyphers amended
to read British Pacific Fleet but Originators
Books apparently not corrected.

804 Sqn.
F.A.A.

To clarify requirements for 804 Squadron. Your
201243 November refers.

(2) State of training is expected to be as
envisaged in para. 3 of your 071043 November.

(3) Concur generally with programme as outlined
in N.A.S. Wingfield's 221226 November.

(4) On completion of D.L.T. Squadron and personnel are to be
embarked in AMEER for transporting to Ceylon.

(5) Flying training will be carried out. In addition a
qualified officer of R.A.N.A.S. I.O.'s staff is embarked in
AMEER to give ground training and lectures in bombardment spotting.

(6) Para. 2(b) of your 201243. No additional stores other
than asked in para. 2 my 201201 November are required to be
embarked.

(C. in C. E.I., 241027Z to C. in C.S.A. Station (Capetown)).

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(Cominch 241459Z, N.S.H.Q. 241424Z.)

COCOPA,
LEE FOX,
B.D. 494.

Addressees pass interested Army authorities. U.S.S. COCOPA towing Crane Barge B.D. 494 to Horta P.C.S. 1000, 36.20 N. 34.48 W. 077 speed 7 E.T.A. forenoon 26th. Army tug L.T. 786 lost this tow 17th when towing engine failed, also lost tow wire and damaged towing engine. Service tug recovered tow 18th and transferred to COCOPA. LEE FOX now escorting will accompany COCOPA to 29° W. then break off to rejoin convoy. L.T. 786 requires replacement 1800 ft. 1½" diameter wire hawser. Also main engines failed repeatedly last 24 hours. Am making temporary repairs. On 25th, will send 786 to Horta under tow if necessary to effect repairs and take charge of tow. Will report break off. Request N.O.I.C. Horta fuel COCOPA upon arrival and sail her rejoin. She is urgently needed with C.K. 4 position 1000 36.53 N. 31.15 W. 077 (5) times Z. Weather. (C.T.G. 27.4 241510Z to Cominch, etc.)

Submarine
O.21.

H.M.N.S. O.21 now scheduled River run at completion yard overhaul 28 November. Ursec 222103. C.O. recommends 10 December for final departure. (Com. 4th Nav. Dist. 241630 to Cominch.)

H.X. 318.

Average speed 9 knots. Arrived at splitting position 51° 05' N. 10° 20' W. at 0600Z/18. All arrived. (D.T.D. 241833A to Connnav., etc.)

SWANSEA.

E.T.A. 0200Z/26th. My P.C. 048° 26' N. 063° 30' W. 150° Brickwork in one boiler collapsed, attempting temporary repairs, present speed 13.5 knots. Boiler hours 1268 and 1212. (?SWANSEA, 242305Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial
No. 1038,
November 23rd.

Navy Mariner over North Borneo early hours bombed and hit one destroyer escort off south coast Balabac Island. Fire spread over entire ship and 40 minutes later only lying low and superstructure remained above water.
(3) Previous night R/C plane reported nil shipping Brunei Bay but early 22nd November four roving Liberators claimed two hits with 1000 pounders on 16A merchant ship amongst two or three other ships there.
(4) After dark 23rd November U.S. submarine contacted two large unidentified ships just north of dangerous ground routed 60° speed 14 knots.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest Serial (6) Leyte based 5th Air Force fighter-bombers
No. 1038, flew sorties involving at least 56 Thunderbolts
Nov. 23rd. 4 Lightnings, 10 Kittyhawks against enemy shipping
(Contd.) Ormoc Bay area also supplies and installations
Ormoc sector 21st November. Aggregate one sea
truck one coaster sunk. Another small coastal
freighter set afire and one sea truck one lugger
damaged besides minimum 15 barges damaged or destroyed along
coast south-east of Ormoc.
(12) 20 Lightnings from Morotai raided Mandai drome and shipping
off Makassar morning 22nd finding newly arrived aerial reinforce-
ments. 22 fighters, 3 bombers destroyed on ground. One medium
merchant ship sunk. One gunboat 12 sea trucks damaged plus one
float plane destroyed. Nil opposition reported.
(13) Search Liberator sank one sea truck off Karlsruin, Makassar
Strait, 21st November.
(15) 22nd Dauntless and Corsairs dropped 22 tons bombs on small
craft Keravia Bay Port, Duke of York Island, sinking or damaging
several already disabled barges and small patrol craft.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 240755Z.)

21st M/S. 21st M/S. Flot. under the command Cdr. F.B.Morris,
Flotilla. R.A.N. will be (?constituted) as from 0001Z/1st
December.
(Comsoupleafon, 241506Z to all N.Os.i/c.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/24th November.
and sighting Para. B. (a) A/C M/224 sighted oil streak and
summary. obtained radar contact at 1400Z/21st Nov. in 63°
23' N., 05° 16' W.
(2) A/C X/162 investigated possible wake or swirl
at 1125Z/23rd Nov. in 62° 47' N., 21° 58' W.
(3) Iceland fishing boat reported U-Boat in 64° 02' N., 22° 43' W.
between 1800Z/22nd and 2301Z/22nd Nov.
(4) ANTHONY attacked Schnorkel at 2301Z/23rd Nov. in 50° 17' N.,
01° 03' W.
Para. C. (1) LOCH KILLIN (E.G.17) attacked bottomed contact
possibly wreck at 0700Z/23rd Nov. in 60° 46' N., 03° 23' W.
(2) A/C investigated suspicious oil patch at 1550Z/23rd Nov. in
55° 45' N., 07° 58' W.
(3) E.G.30 attacked contact considered non-submarine at 0849Z/23rd
Nov. in 51° 10' N., 10° 16' W.
(D.D.I.C., 241107A.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 241357A, 241409A.)

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25.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. General Eisenhower is anxious that the Press should make no feature of the opening of Antwerp, for which port the first convoy sails today. The enemy is attacking the port with flying bombs and stratosphere rockets, and Supreme Headquarters do not wish to stimulate this activity.

Channel.

2(a) L'ESCARMOUCHE has attacked a contact off Portsmouth, producing a large patch of oil.
(b) Rouen now has 9835 ft. of quayside space available, 3671 ft. of which, however, is limited to 16 ft. draughts.

Western Approaches.

3. APOLLO has completed the laying of a deep anti-U-Boat minefield in St. George's Channel.

Northern Waters.

4(a) Seventeenth Escort Group has followed up an aircraft report and obtained two hits with hedgehogs 100 miles west of the Shetlands in some 500 fathoms. Oil continued to come to the surface for 9 hours, and the S.O. is in no doubt that he has destroyed a U-Boat.
(b) Civilian supplies for Northern Norway are to be sent in Convoy J.W.62, and two Norwegian corvettes and 4 trawlers are to accompany the convoy to assist in their distribution.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

MONTE
ALBERTIA
intercepted.

5. The Spanish motor vessel MONTE ALBERTIA was intercepted at 1030 by Lyautey-based Liberator in 32.07 N., 13.40 W. She was on passage from Las Palmas to Bilbao. The A/S vessel KILMINGTON was later ordered to intercept the ship and accompany her to Gibraltar. This was done at 0745A in 34.25 N., 10.28 W. (west of Rabat, Morocco).

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25.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

China

6. Three Liberators attacked and sank a submarine chaser last night, south of Hainan Island. They also claim to have probably destroyed a second and damaged a light cruiser.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

7. Aircraft on search over the Central Philippines attacked a small freighter off the south-west coast of Masbate Island and two sea trucks in the western entrance of Verme Island Passage. One sea truck was left sinking, and the freighter damaged. Kittyhawks destroyed a freighter unloading supplies south-east of Masbate. Three vessels, probably fast armed transports in Balangan Bay, off the north-east coast of Marinduque Island, at the northern exit of Tablas Strait, were attacked by Leyte-based naval aircraft. A Navy Mariner over the area in the evening saw only one vessel present, and it was concluded that the other two may have been sunk. Thunderbolts and Kittyhawks destroyed four small freighters and three smaller craft laden with troops in the vicinity of Bitoon Bay, Northern Cebu.

25.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

No publicizing of opening of Antwerp. It is understood that certain steps are contemplated to publicize and feature in the Press the opening of Antwerp. These proposals have not the approval of this Headquarters at this time. In view of continued attacks on Antwerp by 'V' weapons and urgent operational necessity of getting the maximum tonnage through this port as early as possible, there should be no publicity on either the date or method of its coming into use. (S.H.A.E.F., 251520 to Agwar, Admty.)

Disposal of L.S.Ts. and staff. A.M. 171922A/11 as amended by A.M. 191746A/11, neither to all. British L.S.Ts. of the 3rd Flotilla have now been transferred to the administration of Commander L.S.T. Tilbury with the exception of L.S.T. 401 who has returned to Calshot with defects and awaits allocation to a port for repairs. C. in C. Portsmouth's 231302A/11 refers. British L.S.Ts. of the 8th Flotilla are and will be becoming available for operational service on completion of repairs at Southampton between now and about mid-December.

(2) A decision is required as to the employment of this latter Flotilla in order to arrange for its future administration.

(3) As however A.N.C.X.F. (Buco's) 171505A/11 states that no more British L.S.T. will be working from Portsmouth it is considered that the L.S.T. staff in SQUID and at C.O.N.U. Calshot can be disposed of and the following proposals are made to implement this. My 251230A/11 refers.

(4) The following to be discharged to ST. CLEMENT on 1st December for duty with L.S.Ts. at Tilbury as requested in F.O.I.C. London's 241755A/11. Lt. Cdr. (E) J.S. Allan R.N.R. Lt. (N) M.C. Ashdown R.N.R. Lt. Carpenter R.N.V.R. Elec. Lieut. P.E. Streat R.N.V.R. The above are at present borne in SQUID for duty with M.C.L. Southampton.

(5) The following officers and men will also be available for disposal on the above date and failing other instructions it is proposed that the officers be sent on leave to await new appointment. Addresses being reported to Admiralty and that the men be discharged to R.N. Barracks Portsmouth: Commander G.H.F. Owles, R.N. Pay Lieut. T.P. Thomas, R.N.V.R., Sub. Lieut. A.B. Scrivens R.N.V.R., Cd. Engr. R.A. Spencer R.N. Plus eleven motor mechanics and 1 Writer. The above party are at present borne in SQUID. Lt. Cdr. (E) J.C. Wheeler R.N. V.R., Wt. Engr. J.M. Walker, R.N.R., Wt. Engr. R.R. Mead, R.N.R. Elec. Lieut. E.R. Pickering R.N.V.R. The above party are at present borne in C.O.N.U. Calshot.

(6) If no decision regarding para. 2 above has been received by 1st December it is proposed (a) that from the above date the General administration of the 8th Flotilla be carried out by R.A.L.S.C.U. and that the local administration of these of the 8th Flotilla and any other British L.S.Ts. refitting at Southampton be carried out by Southampton, who concurs.

(b) Reference para. 1 above the general administration of L.S.T. 401 to be transferred to Commander L.S.T. Tilbury on 1st December regardless of where the ship happens to be and the local administration to be carried out by the F.O.I.C. or N.O.I.C. concerned. (M.C.L. Southampton 251620A to Com. L.C.B.)

/Conduct...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.- Contd.

Conduct of
Aircraft
and Surface
Craft.

It is proposed to promulgate the following Admiralty General Message on 1st December, begins:-
"In the areas defined in para. 2 below the following rules for the conduct of Aircraft and Surface Craft are to be brought into force at 0001 G.M.T. 5th December:-

(a) All aircraft are to be assumed friendly. Allied warships and merchant ships are not to engage aircraft unless definitely visually recognised as hostile or committing a hostile act. The burning of Leigh Light (searchlight) by aircraft is not to be regarded as a hostile act.

(b) I.F.F. will normally be switched off in aircraft except for use of special codes and when in distress.

(c) Aircraft are to be instructed that before they attack surface objects located by radar the contact must be visually recognised as hostile.

(d) Allied warships should fire the aircraft recognition cartridge in force if it is considered that this will assist aircraft in establishing the ship's friendly identity. The non-firing of the aircraft recognition cartridge will not be taken by aircraft as an indication that the ship is hostile.

(2) Areas (a) in the following part of the North Atlantic under British Strategic Control:-

In the area north of lat. 35° N. and south and west of a line joining the following points: 70° N. 20° W. 64° N. 20° W. 64° N. 6° W. and thence to Cape Wrath, down west coast of Britain to Lands End, from Lands End to Ushant, thence 090° to French coast, down the Atlantic seaboard of France, Spain and Portugal to Europa Point, thence 180° to Africa and down the west coast of Africa to lat. 35° N.

(b) English Channel west of 0° 30' W.

(3) The areas will be amended as necessary to conform with the trend of enemy air activity.

(4) A.G.Ms 96A Z of 20th May and 140 A Z of 31st May are cancelled.

(5) N.C.S.Os. and D.E.M.S. Staff Officers inform merchant ships of substance of paras. 1(a), 2 and 3 above." Ends.

(2) As it is being established in the proposed A.G.M. above that ships must visually recognise aircraft as hostile before opening fire, paras. 1(c) and (d) are inserted to ensure that ships will not be attacked blind by aircraft who have mistakingly considered them hostile.

(3) If the proposed A.G.M. is agreed then A.G.M. 885A will be amended as follows:

begins, "The last sentence of A.G.M. 885A of 13th November is to be cancelled and a new para. 5 added: (5) Where the areas specified in A.G.M. of 1st December overlap the areas defined in para. 1 of A.G.M. 885A the rules in A.G.M. of 1st December will apply." Ends.

(4) All addressees are requested to remark or concur in the above A.G.M. by 30th November.

(A.G.N.S. 252051A to Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C., S.H.A.E.F. Main Air, Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, Nore, W.A. H.F. Rosyth, F.O.C. Dover, A.N.C.X.F., F.O.G.M.A. A.C.I.C.)

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25.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Blackout relaxations. With further reference to enquiries being made by Ministry of Home Security concerning blackout relaxations in Coastal areas - see Admiralty letter P(L)/LD.4880/44 dated 23rd November - it is proposed that the improved street lighting and half-light in houses etc. referred to in C.A.F.O. 2115/44 should be allowed in the coastal area from the border of Sussex and Kent eastward to the South Foreland. Please signal your concurrence or remarks.

(2) This enquiry is separate from and additional to that in Admiralty signal 220526A and your reply 221854A.

(Hd. of P. 250356A to V.A. Dover.)

Your 250356. Fully concur in this relaxation.

(V.A. Dover 251830A to Admty.)

Movements.

DEVONSHIRE. Aircraft report possible U-Boat in 060° 37' N. 004° 19' W. at 0103. E.G. 17 have been ordered to hunt. Keep clear to eastward.
(C. in C. H.F. 250454A to DEVONSHIRE.)

MENESTHEUS, O.N. 267. Detach MENESTHEUS and AGAMEMNON in
AGAMEMNON. position R.V.
(C. in C. W.A. 250831 to O.N. 267 Escorts.)

ARETHUSA. Intend sailing ARETHUSA passing Cumbrae at 1300A/
30th November for Scapa. S.O.A. 22 knots to 059° 17' N. 004° 10' W. then 15 knots to exercise area, E.T.A. 0900A/1st December, E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 1400A/1st December. Ref. A.M. 232317.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251004A to C. in C. H.F.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. My 241456. Add 24 hours to all times.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251045A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S)

ROYALIST. Proceed at 1000 Sunday 26th taking F.S. CROIX DE LORRAINE under your orders as A/S escort and sail by West Solent passing Needles 1145.

(2) Route Q.Z.S. 631, 633 to H.2 buoy thence Channel W and Q.Z.S. 607 to position S 180° The Lizard 3 miles.

(3) Time table H.2 buoy 1300 Start 1715 S 2130.

(4) Route from S as in A.M. 211824 not to all addressees.

(5) Detach CROIX DE LORRAINE at S to return to Portsmouth by reverse of route given here.

(7) Further orders follow in my 251141 acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251127A to ROYALIST.)

ROYALIST sailing for Gibraltar as in R.A.E.C's 241537 routed as in A.M. 211824 estimated passing through position S at 2130A 26th November.

(2) Communication in accordance with A.F.O. "S" 1/44 section M.D. table 2 (1) line 1 shift to broadcast G at 0100A/28th November appropriate ship to shore frequencies Con ship world guard V.

H/F R/T. (73) Codeword "Vauxhall."

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251141 to F.O.G.M.A.)

/SMITER...

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25.11.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

SMITER. When ready for sea request you will sail SMITER to the Clyde to work up under F.O.C.T. (D.O.D.(H) 251201A to C. in C. W.A.)

DEVONSHIRE. 2000 movements Saturday. MINNA, ULA, VENTURER
PURSUER, 35 buoy at 1800 to Dundee 9½.
PREMIER. F.F.S. RUBIS approaching Lerwick from northeastward 10.
E.G. 17, ASCENSION S.O., searching the vicinity of 060° 18' N. 004° 52' W.
DEVONSHIRE, PURSUER, PREMIER and 5 destroyers due Scapa approx. 2200 from northwest 15.
ST. MAGNUS, ST. AGNES GRAEMSAY 059° 34' N. 001° 24' W. to Aberdeen 10.
CLEWBAY due Kirkwall 2300 from Southward 8.
MEDIATOR CELIA Cape Wrath 1900 to Loch Ewe 10.
E.G. 19th HESPERUS S.O. patrolling Butt of Lewis and Cape Wrath area. ORWELL due Scapa from southeastward 18.
FLATHOLM 059° 20' N. 001° 44' W. to Kirkwall 10. BLYTH, FLATHOLM leave Kirkwall 0001 to Lerwick 10.
BACHAQUERO, HAZEL KARMOY 061° 30' N. 005° 18' W. to Faeroes 4½.
BEAL Duncansby Head to Minches 9.
(A.C.O.S. 251242A to Admty., H.Q.C.C.)

ATTACKER, My 221842A and F.O.N.A.S. 231842 and 241811.
STALKER. Following arrangements are intended for flying on 8 Seafire aircraft from Lee on Solent to both ATTACKER and STALKER.
(2) At 0900A/27th November ATTACKER with STALKER under his orders to pass gate and proceed Q.Z.S. 601 and then as requisite to fly on aircraft in the area between 49° 48' N. and 50° 08' N. and between 4° 00' W. and 4° 40' W. Approx. time to commence flying on 1030.
(3) TANATSIDE (S.O.), MELBREAK, BRISSENDEN and ALBRIGHTON to await carriers outside gate and act as escort under orders of ATTACKER. On completion all ships return Plymouth unless otherwise ordered.
(4) F.O.N.A.S. is requested to confirm by telephone at 0730/27th that programme can be kept or indicate probable delay. In case of delay C. in C. Plymouth will inform ships.
(5) If conditions are unsuitable on 27th, programme will be carried out on 28th or if necessary on 29th.
(6) ATTACKER to make the necessary detailed arrangements with F.O.N.A.S. for flying on programme, for aircraft safety arrangements, and for communications, informing C. in C. Plymouth and ships and authorities concerned.
(C. in C. Plymouth 251549A to ATTACKER, STALKER, TANATSIDE, MELBREAK, BRISSENDEN, ALBRIGHTON.)

KENT. Intend proceeding in KENT passing Hoxa Gate 0700 Monday 27th November. E.T.A. Aultbea 1230, Gate 1300. Request following, anchor beacons 1, 4 and 5 from 0615. Groups 3 and 4 light from 0700 till 0800. A.C.O.S. acknowledge.
(C.S. 1 252046A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

25.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Military. Communique No. 231. The Allied advance continues northwest of Venlo despite very extensive enemy mining and road demolitions. In the Geilenkirchen area fighting continues. Stubborn opposition is being met west of Julich around the villages of Bourheim and Koslar both of which are still in enemy hands. Our forces have taken Pattern and Lohn. In the southwest outskirts of Weisweiler we are engaged in house to house fighting. Slow but steady progress is being made against very strong enemy resistance in the Hurtgen forest. Several enemy counter attacks have been repulsed in the area northeast of Heistern. To the east of Metz we have cleared the enemy from Reiningen, Insmingen and Kappelkingen. Armoured units have advanced to Hilsprich and repulsed an enemy counter attack in the area. East of Finstingen our forces have crossed the Saar river and are in the vicinity of Postdorf. Our forces have cleared the enemy from the major portion of Strasbourg and have taken some 2000 prisoners. Many additional prisoners are being rounded up in the vicinity of the city. A counter attack northwest of the Saverne gap which caused us to make some slight withdrawals was beaten off and most of the lost ground was regained. Steady progress was made toward clearing the enemy from the Vosges mountains in the Saales Pass area and on the slopes of the Ballon d'Alsace north of Belfort. Adverse weather yesterday restricted air operations. (S.H.A.E.F. 251100A to Agwar.)

Naval. Cositintrep No. 235 part II Naval.
(1) General. On 23rd November SS. WILLIAM D. BURNHAM was damaged by underwater explosion while en route Solent to Cherbourg. Ship has been towed to Cherbourg.
(2) Captured ports. Antwerp. Repairs to Kruisschansluis expected to complete 28th November. Rouen. 9835 feet quayside space now available, 6164 feet on right bank and 3671 feet on left latter limited to 16 feet draught.
(3) Unloading figures for 24th November.

British	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
East Calvados	-	121	1,277	-
Dieppe	215	-	2,958	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,597	-
Calais	-	-	-	-
Ostend	2,287	435	4,432	5,600
Total	2,502	556	11,264	5,600

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval. (Contd.)	U.S.	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
	Cherbourg	-	-	12,136	-
	Rouen	1,001	524	3,033	1,514
	Brittany Ports	-	36	4,048	-
	Le Havre	4,138	529	6,491	-
	Total	5,139	1,089	25,708	1,514
	Combined Total	7,641	1,645	36,972	7,114
	Ostend figures for 23rd November.				
		2,018	371	4,174	3,103
	(A.N.C.X.F. 252315A to Admty.)				

Operations.

North Sea

SCOTT to
survey
Schelde for
wrecks.

C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail SCOTT to Ostend as soon as possible to survey Channel between N.F. 8 and N.F. 18 buoys for wrecks.

(2) C. in C. Nore is requested to give SCOTT detailed instructions (C. in C. Nore 24212.) (A.N.C.X.F. 250945A to Cs. in C. Plymouth, Nore.)

Pass Gate at 1600A/25th November and proceed Ostend

(2) Routed through 180° Start Point 5 miles thence by route E (A.M. Q.Z.H. 568) and by A.M. Q.Z.S. 513, 517, 459, 458, 581 and 584 to destination.

(3) S.O.A. 12 knots.

(4) Constant watch on broadcast C.N. and appropriate port waves.

(5) You are to contact F.O.C. Dover for orders on passage.

Attention is drawn to A.M. Q.Z.H. 677.

(6) Request Admiralty direct mail accordingly.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251033A to SCOTT.)

My 251033. SCOTT delayed until 1500A/26th November.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251542A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrols.

Patrol for tonight Saturday.

1 COTTESMORE, 2 HAMBLEDON, 3 WALPOLE, 4 CATTISTOCK, 5 DAKINS, 6 SEYMOUR, 7 BLEASDALE, 8A SHEARWATER, 10 WIDGEON, 17A SHELDRAKE.

(2) N.F. 2 15 N.F. 4 STAYNER with coastal force from BEEHIVE.

15 FERNIE 16 THORNBOROUGH with coastal force from Ostend 19

RETALICK and P.S. SLAZAK coastal force from Ostend R/V

THORNBOROUGH at N.F. 8 buoy at 1730.

(C. in C. Nore 251027A to Capt. D. 16, 21.)

Small craft
to Low
Countries.

Confirming telephone conversation between Major Santoro and Commander Ash, this office is in accord with operation named "Governess" and requests that it be put into effect immediately and that craft move as soon as weather permits. It also requests that all Port Commanders concerned keep this office informed daily locations of all craft end. McConnaughy signed Vaughn. (H.Q. U.K. Base London 251355Z to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Nore, etc.)

/Your...

600

25.11.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Small craft to Low Countries. (Contd.) Your 221207, intend to commence operation "Governess" as soon as weather is suitable.
(2) L.T. tugs will tow 2 barges or carfloats each and S.T. tugs one barge or carfloat each.
(C. in C. Plymouth 251524A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Small craft for Antwerp. C. in C. Nore's 241845A sailed from Southend complete.
(2) MIMICO keeping constant R/T and W/T watch on 2333 k/cs.
(3) Cdre. Belgium pass to P.S.T.O. N.W.E.
(Com. Southend 251412A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp, C. in C. Nore.)

S.O. Force T and S.O.I.S. to Ostend. Will transfer my H.Q. from Bruges to Ostend at 1700 tomorrow 26th November. A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 231455 refers.
Ostend W/T station will be responsible for my communications.
(S.O. Force T 251940A to A.N.C.X.F.)

No icebreaker for Schelde. Your 231150A Nov. and C. in C. Nore's 231034A Sept. In view of present rate of progress of the Army and of the chances of Elbe ice requiring a breaker, it is not considered it would be justified to press Canadians to lend one.
(2) Icebreaker is not considered necessary for Schelde.
(Vice Contr. 252116A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Enemy craft off Hearty Knoll. Surface craft detected by R.D.F. bearing 348° 19.2 miles from Hearty Knoll Buoy.
(DAKINS 252257 to C. in C. Nore.)
My 2257. Contact faded enemy course is 090° speed 20 knots.
(DAKINS 252308 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. Night A/S patrols 25/26th November.
Special object contact Schnorkel.
(2) Zig-zag search at 8 knots through positions and areas given.
(3) VANQUISHER J Buoy 1730A thence Z.10, 11, 102 G.1 Buoy 0830A.
(4) L'ESCARMOUCHE J Buoy 1730A thence Z.17, 16, 12, 59 J Buoy 0830A. (5) VANOC G.1 Buoy Z.108, 112, 109 J Buoy 0830A.
(6) VIDETTE 1730A J Buoy thence Z.113, 114, L.2 buoy Z.110 Kansas 0830A.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251257A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
My 201752 patrols 47 and 48 will be flown. Call signs below

/(2)...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. (2) 842 Squadron aircraft R/T "Occult" W/T LBX
(Contd.) (3) 838 Squadron aircraft R/T "Mothburn" W/T UCD.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251406A to Portsmouth A/S
Patrol Force.)
Proceed at 18 knots to position 150° SCP 15 miles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251432A to VANOC, VIDETTE.)

Day A/S patrols 26th November. Unless in contact search areas
limits given.

(2) VANOC, VIDETTE 49° 47' 30" 10' and 01° 20' 01" 35' W.
(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE 50° 30' 50" 06' and 01° 45' 02" 00'
W. (4) HARGOOD, BRILLIANT, relieve VANOC, VIDETTE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251520A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces,
HARGOOD, BRILLIANT.)

Engagement (1) You will have seen copies of signals exchanged
of aircraft between A.N.C.X.F. and this headquarters on the
by ships in above subject. S.67879 dated 21 November being
the English last from S.H.A.E.F. with which A.N.C.X.F. agreed
Channel. in his signal 231231A.

(2) Consequently request that you approach
Admiralty with view to establishment of an aircraft
area by day and night in English Channel between
lines drawn from Lands End to Ushant and from edges of Port
Defended areas of Calais to Folkestone excluding limits of Port
Defended areas within these boundaries. Suggested that rules
for engagement by ships in this aircraft area be as follows:-
(a) all aircraft to be treated at all times as friendly unless
definitely recognised as hostile or committing a hostile act.
(b) Use of I.F.F. by aircraft and other recognition procedures
unnecessary within this area.

(3) Further request that if your negotiations with Admiralty
prove successful you inform this H.Q. and cause necessary
amendments to S.D. 158 and S.D. 533 with effect from a date to
be nominated by you.

(S.H.A.E.F. 251530A to Air Ministry, Admty.)

15th E.G. Sailed 15th E.G. in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s
241211A.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 251557A to Cs. in C. W.A.,
Plymouth.)

Operation Complete naval fuel requirements for operation
"Nestegg" are as follows: 1 Chant tanker for 87
to Channel Octane petrol, 1 Chant tanker for 73 Octane petrol,
Islands. 1 fuelling trawler for diesel oil, 1 collier
(horse comber) to carry 400 to 500 tons North
Country coal and lubricating oils.

The following have already been allocated: 1
L.B.O. for 73 Octane petrol, 1 L.B.O. for diesel oil. Both
L.B.O. will carry stocks of lubricating oils in addition to
those carried in the collier.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251817A to Admty.)

/Probable...

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25.11.1944.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Probable
U-Boat.

Attacked contact in position 130° 58A Buoy 3 miles
strong small of petrol.*
(L'ESCARMOUCHE 252010 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
* Note "Petrole" is French for fuel oil.
Contact stationary 4 patterns dropped large patch
petrol on surface.
(L'ESCARMOUCHE 252040A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

West Coast of France.

Air spotting
for a French
bombardment
Squadron.

My 171159. Number 26 Squadron Royal Air Force
not now required in Plymouth area until 8th Decem-
ber.
(A.N.C.X.F. 251227A to H.Q.F.C.)

Arrival date
for 2 French
frigates at
Plymouth.

In para. 1 of A.M. 171952 for 28th November read
8th December.
(2) C. in C. Portsmouth's 191558 and 231518 also
refer.
(D.O.D.(H) 251349A to C. in C. Portsmouth,
A.N.C.X.F. etc.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

Establish Gamma patrol between 51° 35' 08° 18' and
51° 21' 08° 10'.
(2) 4th E.G. and 30th E.G. are carrying out Gamma
patrol between 51° 16' 09° 30' and 50° 32' 09° 59'.
(C. in C. W.A. 251111A to S.O.E.G. 14.)

Proceed to carry out zigzag search between 51.07 N. 06.26 W.
and 50.13 N. 06.26 W.

(2) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1018, 1006, 293.
(C. in C. Plymouth 251306A to S.O.E.G.10.)

HAVELOCK, DUNCAN and ASSINIBOINE arrived, fuelled and
sailed to join 4th E.G. and 30th E.G.
C. in C. W.A.'s 232331 refers.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 251441A to C. in C. W.A.)

Gee Stations
in Western
Approaches.

Gee in North and South Western Approaches.
Your 111600A November. At meeting at Air Ministry
25th November following agreements were reached:-
(1) North Western Approaches. 4 Gee Stations are
to be sited to provide cover in North Western
Approaches for use by Admiralty and Coastal Command.

Sites provisionally chosen are Mull, Sligo Bay, Barra and Down-
hill. Siting party of approx. 8 personnel expect to be ready to
leave Liverpool 30th November to investigate each site. In

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Gee Stations in Western Approaches. (Contd.) view of urgency of requirement any assistance which can be provided by Admiralty, (a) in transporting siting party to areas concerned and (b) in transporting equipment to sites at a later date, will be of considerable value and bring forward date when stations will be available for operational use. Further details of siting party will be passed to you and C. in C. Western Approaches in few days but meantime request you state what facilities you can offer to speed siting and early completion of stations.

(2) South Western Approaches. As soon as Channel Gee chain is closed down, which is expected in next few days, light mobile station at Cherbourg will be moved to Brest Peninsula and locking tests carried out. When satisfactory site has been chosen and charts produced Worth Matravers will be closed down and new station in Brest Peninsula will take over function of B slave of south Western Gee Chain. It may be possible to meet this requirement by 31st December provided charts can be made available by then. It is unlikely that this will provide cover at sea level out to 100 fathom line but considerable increase in both accuracy and range over the present cover in a south westerly direction will result. It was agreed at meeting referred to above that this would meet your requirements.
(Air Ministry 251737A to Admty.)

Weather Reporting Ship. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail CELANDINE November 28th to relieve PENNYWORT as weather reporting ship.
(2) E.T.A. of CELANDINE in 53° N. 20° W. to be reported.
(3) Detailed instructions as in my 281216 August not to all.
(4) PENNYWORT is to proceed to Greenock on relief.
(C. in C. W.A. 251849A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, PENNYWORT.)

Withdrawal of two corvettes from Western Approaches. An urgent requirement has arisen for two Norwegian corvettes. A.M. 252247 refers, (see Operations N. Waters.)
(2) Interference with your E.Gs. at such short notice is regretted.
(V.C.N.S. 252136 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/26th and movements for following 24 hours. Times Zone A.
A. RUBIS position uncertain probably as in my 241828.
B. SOKOL as in my 221801.
C. TORBAY leaves patrol 1300/26th to R/V with escort SARDONYX in position 59° 01' N. 01° 35' W. at 2300/26th thence to position 000° Dunnet Head 3 miles E.T.A. 0300/27th to R/V VENGEFUL. Thence all through Minches for Holy Loch.
(F.O. S/M 251802A to Admty.)

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War Diary.

25.11.1944.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Probable U-Boat. Your 242246. E.T.A. position 0200A.
(S.O.E.G. 17 250023A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Have attacked Asdic contact possible submarine in position 060° 18' N. 004° 52' W. and obtained 2 hits with Hedgehog at estimated depth of 275 feet remainder of pattern exploded on bottom. Contact lost after 2nd attack. Am searching about position. Weather 4461 9386 unsuitable (S.O.E.G. 17 250315A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 250315 examination of all available evidence suggests strongly that contact was U-Boat and was sunk by initial Hedgehog attack in 335 fathoms. In second attack contact was lost at 1000 yards and poor echo sounder trace showed small objects on bottom. Intend to remain in position until daylight.

(S.O.E.G. 17 250551A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Continue search in vicinity of attack until further orders. Please signal further detailed evidence of success.

(C. in C. Rosyth 250808A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

My 250315 and 250551. Daylight shows quantity diesel oil with strong smell rising in position of attack so far have been unable to obtain sample of oil due to dispersal N.N.E. gale with frequent snow squalls but oil streak extends more than 6 miles. No longer have any doubt that target was U-Boat and was destroyed.

(S.O.E.G. 17 251023A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Well done. This appears to be a kill. Continue to search in present area for further evidence. A second U-Boat is possibly approaching this area.

(C. in C. Rosyth 251246A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

My 251023. Small quantity of diesel oil was still rising in position of attack at 1200A. Depth of water in this position found to be approx. 570 fathoms. Am searching to leeward for any wreckage which may have come to surface before dawn.

Weather deteriorated, weather report 1757 9718 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G. 17 251358A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Patrols. Detach ships singly for Scapa when required to fuel.
(2) You will be relieved about 28th November for short rest in Lough Foyle.

(C. in C. W.A. 251230A to S.O.E.G. 19.)

If not in contact by 2000/25th 17th E.G. proceed to establish Gamma patrol between 060° 28' N. 005° 04' W. and 059° 57' N. 004° 22' W. probable course of U-Boats 240°.

(C. in C. Rosyth 251802A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Further Suspected U-Boat Detach 3 ships to investigate Grade 2 A.S.V. contact in position 060° 40' N. 003° 25' W. W/T callsign of A/C WLD 54, R/T callsign "Pistol" Peter 35 homing procedure Charlie.

(C. in C. Rosyth 251301A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Your 251301A. Ships detailed LOCH KILLIN, BURGESS, CRANSTOWN.
(S.O.E.G. 17 251359A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Convoy...

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War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Convoy J.W. 62. GLACE BAY, MONTSERRAT, PARRY SOUND, 5th and 6th Group of Russian S.Cs. arrived.
(Com. D. W.A. 252033A to F.O.N.F.)
My 241204A. Cancel para. 3 and amend para. 2 to read as follows: BULLDOG S.O. with BEAGLE and 5 Russian Submarine Chasers in company sail from Greenock at 0500A/27th November.
A.M. 251920 not to all addressees refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 252236A to C. in C. H.F., Admty.)

2 Norwegian corvettes and 4 trawlers to go to Murmansk. It has been decided to send supplies for Norwegians in North Norway to Murmansk in tankers of J.W. 62.
(2) In order to assist in the distribution of these supplies it is intended to sail two Norwegian corvettes and Norwegian A/S M/S trawlers TROMOY, KARMOY, OKSOY and JELOY in J.W. 62.
(3) C. in C. W.A. and A.C.O.S. are requested to make these ships available for inclusion in the convoy.

(V.C.N.S. 252247 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S.)
The withdrawal of trawlers in A.M. 252247 is regretted. A.M. 061411 refers. Reinforcements will be sent at the earliest opportunity.
(V.C.N.S. 252250 to A.C.O.S.)

Arrangements are under discussion to send relief supplies for Norwegians in North Norway and in anticipation of approval a certain amount of stores are being sent in LONGWOOD, LAURELWOOD and BRITISH RESPECT.

(2) Corvettes ACANTHUS and EGLANTINE and A/S M/S trawlers TROMOY, KARMOY and OKSOY and JELOY all manned by Norwegians are being included in J.W. 62 to assist under Russian operational control in the distribution of these stores to ports vacated by the Germans.

(3) Further details will be signalled later.
(4) Request you will consult Russian authorities and ascertain if these arrangements are satisfactory to them.

(5) Your 161513 refers.
(V.C.N.S. 252348A to Adm. Archer.)

Mining.

Deep A/S mining in St. George's Channel. Operation "C.F." serial B.4 completed.
(APOLLO 250412 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 241031A. Arrived APOLLO.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 251025A to C. in C. W.A.)

M/S trawlers to Far Shore. My 241543 sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 250757 to Capt, M/S N.F.)

M.M.S. to Far Shore. Take M.M.S. 91 and 204 under your orders and proceed to Le Havre at 0700A/26th. Route Q.Z.S. 373, 618, 636, 638, 588, 595 S.O.A. 9 knots. E.T.A. 1800A/26th. (2) No sweeping.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251445 to M.M.S. 220.)

/Sweeping...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Sweeping Am anchored off Terneuzen.
of Schelde. (2) Your 1555/24. First lap swept to northwards of centre line from N.F. 13 to N.F. 18 by 3 ships in J formation 1.5 cables apart followed by 2 ships with sweep passed but kites up. Northern Wing Ship parted in position 300° N.F. 17 3.2 cables. Thereafter swept in D formation to port with ships 2 cables apart.
(3) Second lap swept to southward centre line on a westerly course in D formation to port. Leading pair parted in position 246° N.F. 17 - 4.7 cables and rear pair in same position.
(4) Third lap swept to southward centre line from N.F. 13 to 3 cables east N.F. 15 leaving wreck marking buoy between N.F. 13 and N.F. 14 1 cable to northward. Obstruction referred to in para. 2 of your 1555/24 was not encountered. Southern ship of leading 3 in J formation (?joined) in position 099° N.F. 15 - 8 cables and rear pair in position 095° N.F. 15 - 17.5 cables.
(5) During all above area-sweeping all ships used kites and all were Echo sounding. Kites connected were continually adjusted to keep kite 1.5 fathoms above the bottom. It is therefore considered that a considerable percentage of sweep was a bottom sweep. No partings indicated by cutters.
(6) 1 J lap was swept N.F. 15 to N.F. 17 by 3 ships in G formation preserving 50 yards overlap to a depth 5 fathoms. In position 248° N.F. 17 15.3 cables third sweeper swept a new and waterlogged G.X. mine exactly similar to that reported in my 141825 paras. 7 and 8. This was resunk in position 185° N.F. 17 - 4.2 cables.
(7) All results otherwise negative. It is considered very unlikely that there are any G.K. mines or mines moored near Bishop Rock in channel between N.F. 13 and N.F. 18.
(S.O.M.S.F. 18 251736A to C. in C. Nore.)
"Calendar" sweeping today Saturday 25th November.
(1) S.A. LL (a) Terneuzen to N.F. 13. (b) Everingen anchorage completed. (c) Terneuzen to Bat and middle Gat edges. (d) Area in Schelde Mouth outside Swept Channel in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 161712. (e) L.A.A. sweeping at Antwerp. Oropesa. (a) Area as in (d) above. (b) A sweep N.F. 13 - 18 by 18th M.S. Flotilla, separate signal being made.
(2) Ground mines Middle Gat. (3) Surveying work is continuing.
(4) Nil. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2048, M.M.S. 175, 237, 274, 109, M.F.V. 10^c 20.
(Capt. M/S F.A. 251959A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

North Norway Swedish Notice to Mariners dated November 23rd
Minefields. copying Berlin notice announcement that mines have been laid in following areas.
Katzagefjord: an area bounded by line joining following points.
A. 69° 36.8' N. 18° 16.5' E. B. 69° 37.2' N. 18° 17.5' E.
C. 69° 38' N. 18° 09.56' E. D. 69° 38.6' N. 18° 08.35' E.
E. 69° 40.2' N. 18° 10.7' E. F. 69° 40.7' N. 18° 13.3' E.
(2) Ersfjord: an area bounded lines joining following points.
A. 69° 42' N. 18° 17.2' E. B. 69° 42.9' N. 18° 19.5' E.
B. 69° 42.9' N. 18° 19.5' E, C. Meridian 18° 30' E.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

North Norway Minefields. (Contd.) (3) Kaldfjord: area bounded when joining following positions, A. Parallel 69° 45.26' N. B. 69° 48.3' N. 18° 38.9' E. C. 69° 49.8' N. 18° 40.1' E. (N.A. Stockholm 251053 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Situation report. At least one in central English Channel from attacks by ANTHONY and E.G. 6. Situation in Western Channel and southwestern approaches is obscure but one or two may be anywhere south of 51° 30' N. east of 10° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 251355A to Cominch.)

Navigational.

Navigation Lights in Straits of Dover. Merchant ships in the Straits of Dover and approaches thereto are normally to burn dimmed navigation lights in clear weather and at full brilliance in thick weather when (a) south and west of 51° 35' N. and 2° 00' E. (b) E. of the meridian of 0° 10' W. in the English Channel. C.A.M.S.I. 191/43 and W.I.M.S. 1 Article 178 will be amended. (D.T.D. 251022A A message.)

Navigation Lights in Channel. Merchant ships are not normally to burn navigation lights in the English Channel when within an area bounded on the east by the meridian of 0° 10' W. and on the west by a line joining Portland Bill to Cape la Hague. (2) N.C.S.Os. are to inform Masters of merchant ships. (3) A.M. 576 AZ of 5th November is cancelled. (D.T.D. 251040A A message.)

Survey of Schelde. Your 201841 not to all addressees. Propose to sail ELDORADO and LINNET from Sheerness on Thursday 30th November for Breskens to set up shore marks. (2) Request your remarks A.M. 221800 not to all addressees refers. (D.A.S.M. 252251A to Com. Belgium.)

Casualties & Defects.

CYRUS. Reference Capt. M/S N. France's 241419. Request tugs may be sailed not later than a.m. Monday 27th November as it is expected that CYRUS will be driven further onto bank by Tuesday's tide if no tugs are in attendance. (ELFREDA 250914A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/WILLIAM...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

WILLIAM D.
BURNHAM.

SS. WILLIAM^{D.}BURNHAM damaged by underwater explosion while en route Solent to Cherbourg. Ship towed into Cherbourg by U.S. A.T.R. 3 and beached west end Grande Rade in 19 feet lowest low water. Salvage crew make preliminary investigation. First explosion beneath number four bulkhead or number five hatch. Second explosion port side forward of bridge, causing hole 15 - 20 feet diameter near water line. Casualties, known dead 2, missing 10, injured 3, uninjured 54.

(Comusbasfrance 251007A to A.N.C.X.F.)

At 231517A W.D. BURNHAM when in position 49° 46' N. 01° 15' 42' W. apparently struck a mine and approx. 42 mins. later apparently struck a second mine. The vessel stopped immediately following the first explosion therefore second explosion occurred in the immediate vicinity of first explosion. Ship was towed to Cherbourg and beached Grande Rade at 0430 on the 24th November. Casualties two known dead 3 injured 13 believed missing.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 251817A to Admty.)

S. JOFNA.

F.O.I.C. Falmouth's 232213 November. Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Appledore's 231920, begins: The full crew of SS. S. JOFNA 19 in all have been rescued by Padstow Lifeboat and Life Saving Apparatus. The Captain and second mate are badly injured and have been sent to hospital. The remainder of the crew are in the care of the Shipwrecked Mariners Society.

(2) Confidential books have been recovered from the ship which is considered to be a total loss, ends.

(C. in C. Plymouth 251209 to Admty.)

JOLIETTE.

My 221150A and 221516A November examination of damage by divers shows B and C strakes Port Side extensively damaged from stem to 50 station.

(2) The following compartments are flooded and cannot be reclaimed. Forepeak, Cable locker, A/S Compartment, F.W. Tanks Cofferdam. Numbers 1 and 2 O.F. Tanks Cofferdam. Cold and cool rooms and cooling machinery compartment, 4" magazine, Numbers 3 and 4 O.F. Tanks.

(3) Lower deck and bulkheads at 7 station Upper Deck 13 station Lower Deck and 45 station hold are tight and are being shored.

(4) Propellers and rudder damaged but serviceable for low speeds.

(5) Salvage Officer advises ship safe only for passage to Belfast under fair weather conditions with tug and salvage vessel in attendance.

(6) It is estimated ship will be ready for passage p.m. Wednesday November 29th.

(7) Draught approx. 16 ft. forward 15½ ft. aft.

(Com. D.W.A. 251312A to C. in C. W.A.)

Technical.

VINDEX.

Further to my 121241A November.

VINDEX has now carried out three nights training of 811 Squadron, of which two nights have been under very favourable conditions.

She has had an abnormal number of crashes and after investigation I am convinced that this squadron is in a thoroughly bad state and,

/as...

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HOME COMMANDS

Technical

VINDEX (Contd.) as constituted at present, will not become fit to operate from a carrier at night.
 (2) It is evident that the standard of leadership in the squadron is low and that certain pilots have a definite fear of flying at night, and particularly Deck-landing at night. I am of the opinion that it would be a waste of time and energy to pursue the line indicated in para. 2 of my 121241A/November.
 (3) The remedy appears to be either: (i) to change the squadron or (ii) to relieve immediately by officers with good qualities of leadership the following members of 811 Squadron: Squadron Cmdr., Senior Pilot, Senior Observer, 2 or 3 of the junior members, to be nominated by VINDEX.
 (4) From the point of view of the general effect on the N.A.A. it is considered that (2) is preferable, provided that the officers concerned are suitably dealt with under C.A.F.O. 869/43.
 (5) In either case I consider that Commander Flying of VINDEX should be relieved.
 (F.O.C.T. 251540A to Admt).

Shipping & Convoys.

Major Troopship Following is summary 66 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during to December period to 25th December. 25th.

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Due
A. In				
1.	C.U.47	Composition as notified		26.11
2.	A.T.165	ANDES	Liverpool	27.11
3.	A.T.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	27.11
4.	A.T.168	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	1.12
5.	M.K.F.36	Composition as notified		1.12
6.	C.U.48	CARNARVON CASTLE	Liverpool possibly after disembarkation Southampton.	4.12
7.	M.K.S.68	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	Clyde	4.12
8.	A.T.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	7.12
9.	A.T.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	8.12
10.	A.T.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	12.12
11.	A.T.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	14.12
12.	A.T.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	16.12
13.	A.T.173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	16.12
14.	S.D.60	Ship not yet allocated		18.12
15.	A.T.174	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	22.12
16.	A.T.175	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	22.12
16.A	M.K.F.36 A	ORMONDE	Not yet allocated	About 21.12
B. Out				
17.	T.A.167	AQUITANIA	Clyde	26.11
18.	U.C.47A	U.S. ships ex C.U.47 plus MORETON BAY	Liverpool	1.12
19.	T.A.169	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	2.12

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Major Troop-
ship move-
ments to
December 25th.
(Contd.)

Serial	Convoy	Ship	Port	Due
No.				
20.	T.A. 168	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	5.12
21.	U.C. 48A	U.S. ships ex C.U. 48		8.12
22.	D.S. 60	Ship not yet allocated		11.12
23.	T.A. 171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	12.12
24.	T.A. 170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	13.12
25.	K.M.F. 37	INDRAPOERA GEORGIC CHITRAL QUEEN OF BERMUDA CILICIA ALCANTARA TEGELBERG EMPIRE PRIDE JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT STRATHNAVER NEA HELLAS SIBAJAK BATORY DURBAN CASTLE SOBIESKI	Embarkation ports not yet decided	16.12
25A.	Reserve U.C. 49A	ATHLONE CASTLE		
26.	T.A. 172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	16.12
27.		ANDES	Liverpool	17.12
28.	T.A. 172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	17.12
29.	T.A. 170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	19.12
30.	T.A. 173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	21.12
31.	K.M.S. 73	DILWARA	Clyde	23.12

(2) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 2/12 when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T. 252315A to P.S.T.Os Clyde, N.W. Ports.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ADRIAS ADRIAS has not sufficient endurance for passage to U.K. in M.K.F.36.
(2) In view of present weather conditions prevailing in Atlantic it is not considered advisable for ship to proceed unescorted at own speed.
(3) Intend to take ship in hand at Gibraltar for repairs to foremost oil fuel tanks in order that additional fuel can be carried.
(F.O.G.M.A. 251035A to C. in C. Med.)

Group I A/S patrol is to sail at 1800A November 25th to rendezvous with and take over S.O. Group 1.
patrol (2) Group 1 consisting of USK (S.O.) KILBURNIE and BROCKVILLE is carrying out A/S patrol Bacon to westward of straits. (My 051130 being passed BALINDERRY refers).
(3) USK is requested to signal R/V position (?and) times.
(4) On arrival of D.S. FRISCO, KILBURNIE is to be detached to proceed (?to) Casablanca.
(5) (?Commorseafron) is requested to take KILBURNIE in hand for acid cleaning of evaporators.
(6) KILBURNIE has necessary acid on board.
(F.O.G.M.A. 251203A to Commorseafron, Group 1, BALINDERRY.)

MONTE Proceed (forthwith?) at best speed to intercept
ALBERTIA Spanish MONTE ALBERTIA and accompany to
interception Gibraltar.
(2) Ship on passage from Las Palmas to Bilbao was intercepted by Lyautey based Liberators (call sign SVZ 40 at 10(30) ? today Saturday and in position (A) 032 ~~of N. 010 to W.~~ and was on course 000 speed of advance 9 knots.
(3) Acknowledge forthwith and (?report).
(A) Own course position and speed.
(B) (?Estimated time) and position of interception.
(4) Liberator SVZ 40 (will) remain with ship until about 1615A today Saturday. Any further position reported and air co-operation will be passed to you.
(F.O.G.M.A. 251230A to KILMINGTON, Info. Group 1, BAHADUR, C.F.A.W.15, Admty.)

HURON Sailed from Horta at 0910Z 25th HURON (route to Cardiff). S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. Fastnet Rock 0600Z 28th November.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 251306Z to F.O.G.M.A., N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

O.S./K.M.S. Concur in principle with organisation in
and A.M. 222005.
S.L./K.M.S. (2) Ref. Para. 2(C) when it is necessary to
convoys. provide two local escorts from Gibraltar it may likewise be necessary to provide A/S striking forces and A/S patrols to westward at the same time.
(3) At present the greater part of the Gib.

/Escort...

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Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

O.S./K.M.S. Escort Force is employed escorting O.S./S.L.
and is employed escorting O.S./S.L. convoys and
S.L./K.M.S. there is an extreme shortage of escorts for
convoys. other commitments.
(Contd.) (4) My 231616 not to all refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 251620A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

FAL Your 131027.
Arrangements can be made for FAL to be refitted
at Bermuda early December.
(2) Request you will sail her to Bermuda as
soon as convenient reporting probable date of arrival.
(3) Operational requirements permitting it is intended that
FAL should proceed to U.K. on completion of refit to give leave
in one watch and adjust complement.
(D.O.D.(F) 251701A to F.O.C.W.A.)

Shipping
Routes

Admty. 222005A concur. Propose southbound
shipping to be routed by Maroon and Cocoa routes
northbound from West African coast by coastal
Fly Fish routes thence by standard S.L. route to
Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 251738Z to Admty.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

- Black Sea. Following is repeat of N.L.O. Black Sea's 241255 addressed Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.L.E.M. N.C.S.O. Istanbul, Admiral Archer. Information received from S.O. (I) Black Sea Fleet that remaining ships having just arrived, all Black Sea Fleet together with a number of Roumanian ships are now in Sevastopol. (2) Naval Intelligence, Moscow, pass to Admty. (F.O.L.E.M. 250925 to Admty. etc.)
- LORRAINE, Request you sail LORRAINE escorted BASQUE and
BASQUE, SIMOUN to comply A.N.C.X.F. 241925.
SIMOUN. (C. in C. Med. 250947A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Air Report. Summary of operations ending 1800 hours 24th
November.
Coastal details: Wellingtons on Armed R/C
Maestra Point to Capo Promotore bombed Grado and
3 F-Boats with unobserved results. Beaufighters on anti-ship-
ping patrols in North Adriatic left 2 barges and motor boat
burning.
(H.Q. M.A.A.F. 251012)
- F.A.A. A.M. 201346. Request you will arrange for
Training. onward transport to Alexandria of squadron's
flying and maintenance personnel for combined
squadron training at Dekheila.
(2) Personnel from STALKER are being embarked in
ATTACKER.
(D.O.D. (F), 251103A to C. in C. Med.)
- COCKCHAFER. Ref. A.M. 231323A. Request you will sail H.M.S.
COCKCHAFER to Taranto for refit. My 211102A
refers.
(C. in C. Med. 251116A to V.A.M.)
- Italian B.A.D. Washington's 232355.
S/MS. B.N.A. Madrid reports no trace of spares for
CAGNI in his 031130 October French Embassy in
Madrid was attempting to obtain information from
Bordeaux but no progress appears to have been made.
(2) F.O.T.A.L.I. Taranto is requested to signal forecast of
dates of readiness of Italian Ocean going S/M's subsequent to
DISSPRO PLATINO and NICHELIO.
(C. in C. Med. 251204A to Admty, F.O.T.A.L.I. (Taranto)).
Reply: 261235A.
- TOURVILLE Intend to sail TOURVILLE (F.S.) at 0900 November
(to be 27. M.S.C.I.5 refers.
training (2) Comar Toulon requested to arrange for escort
ship to R/V in position 042 degs. 20' 006 degs. 23'
Toulon.) at 0930/28th ALMED's number 50338 not to all
refers, para.9 C. in C. Med's 201307 not to all
refers.
(F.O.Tunisia, 251216A to Comar, Toulon)

/EMILE BERTIN ...

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Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

EMILE BERTIN. (1) French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN at 1200 November 26th to position 218 for onward routing by F.O. L.E.M. to Piraeus. M.S.C.I.5.
(2) 24. (3) Basic eastbound.
(4) E.T.A. position 79, 2330/26th position 218

1800/27th.

(6) "archery" 438. (7) A.
(9) (a) My 171006 not to all addressees refers.
(b) Boat facilities requested for embarkation and disembarkation stores and personnel.
(F.O.W.M.251700A to S.B.N.O. Greece, 279, F.O.L.E.M.)

UNSWERVING. UNSWERVING has damaged all main bearings and some bottom end bearings of port engine due to failure of lubricating oil supply.
(2) Estimated date of completion of making good defects 10th December ex trials. She will then be sailed for Alexandria in accordance with your 091006.
(S/M. 1, 261934A to C. in C. Med.)

Radar in Escort Carriers. Fitting of Radar type 277 in Escort Carriers. As Admiralty letter D.022806/44 of 14th November has not yet been received, it is still not clear from A.M. 210605 and subsequent messages whether type 277 is to be fitted in ATTACKER, HUNTER and STALKER.
(2) Can details requested in my 071526 now be given?
(C. in C. Med. 252012 to Admt)

HAYDON contact. Your 251252 (N.T. in W.D.). In position 035 degs. 40' 30" N. 026 degs. 26' E. echoes were obtained bearing 340 degs. between range of 800 and 1000 yards. S.T.U. was in use. Echoes had characteristic ripple of mines and were extremely sharp and of small extent. They could be held whilst passing clear. At no time was there doppler.
(HAYDON 252030B to F.O.L.E.M.)

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

HOWE. Following is a repetition, of my 220540Z (begins):
Admty. (R) A.C.N.B. from C. in C. B.P.F.
I provisionally intend to sail HOWE and three
destroyers with the main body of my staff to
Australia about 2nd December. Details will be signalled later.
(Ends.)
(C. in C. B.P.F. 250336Z, Admty. (R) A.C.N.B.)

U-Boat Area K.D.3, scale X.4. Other areas. Scale
dispositions unchanged.
(C. in C. E.I. 250345Z)

LARGS. Request E.T.A. of LARGS at Bombay.
(F.O. Force W. 250556Z to F.O.i/c London)

HELVIG. C. in C. E.F's 091140 November.
H.M.S. HELVIG is being fitted out as a seaward
defence ship but has been allocated provisionally
to the Fleet Train for the British Pacific
Fleet.
(2) She should be ready to leave U.K. about end of April.
(Head of M. Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 250624A to C. in C. E.I.
Info: C. in C. British Pacific Fleet).

M.T.B.292 M.T.B.292 of 16th M.T.B. Flotilla sank at Mandapam
salved. on the night of 13/14 November. Ship raised
20th November. Estimated time for repair at
least 3 months. Full report follows.
(C. in C. E.I. 251102Z to Admty.)

CONFEDERATE. Request completion date for salvage tug CONFEDER-
ATE. On completion intend this ship to resume
duty at Aden. Request she be sailed accordingly.
(C. in C. E.I. 251207Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

S/M.K.11. Ref. A.M. 231851. Removal of Netherlands S/M
K.11 will not adversely effect A/S training on
this station.
(C. in C. E.I.251244Z to Admty)

Cruiser A.M. 182143 and 211028 to C. in C. E.F. and C. in C.
Commands. E.F's 210650. It is regretted that Admiralty
intentions have not been made quite clear.
(2) It is intended that Rear Admiral Brind shall
relieve Rear Admiral Read in command of the

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Cruiser Commands. (Contd.) 4th Cruiser Squadron (Short title C.S.4) consisting of the cruisers in para. 1 of A.M. 012006 / . The staff of C.S.4 should be transferred to Rear Admiral Brind. Question of additional staff in C. in C. E.I.'s 210748 and 221015 does not therefore arise. Rear Admiral

Read should return to U.K.
(3) All the cruisers which remain in the East Indies Fleet will form the 5th Cruiser Squadron under the command of Rear Admiral Walker.

(4) The temporary arrangements made in C. in C. E.F.'s 180327 are noted.

(5) Question of appointment of another Flag officer to East Indies Fleet will be dealt with when reply from C. in C. East Indies to First Sea Lord's letter has been received.

(V.C.N.S. 252236A to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. B.P.F.)
/ Top Secret (Hush) no copy in W.D.)

Boom Vessels. C. in C. E.F.'s 120627Z October. Following Boom Vessels are expected to leave U.K.

- BARBAIN - late November to Aden;
- BARNWELL)
- BARTIZAN) late December to January;
- BARBERRY)
- BARRANCA)

MOORSMAN and MOORPOUT - early February.

(2) Either BARBRAKE or BARCROSS from Saldanha Bay may also be available. A.M. 312133 October refers.

(D.B.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F).252332A to C. in C. E.I.)

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat Estimates.
Dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 251346A Cominch, 251848Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Surveying. (1) Legend in para. 1 your 151836 can now be removed. BUNGAREE's survey 1944 showed patches of least depth 37, 29 and 40 feet between Alert Rock and Herald Patches.

? *Home Staff*
(2) Concur para. 2.

(3) Present recommended track is as shown on chart Aus. F.0102 passing either side of Marina Rock Light Buoy and Double Island, pending result of sweeping by CHALLENGER between Alert Rock and Herald Patches.

(A.C.N.B. 250721Z to Admty.)

Digest (1) Possible S/M contact obtained early daylight
1039 for 260 miles Northwest of Lorengau.
Nov. 24. (5) Leyte based 50? Air Force planes including
8 Lightnings 8 Liberators minimum 15 Thunderbolts

attacked ground targets Western Leyte 22nd Nov. including waterfront Ormoc Bay and Pagampon where 2 Coasters 2 large Luggers damaged. Next day weather interfered with air operations Leyte but Kittyhawks attacked bridges Ormoc area.

(7) Enemy shipping including three Transports 1 Escort seen mid-morning 24th off Southern Masbate Island believed carrying reinforcements for Ormoc. Strikes launched by Fighter Bombers from Leyte, preliminary reports state that 2 Transports 1 Escort all sunk, 3rd Transport set on fire and beached.

(8) Previous afternoon 2 ships (described as Cruisers but possibly part of above force) sighted off Banton Island on Northern Tablas Strait. Both ships camouflaged. Search for these ships morning 24th negative but 6 camouflaged Sea Truck type vessels observed anchored off Southwest Coast Banton Island.

(9) Dusk 24th November four ships described as Cruisers observed proceeding at high speed from Manila Bay towards Veree Island Passage.

(10) Afternoon same date U.S. S/M saw four ships Northbound convoy comprising one each NATORI Class Cruiser. Old type Destroyer S/M-Chaser and Tender close inshore Northwestern Luzon.

(12) 16 Liberators bombed Sassa runway 22nd while 7 Beaufighters swept Davao Gulf shooting up several Barges. (?Darvel) Bay 23rd

(13) R/C Liberator attacked 5 Luggers Darle (?Darvel) Bay 23rd

/ probably ...

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest probably destroying all. Sighted 16 Freighters
1039 for whereof 6 Medium 10 small Sandakan Harbour.
Nov.24. Observed 2 Transport 2 ships of undetermined size
(Contd.) and 10 Sea Trucks in Brunei Bay. Search plane
over same area 24th reported 1 large Tanker 1
Large Transport 2 medium Freighters, 6 Sea
Trucks, 2 Destroyers at Brunei. 4 Tankers 10
Freighters whereof 3 large 7 small. 11 Sea Trucks plus 4
Destroyer Escorts off Miri and 2 or 3 small ships Marudu Bay.
(14) Early hours 24th Navy Mariner damaged small Freighter in
Marudu Bay by near misses.
(16) Early that day 3 Mitchells patrolled Ceram, hitting small
craft, and later 32 Mitchells struck Laha.
(20) Army reports Submarine off Open Bay night 21st.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 250750)

V.A.(Q) Admiralty letter M.O.11509/44 of 10th November
B.P.F. (not to all addressees) request Flag of Acting
Admiral ~~C.S. Daniel~~ C.S. Daniel as Vice Admiral (Q) British
Pacific Fleet may be transferred from H.M.S.
PRESIDENT to H.M.S. GOLDEN HIND 0800 K Monday 27th
November.
(V.A.(Q) British Pacific Fleet, 250920Z to Admty.)
My 250930 (250920 intended). Intend that title of British
Naval Liaison Party, Australia, should lapse at 0800 K/27th
November, being replaced by V.A.(Q) British Pacific Fleet with
Headquarters at Melbourne. Request all necessary Authorities
may be informed.
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 251150Z to Admty)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M.Attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/25th November. *U.771 sunk*
and sighting (a) (1) At 0737Z/11th Nov. H.M. S/M VENTURER
summary. attacked a 740 ton unescorted U-Boat Co.195 degs.
in approx. 69 degs. 14' N. 16 degs. 22' E.
(b) (1) At 0815Z/24th, H.M.C.S. OUTREMONT and LOCH
MORLICH obtained bottom contact and LOCH MORLICH
attacked with Squid in 50 degs. 21' N. 01 degs. 08' W.
(2) At 2130Z/24th Nov. A/C G.330 obtained A.S.V. contact in
60 degs. 30' N. 04 degs. 50' W. *U.322 sunk*
(3) At 2140Z/24th Nov. A/C O.224 obtained A.S.V. contact in
60 degs. 40' N. 04 degs. 49' W.
(4) At 0215Z/25th Nov. E.G.17 attacked Asdic contact with
Hedgehog in 60 degs. 18' N. 04 degs. 52' W.

/c) (1) ...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(c) (1) At 0804Z/24th Nov. A/C E.304 sighted P/S
in 58 degs. 42' N. 06 degs. 59' W.

(d) (1) At 1930Z/24th Nov. H.M.C.S. PETROLIA
obtained firm contact later considered probably
non-S/M. in 53 degs. 46' N. 05 degs. 04' W.

(2) Prior to 1548Z/24th Sept. (?Nov.) U.S. PIPE
SPRING reported U-Boat on surface, and was missed
by torpedoes in 19 degs. 14' W. 86 degs. 17' E.
(D.D.I.C. 251159A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 251356A, 251357A)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

- 1(a) Humber minesweepers were weatherbound.
- (b) Five ground mines were detonated in and near Flushing, but none in the fairway to Antwerp, which is now considered to be as safe as extensive minesweeping can make it.
- (c) An aircraft of 18 Group attacked a convoy off the Skaw in the evening but was unable to see results owing to the weather.
- (d) Three enemy ships were attacked by an aircraft of 16 Group off Ymuiden, and four others by another aircraft of the same Group off the Hook, in the small hours, but these results also were unobserved.

Channel.

- (2) L'ESCARMOUCHE reports negative results of her U-Boat attacks. She reports petrol, and the smell of it, on the surface, and negatives the suggestion that it might be oil, but as the French for paraffin is "pétrole", whilst oil ("huile") in French would refer to lubricants, it may be that she was more successful than language difficulties would suggest. One mine was swept off Le Havre.

Western Approaches.

- (3) Thirtieth Escort Group obtained two large air bubbles and an explosion, followed by small quantities of oil, after a Squid attack off Cape Clear. Whistle effects were also heard, but conditions for echo-sounder work were consistently bad, preventing accurate observations. Four other suspected U-Boats are being investigated in the Western Approaches area, as well as two in Northern Waters.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

4. The French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC fired 84 rounds in good visibility at six supply barges fitting out on a slipway at Pietre Ligure in the Gulf of Genoa. The area was well covered and direct hits obtained on the target.

Adriatic.

5. Four Beaufighters and two Spitfires attacked targets in Lignano and Caorle. A barge was probably sunk on Lake Marano.

/Palestine ...

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26.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Palestine.

6. In view of the unsatisfactory internal situation in Palestine, and should action be taken next month to stop immigration, F.O.L.E.M. considers that at least four craft will be required permanently on patrol, and 10 vessels, corvettes or larger, will be required to maintain this patrol. Should disturbances occur, a battleship in Haifa and a cruiser off Jaffa would have a stabilising effect. He mentioned KING GEORGE V for the former, but the Admiralty on the 27th ordered her to Colombo, with the staff of the Vice-Admiral, 2nd in Command, British Pacific Fleet.

East Indies

HOWE.

7. The battleship HOWE, escorted by the destroyers RAPID and RAIDER, left Trincomalee today for Colombo, (arriving 27th). The C. in C., British Pacific Fleet, intends provisionally to sail her and three destroyers with the main body of his staff to Australia about December 2.

America and West Indies

SHAWINIGAN
overdue.

8. The Canadian corvette SHAWINIGAN has been overdue at Sydney, Cape Breton, since the return of a convoy yesterday afternoon. The last contact with her was when proceeding to patrol in Cabot Strait on the entry of the convoy into Port Aux Basques on the afternoon of the 24th. A shore watcher now reports two explosions in the vicinity of Duck Island, 47.34 N., 59.11 W., at 250115Z, which may indicate her destruction by submarine. Escort Group 16 and aircraft are searching the area.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines. 9. Last night an aircraft on reconnaissance attacked one freighter and three barges in Puerto Princesa, sinking the barges.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

A/T Defences in Bristol Channel. In view of renewed threat of U-boat in Shore operations it is proposed that the dismantling of A/T defences in Bristol Channel approved by A.L.B.D. 0715/44 of 13th November may be indefinitely postponed.
 (C. in C.W.A. 262054A to Admty.)

Movements

BACHAQUERO Faeroes Arrival BACHAQUERO with HAZEL and KARMOY.
 (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 260952A to A.C.O.S.)

KENT Your 252046A November acknowledged. Anchor berth on arrival is X.1.
 (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 260959A to C.S.1.)

TRUCULENT All times G.M.T. Intend sailing H.M.S/M TRUCULENT (P.315) escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY at 0800 1st December from Thurso to St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 1800 10th speed 9 knots.
 (2) Route in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 241154A November.
 (3) Chop 1200 8th December.
 (4) Communications TRUCULENT (P.315) H.S. routine to 035° W. thence in accordance with A.F.O.'S'I Section WA table 2(3).
 NORTHERN SPRAY in accordance with A.F.O.'S' 2 table 2 (7) and (8) to 035° west thence in accordance with A.F.O.'S' 2 section WA table 2 (1) line 3.
 (5) S/M painted green.
 (Capt. S/M 9, 261213A to Admty.)

HUNTER, ATTACKER, STALKER. HUNTER, ATTACKER, STALKER A.M. Onward route by standard coastal route B to -
 X 49° N. 11° W.
 Y 40° N. 11° W.
 Z 37° N. 10° W.
 A 35.51 N. 06.10 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean.
 (Plot (OD) 261238A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

TANATSIDE take destroyers addressed under his orders pass gate at 0840A/27th and await ATTACKER and STALKER outside.
 (2) ATTACKER take STALKER under his orders pass gate at 0900A/27th.
 (3) Thence ATTACKER take all ships addressed under his orders and proceed to carry out programme as in my 251549.
 (4) Communications:-
 (a) All ships constant watch broadcast CN and Port Wave.
 (b) C. in C. Plymouth will keep watch on 116. 1 MC/S call sign Plymouth.
 (c) In addition as arranged by ATTACKER in accordance with paragraph 6 of my 251549.
 (5) Codeword for carriers "Chuckster". STALKER if detached Chuckster One.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 261519A to ATTACKER, STALKER, TANATSIDE, MELBREAK, BRISSENDEN, ALBRIGHTON.)

/HUNTER...

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SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

HUNTER, ATTACKER, STALKER. (Contd.) HUNTER, ATTACKER, STALKER. Cancel A.M. 261238. (Plot (OD) 261651A to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Western Approaches, F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Mediterranean, H.Q.C.C. HUNTER, ATTACKER, STALKER.)

ROYALIST My 251141 sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 261238A to F.O.G.M.A.) C. in C. Portsmouth 251127 onward escort from position (5) will not be provided. (2) In view of possible presence of U-boats in Channel H/S is to be maintained from time escort part company until you pass 048° 30' N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 261332A to ROYALIST) Your 251127. As CROIX DE LORRAINE is unable to maintain S.O.A. in present weather conditions have ordered her to return to Portsmouth reporting own E.T.A. (ROYALIST, 261633 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

CLEOPATRA Clyde arrival CLEOPATRA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261528A to S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.G.M.A.)

SEADOG SEADOG will be ready to sail 2nd December for East Indies. Request she may be sailed in suitable convoy to Gibraltar. (F.O.S/M 261549A to C. in C. W.A.)

Situation Reports

Military In Mulhouse area enemy shows aggressive attitude and counter attacks successful in forcing Allied troops back to Habsheim (A.98). Enemy reported withdrawing before Belfort. Rougemont le Chateau (V.40) lost by enemy. Allied drive north from city apparently linked up with drive east from Chateau Lambert. In Vosges enemy attempting large scale withdrawal. Large Allied gains made south-east and north-east of St. Die. Progress made along St. Die - Strasbourg railway beyond Schirmeck. Allied drives penetrating deep into forest from west reached Raon Sur Plaine and drive from north nearing Grandfontaine. Resistance offered by well organised small groups fighting delaying action. Patrols to Molsheim encountered only retreating elements. Entire area between Petit Rhine rivers east of Strasbourg strongly held by enemy. All bridges over Rhine still intact and in enemy hands. Opposition from small arms fire received area R.0317 Civilians report approximately 50 tanks and 3000 troops arrived in Haguenau afternoon 23 or 24 November. Prisoner of War states three divisions to be brought up to Haguenau with mission to retake Strasbourg Enemy attacked with tanks and infantry areas Rauwiller and Veckerswiller.

South of Sarrequet mines after counter attack during morning at Baerendorf enemy observed withdrawing tanks and artillery

/toward...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Military (contd). toward Wolfskirchen. Vittersbourg evacuated by enemy. Strong infantry positions encountered on high ground north of Longueville St. Avold and vicinity Zimming. East of Luxembourg enemy tank and infantry counter attack from area Oberleuken repulsed and town captured by Allies. Tettingen lost by enemy.

West of Cologne heavy enemy resistance along Duren-Julich-Linnich front held Allies to small gains. Further prisoner reports of SS. arrivals rear area. Street fighting reported in Langewehe and Weisweiler and enemy tanks and infantry counter attack to north repulsed.

Outskirts Venlo reached by allies and further gains made to north of ground west of Meuse river. Rhine now risen to 11.66 metres at Nijmegen.

Enemy attempted patrol landing on north Beveland at D.2741- wiped out.

General: More and more of enemy's infantry being sucked up into main battles for Ruhr and Saar. Ardennes have now apparently contributed two divisions to each flank, 91 and 18 to north, 347 and 353 to South. Committing of 188 Volksgrenadier (and 340 Volksgrenadier) significant as it had evidently been hoped to keep brand new Volksgrenadiers in secluded parts of the line. Army Group H now weighing in with its contribution: 256 is probably being followed by others and even parachute divisions still out of line and doing training may be snatched from students clutches. Further Volksgrenadier Divisions from Fatherland also essential and one division in transit from Norway. Enemy's losses in present offensive put at 100,000 men. Local lack of infantry most conspicuous in sector Strasbourg Pirmasens. (S.H.A.E.F., 261645A to War Office).

Naval Cositintrep Number 236 part 2 Naval. Unloading figures for 25th November.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
<u>British.</u>				
East Calvados	1	36	798	Nil
Dieppe	Nil	Nil	1,449	Nil
Boulogne	38	97	2,743	Nil
Calais	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ostend	1,163	143	4,626	1,470
Total	1,202	276	9,616	1,470
<u>United States</u>				
Cherbourg	10	5	14,300	4,520
Rouen	149	90	3,910	2,122
Brittany Ports	Nil	47	5,624	Nil
Le Havre	5,420	529	7,418	341
Total	5,579	671	31,252	6,983
Combined Total	6,781	947	40,868	8,453
(A.N.C.X.F., 262350A to Admty).				

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Dutch vessels for Flushing Your 231400. Requests for return of Dutch vessels should be made initially by Dutch authorities to S.H.A.E.F. Mission (Netherlands) (A.N.C.X.F. 261115A to F.O. Holland.)

Minesweeping in Humber area. Owing to increased mine sweeping commitments in Humber area permission is requested to retain VARANIS for convoy escort duties to relieve Oropesa trawler at present employed in this work. My 261145 not to C. in C. Nore refers. (F.O. Humber, 261155A to Admty.)

Schelde Estuary Eagle ships to be under N.O.I.C. Antwerp Concur with proposal in para. 1 of your 241730. (Com. Belgium 261236 to C. in C. Nore.)

Survey of Schelde. Sailed SCOTT at 1529A/26th November to Ostend to Ostend to comply with A.N.C.X.F. 250945A. My 251033A refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 261530A to A.N.C.X.F.(Main)).
Concur your 252251.
Military have been asked to complete clearance of areas by 1st December. (Com. Belgium, 261721 to Admty.)

Shipping control limit. My 231452. At the meeting held at Ostend on 25th November it was agreed subject to your concurrence that the Inner Limit for the control of shipping by you should be N.F.18 buoy instead of N.F.16. (A.N.C.X.F. 261555A to C. in C. Nore.)

Reform of Force T. N.C. Force T (Rear) 201754 and 201756. It is desired to reform Force T by 1st January. Request, therefore, that repairs be undertaken:-
(a) To complete all support squadron and L.C.H. by 15th December.
(b) To complete as many as possible of rest of craft of Force T. by 23rd December.
(2) Request craft which are not expected to be completed by 23rd December be replaced and Force T brought up to strength given in my 131215 and 101935 by that date. (A.N.C.X.F. 261557A to Admty.)

First Antwerp Convoy Request order in which ships of first convoy will proceed up river Schelde. Request confirmation that Commodore in FORT CATARAQUI will be leading notwithstanding draught. Request name of Commodore and Master of FORT CATARAQUI. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 261748A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Submarine...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Submarine
Sanctuary
in Moray
Firth

A submarine Sanctuary has been established bounded by lines joining the following points -
(a) 57° 46' N. 01° 49.3 min. W.
(b) 57° 50.7' N. 03° 26' W.
(c) 58° 28.3' N. 02° 42' W.
(2) Sanctuary will be known as Moray Sanctuary, letters EE, responsible authority C. in C. Rosyth. (D.A. S.W., 261819A General Message.)

Flag Officer
Berlin

Naval Party No. 1749 is allocated to Flag Officer Berlin and Staff.
(A.N.C.X.F. 261840A to Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Searches

C. in C. Western Approaches' 241211A E.T.A. Longships 1800.
(S.O.E.G.15, 260905A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

If not in contact 6th E.G. leave patrol at 1400A/26th and carry out zigzag search through positions 49.33 N. 03.15 W. 49.27 N. 05.30 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles thence proceed at best speed to Londonderry for layover.

(2) S.O. E.G.6 report E.T.A. direct.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261207A to S.O.E.G.6)
Search following areas.

(2) ANTHONY BRILLIANT Z.112, 108.
(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE on completion present duty Z.109 110.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261247A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces.)
Night Patrols 26th/27th.

Special object locate U-boat at Schnorkel Depth.

(2) Zig-zag search at steady 8 knots through positions and areas in sequence given.

(3) Commence 1800 finish 0830.

(4) ANTHONY H.5 Buoy Z 109 H 8 buoy Z.110 49° 45' 01° 00' W. J Buoy.

(5) BRILLIANT H.5 Buoy Z.108 109 A 4 Buoy G 1, Buoy Z 109 J Buoy

(6) VANQUISHER J Buoy Z.10 11 12 17 J Buoy.

(7) L'ESCARMOUCHE J Buoy C.3 Buoy Z.9 10 J Buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261255A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
My 261207. For 1400A/26 read 0600/27. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261307A to S.O.E.G.6.)

On passing Longships proceed to carry out zig-zag search through positions (A) 49.46 N. 05.10 W.

(b) 50.02 N. 03.49 W.

(c) 49.38 N. 03.40 W. subsequently establishing patrol between B and C.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261330A to S.O.E.G.15.)

Day patrols 27th.

Search areas limits given.

(2) Destroyers, Frigates between H Channel Q.Z.S.636.

(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE proceed to A.3 Buoy work East between 50° 30' 50° 06'.

(4) ANTHONY BRILLIANT from J Buoy work West between 50° 06'.

/Q.Z.S. ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Searches Q.Z.S.637, 616, 526.
(Contd.) (5) M.T.Bs. Z.125, 126, 127, 130 S. of Q.Z.S. 629.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 261552A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

27th search area limit 645.

(2) Destroyer frigate between H channel Q.Z.S. 636.

(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE proceed A.3 buoy work East between 050° 30' 050° 06'.

(4) ANTHONY, BRILLIANT from J buoy work West between 050° 06' Q.Z.S.637, 616, 526.

(5) M.T.B. Z.125, 126, 127, 130 S.Z. N.Q.Z.S. 629.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261552A to Portsmouth, A/S Patrol Force)

Air Patrols - 27th.

My 201752 221138 refer.

(2) Day Patrols 47.48 will be flown. Call signs 838 Squadron R/T MOTHBURN W/T R.W.C.842 Squadron R/T Occult W/T T.Z.S.

(3) Patrols 39 and 40 are being flown day and night callsigns will be signalled if required for co-operation.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261842 to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

My 261604: Add to 6th E.G. - Shift Patrol 2100 to 50° 10' N. 03° 11' W. 49° 41' N. 03° 8' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261951A to A.I.G.31.)

Suspected Your 261049 3 attacks negative results.
U-boat (L'ESCARMOUCHE, 261250A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Your 252010 and 252040, can you confirm petrol and not oil.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261310 to L'ESCARMOUCHE.)

Resume patrol my 261247 refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261328A to L'ESCARMOUCHE.)

Your 261310 confirm petrol repeat petrol. Same smell

today.

(L'ESCARMOUCHE, 261340A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Rules for A.M. 252051A November. Concur.
conduct of (V.A. Dover, 261341A to Admty.)
aircraft Your 252051. Concur but propose areas concerned
and surface be amended in accordance with S.H.A.E.F. Main Air
craft. Defence Division 251530.
(A.N.C.X.F. 261801A to Admty.)

Further Signal your reasons and the conditions under
suspected which you left Asdic contact in 050° 21' N.
U-boat. 001° 08' W. without orders from C. in C. Portsmouth.
This contact was considered by C. in C. Portsmouth,
to have been a U-boat. Your 241440 refer.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261511A, 261511A to OUTREMONT)

Your 261511A. A/S contact was left at 1440A having been in V area for 7 hours. Attacks carried out, 4 accurately and one inaccurately SQUID attacks, 12/3 attack. Contact was not considered to be a U-boat as it is thought that these attacks should produce some evidence, bearing in mind accuracy of SQUID.
(2) OUTREMONT was only once in firm contact throughout.
(3) C. in C. Portsmouth and shore authority concerned were fully informed of the situation throughout by my 240915, 241045, 241229 and 241440A.

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Channel.

Further suspected U-boats. (contd).

(4) No instructions were received from shore at any time. Other A/S ships were in immediate vicinity. (5) Finally your 242141A refers. (OUTREMONT, 262140A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Amplifying reports on U-boat attacks.

Details of Asdic evidence in anti-U-boat warfare are assuming greater importance.
(2) Amplifying report should state in future:-
(a) Pressure of whistle effect or hydrophone effect if obtained.
(b) Detail movement of contact given by the plot.
(c) C.O. Opinion echo recorder trace, depth U/B, echo sounder trace, and natural bottom contacts.
(3) Attention is also directed to PA SI paras. 62 and 63. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 261944A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Operations

Western Approaches

BUTTERCUP

A.M. 151948 paras. 2 and 3. BUTTERCUP is to be taken in hand for refit at Messrs. Russells, Liverpool on 6th December and will not proceed to Hartlepool nor reduce to reserve.

(2) A.M. 221624. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to propose earliest convenient date for transfer to French and state details of French advance party required. Nucleus Belgian crew should be retained in BUTTERCUP until French take over.

(3) Remainder of Belgians should be discharged to R.N. Barracks Devonport and should be further dealt with as in paras. 4 and 5 of A.M. 151948. (4) A.M. 151948 is being passed to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

(A.C.N.S. 376, 260127 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Suspected U-boat

Your 260142A my position 050° 56' N. 007° 43' W. course 175° speed 15 knots. Intend sweeping to position 050° 28' N. 007° 33' W. subsequently establishing box search length of sides 10 miles round contact position. Weather report 3937 2400. (S.O.E.G.14, 260401A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 260401A, sweep and Box search completed. Intend to repeat Box search and, on completion, proceed through contact position to Gamma search as in your 251111A.

(2) At 0115/26 attacked bottomed contact in position 051° 29' N. 007° 37' 30" W. non-submarine, H. 30 feet L.17 feet accurate, probably pinnacle rock.

(3) Weather report 5878 0966 unsuitable. (S.O.E.G.14, 261102 to C. in C.W.A.)

If not in contact by 1600/26th 14th E.G. proceed to relieve 4th E.G. in approximate position 050° 56' 009° 42'. S.O. E.G.30s 260911 passed to S.O. E.G.14 refers.

(2) On relief 4th E.G. if not in contact proceed to Belfast to lay over.

(C. in C. W.A. 261201A to S.O.E.G.'s 14, 4.)

Am investigating bottom contact in posn. 050°45' N. 007°21' W. (S.O.E.G.14, 261604A to C. in C.W.A.)

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Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Suspected
U-boat.
(Contd.)

My 261604A. Contact classified non-submarine position 050° 44' 30" N. 007° 21' W. rocky bottom large extent of target, accurate. (2) Am complying with your 261201A, course 280° speed 15 knots. Weather report 6490 1267 unsuitable. (S.O.E.G.14, 261735A to C. in C. W.A.)

Further
suspected
U-boat.

Small Radar contact detected and lost at 11000 yards at 0730, Asdic contact obtained at 0811 within half a mile of Radar position. H.P. air and one unexplained explosion in position of target some time after an attack. My position 50° 56' 30" N. 09° 42' W. S.O. 4th E.G. in company. Suitable. (S.O.E.G.30, 260911A to C. in C. W.A.)

Six Squid attacks carried out; my 260911. Contact lost probably due to conditions. If target U-boat consider badly damaged. Two large air bubbles and one unexplained explosion. This explosion caused no swirl on surface. Two ships hunting, three ships carrying out observant three mile legs. Four ships of 4th E.G. carrying out observant six mile legs. Unsuitable. A. Poor. B. No. Weather deteriorating. (S.O.E.G. 30, 261147A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 261147 contact regained intermittently in original position, small quantities of oil still coming to surface. Echo sounder traces indicate target between 12 and 18 feet high. Suitable A improving B (?local).

(S.O.E.G.30, 261432A to C. in C.W.A.)

Your contact looks most promising. Following information is still required.

(a) Was contact stopped and on bottom when initially detected by asdics?

(b) Were nature of echo, extent of target and recorder trace consistent?

(c) What is length of target by echo sounder trace.

(d) Were H.E. or whistle effect heard.

(C. in C.W.A. 261844A to S.O.E.G. 30.)

(1) A. Apparently stopped. But PORTCHESTER CASTLE had a depth by 147 at 60 feet above bottom on her second attack. Your 261844A.

(B) Yes but a little small. Echo was very powerful when first detected by PEVENSEY. 2400 yards extent of target 8°.

(C) Have been unable to get length. Conditions for echo sounder work consistently bad.

(D) PORTCHESTER reported loud whistle effects when making her second attack. No undue amount of fish have been brought up.

(2) Initial Radar echo detected by PORTCHESTER CASTLE was held for half a minute.

(3) Area had been swept over 16 times without previously detecting a contact in this vicinity.

(4) Position of contact by astronomical fix is 50° 56' 30" N. 09° 39' W.

(5) Unsuitable A poor B.

(S.O.E.G.30, 262029A to C. in C.W.A.)

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Operations

Western Approaches

Third
suspected
U-boat

At 1113Z on 11165 kcs. 60 groups naval enigma U-boat bearing 026° distant. My position course and speed 044° 39' N. 022° 59' W. 042° 16. Weather Report 9080 2063.
(H.M.C.S. HURON 261210Z to C. in C.W.A.)

GEE
stations
in Western
Approaches

A.M. Whitehall's 251737, passed to addressees, para. 1. Siting party will be instructed to report to F.O.I.C. Greenock on Thursday 30th November.

(2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to propose a programme for visiting sites in the Greenock Sub-Command, on completion of which party should

be landed in Northern Ireland and visit Downhill arranged by F.O.I.C. N.I.

(3) The siting of these stations is of great operational importance and urgency, request any facility may be given to expedite the survey. If a Trawler or other craft is required to assist, request I may be informed.

(C. in C. W.A. 261457A to F.O.I.Cs. Greenock, N.I.)

Patrols

2nd E.G. WILD GOOSE 5 Frigates support CYGNET's convoy to Barra Head.

19th E.G. HESPERUS 4 frigates patrol general area Butt of Lewis.

14th E.G. HAVELOCK, DUNCAN, ASSINIBOINE and 30th E.G. PEVENCEY CASTLE, 4 corvettes patrol general area south-west Ireland.

Add to my 261210.

(C. in C.W.A. 261527A to Home Section)

E.G.14 P.C.S. at 1735 was 050° 44' 007° 21' 280° 15 knots to relieve you in accordance with my 261201. My 261739 refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 262130A to S.O.E.G. 4.)

Programme
for
Support
Groups.

Amend my 231056 as follows:-

Group	Return	Sail	Return	Sail
1	-	Dec. 4	Dec. 28	-
3	-	Nov. 30	Dec. 22	Jan. 3
5	Nov. 30	Dec. 16	Jan. 4	-
10	Dec. 9	Dec. 26	-	-
17	Dec. 2	Dec. 14	-	-
21	-	Dec. 7	Jan. 1	-
30	Dec. 4	Dec. 16	-	-

(C. in C.W.A. 262219A to Com. D.W.A., Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast.)

Fourth
suspected
U-boat.

Attacking bottom contact in position 050° 55' N. 008° 53' W. (S).

(S.O.E.G.14, 262243 to C. in C.W.A.)

Fifth
suspected
U-boat

S.C.161. P.C.S. 51.14 N. 39.04 W. (S) 061 7 at 2224Z and 2253Z and 2314Z on 5075 kilocycles Naval enigmas bearing 298 1st Class considered near. Investigating.

(S.O. C.5, 262336Z to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Submarine Chaser operation "V.P." Intend carrying out VP 77.
(1) 0600A/27th November.
(2) 2100A/27th November.
(3) Not later than 0900A/1st December.
(4) 278° towards Noss Head Bressay not more than 20 knots.
(5) Not later than p.m. 1st November.
(6) No. (7) No. (8) 098° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 261153A to A.C.O.S.)
My 261153A*
(1) 098° from Noss Head, not more than 20 knots.
(2) 059° 41' N. 005° 00' E.
(3) Blank.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261154A to A.C.O.S.)*Intend carry out V.P.77.

Patrols Positions of submarines at 0800/27th November and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
(a) SOKOL as in my 221801.
(b) SOLENT 58° 51' N. 00° 10' W. probably on the surface 10 knots to patrol line 15 miles North and South of 58° 45' N. 01° 15' E.
(c) RUBIS escort FORFEIT vicinity of Stronsay to 23 Buoy E.T.A. 1000/28th thence RUBIS unescorted to Dundee.
(F.O. S/M 261809A to Admty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Suspected U-boat By D/F on 11165 kcs. at 1114Z U-boat in area within 25 miles of line joining 65 N. 08 W. and Faeroes.
(D.D.I.C. 261315A to Cs. in C.H.F., Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy J.W.62 J.W.62.
(1) N.S. TUNSBURG CASTLE, N.S. EGLANTINE are allocated temporarily to E.G.7 and are to sail as additional escort of J.W.62.
(2) N.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail these ships to arrive Loch Ewe during daylight November 28th.
(3) Admiralty 252247 not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 261601A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool, C.S.I., E.G.7.)

Four Norwegian trawlers to go to Murmansk Replacements are required for the four A/S M/S trawlers withdrawn from A.C.O.S. A.M.252247 refers.
(2) Request you will transfer to A.C.O.S. as soon as practicable four A/S or A/S M/S trawlers from your Escort Force.
(D.O.D.(H), 261652A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/Suspected ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Suspected
U-boat

Investigate A.S.V. contact grade I by aircraft M/224 in position 060° 56' N. 003° 56' W. at 1710A, 26th W/T call sign of aircraft LGD 39, R/T call sign "Pistol Peter" 64.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 261755A to S.O.E.G.17.)

My 261755A homing procedure "Charlie" will commence at 2100A by aircraft V/86 R/T call sign "Pistol Peter" 27, Wireless call sign R.M.R. 47.

(C. in C. Rosyth 261825A to S.O.E.G.17.)

Your 261755 and 261825. E.T.A. "Furthest on" position

2359A. At 1809A sighted distant light and flame thought to be from crashed aircraft in position 059° 40' N. 005° 27' W. Searched to 15 miles but found nothing.

(S.O.E.G.17, 261915A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

- One T.L.C. off The Hook. Nr. 1. Position of one T.L.C. 51° 59' N. 4° 05' E. based on fix by Gee within ½ hour of midnight. Stationary.
(A/C UWX 26 260002 to 16 Group.)
My 0002. Have lost touch with enemy last observed in position 51° 59' N. 4° 05' E.
(A/C UWX 26 260105 to 16 Group.)
- 3 ships off Ymuiden. My 2334 position course and speed of 3 unknown 52° 32' N. 4° 30' E. 180° 8 knots.
(A/C UWX 91 260045 to 16 Group.)
My 0045. Have attacked enemy with bombs level. No hits observed.
(A/C UWX 91 260057 to 16 Group.)
- 4 craft off The Hook. Have obtained A.S.V. contact 4 unknown craft 52° 02' N. 4° 03' E.
(A/C UWX 26 260220 to 16 Group.)
52° 02' N. 4° 03' E. Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Result of attack unobserved.
(A/C UWX 26 260222 to 16 Group.)
My 0222 52° 03' N. 4° 06' E. Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Result of attack unobserved.
(A/C UWX 26 260255 to 16 Group.)
- 12 craft off the Skaw. Position of 12 unknown vessels is 58° 04' N. 11° 02' E. 0402 based on A.S.V. fix.
(A/C MFK 44 262025A to 18 Group.)
Nr. 2. My 2025. Have attacked unknown vessel with bombs. No results seen due to weather.
(A/C MFK 44 262045A to 18 Group.)

Mining.

- Sitrep. 40th and 42nd M/S Flotilla searched channel link SA/LL and swept one magnetic mine in position 049° 44' 33" N. 000° 22' 12" W. Negative results from other operations.
(Capt. M/S N.F. 260913 to C.T.F. 125.)
- Operation "Calendar". (1) Sweeping today Sunday 26th November SA/LL. A. Terneuzen to N.F. 13. B. Terneuzen to Bat. C. Area in Schelde Mouth outside swept channel in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 161712. D. L.A.A. sweeping at Antwerp. E. M.L. 221 sweeping in Flushing Harbour. Oropesa sweep. A. N.F. 18 to N.F. 13 by 18th M/S Flotilla. B. Bottom sweep by M. Launches Hansweerd to Bat.
(2) Ground mines 5: 2 near N.F. 18 - 1 near N.F. 17 - 1 off Flushing Harbour entrance 1 in Flushing Harbour only 1 in Channel. (3) Surveying work is continuing. (4) Nil.
(5) By M.S. 2048, M.M.S. 175, 237, 274, 291, M.F.V. 1020.
(Capt. M/S F.A. 261959A to C. in C. Nore.)

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War Diary.26.11.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

31st M.S.F. Following ships of 31st M.S.F. at Portsmouth, THUNDER, BAYFIELD, CANSO and COWICHAN. Request instructions for them. (C. in C. Portsmouth 261106A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Organisation of mine-sweepers for Far Shore. Following received from Capt. M/S F.B. begins:- With the arrival of the 3 M.M.S. today Saturday 25th November to relieve 3 M.M.S. of Force B, propose to return to Harwich in M.L. 342 on Tuesday, 28th November with 2 B.Y.M.S. and 1 M.M.S leaving 3 B.Y.M.S. in accordance with your 191126 The above is subject to the concurrence of N.O.I.C Ostend assuming responsibility for Q.Z.S. 632 from N.F. 7 to N.F. 13 M.S. Force remaining Ostend will then consist of 5 B.Y.M.S. 2 126 ft. M.M.S., 9 105 ft. M.M.S. and M.Ls. Anticipate that M.M.S. at Harwich will be available for Ostend during week commencing Monday, 27th November 251710A. Ends. Do you concur and if so request you will arrange for the three B.Y.M.S. to be relieved as soon as practicable by vessels from the 159th M.S.F. and sent back to Harwich where they are required to prepare for future operations, M.Ls. 212 and 345 are similarly required back at Harwich as soon as they can be spared. (C. in C. Nore 261115A to Com. Belgium.)

Sweeping of Schelde. Am anchored in Honte Channel. Have swept today as follows:
(2) First lap 5 ships in G to starboard 250 fathoms sweep wire 50 yards overlap with guide proceeding 180° N.F. 17 6.4 cable to 20 yards north of wreck buoy given in Q.Z.H. 672. Para. 3A to 20 yards north of N.F. 15. Width of lap south of N.F. 17 4.2 cable sweeps were streamed as guide left N.F. 18 close to port.
(3) 1 New G.X. mine swept by guide in position 238° N.F. 17 15.6 cables at 1209 and sunk in this position.
(4) Lap was then reswept in same direction by ships preserving 100 yards overlap.
(5) Guide swept an empty old and weedy G.X. minecase without horns in position (246°) N.F. 17 19.8 cables at 1431. This was sunk.
(6) 2nd sweeper detonated probable G.X. mine in sweep in position 243° N.F. 17 17.6 cables. Detonation parted sweep.
(7) On recovering sweep guide had empty minecase as described para. 5 above in Otter. This was closely investigated and absence of mooring was established before minecase was sunk.
(8) On recovering sweep 2nd sweeper had possible mines in kite. This could not be sighted on account of muddy water and kite wire was cut and danned flat H in position 229° N.F. 15 12 cables
(9) All sweeping was to depth of 5 fathoms and it is considered during? first lap sweeps passed over mine and possible obstructions swept during second lap when tide was 1 fathom lower both theoretically and by soundings.
(10) Tomorrow Monday intend sweep lap at greater depth using explosive cutters if necessary until negative result is obtained when report will be made, immediate signal.
(S.O. MSF.18 261735A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Humber...

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26.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Humber My 261350. Consider conditions are unlikely to
minesweepers be suitable within the next 24 hours.
weatherbound. (2) Propose 15th M.S.F. remain Grimsby road until
Tuesday 28th or the weather is more settled
whichever is the later.
(S.O. M.S.F. 15 261856A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Your 261856 approved.
(F.O. Humber 262140A to S.O. M.S.F. 15.)

Passage to The following minesweeping has been carried out
Antwerp to date: N.F. 13 to N.F. 18 channel 5 cables each
wholly side of centre line has been swept intensively SA
mineswept. LL. It has been cleared by Oropesa sweep for
same width except in vicinity of N.F. 16 and 17
buoys, where it has been cleared to full extent
allowed by wreck buoys. N.F. 18 to Antwerp.

The whole of main channels between the buoys has been wire
swept and whole of main channel and in fact up to banks has
been swept intensively SA LL. The area referred to in your
161712 and the 4 anchorages referred to in my 222125 have been
completed. The clearing of Flushing outer harbour requested
in Cdre. Belgium's 231502 has commenced. The area requested in
Admiralty 240245 is nearly completed, the Hoofdplaat and Galge-
put remain to be done. The special sweep referred to in your
261609 has been delayed by bad weather. Odd mines are still
being detonated and will in all likelihood continue. It is
considered that the risk of these and Oysters must be accepted.
Subject to this and the necessary navigational surveying being
completed I consider the passage of ships to Antwerp to be as
safe as extensive M/S can make it. Meanwhile routine sweeping
of the whole channel continues.

(Capt. M.S. F.A. 261937A to C. in C. Nore.)

U-Boats.

Situation Attacks by E.G. 30 at 0630Z/26th November indicate
report. one within 15 miles of 50° 50' N. 09° 35' W.
possibly moving E. or S.E.
No information on other areas but one possibly
in Central English Channel.
(D.D.I.C. 261403A to Cominch.)

Casualty.

L.C.V.(P) 1199 N.O.I.C. Newhaven 251928. L.C.M. 384, 273 and
L.C.V.(P) 1308 arrived Lanstone Harbour. O. i/c
Ferry Party reports L.C.V.(P) 1199 sank on
passage approx. 2 miles North of Ledbury Buoy.
(DRAGONFLY 261830 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

26.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.S. convoys K.M.S. convoys. Paras. 8 and 10 of C. in C. Mediterranean's 261750 October refers. Ships for French Mediterranean and Italian ports having to proceed in convoy for final portion of voyage are to be routed to the Main port from which convoy is available to give shortest total voyage. E.G. ship for Marseilles from U.K. should be directed to Oran.
(D.T.D. 261240A to C. in C. W.A.)

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26.11.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Group I F.O.G.M.A's 251203A para. (4). Group I met.
Patrol. KILBIRNIE detach at 260100 in 036° 07' N., 006°
KILBIRNIE, 40' W.
MIRROR. (BALINDERRY, 260139A to F.O.G.M.A.)
Request you comply with C. in C. Med.'s 251812
(MIRROR to repair Gibraltar - Carcavallos
cables - N.T. in W.D.) KILBIRNIE on completion
of acid cleaning as escort.
(F.O.G.M.A., 260859A to C.M.S.F.)
My 251444A. C.G. 133 sails plus cable ship MIRROR for
Gibraltar. Amended speed of convoy 9 knots, E.T.A. 1600A/27.
(Commorseafronfor, 261037A to F.O.G.M.A.)

MONTE MONTE ALBERTIA intercepted in 034° 25' N., 010°
ALBERTIA 28' W. at 0745A.
intercepted. (KILMINGTON, 260810A to F.O.G.M.A.)
P.C.S. 034° 39' N., 009° 23' W., 066°, 9½ at
1326A.
(KILMINGTON, 261345A.)

CONVOLVULUS. Sail at 0900A Nov. 27th for Freetown.
(2) Route to Freetown. (3) S. of A. 12 knots.
(4) Codeword ("Concourse"?), 782.
(5) Shift from Gibraltar broadcast to Freetown
broadcast at 0400A Nov. 30.
(6) If necessary proceed Dakar for fuel reporting E.T.A. to
Comar Dakar, and F.O.C.W.Af.
(7) (?You) will be required in company with STONECROP to escort
S.L. 179 from Freetown. My 221747 not to CONVOLVULUS refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 261605A to CONVOLVULUS.)

ANCHUSA, ANCHUSA is to sail at 0900A Nov. 27th to R/V
Group I. with Group I.
(2) Group I consisting of BALINDERRY (S.O.), USK
and NADA (Y.S.) is carrying out A/S patrol "Bacon"
to westward of Strait (My 051130 refers).
(3) S.N.O. (A) A/S patrol is requested to signal R/V position
and time.
(4) On arrival of ANCHUSA, NADA (Y.S.) is to be detached to
return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A., 262319A to Group I, ANCHUSA.)

South Atlantic

R.N.A.S. Following is a repetition of 241035 from F.O.C.W.Af.
Hastings. (Begins) Addressed Admty., (R) Com. i/c. Freetown,
SPURWING, S.C.E. W.Af. From F.O.C.W.Af.
A.M. 031126 (031128 intended). Dakar, propose
widening of concrete of No.1 runway be completed
because:-

/(A) ...

26.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

R.N.A.S.
Hastings.
(Contd.)

(A) Preparations for work have rendered original runway useless.
(B) Completion of cementing will render maintenance of runway more economical.
(C) R.A.F. sometimes wish to land at Hastings when Waterloo is unserviceable owing to weather.

(2) Extension at south-west end tar spraying 10 yards of each side of concrete is not being undertaken.
(3) Cost estimated at approx. £2,000.
(Freetown C.C.O., 260545Z.)

KILHAM,
repair at
Dakar.

My 241817. Comar Dakar has accepted KILHAM for repair.
(2) Request materials enumerated in para. 3 of above quoted signal may be despatched to Navy Commander, Dakar, by earliest routes, observing that building up cannot commence until they are received.
(F.O.C.W.A., 261140Z to Admty.)

SNAKEFLY.

Your 251824 not to all (N.T. in W.D.) SNAKEFLY to be sailed independently at economical speed to Casablanca for onward routeing to Gibraltar and U.K. Request SNAKEFLY be given D/G varying at Gibraltar before leaving for U.K.
(F.O.C.W.A., 261156Z to Comar Dakar.)

U/B.

D/F bearings on 7430 k/cs at 1748Z and 1820Z indicate U-Boat within 50 miles of 43.30 S., 36.00 E.
(D.D.I.C., 262159A to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.S.)

26.11.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Relief
Ships.

Admiralty. 260113A to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa,
(See America and West Indies).

DUQUESNE,
GLOIRE.

Com. N.O.B. Oran. is requested to sail DUQUESNE
and GLOIRE as soon as convenient to Brest for
onward routing to Plymouth.
(2) Ships are requested to arrive Plymouth on 8th
December latest.
(3) Admiralty is requested to signal Ocean Route X.
(C. in C. Med. 260847A to Com. N.O.B.Oran,
Admty.). X See 271124A.

TERPSICHORE,
TUSCAN,
TYRIAN
for U.K.

Intend destroyers in para. 4 (B) Admty. 042350.
Oct. not to all addressees leave Alexandria
p.m. 5th December to arrive Malta a.m. 7th for 48
hours to take part in pay question and for
onward routing.
(2) Request destination in U.K. for ships
concerned.
(F.O.L.E.M. 261054B to C. in C. Med.)
Reply: (C. in C. Med. 271241A)

Palestine
Situation.

(1) Should action be taken to stop immigration
next month when additional division is available
it will be necessary to establish seaward patrol
off the coast. It is considered that at least
4 craft will be required permanently on patrol
and 10 vessels, corvettes, or larger, will be required to main-
tain this.
(2) Should disturbances occur, which seem probable, some naval
force in Haifa and off Jaffa will probably have the same stabilis-
ing effect that it had in 1929 and 1936. To achieve this a
battleship in Haifa, whatever her age and infirmity, and a
cruiser off Jaffa would be in fact ideal.
(3) At present KING GEORGE V could be used. From resources at
my disposal (corrupt group) I estimate that one cruiser, 4 Fleet
destroyers and 6 trawlers could be made available without great
interference with Aegean operations. Any addition would have
to be at the expense of Greece.
(4) Lastley, the guarding of Naval Armament Depots at
Athlitand Khayrat? Matskyn and the Naval Torpedo Depot on Acre
Road as at present with Jews or Arabs is now unsatisfactory and
various leakages are liable to occur. In case of civil unrest
these guards will be entirely inadequate. Landing parties
from battleship if available will help with this. The G.O.C.
Palestine has no other troops with which to form these guards.
he admits that situation is not satisfactory.
(5) High Commissioner concurs in these views.
(F.O.L.E.M., 261114 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty)
W.D. Note: KING GEORGE V., however, was ordered by Admty. on
27/11 to proceed to Colombo.

/Aegean ...

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26.11.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

- Aegean Groups. F.O.L.E.M. 212049 approved.
(2) Intend 4 Corvettes to form 48th. Escort Group.
(3) Admty. are requested to signal Flotilla Number for the 7 destroyers.
(4) This arrangement is to avoid alteration to signal books.
(C. in C. Med. 261155 to F.O.L.E.M., Admty.)
/ Reply, 271517A.
- Italian S/M's. Your 251204 refers. GALATEA should be ready next April. ZOEAL should be ready next May if she returns to Taranto forthwith, ZOEAL is sister ship to ATROPO now in Bermuda.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 261235A to C. in C. Med.)
- French Refits. ALMED has submitted a proposed refitting programme to Marine Paris.
(2) This shows TOURVILLE, DUGUAY TROUIN and JEANNE D'ARC to be taken in hand at Toulon, LORRAINE at Bizerta SUFFREN at Casablanca (already in hand) DUQUESNE at Bizerta or Casablanca.
(3) In view of (A) FAN 350, Cominch 091640 May and Cominch 181445 for TOURVILLE.
(B) FAN319 and NAF 654 for DUGUAY TROUIN.
(C) FAN 319 for JEANNE D'ARC.
(D) Limited future employment of LORRAINE (C. in C. Med.'s. 271616 Sept.)
(E) FAN 350 C. in C. Med.'s 091517 August, C.M.S.F. 081435 Sept. B.A.D. 111725 Sept. and B.A.D. 181739 Sept. for SUFFREN.
(F) FAN 350 for DUQUESNE. It appears that the question of refits which French may give above ships requires reconsideration.
(4) If this is the case it is presumed that the matter will be raised on an Admiralty or Governmental level with Washington and French Authorities in Paris. C. in C. Med.'s 181312 Sept. and Admty. 300104 Sept. (last not to F.O.W.M.) refer.
(5) It is observed that C.C.S. 6358 para.30 states that the four cruisers ex Alexandria are not to undergo overhaul or modernisation at the present time (that is October, 1943). It may be considered that this para is now obsolete.
(C. in C. Med. 261511A to Admty.)
Further to my 261511 Almed's tentative programme proposes that 4 6 ins. cruisers 3 LE MALIN class Leaders 5 D.E's and SAVORGAN DE BRAZZA should refit in U.S.A. In the case of the cruisers as soon as possible. My 111550 Sept. and 201812 Oct. refer.
(2) Alternative proposal for one of the above cruisers is that she should refit at Bizerta which is unacceptable with present commitments except at low priority.
(C. in C. Med. 261517A to Admty.)
- Enemy Force in Rhodes. G.2 Summary No.88. B. Balkans.
(3) Aegean. Italian "Regiment Rhodes" under Italian flag reported on island as 4,000 strong. Proclamation of 15th October orders all Italians not already doing military service to report for enrolment.
(A.F.H.Q. 261900A to W.O.)

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26.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B
dispositions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas
remain unchanged.
(C. in C. E.I., 260517Z.)

HOWE.

Departure HOWE, RAPID, RAIDER, SPIRIT.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 261729Z to Admty.)

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26.11.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- Greek Relief. Greek relief vessels are still operating under safe conduct and accordingly must continue to sail with full illuminations by agreed relief traffic routes.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 260113A to N.S.H.Q.)
- U/B. C.7 Group. Heard 60 groups Naval Enigma Skywave transmission on series one at 1110Z third class bearings received by 2 H/F D/F ships are 054° and 034°. Position at 1110Z 45.11 N., 47.14 W. Intend sweeping through stern and starboard quarter of convoy on being relieved by W.7.
(S.O. C.7, 261211Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U/B. U-Boat transmission referred to in your 261211 originated vicinity of Faroes.
(N.S.H.Q., 261400Z to S.O. E.G. C.7.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 261408Z, Cominch 261500Z.)
- SHAWINIGAN feared lost. H.M.C.S. SHAWINIGAN overdue Sydney since return of Spab Convoy p.m./25. Last contacted when proceeding to patrol in Cabot Strait on entry of convoy to Port Aux Basques p.m./24. Shore watcher now reports two explosions in vicinity of Duck Island 47° 34' N., 59° 11' W. at 250115Z which may indicate destruction by submarine. E.G.16 and aircraft searching area. N.O.I.C. Sydney's 260131 (not to all) refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 261620Z to N.S.H.Q.)
- U-Boats. Ref. C.A.F.O. 2069.
(A) 5095. (B) By SPRINGHILL 2221Z. By ANTIGONISH 2239Z. (C) Nil. (D) 2145/26.
(E) SPRINGHILL nil bearing ground wave:
ANTIGONISH 250 3rd class ground wave, 047° 14' N., 058° 31' W. Proceeding along bearing.
(E.G. 16, 262310Z to N.S.H.Q.)
Reply: N.S.H.Q. 270158Z.
U-Boats by D/F of 100 group on 5095 k/cs at 2222Z and on 5075 k/cs at 2240Z within 120 miles of 052° 00' N., 037° 00' W.
(N.S.H.Q., 262330Z to S.E. S.C. Convoy No. 161.)
See 270158Z.

26.11.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 1040
Nov. 25th.

(3) ^{Early hours} ~~Same time~~ search planes over central Philippines Seaplanes attacked small freighter off south-west coast Masbate Island and 2 sea trucks in western entrance Verme Island Passage: 1 sea truck left dead in water, small freighter damaged by straffing.

(4) 3 destroyers (possibly fast armed transports) (5 groups missing) Ornivg anchored north-east coast Marinduque Island at northern exit Tablas Strait: Leyte-based aircraft launched strike with effect although details not yet known, by (?but) Navy Mariner over same area that evening saw only one vessel present.

(12) Search Liberator noon 24th attacked small freighter with 1 small escort off south-western (?Mandor) on course north-west scoring 2 near misses probably sank 1 sea truck westbound off central west coast Palawan besides shooting down 1 covering float-plane.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 260720Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/26th November.

Para. A. (1) A/C W/201 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 1050Z/25th Nov. in 55° 25' N., 07° 46' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C G/547 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1051Z/25th Nov. in 60° 40' N., 03° 25' W.

(2) A/C Y/228 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0001Z/26th Nov. in 50° 45' N., 07° 32' W.

Para. C. (1) FF. L'ESCARMOUCHE attacked contact at 1910Z/25th Nov. in 49° 48' N., 00° 31' W.

(D.D.I.C., 261050A.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 261401A, 261402A.)

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27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. German aircraft have again reacted strongly to our sorties, over 1300 machines taking the air, of which we claim over 140 destroyed.

2. Captured documents prove that the enemy was confident of holding the Vosges through the winter.

North Sea.

3(a) The first three coasters reached Antwerp safely yesterday evening. The first main convoy, consisting of 20 ships, 16 of them over 7000 tons, sailed today passing the North Foreland at about 10 p.m.

(b) Flushing reports 75 yard gaps between blockships, locks holding water, quays mostly demolished, but the dry dock and shipbuilding yards all right, and power available. Light stores only can be unloaded and communication with the mainland is confined to jeeps and bicycles long the towpath.

(c) One mine only was swept in the Schelde.

(d) The Humber minesweepers are still weather-bound.

Channel.

4(a) The Cherbourg Approach, and coastwise, channels "H" and "L" are closed due to mines.

(b) The WILLIAM D. BURNHAM, mined off C. Barfleur, is now reported as a constructive total loss.

Western Approaches.

5. There is no further news of yesterday's suspected U-Boats.

Norway.

6. An aircraft of 18 Group has attacked two merchantmen and three escorts off Aalesund and observed hits on them.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Ships for East Indies.

7. The following ships are to be transferred from the Mediterranean to the East Indies Station:-
Monitor: ABERCROMBIE.

"Hunt" Destroyers: FARNDALE, BRECON, EGGESFORD, CROOME, HAYDON, AVONVALE and BLACKMORE (forming a reconstituted 18th D.F. with CALPE); BICESTER, EASTON, OAKLEY and ZETLAND (of 59th Division).

/Sloops ...

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27.11.1944.

Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTMediterraneanShips for
East Indies.
(Contd.)Sloops: BIDEFORD, DEPTFORD and FLEETWOOD.
Frigates: BARLE, USK, SHIEL, NESS, DART,
EVENLODE, INVER, AIRE and ODZANI.
A/A Sloops: ERNE and STORK.

Adriatic.

8(a) Our small craft have been using Sibenik for the past week. The port is badly damaged, but the town is practically untouched, and electric power is available.

(b) The SATSA, danlayer, has been damaged by striking a submerged object in Trogir Channel, about 90° Balkun Islet 36½ cables, Yugoslavia, and the S.B.N.O. Split, recommends she should be docked at the earliest opportunity.

Aegean.

9(a) Discharge at the Piraeus, Salonika and other Greek ports continued satisfactorily.

(b) Seven Middle East Baltimores attacked port installations at Mandracchio Harbour, Rhodes. Bursts were seen on the jetty and A/A posts.

(c) The destroyer METEOR put a few shells into Livadia Bay, ~~Stampalia~~ ^{Piskopi} Island, at dusk. She also intercepted some refugees from Rhodes, who report the food situation bad.

(d) H.D.M.L. 1373 landed Captain Harden and an F.O.B. party on Piskopi Island after dark, (see 28th). Two Beaufighters attacked shipping in San Antonio Bay, Piskopi, strikes being observed on jetties and vessels.

East Indies

Peneng.

10. Three Liberators laid sea mines last night in the approaches to Penang Harbour.

TUDOR,
R. of P.

11. The submarine TUDOR, on return from her third Far East patrol, reports having engaged a 150 ton coaster with gunfire on November 16 in 02.15 S., 100.48 E., off Indrapura, west coast of Sumatra. The vessel was beached, left badly damaged and on fire, and was considered a total loss.

TALLY HO,
R. of P.

12. The submarine TALLY HO, on her 9th Far East patrol, sank nine junks on November 17 and 18 in the area south of the Nicobar Islands; and on the 20th, in an attack on an escorted convoy, she sank with three torpedoes an escort vessel in 06.56 N., 94.24 E. One special operations was successful.

/LEWES ...

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27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

- LEWES. 13. The destroyer LEWES at Trincomalee cannot continue as a submarine tender in tropical waters without endangering the health of her engine room complement. C. in C. E.I. requests her relief by a more suitable ship.
- PELICAN. 14. The A/A sloop PELICAN left Aden today for Taranto, Sicily.

America and West Indies

- Atlantic Routes. 15. In view of the probable increase in the number of fast independent ships between the U.K. and U.S.A. and vice versa, the Admiralty in order to economise signal traffic, propose to establish two series of routes for this traffic, one westbound (Lion route) and one eastbound (Eagle route).

Australia and New Zealand

- V.A.(Q) Pacific Fleet. 16. The flag of Acting Vice-Admiral C.S. Daniel as Vice-Admiral (Q), British Pacific Fleet, was deemed to have been transferred this morning from H.M.S. PRESIDENT to H.M.S. GOLDEN HIND, depot ship at Sydney. His headquarters are at Melbourne. The title of British Naval Liaison Party, Australia, now lapses.
- Philippines. 17(a) The Japanese launched a strongly-pressed air attack on Task Force Units of the 7th Fleet in Leyte Gulf shortly before midday. Several ships were damaged. Eleven enemy aircraft crashed or were shot down.
(b) After dark, four U.S. destroyers swept the Camotes Sea, shelling Ormoc and sinking a U-Boat located in the Central Camotes Sea.
(c) Eight Liberator aircraft patrolling the Northern Sibuyan Sea this morning strafed a gunboat anchored in the North Mompog Passage.

/ (d) ...

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27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.
(Contd.)

(d) During the forenoon, Leyte-based Venturas attacked several luggers southbound off Macajalal, north-west Mindanao, sinking one and probably sinking a second. Two luggers were attacked off Sibuyan Island, one being sunk and one probably sunk.

(e) Early this morning a Navy Catalina sank one sea truck in the vicinity of Zamboanga.

Japan

18. Out of 81 Super-Fortresses sent to Tokyo, 60 bombed the dock area, and the town area at Hamamatsu, 132 miles south-west of Tokyo. Adverse weather was experienced, complete cloud cover being found at the targets, and P.F.F. technique was employed. One Super-Fortress crashed in the sea on the return journey. (A.S.O.S., 1471).

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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

A/T defences
to be
retained.

C. in C. W.A.'s 262054.
The net defences are to be maintained in use
until further orders.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 271001A to N.Os. i/c. Swansea,
Barry, B.D.O. Pembroke.)

Movements

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES is to be placed in Reserve Category
'B' and can be allocated as turret drill ship at
Portsmouth.
(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to report
what arrangements can be made to berth her and when she can
be received.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 270010A to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.C.R.F.)

KENT.

Intend KENT visit the Clyde from December 8th
to December 16th approximately for bombardment
practices with naval assault squadrons from
Monday 11th to Friday 15th inclusive.
(C. in C. H.F., 271142 to F.O.C.T.)
Arrived C.S.1 in KENT.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 271255A to A.C.O.S.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sailed NEWFOUNDLAND for exercises and to comply
with my 241456A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 271246A to C. in C. H.F.,
A.C.O.S.)

PURSUER.

C. in C. H.F. 211403.
PURSUER is required to proceed to Norfolk Navy
Yard to fit Catapult H Mark II Mod. I. It is
possible that other defects may be undertaken
before the ship returns to U.K.
(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail PURSUER to Greenock to
give leave as soon as practicable.
(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail PURSUER to Norfolk in
U.C. 48B.
(4) 881 Squadron may be retained at Hatston until mid-December
when it should be turned over to F.O.C.T. for assault training
prior to re-embarking early in February 1945.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 271531A to Cs. in C. H.F., W.A., F.O.C.T.)
Pass Switha at 0815 Tuesday 28th. R/V PURSUER off Hoxa
at 0830/28th and escort her as far as Mull of Kintyre. When
released return to Scapa. Acknowledge.
(R.A.D.H.F., 271655A to ZODIAC, CARRON.)

TROUBRIDGE,
TEAZER,
TERMAGANT,
TUMULT and
TENACIOUS.

A.M. 140030 October. TROUBRIDGE, TEAZER,
TERMAGANT, TUMULT and TENACIOUS are required to
leave U.K. on 25th January.
(2) Refits and trials are to be completed by this
date.
(3) Arrangements will be made for ships to carry
out practices while on passage to East Indies.

/(4) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

TROUBRIDGE,
TEAZER,
TERMAGANT,
TUMULT and
TENACIOUS.
(Contd.)

(4) A.S. Portsmouth's 171730, A.S. Chatham's 221155, F.O.I.C. Tyne's 231650 refer.
(V.C.N.S., 271645A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Nore, Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

BACHAQUERO.

Intend sailing BACHAQUERO escorted by ELM and HAZEL at 1000A Wednesday 29th routed through 061° 45' N., 005° 40' W. and via Q.Z.S.15 to Scapa.

(2) Speed of advance 9 knots, E.T.A. 1300A Thursday 30th.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 271651A to A.C.O.S.)

GODETIA.

The French have signified their readiness to take over GODETIA at Hartlepool with nucleus crew forthwith. A.M. 221624 para. 1 refers.

(2) A.M. 151948 paras. 2 and 3 and A.S. Chatham's

221840. On completion of boiler cleaning about 6th December C. in C. Nore is requested to sail GODETIA with Belgian crew for Hartlepool accordingly.

(3) F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to arrange for ship on arrival to retain a nucleus Belgian crew until French crew take over; the remaining Belgians being discharged to R.N.B. Devonport to be dealt with as in paras. 4 and 5 of A.M. 151948.

(D.O.D.(H), 271717A to C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

CERES.

Intend CERES to sail with crew as suggested in CERES 231535 and 251745 not to Admiralty, R.N.B. Portsmouth or F.O.C.R.F.

(2) Request Devonport ratings may be relieved by Portsmouth on ship's arrival, and complement adjusted as required.

(3) Request Leut. (S) Wilson and stores ratings be retained as necessary to turn over stores etc. to new complement. (If ship is to pay off they should then return to Devonport to close accounts of old commission).

(C. in C. Plymouth, 271826 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

GARLAND.

Destination for GARLAND is Plymouth. F.O.G.M.A. 241734, not to Capt. (D) Plymouth refers.

(D.O.D.(H), 271939A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth.)

Operations

Situation Reports

Air.

Cositintrep 237 Part III. Air. Sunset 25 Nov. to sunset 26th Nov. 1944.

German Air Force activity. During the period which was very active, 13 sighted 1110 enemy

/aircraft ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Air. aircraft and claim a total of 130-14-42 air and
(Contd.) 8-0-2 ground.
2nd T.A.F. reported 80 enemy aircraft mostly
jet aircraft in the air and claim 6-0-3 air and
1-0-1 ground.

Ninth Air Force sighted 110 plus enemy aircraft and claim 2-0-2
air and 0-0-1 ground.

First U.S.T.A.F. only report 6 enemy aircraft as being sighted,
claiming 0-2-0. Inactive since 0510 hours 25 November 1944.
(S.H.A.E.F., 271100A to Admty., War Office, Air Ministry.)

Military. Summary No.66 dated 27th November 1944.
Enemy pressure Mulhouse area eased somewhat
although he maintained bridgehead west of Rhine
in Kembs-Rosenau region. All remaining Belfort
forts captured by Allies. Enemy withdrawn beyond Bessoncourt,
Petite Fontaine, Masevaux, Bussang.
In Vosges little opposition encountered. Ste. Croix Aux Mines
lost by enemy. Stubborn enemy resistance pocket encountered
east of Fouchy. Grendelbruch captured. Small arms, self-
propelled and anti-tank fire received from enemy west of
Molsheim as Allies entered town.
In Strasbourg enemy holds dock area. All forts on outskirts
of city lost by enemy. Enemy still holds bridgehead west of
Kehl. Extensive Allied patrolling area south of Haguenau met
no reaction. North-west of Haguenau F.F.I. and civilians
report 50 tanks arrived Ingweiler during morning Tieffenbach
and high ground south of town held by Germans. Enemy counter-
attacks of battalion strength repulsed Longueville les St. Avold
West of Cologne enemy small arms and artillery fire held Allies
to small gains in Huertgen area. Enemy counter-attacks with
infantry and tanks at Grosshau repulsed. Weisweiler town
captured. Weather clear but ground still soggy. Enemy
counter-attack at Bourheim repulsed and armour attacked from
air at Kirchberg where three tanks claimed destroyed and twelve
damaged. Enemy infiltrated Koslar and control trenches west of
town.

In Holland Allied troops progressed towards Venlo but not
believed yet in contact with perimeter defences. To north
mines and ground conditions delaying Allies who advanced to 1000
yards west of Brockuizervorst.
It does not appear that enemy's resistance at Mulhouse and on
line from Molsheim across to Rhine is intended to do more than
protect flanks of army in Vosges, to permit of reasonably orderly
retreat back to Rhine: no indication of reinforcement west of
Rhine in this sector. Nevertheless documents prove enemy was
confident of holding Vosges for winter. In general indications
are that enemy will try to put up fight on line Haguenau - St.
Avolds, if only to gain time for adequate manning of west wall
in this sector. Continuing indications that bulk of Sixth
Panzer Army is well south-west of Cologne. One reason for its
non-commitment may well be, as German publicists suggest, that
a second Allied offensive south of the first is feared.
(S.H.A.E.F., 271600A to War Office.)

/Naval ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports - Contd.

Naval.

Cositintrep No. 237 Part II, Naval.
(2) Captured ports. First three coasters arrived Antwerp p.m./26th November. Unloading figures for 26th November.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	148	116	702	-
Dieppe	84	15	1,781	-
Boulogne	38	147	3,205	-
Calais	-	29	87	-
Ostend	2,239	511	4,656	-
Total	2,509	818	10,431	-
<u>U.S.</u>				
Cherbourg	-	-	15,103	4,809
Brittany Ports	1,663	571	4,257	1,350
Le Havre	802	340	7,701	1,620
Total	2,474	955	33,271	7,779
Combined Totals	4,983	1,773	43,702	7,779

(Ramsay signed Eisenhower, 272349A.)

Operations

North Sea

First
Antwerp
Convoy.

Admiralty 241802 para. (2).
Request arrangements may be made that leading ships of convoy entering Antwerp will be FORT CATARAQUI, FORT BRULE, JAMES B. WEAVER in that order.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 271046A to C. in C. Nore.)

N.O.I.C. Antwerp's 261748A.

FORT CATARAQUI, JAMES B. WEAVER (U.S.), EMPIRE DUKE, FORT BRULE, SAMHOPE, SAMLEA, EMPIRE PERDITA, THOMAS FITZSIMMONS (U.S.), ROGER GRISWOLD (U.S.), WM. D. HOWELLS (U.S.), RICHARD S. EWELL (U.S.), EMPIRE BEACONSFIELD, Tug EMPIRE FREEDOM, Tug EMPIRE BELLE.

(2) Escorts: GARTH, MENDIP, SKIDDAW, ARISTOCRAT, H.M. M.L.452 and 467.

(3) Commodore Cdr. H.E. Reilly D.S.C., R.N.R. in FORT CATARAQUI
Captain R.L. Barr, Master of FORT CATARAQUI.

(4) 4 press representatives embarked in EMPIRE DUKE Lt. Russell R.N.V.R. (Photographer) embarked in FORT BRULE.

(5) Press representatives embarked in JAMES D. WEAVER.

(Com. Southend, 271158A to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Antwerp)

Your 261538 anchored in Schelde having failed to reach Antwerp objective.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 272030A to N.O.I.C. Southend.)

Port
Parties.

(1) P. Parties are allocated as follows:-

(a) No. 1573 to F.O. Holland for V.S. Beveland Canal on completion of work at Antwerp about 2nd December. My 251535 refers.

/(b) ...

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Operations

North Sea

Port Parties. (Contd.) (b) No. 3006 to F.O. Holland for Flushing. F.O. Holland send forward when available.
(c) No. 1572 to Com. Belgium for Zeebrugge. (A.N.C.X.F., 271111A to F.O. Holland, Com. Belgium, N.O.I.C. Antwerp, Commander R.S.F. J.P. Parties, N.O.I.C. 1732, N.O.I.C. Flushing, N.O.I.C. Zeebrugge.)

Wreck dispersal ship for Ostend. Request wreck dispersal ship be sailed to Ostend fully stored bunkered and watered. (N.O.I.C. Ostend, 271210 to C. in C. Nore.)

Schelde P.W.S.S. (1) A minor War Signal Station is established at Nieuwe Sluis 51° 24' N., 03° 30' E. Ships arriving off Schelde should identify themselves to this signal station.
(2) Request necessary promulgation. (Com. Belgium, 271258A to C. in C. Nore.)

Delimitation of spheres of C. in C. Nore and A.N.C.X.F. A.N.C.X.F.'s 261555, concur. (C. in C. Nore, 271259A to A.N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Operations

Channel

Abortive attack on supposed U-Boat. Attacked bottom contact from 1946/26 until 0043/27. 3 ships attacked using depth charge H/H and Squid. Position 050° 16.4' N., 002° 47.3' W., Q.H. 805. Consider rock. Proceeding patrol. (S.O. E.G.6, 270134A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Cross-Channel pipe-line. Departure QUEENS CROSS towing BRITANNIC for Boulogne. (V.A. Dover, 271040 to N.O.I.C. Boulogne.) Intend to carry out operation "Hamel Dumbo 2" with laying unit consisting of MARAUDER assisted by BUSTLER, CONUN 5 and SCHELDE as astern tug.
(2) Intended programme (a) Sail from Tilbury at 1300 November 29.
(b) Moor at Chapman Buoy until 0730 November 30th.
(c) Arrive "Dumbo" daylight December 1st.
(d) Zero time for operation 0500 December 2nd.
(e) Expected time of arrival Boulogne 1130 December 2nd.
(f) Sail Boulogne 1630 December 2nd.
(g) Arrive Tilbury at H.W. December 3rd.
(3) C. in C. Nore is requested to provide escort and air cover if considered necessary for passage.

/(4) ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Cross-
Channel
pipe-line.
(Contd.)

- (4) Commodore, Southend, is requested to make Chapman Buoy available.
(5) N.O.I.C. Boulogne pass to Lt. Cdr. Wathan. (S.N.O. Pluto, 271651 to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, Com. Southend, N.O.I.C. Boulogne.)

Patrols.

Night patrols 27th-28th.
Special object to locate U-Boat at Schnorkel depth.

- (2) Zig-zag search at steady 8 knots throughout positions and areas in sequence given.
(3) Commence 1800 finish 0830.
(4) VANQUISHER H.5 Buoy Z.109, H.8 Buoy Z.110 49° 45' 01° 00' W.J. Buoy.
(5) L'ESCARMOUCHE H.5 Buoy Z.108, 109 A.4 Buoy G.1 Buoy Z.109 J Buoy.
(6) ANTHONY J. Buoy Z.10, 11, 12, 17 J Buoy.
(7) BRILLIANT J Buoy, C.3 Buoy, Z.9, 10 J Buoy.
(8) M.T.Bs. ordered search one from St. Albans Head to St. Catherine's Point north of 50° 30' to between H channel command limit 50° 30' and 49° 50' one north and one south of 50° 13'.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271255A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)
Day patrols 28th. Search areas limits given.
(2) ANTHONY, BRILLIANT - Q.Z.S.636, 01° 15' W. Q.Z.S.616, 50° 10'
(3) VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE - H channel 01° 15' W., 50° 05' 30'.
(4) HARGOOD, VANOC - relieve VANQUISHER, L'ESCARMOUCHE.
(5) M.T.Bs. - ordered patrol Q.Z.S.629 south for 12 miles H channel to 02° 15' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271546A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
Air patrols 28th.
(2) Day patrols 47, 48 call signs 838 Squadron R/T "Mothburn" W/T "Rab", 842 Squadron R/T "Occult", W/T PBQ.
(3) Patrols 39, 40 withdrawn tonight call signs will be signalled if required for co-operation tomorrow 28th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271824A to Portsmouth A/S Patrols.)
My 261330A. E.G.15 extend southern limit of patrol to 49° 20' N.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271745A to S.O. E.G.15.)

Detailed
evidence
of contacts
required
during A/S
attacks.

Due to absence of H.F/D.F. interruptions and A/C sightings on U-Boats detailed evidence of contacts is essential to maintain an effective plot of the U-Boat situation.

- (2) Amplifying reports during an A/S action are therefore required at least once every 6 hours or less if the situation demands. They should include.
(a) Presence of Whistle and Hydrophone effect.
(b) Appreciation of the plot. (c) C.O's opinion of recorder trace and echo. (d) Depth of U-Boat and any echo-sounding evidence obtained. (e) Details of radar indications.
(f) Any other evidence which may assist in assessing the action.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271408A to A/S Support Groups, Capt. (D) Plymouth.)

/Mining ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel - Contd.

Mining
in Seine
approach
channels.

L and H channels closed due to mines.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 272124A General.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Gee Stations
in Western
Approaches
Command.

Request you will report what facilities referred
to in paras. 1 (a) and (b) of Air Ministry's
251737 can be afforded from your command.
(D.O.D.(H), 270005A to C. in C. W.A.)

Propose following programme in compliance with
para. 2 of your 261457A November.

(2) SOUTHERN STAR is available. My 271124

refers. It has been assumed that trawler accommodation is
acceptable and that no faster or more commodious craft is
available.

(3) Propose conference at Greenock on 30th November after which
SOUTHERN STAR sails for Port Ellen Islay. 1st December a.m.
SOUTHERN STAR arrives P. Ellen. Party visit site R.A.F. can
provide transport to Saligo Bay. P.m. SOUTHERN STAR leaves
for Tobermory. 2nd December a.m. SOUTHERN STAR arrives
Tobermory. Party visit site. Transport arranged by Commodore,
WESTERN ISLES. 3rd December p.m. SOUTHERN STAR leaves for
Castle Bay Barra. 4th December a.m. SOUTHERN STAR arrives
Castle Bay. Party visit sites. R.A.F. can arrange transport.
P.m. SOUTHERN STAR leaves for Lough Foyle.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 271636A to C. in C. W.A.)
A.M. 270005.

(1) Every effort will be made to provide facilities referred to
in paras. 1 (A) and (B) of Air Ministry's 251737.

(2) Since three of the proposed stations are in the Greenock
Sub-Command, it is requested that Siting Party should initially
proceed direct to Greenock on Thursday 30th. F.O.I.C. Greenock
has been asked to make arrangements (C. in C. W.A.'s 261457,
which is being passed, refers) subsequently landing the party
in N. Ireland to visit Downhill as arranged by F.O.I.C.N.I.

(3) It is requested that Air Ministry will communicate direct
with F.O.I.C. Greenock, repeated C. in C. W.A., concerning the
detailed requirements for the visits.

(4) As regards para. 1 (B) of Air Ministry's 251737, it is
requested that information of approximate size and weight, etc.,
of equipment to be transported may be passed to F.O.I.C.
Greenock, F.O.I.C.N.I. and repeated C. in C. W.A., as soon as
possible, in order that appropriate preliminary arrangements can
be made.

(C. in C. W.A., 271655A to Admtty.)

Suspected
U-Boats.

D/F bearings on 5075 k/cs at 2245Z and 2300Z
indicate U-Boat within 60 miles of 51.30 N.,
39.30 W.

(D.D.I.C., 270041A to Escorts of S.C.161.)

/A.M. 270041A ...

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Suspected U-Boats. (Contd.) A.M. 270041A and your 262336Z. Length of signals suggest U-Boat is homeward bound to Norway probably via Iceland (C) Faroes passage. Estimated position at 1200Z/27th November within 50 miles of 52° 00' N., 39° 00' W. Is unlikely to make good more than 150 miles in 24 hours. Another U-Boat may be bound south-west within 75 miles of 51° 00' N., 35° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 270909A to Escorts of S.C.161.)

At 2246Z/27 on 5070 k/cs a naval enigma message second class bearing 240° my position 55.35 N., 06.59 W.

(S.O. E.G.25, 272320Z to Admty.)

Patrols. My 270031A 3 depth charge attacks completed. Position 050° 54' N., 008° 53' W. approx. Classified wreck large extent of target. Am now proceeding to patrol line course 240° speed 15 knots. Weather report 6190 7317 suitable.

(S.O. E.G.14, 270215A to C. in C. W.A.)

When ready request you will sail 25th E.G. to relieve 19th E.G. on operation C.E.1 in Cape Wrath area.

(2) On relief 19th E.G. proceed to Lough Foyle for fuel and 48 hours rest.

(C. in C. W.A., 271058A to Com. (D) W.A.)

In view of weather forecast have detached CAISTOR CASTLE to base via Irish Sea with defective plumper block and leaking stern gland. Maximum speed 8 knots. She will make her own E.T.A. PEVENSEY has defective steering but is remaining.

(S.O. E.G.30, 271225A to C. in C. W.A.)

Northern limit of patrol to be latitude 50° 55' N.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 271306A to S.O. E.G.10.)

Situation Report. 19th E.G., HESPERUS, 4 frigates operating Cape Wrath area.

(2) E.G.14th, HAVELOCK (S.O.), ASSINIBOINE, DUNCAN and 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE patrolling off south-west Ireland. E.G.2nd WILD GOOSE, 5 frigates supporting KEPPEL's convoy to Barra Head.

(3) W.N.57, WOLVES, SPURS sail Loch Ewe 0200A/28th to Methil 7½ add to my 271202.

(C. in C. W.A., 271423A to Admty.)

Dispositions at 2000:

10th Escort Group patrolling between 50.55 N., 06.26 W. and 50.13 N., 06.26 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 271445A to Admty.)

Cdre. (D) W.A.'s 271231A. Request R/V in 058° 44' N., 004° 30' W. at 1600A/28th.

(S.O. E.G.19, 271910A to S.O. E.G.25.)

E.G.25, ORKNEY, LA HULLOISE, THETFORD, MINES delayed awaiting A/S spares demanded, sailing Merville 2130A via Minches. Weather permitting speed 14, E.T.A. Wrath Cape area 1530A/28th.

C. in C. W.A. 271058, Cdre. (D) W.A. 271231 refer.

(S.O. E.G.25, 272115A to Com. (D) W.A.)

/Possible ...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches - Contd.

Possible U-Boat. Contact regained at 0015A and held firmly until 0100A today Monday in original position as marked by dan buoys. Echo-sounder traces confirm target at 12 to 18 feet high and at least 150 feet long. Contact has been attacked again as it made squeaking noises at intervals during night. No further evidence and only slight traces of oil. No fish. Am still not satisfied that target is U-Boat. Contact now intermittent conditions deteriorating. Suitable. (A) Poor. (B) No. (S.O. E.G.30, 271120Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

M.T.B. operations to Norway. V.P. (A) V.P.77 M.T.B. 722 (S.O.) and 711 sailed at 0600A and (B) V.P.76 M.T.B. 717 (S.O.), 623, 627, 715 sailed at 0630 today 27th November. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 270655A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. Zone A times. Submarines at 0800/28th and movements for following 24 hours. (1) SOKOL off Skudesnes leaves patrol to pass through 59° 05' N., 004° 03' E. at 2300/28th thence diving by day to 61° 01' N., 002° 53' E., daily advance 130 miles. (2) SOLENT on patrol line 15 miles N. and S. of 58° 45' N., 01° 15' E. (F.O.S/M., 271718 to Adnty.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy J.W. 62. Sailed Russian Submarine Chaser 1482 (S.O.), 1486, 1511, 1493, 1505 escorted by BULLDOG (S.O.) and BEAGLE in accordance with my 241202 as amended by my 252236. (2) Russian submarine chasers maintain constant watch on 2410 k/cs. (3) Submarine chaser 1482 carries W.I. M.S.I. Mersigs volumes 1 2 and 3 with S.P.02272 (33) (34) and (35), S.P.2255 (BN) (BO). (4) Thence allocated for passage to Faroes from S.P.2254 (3) groups 52 to 56 inclusive as follows: Submarine chaser 1482 (S.O.) - 2 BEK. 1486 - 3 CRE. 1511 - 3 DNY. 1493 - 3 ANR. 1505 - 3 DPC. (5) All submarine chasers issued with minor warship recognition signals expiring 30th November. (6) Communications to submarine chaser should be routed via BULLDOG who has L. Officer on board. (7) British convoy signalmen and telegraphists are carried in submarine chaser 1482 only. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 270516A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

/Intend ...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters

Convoy Intend sailing JELOY (S.O.) and OKSOY Thorshavn at 1900A today 27 Nov., routed by Q.Z.S.324 and through position 061° 50' N. 005° 30' W., E.T.A. destination 1900A/28 Nov. (2) Constant W/T watch on 1570 k/cs. as arranged by S.O. Loxo Cofox Naval Code XA carried. (3) Ships to be ready for sea to act under the operational orders of C.S.1 by noon 30 November. (4) A.M. 252247 and my 261251 refer. (A.C.O.S., 271157A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.) Request details of Russian mining in area between 068° N. 013° E. and 070° 40' N., 030° E. (C.S.1, 271233A to Admty.) My 270516. Vessels are proceeding to Tobermory for shelter E.T.A. 2000A/27th November. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 271534A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.) The following 7 ships in J.W.62 are to be sailed for Kola Inlet:- LUCULUS (T), LAURELWOOD (T), FORT BOISE (Commodore), FORT HIGHFIELD, RATHLIN (Rescue ship), BRITISH RESPECT (T), and LONGWOOD (T). (2) BRITISH RESPECT and LONGWOOD are ordered to Kola Inlet in order to discharge stores totalling 146 tons for Norwegian Relief. A.M. 252348A (not to all addressees) refers. (3) Destinations of the remainder will be signalled by B.A.M.S. when decided by S.B.N.O. Archangel in conjunction with M.O.W.T. and Russian representatives. (D.T.D., 271802A to N.C.S.O. Aultbea, S.B.N.O. Archangel.) ONSLAUGHT take OBEDIENT, ORIBI, OFFA, ORWELL under your orders and leave Scapa passing Switha at 1730A/29 Nov. Proceed to Skaalefiord arriving 0830A/30 November. (R.A.D.H.F., 271824A to ONSLAUGHT.)

Patrols. Movements for 2000 Monday 27. 17th E.G. (ASCENSION S.O.) searching vicinity 060° 56' N. 003° 56' W. 19th E.G. (HESPERUS S.O.) on patrol Cape Wrath area. (A.C.O.S., 271238 to Admty.)

Situation 27 Nov. Force C THIRLMERE, WINDERMERE, SEALYHAM 6 vicinity Skagi-Reykjanes. EARRAID, 2 merchant ships 064° 56' 024° 27' bound Reykjavik 6. FETLAR 066° 31' 023° 11' bound Akureyri 9. U.S.S. SPRY vicinity 063° 00' 031° 30'. U.S.S. MOHAWK 062° 39' 032° 38' to 063° 18' 030° 06' thence 070° 10'. (A.C.I.C., 271256A to Admty.) If not in contact by 2200 tonight 27 Gamma between 061° 00' N. 001° 00' W. and 061° 39' N. 001° 28' W. My 271137A. Patrols will be withdrawn by 1900 due to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 271529A to S.O. E.G.17.)

Distribution Your 252348. These arrangements explained to of supplies Russians who promise renewed co-operation. to Northern (2) Chief of Naval Staff informs me that Kirkenes Norway. Approach Channel would be swept by Dec. 10 and Norwegian trawlers would most probably be employed on minesweeping but this would not affect distribution of supplies as Russian shallow draught vessels available for this. (3) Further statement made that Russian Naval Staff had no objection to basing Norwegian Naval forces on Kirkenes after Dec. 10 (S.H.G.D's 211300 refers). (4) Admty. pass to British Chiefs of Staff reference their 251720. (5) Admty. pass to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1. (Adm. Archer, 271501A to Admty.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Convoy off Aalesund attacked. P.C. and S. 2 merchant vessels 3 escort vessels 62° 28' N., 06° 05' E., 170° 8 knots. Result of attack. Hits observed. (A/C TBM.75 271356A to 18 Group.)

Mining.

Flotilla required for routine sweeps. Request either 18th M/S Flotilla may remain or another flotilla (corrupt group) (of ?) sweepers may be allocated to me for routine sweeping of area N.F.13 N.F.18. Your 262245A refers. B.Y.M.S. not altogether satisfactory as wire sweepers in this area and are at present particularly required for special sweeping referred to in your 261 30th. (Capt. M/S F.A., 271057 to C. in C. Nore).

Organisation of Mine-sweepers for Far Shore. Your 261115. Concur. 3 B.Y.M.S. of Force "B" will be relieved by 167th M/S Flotilla. (Com. Belgium, 271104A to C. in C. Nore). Your 271057A. Fleet Minesweepers are now very suitable for sweeping moored mines when mixed with ground mines in the depth of water in this area and B.Y.M.S. or Trawlers would normally be used for routine searching sweeps. A Fleet Minesweeping Flotilla can usually be sent and can be used to sweep moored mines if necessary, LL sweeping being done first by smaller vessels if time permits. 1st M.S.F. will be sent to Terneuzen on Wednesday 29th for a few days.

(C. in C. Nore, 271707A to Capt. M.S.F.A.)

Situation Report. 1. Am anchored off Terneuzen.
2. Swept today in G to starboard with guide proceeding from 180° N.F.17 - 6.4 cables to 20 yards north wreck marking buoy given in Q.Z.H.672 para. 3 (A) to 180° N.F.15 - 4 cables. Sweeps were streamed as guide left N.F.18 close to port.
3. First lap 5 ships swept depth of 7 fathoms. One new GX mine swept by guide at 0927 and sunk in position 242° N.F.17 - 17 cables 3rd ship parted on probable obstruction in position 103° degrees N.F.15 - 12 cables.
4. Second lap 4 ships with guide sweeping at 8 fathoms and remainder at 9 fathoms. Position of previous mines passed at 1158 with negative result. Second sweeper parted on same obstruction but third and fourth ships swept over position with negative result.
5. Then swept over position obstruction with V sweep depth 8 fathoms with negative result. 12 out of 28 explosive cutters were fired on bottom.
6. Your 271540 intend sail Small Downs 0815 tomorrow Tuesday. (S.O.M.S.F., 18, 271602A to C. in C. Nore).

/Proposed...

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. - Contd.

Proposed Humber Search. My 201836. Propose 16th M/S.F. and CALVAY sail at 2300A today Monday and commence search at 0800 tomorrow Tuesday. (S.O.M.S.F.15, 271615A to F.O.I.C. Humber). Your 271615 in view of unfavourable weather forecast postpone sailing until weather is more suitable. (F.O.I.C. Humber, 271731A to S.O.M.S.F., 15).

North France coastwise channel. It is estimated that progress will be completed on December 1st. L.C.N. programme for buoyage in following positions may be brought forward.
(1) 050° 40' 12" N., 001° 25' 12" E.
(2) 050° 35' 00" N., 010° 21' 54" E.
(3) 050° 27' 24" N., 001° 15' 54" E.
(4) 050° 19' 54" N., 001° 10' 00" E.
(5) 050° 12' 18" N., 001° 03' 54" E.
(Capt. M.S.N.F., 272221 to C.T.F.125).

U-boats.

Possible U-boats. Contact by E.G.6 p.m./26th November is probably non-sub but may possibly be on U-boat moving westward. One may be within 45 miles S. of Cape Clear from contact by E.G.30 by 0630Z 26th Nov. (D.D.I.C., 271527A to Cominch).

Navigational.

Forth and Clyde Canal icebound. Forth and Clyde Canal icebound no movement of vessels possible on Upper Levels. (R.N.O. Grangemouth, 271220A to N.O.I.C. Leith).

Navigational Aids in Q.Z.S.619. Sailed ANDRE BLONDEL to Havre carrying out buoy laying in Q.Z.S.619. (N.O.I.C. Dieppe, 271230A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Port Facilities.

Wiping Unit required for Schelde at Antwerp. Following have been received:-
"From N.O.I.C. Antwerp. To A.N.C.X.F. A requirement exists to wipe a number of local craft such as tugs and barges which it is intended to use on River Schelde. Request a wiping craft may be temporarily allocated for this purpose. 251728A".
"From A.N.C.X.F. To C. in C. Nore. N.O.I.C. Antwerp 251728. Request you will arrange. 261750A" No mobile wiping units are available in Nore Command request allocation may be made by Admty. (C. in C. Nore, 271745A to Admty).

/Flushing...

~~651~~ 661

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities. - Contd.

Flushing. N.O.I.C. Flushing reports verbally as follows:-
Gaps 75 yards wide between blockships. Locks badly damaged but holding water. Nearly all quays blown. Dry dock nearly intact. Shipbuilding yards intact. L.C.Ts. and Small coasters can beach in or go alongside Eastern arm Ooster Dokhaven. Light stores only can be unloaded very slowly. Berth dangerous in bad weather. Town flooded north of line 500 yards from Hetdok. Almost no undamaged houses. Power available. Road transport with Middleburg, thence Mainland, possible for jeeps using towpath but not for lorries. Inhabitants have enough food except fats. Sufficient labour available. Intend start shuttle service across river with requisitioned coaster as soon as harbour is mineswept. Main need is transport, especially jeeps and bicycles.
(Com. Belgium, 271821A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Granville. Port Director Granville reports shortage of railroad cars severely handicaps unloading programme. Condition which has hampered army for days now is acute. Unless relieved immediately, may disrupt convoy schedule.
(C.T.F.125, 271925 to Comnavforfrance).

Casualties & Defects.

WILLIAM D. My 251007. Two holds flooded remainder now being
BURNHAM. discharged. Damage as follows:-
Hole about 40 feet in diameter port side No.3 hold.
Main deck and port and starboard sides in way of
hold cracked. Ship's side and main deck plating buckled in way
No.5 hold. Propeller and stern post damaged. Rudder missing
underwater examination being carried out.
Ship probable total loss damage probably due to mines.
(C.T.F.125, 271727 to A.N.C.X.F.)

52 662

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Group I Patrol. KILMORE is to sail at 1800A/27th November to R/V Group 1.
(2) BALINDERRY is requested to signal R/V position and time.
(3) Group 1 will consist of BALINDERRY S.O. and ANCHUSA and is carrying out patrol Bacon to Westward of Straits my 1130/22, 2319A/26 and 1036A/27 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A.271052A to KILMORE, BALINDERRY)

B.Y.M.S. Sailed at 1412/27 B.Y.M.S. 2261, 2264, 2244, 2043. My 211238 and 220845 refer. Vessels hold approach routes to Plymouth, Falmouth and Brest.
(F.O.G.M.A.271710A to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C.Falmouth)

SHIEL, BARLE. SHIEL (S.O) and BARLE sail at 1400A/Nov. 28th for U.K.
(2) Route (A) 35.59 N. 06.10 W.
(B) 36.55 N. 09.05 W. (C) 39.00 N. 10.15 W.
(D) 43.30 N. 10.15 W. thence as ordered by Admty.
(3) S. of A. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(4) Codeword "Rounders" 947.
(5) Ships shift W/T watch at 0800A/30th.
(6) C. in C. Med.'s 271239 not to all.
(F.O.G.M.A.271738A to Admty.)

DUGUAY TROUIN. Unless otherwise directed intend sail French Cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN 1400A/30th S. of A. 20 knots. for Dakar. F.O.W.M.021720A.
C. in C. Med. 041158A and N.O.I.C.Freetown 071303Z refer. Admiralty requested to furnish route.
(Commorseafron, 271749A to C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE TRENT. C. in C. W.A's 27140. Request you will divert EMPIRE TRENT if necessary and inform N.C.S.O. Lisbon of her E.T.A.
(F.O.G.M.A. 271754A to Admty.)

French Ships for Brest. Intend sail HOVA (S.O). SOMALI, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, F.Y.M.S.13, 37, 58, 63, 211, 212, 226, 273 at 1800A November 28 for Brest. (2) Route.
(3) S. of A. 10 knots.
(4) Codeword "Knife Box" 89 file.
(5) Communication arrangements will be included in sailing signal.
(6) E.T.A. position (T) 0100A December 3.
(7) Following signals (none to all) refer. Comnob Oran's 251900, A.N.C.X.F. 251720 and 141905 and C. in C. Med.'s 250932.
(F.O.G.M.A. 272146A to C. in C. Plymouth)

PIMPERNEL Your 271828A. My position at 2200A/27 (From Liverpool). 044 degs. 13' N. 012 degs. 00' W. 180 degs. 12.5 / knots ...

653 663

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

PIMPERNEL knots to 039 degs. 00' N. 012 degs. 00' W.
(From thence 036 degs. 20' N. 009 degs. 50' W.
Liverpool). thence Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1200A/10 November.
Weather Report 7470 0453.
(PIMPERNEL, 272315A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

KILHAM Intend sailing KIL^{HAM} in tow CROCUS escorted by
(to repair BELWORT 0800 29th Nov. route "Monkeynut".
at Dakar af- E..S. of A. 4½ knots. E.T.A. p.m. 3rd December.
ter collision (F.O.C.W.A. 271237Z to Comar, Dakar.)
14/11).

M.K.S. Concur with proposals in para. 3 (B) in your
Convoys. 222005 (Shipping from South America and West
Africa for inclusion in M.K.S. Convoys; see
Shipping 22/11.).
(C. in C. S.A. 271459B to Admty.)

654 664

27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Use of Black Sea Route by U.S. ships. My 231215. These officers have returned from Odessa, their report is being forwarded to W.S.A. Washington.

(2) In brief, nine berths for Liberty ships with least depth alongside of 27 feet now available. Port is in fairly good order, road and rail communications leading to it in good repair.

Practically no cranes and only two small tugs available. Estimate that up to 4000 tons a day could be discharged now using ships derricks.

(3) Ferry had recently received instructions to get ready.

(4) A 10,000 ton tanker (discharging) and 2 medium sized cargo vessels which had arrived from Constanza present in port.

(5) Approaches to port were swept but local knowledge of general mining situation in Black Sea scanty. This information is being sought in Moscow.

Admiralty pass to C. in C.Med., F.O.L.E.M.
(Admiral Archer, 270915A to Admty.).

Part 3
Air
Cositintrep
No.505.

Coastal Air Force. 4 Beaufighters and 2 Spitfires on armed recces. Lignano/Caorle probably sank a barge on Lake Marano. One Beaufighter is missing.

(W.D.Note: No time given).
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 270955A).

DUQUESNE,
GLOIRE
(for Brest
and Plymouth)

Your 260847. Route DUQUESNE and GLOIRE:-
E. 35.59 N. 06.10 W. F. 36.15 N. 09.30 W.
G. 39. N. 11 W. H. 43 N. 11 W.
J. 48 N, 06 W, thence to ~~Great Brest.~~
(Plot (O.D.) 1240, 271124A to Comnob Oran).

TUMULT

After short exercise period TUMULT will be ready to proceed on Dec. 5th.

(2) Intend to sail her for U.K. on above date unless it is particularly desired she should

proceed in company with Destroyers in F.O.L.E.M's. 261054.

(3) Request destination in U.K.

(V.A.Malta, 271127 to C. in C.Med.)..

Staff of
V.A.2,
B.P.F.

Staff of Vice Admiral 2nd in Command British Pacific Fleet 16 in number will arrive Shallufe by air about 3rd Dec. to embark in KING GEORGE V at Suez.

(2) C. in C. Med., is requested to sail KING

GEORGE V, WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER to Suez to comply with para.1 and, on completion of embarkation, to Colombo.

(3) C. in C. E.I. is requested to arrange onward route and additional escort if necessary from Aden.

(D.O.D.(F) (O.D.1592/44) Approved V.C.N.S., 271143A to C. in C.Med., C. in C.E.I.).

EMILE
BERTIN,
proposed visit
to Beirut.

F.O.L.E.M. 241620.
Matter is being handled by Foreign Office.

/No...

655 665

27.11.1944.

Monday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

EMILE
BERTIN,
proposed
visit to
Beirut.
(Contd.)

No naval action is required. No objection to ship visiting Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 271147A to S.B.N.O. Greece (R) Admty., F.O.W.M., F.O.L.E.M.).

SATSA
(danlayer)
damaged.

SATSA reports striking submerged object to Trogir Channel in approx. position 090 degs. Balkun Rock (?36½) cables. (Corrupt group) 251744 not to (corrupt group). Examination by (diver?) reveals damage to propeller and (corrupt group) shaft. Recommend ship should be docked at earliest opportunity, meanwhile speed should be limited to 10 knots except in emergency to minimise risk of danger to bearing etc. Intend sailing SATSA at 1430 today Monday 27th Nov. to Tregir Bay to (?join) ANTARES. E.T.A. 1600. (S.B.N.O. Split 271201A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Hunt
destroyers
for E.
Indies.

The following Hunt Class destroyers are nominated to comply A.M. 241641.
A. FARNDALE, BRECON, EGGESFORD, CROOME, HAYDON, AVONVALE, forming a reconstituted 18th Destroyer Flotilla with CALPE.
B. BICESTER, EASTON, OAKLEY, ZETLAND of 59th Division.

(2) Request information if it is intended BLACKMORE should join 18th D.F.
(C. in C. Med. 271227A to Admty.)
/ Reply, 011515A December.

DEPTFORD.

Request you will sail DEPTFORD as soon as convenient to Gibraltar for onward routeing to U.K. (2) DEPTFORD will be required to proceed to East Indies Station after giving leave and adjusting complement.
(C. in C. Med. 271233A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

BARLE, USK,
SHIEL, NESS.

On completion of present duty you will sail BARLE, USK, SHIEL, NESS to U.K. Admty. 241720 not to all refers.
(C. in C. Med. 271239A to F.O.G.M.A.)

FLEETWOOD.

As soon as convenient on completion of present escort duty request you will sail FLEETWOOD to Gibraltar for onward routeing to U.K. (2) FLEETWOOD will after giving leave and adjusting complement be required to proceed East Indies Station.
(C. in C. Med. 271237A to F.O.L.E.M.)

/Destroyers...

~~556~~ 666

27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyers
for U.K.

Your 261054 approved.
(2) Destinations A. TERPSICHOE Devonport,
B. TUSCAN Portsmouth. C. TYRIAN Chatham.
(C. in C. Med. 271241A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Destroyer
organisation

The following changes in organisation Hunt class
destroyers are to come into force 1st December:-
A. EGJESFORD, CROOME, AVON VALE to 18th D.F.
B. ATHERSTONE, CLEVELAND to 5th D.F.
C. LIDDESDALE, CATTERICK to 22nd D.F.

M.A.M. will be amended accordingly.

(2) G.S. THEMISTOCLES, G.S. CRETE, G.S. KANARIS, G.S. PINDOS,
G.S. MIAOULES will join a new flotilla.

(3) Any changes in employment will be signalled separately as
required.

(C. in C. Med. 271245A to Med. Station 271B.)

ATTACKER,
STALKER,
HUNTER.

F.O.E.C's 251107A November. Movement of personnel
from ATTACKER and STALKER only is covered by C. in
C. Med. 190942 November not to all.

(2) Request SCIPIONE AFRICANO be made available to
lift approx. 30 officers and 200 ratings ex
HUNTER from Malta to Alexandria as soon as possible
after arrival of HUNTER.

(3) C. in C. Med. 190942 being passed F.O.E.C. and ATTACKER.
(C. in C. Med. 271439A to V.A.M.)

K.M.S.
Convoys.

In order that time of arrival at Augusta and
Mideast Ports of ships in K.M.S. convoys can be
estimated request you include their declared
speeds in sailing telegram part 2 and include
above Mediterranean authorities in address. C.B.

04024 (43) para. 98 B sub. para. 2 E refers.
(C. in C. Med. 271440A to C. in C. W.A.)

CONFEDERATE,
CONFEDERATION,
SALVESTOR.

Expected date of completion CONFEDERATE 1st Dec.
S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to sail her to Aden
on completion. Your 251207 request completion
date of CONFEDERATION. Not to all.
(F.O.L.E.M. 271453B to C. in C. E.I.)

CONFEDERATE will be sailed to Aden on completion
of repairs? at the beginning of Dec. Your 251531 not to all.
SALVESTOR is now at Poros working on LARNE in accordance with
C. in C. Med's 201408 Oct. not to all. On completion of LARNE
commitment SALVESTOR will be sailed to Eastern Fleet.
(F.O.L.E.M. 271707B to Admty.)

Aegean Group
destroyers.

Your 261155 para. 2. Flotilla No. 12 allocated.
(D.O.D.(F) 271517A to C. in C. Med.)

ABERCROMBIE.

A.M. 301609 September. On completion of repairs
and necessary practices, ABERCROMBIE is to join
East Indies Station.
(1st Sea Lord 271518A to C. in C. Med.)

/BENSON...

657 667

27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

BENSON. Intend sailing Golfe Juan 1045A/28th for bombardment area E.T.A. 1200A/28th.
(BENSON U.S.S. 271600A to Comflanfor.)

ANTWERP. Admiralty has been asked for a decision as to future employment of ANTWERP. Your 262012 not to Admiralty refers.
(C. in C. Med. 271615 to F.O.L.E.M., (R) Admty.)

HUGHES,
WOOLSEY. HUGHES diverted to Marseilles for fuel will probably arrive Toulon tomorrow afternoon. Will sail WOOLSEY Oran prior 1200A/28th.
(C.D.D. 25 272000A to C.T.G. 80.6.)

Situation Report No. 490. (1) Discharge at Piraeus, Salonika and other Greek ports proceeds satisfactory.
(2) On night of 23rd November 2 M.T.B. went aground on Levrera Island. Attempts to tow them off Darien (sic) failed all movable equipment was taken off and they were then destroyed by fire.
(3) Our small craft have been using Sibenik for past week. The port is badly damaged but town is practically untouched and electric power is available.
(C. in C. Med. 272109A.)

658 668

27.11.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Agag Signals. Cite: S.A.C. 10736. Signals concerning details of certain approved operations to be carried out in this Theatre will commence with the word Agag which is a security grading adopted throughout S.E.A. and India Commands. Agag may sometimes be included in signals addressed to authorities outside these Commands and should be disregarded.
(S.A.C. S.E.A. 270329Z)

U-Boat dispositions. No fresh information, scales in all areas remain unchanged.
(C. in C. E.I. 270352Z)

TALLY HO, Patrol off Nicobar Islands. TALLY HO 9th Far East Patrol. 16th Nov. 0943 position 005 degs. 45' (?N.) 100 degs. 32' (E?) fired 5 torpedoes at small U-Boat range 7000 yards, enemy combed track of former misses. Six minutes later fired 1 torpedo on 180 degs. track but enemy resumed original course causing miss astern. 2 close A/C bombs fell half hour after attack.

(2) 17th Nov. vicinity 006 degs. 15' 099 degs. 32' sank 7 junks totalling 185 tons.

(3) 18th November vicinity 004 degs. 40' 100 degs. 18' sank 2 junks and 1 Tongikank totalling 230 tons. 7 Chinese rescued.

(4) 20th November 0610 position 006 degs. 26' 094 degs. 48' gave surface chase to convoy of 1 small Coaster 1 1000 ton escort vessels and 1 M.T.B.1207 fired 3 torpedoes at escort vessel which resembled GIUDAN LEEUW, or RIGIEL. Ship sank in position 006 degs. 56' 094 degs. 24'.

(5) One special operation successful.

(6) S/M. THULE (P.325) first Far East Patrol. Blank. Returned early due to sickness.

(7) 13th November at 1300 sighted SHIMUSHU class escort vessel and TOSHIMA class minelayer in position 006 degs. 06' 100 degs. 14' course 340 degs. 12 knots.

(C. in C. E.I. 270351Z to Admty)

O.19, R. of P. D.S/M.O.19 2nd Far East 1st S.W. Pacific patrol. 29th October while northbound Lombok Strait forces to dive by accurate gunfire from west shore range 6000 yards. On surface forced to dive twice by patrol craft. D.S/M.O.19 retired to south of

Lombok.

(2) (?Commenced) passage again at dusk 30th same shore battery opened fire this time at a range of 4000 yards.

(3) 1st Nov. South-west of Kangean 2 very close explosions experienced causing minor damage.

(4) 16th Nov. sank by gunfire one 50 ton diesel Coaster 40 miles east Banean. 7 survivors 4 of whom including Master were Japanese.

(C. in C. B.P.F. 270938 to Admty)

/ TUDOR ...

659 669

27.11.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

TUDOR H.M. S/M. TUDOR, 3rd Far East Patrol. 16th
R. of P. Nov. 0925 position 02 degs. 15' S. 100 degs. 48'
east obtained four hits by gunfire one 150 ton
coaster TUDOR forced dive by A/C which dropped
three bombs causing minor damage. At 1209 fired
one torpedo which prematured at same coaster now beached.
At 1737 engaged same coaster by gunfire leaving vessel badly
damaged and on fire. Considered total loss.
(2) All times F.G.
(3) Fremantle C.C.O. pass P/L version to S.8.
(C. in C. E.I. 270941Z to Admty. (R) S.4 S.2, S.8)

LEWES Report from LEWES shows that this ship cannot
(destroyer, continue to be employed as a S/M Tender in tropical
Trincomalee). waters without seriously endangering the health
of engine room complement.
(2) Ship has been inspected by Habitability
Mission whose report has been forwarded with my
2641/E.F. 1851/M dated 1st November. This letter proposes
that LEWES should be relieved by a more suitable ship and should
return to U.K. at the earliest possible date.
(3) Since forwarding this report cases of heat exhaustion have
increased and it is no longer considered practical to operate
the ship in this climate. Request earliest possible action
to be taken to relieve LEWES by a more suitable ship.
(4) Proposal for future employment of LEWES follows.
(C. in C. E.I. 270956Z to Admty)

Aircraft (No) objection to proposals contained in Admty's
Indian 131838 November. (Allocation of A/C in Indian
Ocean). Ocean).
(C. in C. E.I. 271146Z to Admty)

PELICAN. Sailed PELICAN at 0400Z/27th November to Suez for
onward routing to Taranto in accordance with
F.O. Bombay's 170903.
(2) E.T.A. Suez 1500Z/2nd Dec. S. of A. ten knots.
(3) Request arrangements be made for transit for canal.
(4) Keeping constant watch on broadcast R.5. Holding latest Q.
messages. F.O.L.E.M. pass to A.H.Q. Eastern Mediterranean.
(Com. Aden, 271623 to N.O.I.C. Port Suez.)

660670

27.11.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

E.G.16 Your 262253Z. My P.C.S. at 0100Z/27 46.52 N.
U-Boat. 58.42 W. 250 degs. 13 knots. Searching along
H/F D/F bearing until 0500Z/27. My 262310Z
to N.S.H.Q. refers. Weather report 5772 1872.
(S.O. E.G. 16, 270140Z to N.O.I.C.Sydney)
U-Boat, your 262310 refers, fixed east of 045 degs. W.
(N.S.H.Q. 270158Z to E.G.16)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 271340Z, Cominch, 271537Z)

Group C.1. Group C.1 HALLOWELL (S.O) ROYAL MOUNT, ORANGE-
VILLE, ARNPRIOR, all H.F/D.F. FRONTENAC, CHAMLY
sail St. Johns 1300Z/28th Nov. to relieve you in
Stromp 43.41 N. 52.50 W. at 1200Z/29th.
(2) "Chop" 1200Z/30th.
(3) Further signal follows for W.4.
(F.O.N.F. 271418Z to S.E. H.X. 322)

S/M.021. Amend dates in my 211522 to include sailing for
work up 10th December and sailing for war
station about 30th December. Pass to B.D.Z.
(B.A.D. 271420Z to Admty.)

SEARCHER, Sabor 15805. Ref. Lorsa 24003.
PURSUER. In order to provide Assault Escort Carriers for
operations in S.E.A.C. in early spring 1945, it
was necessary to refit SEARCHER in U.K. during
November. Ship has many defects and cannot now
be completed in time to have catapult fitted in U.S.A. before
joining East Indies Fleet in February, 1945.
(2) PURSUER is therefore the only carrier that can be spared to
have catapult fitted at present and is being sailed in U.C.48B.
Ship will have no squadron on board.
(3) PURSUER is required in S.E.A.C. as an Assault Carrier in
Spring 1945, and in order to save valuable time it would be of
great assistance if defects could be undertaken while ship is in
hand at Norfolk. Request early report whether this can be
arranged. Major items of defect list will be signalled.
These defects would otherwise have to be made good in U.K. on
ship's return from U.S.A.
(D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 271621A to B.A.D.) Reply:
282130Z.

BEAVERHILL. Ref. volume 741 (A). (1) BEAVERHILL.
(2) British. (3) ?November, 241040Z.
(4) Hilyards Reef, Saint John Harbour.
(5) Grounded when leaving harbour. Tow line
parted. (6) Abandoned.
(7) Total crew 128.
(N.C.S.O. St. John, N.B. 271732Z to Admty.)

~~661~~ 671

27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Loan of
Escort
Carriers
to U.S.

A.M. 221546. Should Cominch accept the offer, our intentions are to meet para.3 (a) by either transferring ATHELING at Sydney at the end of December or sending RAJAH from the U.K. by mid-December. Of the two we would prefer to transfer ATHELING.

(2) Para. 3(b) will be met by transferring TRACKER and TROUNCER for transport service in the Atlantic. Both ships will be ready to leave U.K. during first week in December. It is intended to relieve TROUNCER by BATTLER in mid-February.

(3) Request early reply.

(D.N.A.O. Approved V.C.N.S., 271744A to B.A.D.).

Admiral King wishes to express Navy Department's appreciation for offer in para.3 of A.M. 221546 and he agrees to understanding in para.3 (b) and para.4.

(2) He would appreciate early information as to names of Escort Carriers designated for Atlantic and Pacific Theatres and firm dates of departure from U.K.

(3) When this information is received the two Carriers for the Atlantic will be assigned to operational control of Cinclant and the third to operational control of Cincpac.

(B.A.D. 272041Z to Admty.).

S.C.161
U-Boat
search.

S.C.161. P.C.S. at 1400Z 51.53 N. 36.49 W. (X) 066 6.5 steering to (RK) due weather. My 262336. S/M. fixed by H/F D/F in 51.15 N. 39.30 W. at 2245Z/26th. Area searched. No contact. Weather 3762 0176.
(S.O. C.5., 271811A to Admty.).

MUI HOCK
ANNIK.

Admiralty was requested by Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 211625 to sail MUI HOCK and ANNIK from Reykjavik E.T.A. Narrsarssuak mid-December for loading to U.S. In view ice conditions request your approval of safety this plan.
(C.N.O.Washington, 271930Z to S.O.P.A.Greenland).

Atlantic
Traffic,
Lion and
Eagle
routes.

In view of probable increase in the number of fast independent ships between U.K. and U.S.A. and vice versa, it is proposed that to economise signal traffic two series of routes similar to coloured routes be established for this traffic.

(2) Westbound or Lion route.

(a) 1st position numbered 1 - 10 in steps in six minutes of latitude and six minutes of longitude between 46.30 N. 17.30 W. and 45.36 N. 16.36 W.

(b) 2nd position numbered 11 - 20 in steps of six minutes of latitude and six minutes of longitude between 42.00 N. 25.00 W. and 41.06 N. 24.06 W.

(c) 3rd position numbered 21.30 on longitude 37.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 40.30 N. and 39.36 N.

/(d)...

~~662~~ 672

27.11.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Atlantic
Traffic,
Lion and
Eagle
routes
(Contd.)

(d) 4th position numbered 31.40 on longitude 50.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 39.00 N. and 38.06 N.

(e) 5th position numbered 41.50 on longitude 61.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 39.00 N. and 38.06 N.

(f) 6th position numbered 51.60 on longitude 68.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 39.00 N. and 38.06 N.

(3) Eastbound or Eagle route.

(a) 1st position numbered 101 - 110 on longitude 68.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 41.00 N. and 40.06 N.

(b) 2nd position numbered 111 - 120 on longitude 59.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 42.00 N. and 41.06 N.

(c) 3rd position numbered 121 - 130 on longitude 49.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 43.00 N. and 42.06 N.

(d) 4th position numbered 131 - 140 on longitude between 35.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 46.00 N. and 45.06 N.

(e) 5th position numbered 141 - 150 on longitude 23.00 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 49.00 N. and 48.06 N.

(f) From 5th position Eagle to 180° Fastnet 10 miles.

(4) Ships for Canadian ports leave Lion route at 4th or 5th positions as ordered.

(5) Ships from Canadian ports join Eagle route at 2nd position.

(6) These routes are basic only and can be varied at will.

(7) Request your remarks.

(Plot (T.D.) 1240, 272126Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., N.S.H.Q.)
Reply from N.S.H.Q., 041905Z/Dec.

Tugs for
Horts.

B.A.Ds. 032121 May para.2. Masters of tugs ATHELNEY, ATOLIA and ATENGO report endurance 11 days at seven knots 10 days at eight knots and 9 days at nine knots.

(2) Since SS. RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK can presumably make only seven knots her inclusion in convoy would give tugs negative endurance.

(3) Originally Atlantic passage was planned for summer months. Passage during winter months with ships which have hitherto proved unreliable and with no margin of endurance on a 1939 mile passage appears unacceptable.

(4) No E.T.A. yet received for RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK, ATENGO, should be ready for sea December 1st. ATHELNEY, ATOLIA and BARBADO's ready now.

(5) Request confirmation that tugs should be sailed and risk accepted.

(S.B.N.O.W.At., 272236Z to Admty.)
Reply: 292050A.

~~663~~ 673

27.11.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest (7) Thunderbolts and Kittyhawks destroyed four
No.1041, small freighters and 3 smaller craft laden with
for Nov.26th. troops vicinity Bitoon Bay, Northern Cebu, 25th
(Contd.) November.
(8) 14 Thunderbolts struck Masbate airdrome 24th,
destroying installations. Next day Kittyhawks
struck same target destroying one freighter unloading supplies
southeast Masbate.
(10) Leyte-based naval aircraft sank 2 probable armed transports
Balanagan Bay, Marinduque 25th.
(11) Patrol aircraft sank three barges Puerto Princessa night
25th.
(13) Night 24-25 P.T. boats operating from Morotai sank single
enemy barge off Dcd Island.
(14) 8 Lightnings swept southeastern Celebes 24th November
sinking a barge.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 271036Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/27th November.
and sighting Para.A.(1) A/C. F/489 sighted U-Boat course 130°
summary. at 1941Z/26th November in 58° 20' N. 06° 00' E.
and at 1959Z/26th November in 58° 00' N. 06° 55'
E.
Para.B.(1) E.G.30 attacked contact at 0620/26th November in 50°
56' N. 09° 42' W.
(2) A/C. M/224 obtained disappearing contact at 1635Z/26th
November in 60° 56' N. 03° 56' W.
(3) A/C. G/224 obtained U-Boat contact at 2150Z/26th November
in 61° 00' N. 03° 38' W.
(4) A/C. G/86 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0331Z/27th November
in 59° 38' N. 05° 21' W.
Para.C.
(1) E.G.14 attacked possible U-Boat or wreck at 2143Z/26th
November in 50 degs. 55' N. 08° 53' W.
(D.D.I.C., 271139A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 271513A, 271543A).

~~664~~ 674

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- North Sea. (1) The first eighteen ocean-going ships have arrived safely at Antwerp.
- Channel. (2) The Cherbourg Approach and Coastwise, channels "H" and "L" are now swept and re-opened to shipping.
- Norway. (3) Naval aircraft from IMPLACABLE, flying the flag of C. in C.H.F., carried out strikes between snowstorms yesterday on shipping between Mosjoen and Rorvik. They sank the RIGEL, carrying troops, and KORSNES, and left a 900 ton merchantman and an armed trawler beached and ablaze, and another merchantman of 5,000 tons, a coaster, and an L.C.T. damaged and on fire.
- (4) M.T.Bs. 715, 623, 717 and 627 have returned to Lerwick from a "V.P." raid on Norwegian coastal shipping a little north of Indre Sulen, in the course of which they sank a trawler and a gun coaster, probably sank an E or R boat, possibly sank another patrol vessel, torpedoed an 8,000 ton merchantman (last seen listing heavily), and damaged another R-Boat. M.T.Bs. 623, 627 and 715 sustained superficial damage and casualties.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Destroyers 5(a) Owing to delays in completing the MILNE, MATCHLESS, JAVELIN and JERVIS in home ports for the Mediterranean the destroyer strength will for sometime be below the number of 11 fixed in September. In the meantime, four of the ten Hunts earmarked for the East Indies are to be retained, and released from the Mediterranean successively as they are relieved.
- (b) C. in C., Mediterranean, is asked to nominate six Hunts and sail them for the Nore until required to give leave and adjust complement before proceeding to their Mediterranean refitting ports.
- Spezia (6) In the course of attacks on bridges in the Po /Valley...

655 675

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Spezia
(Contd.)

(6) Valley by 102 medium bombers, a blockship at Spezia was probably hit.

Aegean

7(a) M.T.Bs. 402 and 403 closely examined all bays in Piscopi Island, Dodecanese, but found nothing.

(b) The destroyers METEOR and KELVIN bombarded a German company encamped in middle Piscopi. The target area was well covered, the Commander's house hit, and casualties inflicted. Captain Harden (landed with an F.O.B. party on the previous night) came down hill with a white flag but was answered by bursts of fire. The F.O.B. party was successfully re-embarked.

Piscopi f

(c) M.T.Bs. 402 and 403, with H.D.M.L.1373, entered Livadia Bay, ~~Stempalia Island, Dodecanese,~~ for a close reconnaissance, supported by the destroyers METEOR and KELVIN. Light opposition from the shore was encountered. The KELVIN closed to the three fathom line and demanded surrender in German through a loud hailer. There was no response, the force fired a parting salvo, and retired. Nothing afloat was found in Livadia.

(d) A similar reconnaissance of Alimnia is planned for tomorrow.

EMILE
BERTIN,
proposed
visit to
Beirut.

(8) In regard to the proposed visit of the French cruiser EMILE BERTIN to Beirut (see 22nd), the French have explained to H.M. Ambassador that it had three naval objects - to relieve naval personnel who have been there for five years; to provide a crew for the escort vessel ELAN^N, released by the Turks; and to bring from Syria supplies, mainly blankets, for the Fusiliers Marins. These reasons are considered wholly unconvincing by the N.O.I.C. Beirut. The Ambassador has been authorised to say there is no objection to the EMILE BERTIN visiting Alexandria and that F.O.L.E.M. would arrange transport to and from there.

America and West Indies

BIRMINGHAM.

(9) The British cruiser BIRMINGHAM left Norfolk, Virginia, this evening for Horta, Azores, after refit.

~~666~~ 676

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand.

Flying
Training.

(10) The Commonwealth Naval Board have asked the Admiralty for two flying training target ships to be allocated to meet the naval flying training programme in Australian waters. No suitable vessels are available locally.

Philippines.

(11) This afternoon and evening, a convoy in Ormoc Bay was attacked by Allied aircraft which included three Mitchells, eight Kittyhawks, and 16 Thunderbolts. Two merchant ships were left on fire and a warship was damaged. On the morning of the 29th, in 41 Thunderbolt sorties, both merchant ships and one destroyer escort were finished off, being all that remained in Ormoc Bay.

China.

(12) Three Liberators bombed the Kowloon, Fort Bayard and Samah Bay areas.

~~657~~ 677

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Further
Reduction
in A.A.
defences.

Approval has been given for a further reduction in heavy A.A. gun defences in Portsmouth and A.C.O.S. commands in order to provide for urgent requirements on the Continent. Further details will be promulgated when known.
(D. of L.D., 281201A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Movements.

ARETHUSA

Cancel my 251004 ship will be delayed by defects, further signal will be made.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 280844A to C. in C. H.F.)

HURON

E.T.A. Cardiff 1400Z Tuesday 28th November.
(HURON, 280920Z to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).

HUNTER,
ATTACKER
and
STALKER.

Route A.M. 201346. H. 180° Lizard 3 miles.
J. 43° N., 10° W. K. 38° 10°. L. 36° 09°
M. 35.51 N., 06.10 W. thence to Gibraltar.
(Plot (O.D.) 281001A to C. in C. Portsmouth).
On completion of ranging HUNTER take L'AVENTURE and WALDEGRAVE under your orders and sail pass

Needles 1500A/29th.

(2) Route Q.Z.S. 631, 633 to 2 buoy thence Route W speed 12 knots.
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail ATTACKER and STALKER with ocean escort to R/V with HUNTER at seaward end of Q.Z.S. 601 at 0045A/30th. Ships proceeding thence to position H 180° Lizard Head 3 miles thence to Gibraltar as in my 281044. E.T.A. position H 0400A/30th.
(4) After R/V off Eddystone has been made L'AVENTURE and WALDEGRAVE return Portsmouth by reverse route.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281045A to HUNTER, L'AVENTURE, WALDEGRAVE, C. in C. Plymouth).

NEWFOUNDLAND

Scapa arrival NEWFOUNDLAND at 1035.
(A.C.O.S., 281110 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CERES

F.O.C.R.F.'s 071600 and A.M. 171226 neither to all. Weather permitting intend to sail CERES in tow of U.S.S. Tug OWL at 1300A/29th November to Portsmouth escorted by BALSAM.
2. Rescue tug DIRECTOR will proceed as spare tug to off Portland Bill thence be detached to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281420A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Ex-German
FREDERICK
BUSSE.

Portsmouth No. 7740/0/9764/2 of 14/11/44 and my 252118A October. Request reply.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281437A to Admty).

/MATCHLESS....

658 678

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

MATCHLESS
and
MILNE.

Request you will sail MATCHLESS and MILNE to Scapa for exercises after completion of satisfactory trials about 2nd and 14th December respectively. 2. Both ships are to be ready to leave U.K. by 22nd December. (D.O.D. (H) 281727A to F.O.I.C. Humber).

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Military.

Nineteenth Army continues withdrawal North of Mulhouse. Enemy counter attack successful in re-taking Kembs but unable to hold and finally beaten back. South West of Mulhouse enemy gave up more ground south of Rhine-Marne Canal and Allied bridgehead established. Enemy still holds Dannemarie where fighting in outskirts reported. East of Belfort enemy withdrawn beyond Fontaine. East of Le Thillot crest of Vosges reached. Enemy withdrawing down slopes. Allied troops advancing South from Milsheim area encountering scattered resistance and road blocks. Local enemy counter attack South of Strasbourg repulsed at Erstein. Artillery reported large enemy truck column moving West from Bernardville eighty per cent destroyed. In Merzig area enemy fighting fiercely from concrete pill boxes, anti-tank obstacles and defensive positions. In Cologne sector enemy re-inforcing line West of Duren. Stubborn house to house fighting in Huertgen. Extremely heavy resistance encountered outskirts Juengersdorf and Langerwehe. Weather improving but only light traffic able to use roads. Patrols report enemy holding Western defences Venle in strength and artillery fire increased considerably. To North only three pockets enemy infantry remain West of Maas with approximate total strength of one battalion. Water level Mijmegen bridge now 12.45 metres. General. Enemy's preoccupation with Cologne sector especially South West of city in Duren area continues striking. In recent offensive estimated that enemy's casualties have approached three thousand a day on each of the three main fronts: current rate of loss up to five Divisions a week. (S.H.A.E.F., 281700A to War Office).

Naval

Cositintrep Number 238 part two Naval
(1) Captured Ports.
(2) Unloading figures for 27th November.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
<u>British</u>				
East Calvados	Nil	97	508	Nil
Dieppe	38	43	1,247	Nil
Boulogne	47	154	3,138	Nil
Calais	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ostend	798	333	5,092	2,850
Antwerp	Nil	Nil	2,095	Nil
Total	883	627	12,080	2,850

/United...

570680

War Diary.

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

- Patrols.
(contd).
2. Commence 1800 finish 0830.
 3. HARGOOD H.2 buoy Z.125, 130, 132, 126, 119 H.5 buoy.
 4. VANOC H.2 buoy Z.127 west side of 128 Z. 121 120, H.5 buoy.
 5. ANTHONY J Buoy 49.46 01° 00' W. Z.110 H.8 buoy. Z.109 H.5 buoy.
 6. BRILLIANT J buoy Z.109 G.1 buoy A 4 buoy Z.109, 108 H.5 buoy.
 7. M.T.Bs. if weather suitable patrol Z.132 and 130 HARGOOD avoiding these areas.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281255A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).
Day Patrols 29th. Search areas limits given.
 2. HARGOOD, VANOC H. Channel 01° 15' W. 50° 13', 49° 50'.
 3. ANTHONY BRILLIANT Q.Z.S.636 01° 15' W. 50° 30' 50° 07'.
 4. M.T.Bs. Q.Z.S. 629 S. for 12 miles H Channel to 02° 15' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281454A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)
Air Patrols 29th subject to suitable weather.
2. Patrols 39, 40 call signs will be signalled if required to co-operate with you.
3. Day Patrols 47, 48 call signs:-
838 Squadron R/T M0thburn W/T SDV.
842 Squadron R/T Ocult W/T UGT.
4. All patrols at present withdrawn.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281514A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

- Maintenance of Chasseurs.
- Reference your 211429A.
2. In view of the maintenance necessary for Chasseurs, it is considered that they should not operate away from a repairing Base for longer than a fortnight.
 3. Suggest that two Chasseurs based on far shore should be relieved at fortnightly intervals from Portsmouth.
 4. In order to maintain this new commitment it will probably be necessary to curtail the present Dieppe and Cherbourg despatch services.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281626A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Rules for Engagement of aircraft by ships.

When new rules for engagement of aircraft by ships over the English Channel area are agreed by you and Admiralty the rules will supersede those now in force for limited waters. Request therefore that new paragraph 24 be published in Neugrip describing agreed rules and para. 17 (2) be cancelled. There will then be no sea areas in this theatre where rules for limited waters apply. They will either be unrestricted waters or as described in new paragraph 24. Air Ministry signal A - 371 dated 26 November also refers.
(S.H.A.E.F., 281740A to Air Ministry).

Mined channel on Far Shore re-opened.

H Channel now open. My 272124 refers.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 281940A to General).
L Channel now open my 272124 refers.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 282048A to General).

671681

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

West Coast of France.

French frigates for Biscay service.

Cancel my 191558 and my 231518.
In view of A.M. 251349 CROIX DE LORRAINE and TONKINOIS allocated.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail TONKINOIS to arrive Plymouth by 8th December.
3. A.M. 171952 also refers.
(C. in C, Portsmouth, 281710A to Admty).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Weather Reporting Ship.

Your 280944. Return to Greenock at P.L.E. reporting your intended movements to me and repeated addressees.
(C. in C. W.A., 281115A to PENNYWORT, repeated CELANDINE, Admty. F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Your 281115A.* My P.C.S. 051° 01' N., 017° 30' W. 280° 3 knots.
(2) Intend to continue patrol at slow speed until 1200A/30th November then return to Greenock at economical speed.
E.T.A. 1000A 3rd December.
(PENNYWORT, 281359A to C. in C. W.A.)
*PENNYWORT to return to Greenock.

Probable U-boat.

Contact held firmly throughout the night until 0900 today Tuesday when weather deteriorated. Am remaining in immediate vicinity with help of Dan buoys. One ship over contact remainder carrying out observant. Propose remaining in position until dawn tomorrow Wednesday when Group will have been in contact for 74 hours. Unsuitable A deteriorating B No.

(S.O.E.G. 30, 281140A to C. in C. W.A.)
Escort Group 30's 281140A, intend to sweep to position 051° 22' N., 010° 00' W. subsequently establishing box search sides 15 miles round position of contact.

Weather report 4280 1266 unsuitable.
(S.O.E.G. 14, 281410A to C. in C. W.A.)

Contact is firm in original position. Consider that if target is a U-boat it must have killed itself when it had its explosion. As it would seem unlikely that any other craft would have so large an explosion without producing surface disturbance suppose target is U-boat but lack of oil is a disappointment. Unsuitable.

(A) Average. (B) No.
(S.O.E.G. 30, 281814A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

Your 281109A took over E.G.4's Gamma search of area 050° 31' N., 009° 59' W. to 050° 50' N. 009° 46' W. at 0440A/27.
Search (A) Average (B) No nonsubmarine.
Weather report 5588 1055 suitable.
(S.O.E.G. 14, 281230A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.T.A. Merville 2000 NEW WATERFORD, ANNAN, GROU, OUTREMONT and LOCH MORLICH in company.
(S.O.E.G. 6, 281252Z to Com. D.W.A.)

672 682

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols. E.G. 14 HAVELOCK (S.O.), ASSINIBOINE, DUNCAN
(contd). operating with E.G. 30, PEVENSEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes
off South West Irish Coast.
E.G. 25 ORKNEY, LA HULLOISE, THETFORD general areas
Cape Wrath, Butt of Lewis and North Minches.
E.G. 2 WILDGOOSE, 5 frigates operating area Barra Head to Oversay
and North Irish Coast.
(C. in C. W.A., 281426A to Admty).
On completion of duty as in my 281305A proceed to carry
out zig-zag search between the following positions.
50° 40' N., 05° 35' W. and 50° 05' N., 06° 30' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281628A to S.O.E.G.10)
If E.G.30's contact is lost or shows no sign of life by
0900/29th shift patrol and establish Gamma searches as follows
on Meridian 09° W. 14th E.G. 50° 35' to 50° 55'.
30th E.G. 50° 55' to 51° 25'. possible course of U-boat easterly.
(C. in C. W.A., 281859A to S.O.E.G. 14, 30.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation Engaged 3 boats one trawler sunk 2 E-boats
"V.P.76" probably sunk. 1 rating killed, 3 wounded. Some
M.T.Bs. off damage (corrupt) steering course 250 speed 8 on
Norway. sea (corrupt).
(M.T.B.715, 280708 to Scapa W/T).
V.P.76. M.T.B.715 and M.T.B.623 returned at 1430A
and M.T.B.717 and M.T.B.627 at 2145A today 28th November.
2. Attacked northbound convoy north of Krakhellesund at 2300A
27th November and north of Stavenaes at 0105A 28th November.
3. Southern Division (M.T.Bs. 715 and M.T.B.623) sank one
trawler (certain) one "E" or "R" boat (probable) and possibly
sank one patrol vessel.
4. Northern Division (M.T.B.717 and M.T.B.627) sank one gun
coaster, obtained one torpedo hit on Merchant Vessel of about
8000 tons which was last seen with heavy list, and damaged one
"R" boat with gunfire.
5. Own casualties - one rating killed in M.T.B. 623 and 3 ratings
wounded in M.T.B.715.
Superficial damage to M.T.B.623, M.T.B.627 and M.T.B.715.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 282256A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation Intend sailing S.C.(corrupt group) from Shetland.
"S.C." (1) 0001A/30th November from Scalloway.
submarine (2) 068° from Sumburg Head 12 knots.
chasers to (3) 1800A/30th November.
Norway. ?(4) between 1830A/30th November and 0600A/1st
December.
(5) 250° to Sumburg Head 14 knots.
(6) p.m./1st December.
(7) 070° Sumburg Head.
(8) No.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 281635A to A.C.O.S.)

/My...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C." submarine chasers to Norway. (contd).
My 281635. 1. 061° 02' N., 004° 31' E.
2. Ramose Satire.
3. 060° 56' N., 004° 37' E.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 281637A to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/29th. All times Zone A.
(A) SOKOL 59° 48' N., 03° 38' E. through 61° 01' N. 02° 53' E. to 61° 13' N., 00° 01' E. diving by day 130 miles in 24 hours.
(B) SOLENT as in my 271718.
(F.O.S/M 281759A to Admty).

Raid on Shipping off Mosjoen by aircraft of Home Fleet. Operation "Provident". Bad weather precluded flying operations except on Monday 27th November when in spite of occasional snow storms a successful reconnaissance followed by attacks was carried out between Mosjoen and Rorvik.
2 Result (A) Southbound convoy 4 ships as follows
1 Norwegian RIGEL carrying troops and KORSNES sunk,
1 merchant ship 900 tons and 1 armed trawler ablaze and beached.
(B) Other targets. One merchant ship 4,000 tons well ablaze, German SPREE, coaster 500 tons, and one L.C.T. damaged and on fire
3. No casualties.
4. My P.C.S. 062° 26' N., 000° 45' W., 200° 15 knots.
5. Weather report 5481 8556.
(C. in C. H.F., in IMPLACABLE, 282200A to Admty).

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Patrols. Shift patrol now to rectangle 199° 40 miles and 109° 10 miles from 063° 00' N., 001° 48' W. U-boat D/F ?M D at 1114Z/26th is expected to approach this area steering W.S.W. Air patrols are being withdrawn due to weather until tomorrow 29th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 281107A to S.O.E.G.17).
E.G.19 relieved by E.G.25 ORKNEY, LA HULLOISE, THETFORD MINES at 1100Z/28 in position 058° 11' N., 005° 45' W. Intend carrying out sweep in area north of Minch pending sailing W.N.57. W.R. 5572 9954. Suitable.
(S.O. Force 32 281205Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Situation report 2101A/28th November.
U.S.S. MOHAWK 063° 48' N., 027° 47' W., 070° 7 Force "C" THIRLMERE (S.O.) patrolling Skagi - Reykjanes.
(A.C.I.C., 281254A to Admty).
Bottom contact considered non submarine attacked in position 061° 16' N., 000° 46' W. Conditions on patrol very poor due to S.S.E. gale.

/E.T.A...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Patrols. E.T.A. 062° 20' N., 001° 55' W. at 1800A.
(contd). Weather report 0858 8647 unsuitable.
(S.O.E.G.17, 281315A to C. in C. Rosyth).

LARK Am sailing LARK to Scapa forthwith for urgent repairs to stern frames, E.T.A.1800 today 28th. Plates require straightening and repair by welding.

2. Request she may be sailed with 9th E.G. p.m. tomorrow 29th November.

(C.S.1, 281121A to R.A.D. H.F.)

Sailed LARK to Scapa for repairs expected time of arrival 1800/28th.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 281121A to A.C.O.S.)

Scapa arrival: LARK.

(A.C.O.S., 281811 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Convoy To make up time lost intend shortening route by
J.W.62 proceeding along 005° W., to 061° N., thence destination. My P.C.S. 058° N., 006° 52' W. 016° 12 knots.

(BULLDOG, 281201A to C. in C. W.A.)

Scapa departure JELOY and TROMOY, E.T.A. destination 1500A 29th November.

2. Both ships were delayed by defects.

3. OKSOY has boiler defects and is unfit for sea until December 2nd, approximately.

4. My 271157A as amended by my 271702A and my 272022A refer.

(A.C.O.S., 281457A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

Leave Scapa with 9th E.G. and LARK passing Switha at 1700A 29th November and rendezvous J.W.62 in position A (C. in C. H.F. 182216) at 0100A 30th November.

(R.A.D. H.F., 281900A to S.O.E.G.9).

Supplies for Besides supplies for Norway referred to in
North Norway. S.H.A.E.F. S. 67713 movement of 4000 tons of civil relief supplies from U.K. to Kirkness is approved if shipping can be provided without touching "Overlord"resources.

(S.H.A.E.F., 281805A to Admty, War Office).

A.M. 252348 and A.M. 281456. Request you will consider practicability of allocating about 100 tons provisions and 200 tons coal from British Naval and M.O.W.T. stocks in North Russia for relief of civil population in North Norway.

M.O.W.T. and W.S.A. concur.

2. Additionally provisions suitable for relief purposes surplus to two months requirements (reckoned from sailing date of R.A.62) from British controlled and W.S.A. ships returning in R.A.62 should be made available at Kola.

3. On no account are ships to miss R.A.62 through discharge of above stores.

4. S.B.N.O.'s receipts endorsed "Norwegian Relief" should be handed to Masters for all provisions landed. W.S.A. and M.O.W.T. concur.

(D.T.D., 282008A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia).

/Winter...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters. - Contd.

Winter escorts for North Russian convoys. After J.W.62 winter conditions may well preclude the employment of non-arcticised ships as escort or support forces for North Russian convoys. 2. The 7th and 8th E.G's already allocated to North Russian convoys and four corvettes now in Atlantic close escort groups are the only arcticised ships available in the Western Approaches command. 3. These four corvettes could be employed on North Russian convoys by a reduction in the strength of north Atlantic close escort groups. These groups at present average a paper strength of seven ships apiece, but with refits and defects it is a constant anxiety to achieve a running strength of five ships. With the advance of winter and the probability of increasing calls on my corvettes for extra duties both inside and outside this command, any further diminution in strength would mean sending Atlantic convoys to sea with an escort of three or four ships. 4. In view of the nature and scale of surface and air opposition that may now be expected propose that future escorts for north Russian convoys be confined to Home Fleet vessels supplemented by ships of 7th and 8th E.G's as was the case prior to March 1944. (C. in C. W.A., 282255A to Admty).

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HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

Sono Admiralty's '230207.
buoys in (1) Consider the equipment of A/U Squadrons with
Naval Sono Buoys to be highly desirable and that
aircraft. necessary training period required is justified.
(2) It is considered that the balance between the
offensive load and the number of Sono buoys to be
carried depends on the tactical situation and
that some reduction in offensive load can be accepted when
searching for Schnorkel fitted U-Boats.
(3) The withdrawal of the Air Gunner from the Barracuda is
considered acceptable.
(C. in C.W.A., 282335 to Admty., Info. F.O.C.T., etc.).

Mining

Sitrep. Negative results from "Progress" and other
operations.
Liberty ship JOHN^{L.}ELLIOT in Q.Z.H.477 weighed
anchor and found mine and sinker foul of anchor.
Anchor and cable slipped (kite?) buoyed. Mine believed to be
British Mark XX possibly a married failure.
(Capt. M/S N.F., 280937 to C.T.F.125).
Operation "Calendar".
Sweeping today Tuesday 28th Nov. 1 S.A. - L.L.
(a) Terneuzen to Bat. (b) Terneuzen to N.F.13. (c) Special
sweeping as referred to in C. in C.Nore's 261609.
(d) L.A.A. sweep at Antwerp. Oropesa (a) N.F.13 - N.F.18.
(b) Flushing outer harbour.
(2) Nil. (3) Surveying there is continuing. (4) Nil.
(5) B.X.M.S. 2141m 2038 M 578 175 234 69 173 M.F.V.1020 1074
1027.
(Capt. M/S F.A., 281959A to C. in C.Nore).

German Sailed in A.T.C. convoy today Wednesday GEORGE
M/S gear. D. IRVIN loaded with German M/S gear for Chatham.
Request ship be returned to Ostend as soon as
possible for further gear.
(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 281030 to C. in C.Nore).

31st M.S.F. Request all available ships of the 31st M.S.F.
be sailed to Portsmouth as soon as possible.
BAYFIELD being recalled. CANSO returned Ports-
mouth.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 281248A to C. in C.Plymouth).

"H" Channel H Channel swept Oropesa and Magnetic Acoustic to
Buoy H.
(9) Results negative. Channel now open to
traffic Cherbourg - U.K.
(C.T.F.125, 281621 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

/Deep...

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining - Contd.

Deep mining in St. George's Channel.

My 271145A. Sailed APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford, 281805A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

German Military Transport to and from Norway.

Following are recent transport movements.
My 241222 para. (2) BIRKENAU is reported to have arrived Oslo November 19th with large reserve petrol tanks for aircraft and ammunition. B.1.
(2) My 271620 (2) German vessel LUDWIGSHAFEN about 3000 tons was reported to have left Noss November 20th in company with MOLTENFELS carrying troops. LUDWIGSHAFEN was earlier observed passing through Sound en route for Norway November 2nd. B.3.
(3) It was reported from Frederikshavn mid November that fast leave transports are to sail in pairs in future and fourth vessel as yet not named is to be added to route. B.3.
(4) My 231826 para. (1) SASSNITZ FERRY is now reported to have arrived Oslo during third week of November with five locomotives further, locomotives are expected to be shipped to Oslo making 18 in all B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 281749 to Admty.).
N.I.D. Comment: This is the first mention of LUDWIGSHAFEN which is probably new constructions of about 2000 gr.t and could well be a troop transport.

U-Boats

Possible U-Boats.

One may be approaching English Channel area within 100 miles W. of Cape Clear another may be between Cape Clear and Scillies.
No information on Channel itself but one possibly westbound S. of Lizard.
(D.D.I.C., 281415A to Cominch).

Port Facilities.

Newhaven.

Your 220319 in my letter 6256/0/1754/84 26th September replying to Admiralty Letter N.L.13214/44 of 3rd August 1944, I stated the necessity for Newhaven continuing as a Naval Harbour for the present. The Navy must operate the port so long as many small naval vessels are employed in the Channel. There were some 110 craft in Newhaven last night including those sheltering.
(2) It appears from information received from local Southern Railway representative at Newhaven that the service intended after the removal of N.M.S.S. to Dover will be a commercial one. Information is requested on this point. There cannot be two Masters in a small port such as Newhaven, and all arrangements for the commercial service can be made by the N.O.I.C. in consultation with the Southern Railway to work in with the General Port requirements.

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HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities.

Newhaven
(Contd.)

- (3) It would be greatly appreciated if a representative of M.of W.T. could visit Newhaven to consult N.O.I.C.
(4) I agree generally with A.N.C.X.Fs. 231153A. (C. in C.Ports., 281212A to Admty.).

Ipswich.

- In view of F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 241732 request the transfer of A.F.D.(B.A.) 2 to Yarmouth may be cancelled.
(2) If the shuttle service of L.C.T. is to be maintained transfer of A.F.D.38 to Ipswich is essential, and lack of docking facilities for coastal forces at Yarmouth must be accepted.
(3) Request towage asked for in para.3 of my 201418A may proceed. (C. in C.Nore, 281703A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.).

Flushing.

- My 271821. Principal Salvage Officer and Constructor Capt. on Staff of A.N.C.X.F. have visited Flushing and after discussion with N.O.i/c advise as follows.
(2) Material including timber rubberoid corrugated sheeting beaverboard and windoite for temporary repairs to houses is urgently required to enable workmen to be rehoused and commence work. Estimated quantities of materials being passed to F.O.N.P. 1731 separately by hand. Some items may be available from local resources and this will be investigated.
(3) About 3,000 shipyard joiners etc. can usefully be employed on house repairs initially.
(4) Small quantity of diving equipment, underwater cutting gear and salvage pumps is required now. P.S.V.O. is arranging supply. Salvage Officer will also be sent.
(5) Recommend Dutch Naval Constructor officers with advance party of about ten Dutch ratings from mobile repair party join staff of N.O.I.C. Flushing at early date. Understand Lieut. Stoop who has made preliminary survey and is returning to U.K. tomorrow 29th is available.
(6) F.O. Zeeland concurs.
(7) Further signal follows giving forecast and dates of probable availability of two dry docks, labour force etc. (Com. Belgium, 281832A to A.N.C.X.F., F.O.N.P.1731).

Antwerp.

- (1) A.D.G.Mobile Wiping Unit is required at Antwerp, and it is proposed temporarily to allocate OCEAN PIONEER now at Southampton for this service.
(2) Request vessel be sailed to Antwerp at earliest opportunity.
(3) Wiping and deperming cable should be taken to Antwerp on board OCEAN PIONEER.
(4) N.O.I.C.Antwerp 251728, A.N.C.X.F. 261750 C. in C.Nore 271745 not to all refer. (S.D.G., 282002A to C. in C.Ports.).

Casualties and Defects

H.M.T.
FORFEIT.

Trawler FORFEIT requests immediate assistance in
/ position...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects.

- H.M.T. position 057° 47' N. 002° 25' W. detach MERMAID
FORFEIT to stand by her and report on situation Trawlers
(Contd.) NODZU and WILLIAM BRADY escorting submarine be
in company with her.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 280306A to BLACK SWAN).
Your 280306. Am in position. Have investigated many
trawlers but FORFEIT not found.
(MERMAID, 280659A to C. in C.Rosyth).
- U.S.tug Intercept 0212Z S.O.S. from Niton Radio from
L.T.389. L.T.638. Have just rammed U.S. Army tug L.T.389.
Am standing by to pick up survivors. Position
50.28 N. 01.42 W. Have picked up only one
survivor so far but still standing by.
(Ormesby Radio, 280319 to F.O.I.C.Gt.Yarmouth).
This vessel and L.T.639 are now leaving scene and proceeding
forthwith to Portsmouth as wind is increasing. Only 6 survivors
known to have been picked up.
(L.T.638, 280425Z to Niton Radio).
Total of six men now picked up. We intend to stand by
until after daylight.
(L.T.638, No T.O.O., Niton Radio).
- CYRUS. CYRUS floated on this morning's tide and started
to bump heavily on the bottom. In the absence of
tugs ELFREDA was compelled to pump water into
CYRUS to prevent her breaking up. If serious damage and/or
possibility of blocking Channel is to be avoided it is considered
most advisable to tow CYRUS to her mooring buoy as soon as she
floats tomorrow morning.
(ELFREDA 281357A to C.T.F.125).
- VOLATILE. Regret to report VOLATILE came into collision
with ORWELL while carrying out A/S exercises in
the Flow a.m. today Tuesday. No casualties.
(2) VOLATILE sustained following damage.
(1) Port side of bridge caved in. (2) Fore periscope carried
away. (3) After periscope badly bent.
(3) Pressure hull and conning tower undamaged. No internal
damage. Further signal will be made.
(A.C.O.S., 281611 to Admty.).
- SHIKARI. My 271710.
SHIKARI sustained split in No.1 Boiler Room Hull
Plating port side below waterline. SHIKARI will
be dry docked tomorrow Wednesday to effect repairs
and make ship seaworthy subject to no complications arising
estimated time for completion 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C.Barrow, 281649A to F.O.I.C.Greenock).
- CANTAL. CANTAL refloated and will proceed Cowes Roads
in tow at daylight.
(N.O.I.C.Cowes, 282035A to C. in C.Ports.).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys.

Sailings for Antwerp. Chief if Transportation requests clearance for the craft listed below, to arrive as soon as possible at Antwerp:-

Large tugs	6	
Small tugs	85 feet and 86 feet	10
M.T.L.		20
Sea Mules		20
Steel barges	104 feet	50
Car floats		10
Composites		3
60 ton cranes		2
30 ton cranes		7
T boats		4
Motor sailers		4
Chris craft		5
Patrol boats		12
Mine yawls		6

Sea Mules, motor sailers, Chris craft, patrol boats and mine yawls are all deck loaded on either barges listed above or on ships. A.N.C.X.F. Buco has today been requested to prepare these craft for sailing.

(ETOUSA, 280435A to N.I.O.C. Antwerp).

My 271810 following revised procedure has now been agreed by Com. Zone and 21 A.G. for calling forward and Diversion of ships to Antwerp.

(a) N.O.I.C. Antwerp informs Com Zone Paris and 21 A.G. of numbers of U.S. and British ships respectively that can be accepted.

(b) Com Zone Paris and 21 A.G. call forward their own ships by name for action to A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) info to Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Antwerp, Com Belgium, C. in C. Nore, C.T.F.125).

(2) If any difficulties are experienced it is requested that A.N.C.X.F. (Main) may be informed without delay so that procedure can if necessary be amended.

(3) Arrangements in my 241844 for diversions of U.S. ships in Atlantic Convoys to Continental Ports stand.

(A.N.C.X.F., 281855A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp, Com. Belgium).

Shipping from British - operated ports in N. France.

(1) Following summary is understood to be intentions with respect to routeing of shipping from British operated ports in Northern France observing that:-

(a) Arranches will be closed as a discharge port as from 1st December: traffic from East Calvados Area will then mainly comprise coasters from Ouistreham - Caen.

(b) Sweeping of Dieppe - Boulogne Channel should be completed by 1st December Captain M/S N.F. 272221 refers.

(c) It is understood Naval Control Organisation in the Downs is established.

(2) As from 1st December, or as soon after as Dieppe - Boulogne Channel is open, all shipping from Dieppe and East Calvados area bound for Nore or East Coast will be sailed independently via French coastal channels to the Downs for onward routeing A.M.111803 refers.

(3) Until Dieppe - Boulogne Channel is open shipping in para.2 above will be sailed independently via U.K. coastal channels to Downs.

/(4)...

~~681~~ 691

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Shipping from British - operated ports in N.France. (Contd.)

(4) Other traffic from British operated ports in Northern France except personnel ships and landing craft to be routed as follows:-

(a) From Pas de Calais ports to Nore or East Coast independently to Downs for onward routing.

(b) From all British operated ports to ports westward of Wight area: Independently to St. Helens for onward routing.

(c) From all British operated ports to ports between Wight area and Downs: independently to destination.

(5) Personnel ships to be sailed in escorted convoys and landing craft in Groups as heretofore.

(6) Fullest use to be made of any escorts available for return sailing of valuable units.

(7) Request confirmation.
(F.O.B.A.A., 281256A to C. in C.Ports., V.A.Dover).

Arrival procedure for convoy escorts.

My 181728.
Add para.5 S.O.Escorts are to report their E.T.A. Ices 1 or 2 not less than 12 hours before their arrival. A.C.I's. will be amended in new issue. (C. in C.W.A., 281833A to F.O.I.Cs. Greenock and Liverpool, N.O.I.C.Aultbea, Com.D.W.A.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

MIRROR Intend sail cable ship MIRROR escorted by
cable KILBIRNIE 281300A to vicinity 36.35 N. 06.55 W.
repairs. Speed 01. E.T.A. 1000A/29.
(2) Both ships then to proceed to vicinity 36.16
N. 07.26 W.
(3) Upon completion both repairs MIRROR to return to Casablanca
to continue work this end.
F.O.G.M.A.'s. 260859A* refers.
(C.M.S.F., 280949A to F.O.G.M.A.).
* C.M.S.F. to comply with C. in C. Med's 251812 (Gibraltar -
Carcavallos cables).
Departures KILBIRNIE.
(C.M.S.F., 281845).

USK Sail at 1800A today Tuesday for U.K.
(2) Route.
(3) S. of A. 15½ knots.
(4) Codeword "Caution" 519.
(5) Shift W/T watch from Gibraltar to B.N. broadcast at 0800A/30th
(6) E.T.A. position (M) 0915A/30.
(7) C. in C. Med's. 271230 not to all.
(F.O.G.M.A., 281055A to USK).

French My 272146 not to F.O.W.M. or Com. N.O.B.Oran,
ships for ships are being delayed 24 hours in order that
Brest. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ may embark Liaison Party before
sailing. F.O.W.M. 271808 to C. in C. Med. only
refers.
(2) F.O.W.M. is requested to ensure that Liaison Party arrives
Gibraltar as early as possible p.m. 29th as ships are
required to sail at 1800A/29th.
(F.O.G.M.A., 281123A to C. in C.Plymouth etc.). .

S.L.180, Your 222005 para.3 and C. in C.W.As. 271236 not
Gibraltar to F.O.C.W.Af., request you will inform me whether
Escort it is intended to escort S.L.180 from Freetown.
Force. (2) If escort not required it is intended to
commence group training of Gibraltar escort
force forthwith.
(F.O.G.M.A., 281215A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.).
Escort not arrived.
(F.O.C.W.A., 291627Z).

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28.11.1944.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

EMILE BERTIN, A.M. 252056, not to S.B.N.O. Greece, and your proposed visit to Beirut. 271147. H.M.G's political objections have not yet been pressed in Paris, but will be immediately. Admiral Auboyneau should therefore be informed that H.M.G. fear serious political difficulties if EMILE BERTIN visits Beirut, and that question is being taken up at high level in Paris. Meanwhile, you must ask him to postpone visit pending outcome of discussions in Paris. (C.N.S. 280045A to C. in C. Med.)

Take action in accordance with A.M. 280045 and report result by immediate signal.

(C. in C. Med. 281007A to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

A.M. 280045. French have explained to H.M. Ambassador that move of EMILE BERTIN to Beirut had following three naval objects:- A. to relieve Naval personnel in Beirut who have been there for five years, B. to provide crew for escort vessel ELAN lately released by Turks to Beirut, C. to bring from Syria large tonnage of supplies for Fuzilliers Marins, mainly blankets. (2) H.M. Ambassador has been authorised to say that there is no objection to EMILE BERTIN proceeding to Alexandria and that F.O.L.E.M. would be instructed to arrange transport as soon as possible to effect above objects.

(3) Result of H.M. Ambassador's representations is not yet known.

(4) F.O.L.E.M. pass to S.B.N.O. Greece.

(V.C.N.S. 281913A to C. in C. Med.)

Sir E. Spears. No. 742.

In opinion of N.O.I.C. reasons given in para. 2 of Paris telegram No. 511 are wholly unconvincing.

A. There have been frequent opportunities in the past for effecting relief by normal methods and indeed there have been continual movements of French officers westward.

B. Crew for escort vessel could very easily be sent by normal traffic Toulon-Port Said.

C. There is no reason why the stores should be provided from Beirut: indeed this is contrary to established policy.

D. There are no French ships to inspect at Beirut and only small barracks chiefly populated by Lebanese subjects in Marine Nationale. F.O. please pass most immediate to Paris as my telegram No. 11. (Repeated to Paris No. 403.)

(Beirut No T.O.O/28 to F.O.)

No. 398. My telegram No. 394 (not repeated) (of Nov. 27th: French cruiser's visit to Beirut.)

At my request Mr. Butler spoke to Mr. Massigli last night on similar lines urging postponement of the visit.

(2) M. Massigli said he entirely understood the situation and would telegraph to his Government at once.

(3) I presume you will have acted on my telegram No. 394 notwithstanding views of French Naval Staff reported in your telegram No. 511. As regards French requirements in your para. 2 Admty. will gladly put these to the British Naval Authorities and ask them to arrange the necessary transport.

(F.O.O. No T.O.O/28 to Paris.)

No. 517. Your telegram No. 398.

I spoke to M. Pleven tonight. He had heard nothing of the matter and consulted M. Chauvel who said that Quai d'Orsay had not been consulted and that it was obviously a purely Naval matter. M. Pleven undertook to get into touch with Admiralty at once and to arrange if possible to send another in place of EMILE BERTIN. Naval adviser is seeing Admiral Lemonnier again this evening.

(Duff Cooper, Paris, No T.O.O/28 to F.O.)

~~684~~ 694.

War Diary.

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

EMILE BERTIN, No. 519. My telegram No. 517.
proposed visit When Naval Adviser visited Admiral Lemonnier
to Beirut. the latter had not yet received any message from
(Contd.) the Quai d'Orsay. He said Minister for Foreign
Affairs had been informed at least a week ago of
intended visit but he had made no comment. Admiral
Lemonnier explained that principal difficulties
to any postponement were:-

- A. General de Gaulle would have to be informed by telegram (I understand he is now making his way by train from Baku to Moscow).
- B. Naval reliefs are already on board ~~25~~. EMILE BERTIN which should arrive in Piraeus today.

(2) Finally Naval adviser asked Lemonnier to agree that EMILE BERTIN should not sail from Piraeus without further orders. This should allow the necessary time for passing telegrams. He said that he would signal Admiral Ronarch accordingly. He would also be ready to warn Admiral Auboyneau to avoid all ceremonies at Beirut and naturally strictness as regards (group undec. (?secrecy)) as to arrival, would be observed.
(Duff Cooper, Paris, No T.O.O/28 to F.O.)

M.E. Air Report. PR/64977, 28th November, 1944.
It was announced from H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East today:-

Middle East bombers operating from Eastern Mediterranean bases attacked port installations at Mandracchio Harbour Rhodes yesterday.

Bursts were seen on the jetty and anti-aircraft posts were attacked.

From this and other operations none of our aircraft is missing. (Mideast, Cairo 280930Z.)

BRUISER. Para. 3 of my 171230. As it is understood that BRUISER's conversion to Landing Ship Flak is unlikely to take place for some time, request ship may be retained in Mediterranean until she is required in U.K. to be taken in hand.
(C. in C. Med. 281226 to Admty.)

French Flag Change. Comflanfor will shift his flag from MONTCALM to JEANNE D'ARC at 2259A/28. MADISON pass to N.G.L.O. R.D.O. Marseilles pass to 3340 Wing.
(Comflanfor 281533A to Flanfor, F.O.N.A.M.)

Situation Report. 27th. Normal patrol and R/C. METEOR put a few shells into Livadia Bay at dusk. At 1700A Fieseler Storch took off from landing strip north end of Piscopi and proceeded Rhodes.
Dodecanese. H.D.M.L. 1373 landed Capt. Harden and F.O.B. Party on Piscopi after dark. METEOR intercepted refugees from Rhodes who report food situation bad.

- 28th. All Bays in Piscopi closely examined by M.T.Bs. 402 and 403. Nothing found.

(2) KELVIN carried out bombardment of one German company encamped in middle Piscopi. Target area well covered. Enemy certainly sustained casualties. Commander's house hit. Capt. Harden came

685 695

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation down hill with white flag but was answered by
Report. bursts of fire. F.O.B. Party successfully re-
Dodecanese. embarked.
(Contd.) (3) M.T.Bs. 402 and 403 H.D.M.L. 1373 entered
Livadia Bay for close R/C backed up by METEOR
and KELVIN. Light opposition from shore. Fire
probably from one mortar one Bofors and about 6
machine guns. Lively return fire from all forces. KELVIN closed
to 3 fathom line and demanded surrender in German through loud
hailer. No responses from shore. Force fired parting salvo
and retired.
Seaman A.A. Duffin L/T JX 330800 of H.D.M.L. 1373 lightly
wounded in neck retained on board METEOR. Nothing afloat found
in Livadia.
(4) Intend similar R/C of Alimnia tomorrow 29th.
(METEOR 281716B to S.O. Force 54.)
E.T.A. Kinos 1400 tomorrow 29th. MUSKETEER's 281120 refers.
(METEOR 282135B to Comaro I.)

A.F.D. 49. H.M.R.T. FLARE is allocated for towage of A.F.D.
49 from Taranto to Trincomalee. On arrival at
Gibraltar, request she be sailed to Taranto
accordingly.
(2) C. in C. Med. and C. in C. E.I. are requested to provide
escorts as necessary.
(D.O.D.(F) 281811A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Situation On 26th November F.C. JEANNE D'ARC fired 84 rounds
Report No. 491. in good visibility at 6 supply barges fitting
out on a slipway at Pietra Ligure in Gulf of
Genoa. Area was well covered and direct hits were
obtained on target.
(C. in C. Med. 282205A.)

Destroyer Following are revised dates on which it is expected
Reliefs. that remaining four Fleet Destroyers will leave
U.K. to join your command (A.M. 042350 October
para. 2 refers.)
MILNE, MATCHLESS 22nd December+ JAVELIN Mid
January. JERVIS not before Mid March.
(2) As a result of these delays, Med. Fleet Destroyer strength,
including ACTIVE, will for some time remain below number of eleven
indicated in A.M. 302210 September.
(3) Meantime, therefore, four of the ten Hunts earmarked for
East Indies Station should be retained in Mediterranean. Request
that you will release them successively as they are relieved by
Fleet Destroyers.
(4) Request you will nominate six Hunts* and sail them for U.K.
for service in home waters until required to give leave and adjust
complement before proceeding to their Mediterranean refitting
ports, destination in U.K. is the Nore.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 282326A to C. in C. Med.)
W.D. Notes: + Amended to 28th December 012331A December.
* Names, 301215.

MOST SECRET.

686 696

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TUMULT.

Request destination of TUMULT in U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 282327 to Admty.)
Reply, Portsmouth (Admty. 291846A.)

687 697

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U-Boat No fresh information, scales unchanged.
dispositions. (C. in C.E.I., 280404Z).

Flag of At 0800 F.G. 2nd December the flag of Admiral Sir
C. in C. Bruce Fraser as C. in C. B.P.F. is to be struck
B.P.F. in TARANTULA and hoisted in HOWE.
(2) Flag to be hauled down in HOWE when out of
sight of Colombo. Flag to be hoisted again when
passing Sydney Head and to remain hoisted until further orders.
(C. in C.E.I., 280612 to HOWE, TARANTULA).
Cancel my 280612. Further signal will be made*.
(C. in C.E.I., 281143Z).
* See 300910Z.

TAFF Sailed TAFF for Capetown routed in accordance
with C. in C.E.I. 211326 and C. in C.S.A.231657.
S. of A. 13 knots. Shifting to group S.L. at
2000Z/30th. E.T.A. Capetown 1700Z/5th Dec.
(N.O.I.C.Mauritius, 280725Z to C. in C.S.A., C.
in C.E.I.).

Ships ex Presume programme outlined your 210543, not to
K.M.F. P.S.T.O.M.E. and P.S.T.O.Med., based on
convoys necessity ensure escort arrive Aden with westbound
programme. convoy two days before departure eastbound
convoy. I consider turnround of eight days in
Bombay will frequently be insufficient for
handling more than seven or eight W.S. ships
without considerable dislocation of other shipping in port, which
will necessitate sailing remaining W.S. ship with unescorted
numbers only after departure B.A.F. convoy. Therefore submit
consideration be given to possibility of extending whole K.M.F.
cycle to permit turnround of ten days in Bombay. This should
also allow outward ships additional time in Middle East for
recreational disembarkation of personnel destined for India.
(P.S.T.O.(I), 280956A to C. in C.E.I.).

Mauritius Left convoy Diego Suarez, Seychelles, Mauritius I.,
convoy. escorted by SOLVRA, E.T.A. Mauritius p.m. 2nd
December.
(N.O.I.C.Seychelles, 281005Z to Admty., etc.).

PLATINO A.M. 221816 para.3 (see Mediterranean, 22nd.)
Italian S/M PLATINO is not required.
(C. in C.E.I., 281202Z to Admty.).

S.E.A.C. Ref. C.O.S.S.E.A.157. Owing to delays in
Landing preparation for service in S.E.A.C. following are
craft. earliest dates of availability of vessels at
Calcutta.
(2) L.S.T. Allowing departure from U.K. on 2nd
December without loads of L.C.T.V. and Dukws five vessels could
be operationally available by early February.
(3) If L.C.T.V and Dukws are loaded there will be a delay of
about 10 days.

~~688~~ 698

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S.E.A.C.
Landing
Craft.
(contd).

4. L.S.I.(L). Allowing departure from U.K.
early January two vessels could be available
by early February.

5. Request immediate information whether it is
preferred that L.S.T. should be sailed as in
para. 2 or as in para. 3.

6. First convoy of major landing craft is weatherbound at Brest.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 282359A to C. in C. E.I.) Reply: C. in C. E.I.
300410Z.

SECRET

IN ^{Lin}
9
688A. ^{EL}

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.)

281115FG/November

From: Rear SACSEA

Date: 28/11/44.

Recd: 2350

CIPHER

To: The War Office
Repeated: SACSEA (for D. of I & B.G.S. (I), Main ALFSEA.

IMMEDIATE

China Report W/E

23. 11-44

493384. SEA 1980 cipher 28 Nov.

Following received from H.Q., U.S.A.F. I.T. for transmission to Prime Minister and Chiefs of Staff London as representing summary of events for week ending 23 November 1944.

1. Chinese Air. The Chinese Air Force flew 3 missions for a total of 22 sorties, bombing and strafing enemy installations gasoline dumps and the Kingmen Airfield where several fires were started.
2. Chinese Ground. No Chinese action reported for North or East China. In Central China fighting continued. The Chinese repulsed a Japanese attack in the Paoching area. Another Japanese attack was repulsed in the Lungsheng area. Other Chinese Troops were engaged with the enemy West of Ishan.
3. U.S. Air. 17 November. 28 P.51's Mustangs attacked Ishan, Laipin, Trochuk and Mosun areas destroying or damaging 10 50-60 foot barges and damaging 10 trucks and Tanchuk Airfield. Villages were heavily damaged and heavy casualties resulted from strafing. 35 Fighter bombed and strafed enemy positions East and Southeast of Mangshih with excellent results. 9 B.25's Mitchells attacked as follows 3 knocked out Tingka Bridge 3 bombed the village of Hpate 3 bombed the village one miles South of Chefang starting large fires. B.24's Liberators 2 on night and 2 on day mission searched for shipping in the South China Sea locating only 1 Submarine. 14 P.51's Mustangs attacked targets of opportunity between Liuchuan and Ishan damaging an estimated 25 passenger and box cars and strafed 5 light tanks 11 P.40's bombed and knocked out a section of the Rail Bridge 6 miles North of Lingling and also bombed and strafed buildings and warehouse area. 4 B.25's Mitchells escorted by 11 P.40's bombed Hengshan water front causing heavy damage. 1 the Road to Hengyang 1 truck, 11 piles of gasoline drums and 4 storage areas were destroyed and 11 trucks, a 50 foot steamboat 1 locomotive and 12 box cars were damaged. 14 P.40's on sweep from Changsha to Siangtan destroyed 14 Sampans and 1 truck and damaged 47 Sampans. 11 P.40's attacked bridges in Paoching area destroying one third of the wooden bridge, 12 miles West of Paoching and bombed several others with near misses. The dike at the Road Junction west of Hongyang was bombed and blasted out resulting in flooding of the roads. 4 B.25's

/Mitchells

Mitchells bombed the area West of Nanyo also bombed the Barracks area with good results. 8 Medium tanks were shelled and strafed with unobserved results. 3 B.24's Liberators on night mission located no shipping in South China Sea. 1 turned back early and 2 bombed Kowloon Docks and Fort Bayard.

18 November. 6 B.25 Mitchells and 7 P.51's Mustangs bombed the Village 3 miles East of Sancha with 90 per cent hits in the target. 10 Fighters bombed and strafed enemy fortified positions Southeast of Mangshih. 3 B.24's Liberators located only Junks on day and night search of South China Sea 26 P.40's and 12 P.51's Mustangs attacked road targets in Paoching Kweilin Liuchow Ishan and Linglin areas destroying 10 railroad cars damaging 2 locomotives and 32 buildings 13 Sampans compounds dumps and several bridges and killing 25 enemy troops. 14 P.51's Mustangs bombed and strafed enemy Artillery positions and installations West of Iucan with good results, also strafed a Temple used as an observation post. 9 P.51's Mustangs bombed 1 large steamer and 2-150 foot freighters in the docks at Kiukiang with all misses but 1 large warehouse was destroyed. On Kiukiang Airfield 7 Oscars were strafed destroying 6 and starting large fires among the installations. 4 Fighters intercepted and on combat 1 was destroyed and 2 were damaged. 12 P.40's covering Pin Han Railroad probably destroyed 1 locomotive and a tank car with estimated 20 box cars damaged on the road 20 trucks were strafed and destroyed killing 50 enemy troops. 4 P.51's Mustangs covering Yellow River sector destroyed 8 locomotives and damaged 1. Over Shihkaichwang Airfield 10 enemy fighters intercepted of which 4 were destroyed. 1 P.51 Mustang and pilot was lost.

19 November. 4 P.51's Mustangs bombed a town in Liuchow area causing considerable damage. 35 P.40's attacked enemy positions and installations in Mangshih and Chefang area with excellent results. 4 B.25's Mitchells bombed the village 1 mile North of Chefang with good hits. After reloading at Ting-kawk Wam Lai Kam Highway Bridge Southeast of Lashio was bombed destroying 2 sections of the bridge. 2 B.24's Liberator on daylight mission carrying no bombs located several convoys in South China Sea. 2 B.24's Liberators on night mission located no shipping. 3 B.24's Liberators on night mission bombed as follows. 1 turned back early due to mechanical trouble, second bombed Samah Bay installations, third bombed a large tanker which disappeared and was claimed as sunk. 19 P.40's strafed road, railroad and river traffic in Seinping Itu Puchi and Kienli areas with good results. 1 150 foot boat 3 trucks and 3 hand cars were destroyed, 20 Sampans and 12 box cars were damaged. 2 B.25's Mitchells on sweep from Siangtan to Pailuchi attacked 3 convoys and bombed Pailuchi Airdrome Yochow with no observation of results. 4 P.51's Mustangs strafed 60 Cavalry troops with unobserved results on Yellow River front.

SECRET

IN 3
688B.

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.)

20 November. 4 B.24's Liberators on day and night mission searched for shipping in South China Sea. 2 B.24's Liberators in night sweep of South China Sea located no shipping, then bombed Kowloon Docks and Fort Bayard. 11 P.40's bombed and strafed village North of Chefang and the building area between Wanting and Chefang. 2 P.38's and 1 P.51 Mustang bombed Kawng Hka bridge near Lashio, blocking the road. 8 P.38's and 1 P.40 bombed Wan Lai Kam Highway Bridge Southeast of Lashio. 4 B.25's Mitchells bombed the barracks area at Lashio with heavy damage freight P.51's Mustangs bombed the warehouse area at Hukow on Yangtze River causing considerable damage, Wu Kiuuwang Airfield was strafed and 6 enemy fighters intercepted, of which one was destroyed and one probably destroyed, and one damaged. One Fighter was destroyed and another was damaged on the ground. 12 P.51's Mustangs bombed and probably sank a 350 foot freighter in Kiukiang area and probably destroyed one Oscar of the two that intercepted. 2 B.24's Liberators attacked a 440 foot two stacker vessel with direct hits and near missed, followed by secondary explosions in South China Sea, vessel disappeared and is claimed as sunk. 8 P.51's Mustangs attacked and damaged 1-150/200 foot freighter and warehouses at Amoy Harbour, strafed and probably destroyed the Radar Station, and burned buildings on the airfield. 15 P.51's Mustangs in sweep of Yangtze River dive bombed Radar installations at Chungsiang causing considerable damage, 13 trucks were destroyed and 150 enemy troops were killed. 4 P.50's bombed the ammunition dump 1 1/2 mile North of Chefang with excellent results. 31 P.40's attacked Kiyang Siangoan and Hengyang areas destroying 7 Sampans, damaging 47 Sampans and 19 barges, and killing an estimated 80 Japanese troops. On Hengyang airfield 3 planes were destroyed. 12 P.51's Mustangs bombed Lungkheng Northwest of Kweilin with excellent results.

21 November. 8 P.51's Mustangs bombed a 300/350 foot freighter at Kiukiang, causing minor damage. Of the 5 Oscars which intercepted, 3 were damaged. 3 P.51's Mustangs covering Yangtze River from Anking to Kiukiang scored direct hits on a 350 foot freighter with unobserved results. On Yellow River front 8 P.51's Mustangs destroyed one locomotive and damaged another, box cars were strafed causing unestimated damage. 7 P.51's Mustangs bombed and strafed the town Bi Ishan starting 6 large fires. 4 P.38's bombed the Burma Road 3 miles North of Wanting causing no damage. Of the enemy aircraft attacking Chengtu airfield one was destroyed and one probably destroyed. 4 B.24's Liberators, 2 on day and 2 on night mission carrying no bombs, located several convoys in the South China Sea. 6 P.51's Mustangs bombed rail bridges at Sheklung East of Canton causing considerable damage to the North Bridge, and possible damage to the South Bridge. 1 P.51 Mustang bombed a Japanese Headquarters on an Island at Foochow with good hits. 1 B.24 Liberator on sweep of South China Sea attacked a 6 ship convoy, sinking one 300 foot ship and probably sinking another.

22 November. 12 P.51's Mustangs strafed enemy troops, horses and river craft between Pingyang and Tsinkong. 3 Missions of Fighter attacked enemy positions and installations on the Burma Road with excellent results. Mongyu and Kawngghka Bridges were knocked out. 4 B.25's Mitchells bombed the storage area at Wanting causing considerable damage. 4 B.24's Liberators carrying no bombs on day and night missions located no shipping.

2 B.24's Liberators on night mission located no shipping in South China Sea, one plane returned early, and the other bombed Samah Bay installations. 23 B.24's Liberators with 19 over the target bombed Kankow Water front with fair to good results, 2 bombed Yochow. 14 P.40's covering roads from Siansiang to (?Cnahgsha) destroyed 22 trucks, one gasoline dump and an unestimated number of carts, damaged 32 trucks and killed 50 Japanese and 100 horses. 24 P.40's and 100 P.51's Mustangs bombed and strafed targets in Cnahgsha and Paoching areas destroying 4 trucks, 2 gun positions, many carts and the bridge in the East part of Paoching, damaging 4 trucks and killed an estimated 80 troops and 150 horses. 11 B.25's Mitchells escorted by 7 P.51's Mustangs bombed the town of Ishan causing heavy damage.

23 November. 12 P.51's Mustangs strafed and damaged locomotives and railroad cars in Ishan Rail Yards. 11 B.25's Mitchells bombed warehouses at Lasjo starting many fires, one bombed Hsenwi. 14 missions of Fighters bombed and strafed Qnehh positions and installations on Salween River front. Mongyu-Namhkai Bridge was knocked out. 4 B.25's Mitchells bombed Wanting starting many fires. 2 B.24's Liberators sighted several convoys in South China Sea on daylight mission. 2 B.24's Liberators on night mission sighted no shipping, then bombed Kowloon Docks and Samah Bay installations.

Four. U.S. Ground. Nil for period.

281115FG.

Received in War Registry at 300729. Circulated by War Office to internal departments, A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry), S. of S., (Foreign Office), Brig. Reynolds (India Office) and Admiralty.

Advance copy to O.D.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.C.I.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- U.W.R.
- Ops.(2)
- Plot.
- O.D.(5)
- O.I.C.(3)
- D.N.I.(5)
- D. of P.(Q)(3)
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- M.(2)
- D.P.D.

- ~~C.C.L.S.~~
- ~~A.L.O.~~
- ~~W.D.~~
- Ad. Blake.
- C.W.R.

689 699

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

AKAROA,
independent
sailing.

Your 271527 (AKAROA, requesting reply to 202301.)
Following is repetition of A.M. 221951. Begins:
Concur in para. 2 of your 202301. Reply to para.
3 will be made shortly. Ends.
(D.O.D.(H) 281155A to B.A.D.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 281344Z, Cominch 281436Z.)

BIRMINGHAM
(refitted at
Norfolk, Va.)

BIRMINGHAM will depart 281730Q. Horta 4 December.
Speed 16. X.S. thence E 37.58 N. 64.25 W. F.
38.49 53.24. G. 39.09 42.03. H. 38.31, 29.55,
thence destination.
(P.D. Norfolk Va. 281544 to Com. 10th Fleet., etc.)
Re my 281544, departed Cape Henry 2112Z/28th.
(P.D. 282319.)

Foxer Trials. Your 212241Z. It should have been stressed in
my 121859A that Gnats approaching a ship at less
than ten degrees from her course may strike the
target before reaching decoy irrespective of
whether latter is Cat or Twin Foxer.

(2) Consider therefore that trials suggested would not provide
further useful data.
(D.T.M. 281658A to B.A.D.)

E.T.A.

The instructions in A.M. 081953 July are considered
adequate, and it is not understood why B.M.W.T.
are not satisfied with an accuracy of 1 hour in
the E.T.A.

(2) It is undesirable to instruct these important ships to break
W/T silence more often than necessary, and, unless B.M.W.T. have
a very strong argument, it is not intended to alter present
instructions.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 281941 to B.A.D.)

HUNTSVILLE,
EYEBRIGHT.

Due to defects HUNTSVILLE was unable to sail
with C.5 escorting S.C. 151 and EYEBRIGHT was sub-
stituted.

(2) Intend retaining HUNTSVILLE for supporting
W.E.F. until return of C.5 to Newfoundland, when
ship will rejoin Group, EYEBRIGHT rejoining W.E.F.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 282017Z to F.O.N.F.)

U/B report.

First report since Cominch 21209. Para. D. 281815Z
U.S.S. MIGRANT sound contact 42.08 N. 70.32 W.
Admiralty pass info. to H.Q.C.C.
(Cominch 282049Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Refit of
PURSUER, at
Norfolk.

In view of heavy work loads on U.S. Navy Yards,
before reply can be made to your 271621A we must
know A. Major defect list items, B. if it is

/desired...

690 700

War Diary.

28.11.1944
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Refit of
PURSUER at
Norfolk.
(Contd.)

desired to carry out any alterations and additions.
(2) Request this information be signalled without
delay.
(B.A.D. 282130Z to Admty.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.

Admiralty views on C. in C. Med's 271421
(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA - N.T. in W.D.) are requested
by Cominch before authorising change of station
and refit.

(2) Request definition for B.A.D. of policy as to
whether this request should be regarded as an isolated case or
should be included in the framework of French Naval refits
generally, vide C. in C. Med's 261517.
(B.A.D. 282135Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
1042, Nov.
27th.

Four Mitchells attacked Radar Station Cape Lore
on south coast Timor morning: 1 building destroyed
by bombs, entire targets strafed.
(6) Japanese launched strongly pressed air attack
on 7th Fleet Task Force Units in Leyte Gulf
shortly before midday involving possibly 25 planes
including medium and torpedo bombers plus fighters and some
suicide dive bombers: several ships sustained damage, 11 Jap.
planes crashed or shot down. Previous night intermittent raiders
over Thaloban - Dulag area during bright moonlight.
(7) After dark four U.S. destroyers swept Camotes Sea shelling
Ormoc and sinking submarine contact Central Camotes Sea. Eight
Liberator patrolling Northern Sibuyan Sea morning strafed one
gunboat anchored North Mompog Passage.
(8) Forenoon Leyte based Ventura searchers strafed several
luggers southbound off Macajalal on N.W. Mindanao sinking one and
probably sinking second, attacked two luggers anchored off
Sibuyan Island destroying one probably destroying other.
(12) Night 25/26, search plane attacked one freighter three
barges located Puerto Princesa sinking the barges.
(14) Navy Catalina sank one sea truck vicinity Zamboanga early
hours 27th finding nothing at Jolon or Tawi Tawi.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 281021Z.)

Flying Tar-
get ships.

Request two flying training target ships may be
allocated to meet the Naval Flying Training pro-
gramme in Australian waters and that these vessels
may arrive Jervis Bay as soon as possible after
1st January. It is confirmed that no suitable
target vessels can be provided from local resources.
(A.C.N.B. 281106Z to Admty.)

691 701

28.11.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/28th November.
 Para. A. (1) E.G.30 still in contact, further attacks made from 2315Z until 2359Z/26th November in 50° 56' N., 09° 42' W.
 (2) A/C G/224 sighted surfaced U-Boat course 120°, which dived at 2150Z/26th November in 61° 00' N., 03° 38' W. (Amends A.M. 271139A para. B. (3))
 (3) S/M TALLY HO attacked small U-Boat with torpedoes at 0943Z/16th November in 05° 45' N., 100° 32' E.
 Para. B. (1) Beaufighter A/C F/404 and Z/404 sighted surfaced U-Boat course N. or S. at 1230Z/27th November in 61° 54' N., 03° 38' E.
 Para. C. (1) Rear-Gunner of A/C P/517 sighted U-Boat outline and obtained radar contact at 0059Z/27th November in 51° 00' N., 05° 49' W.
 (D.D.I.C., 281045A.)

Attacks on U/Bs. My 221059 July, 1942.
 (1) E.G.17 at 0215Z/25 attacked asdic contact 022° N. Rona 77'. Two hedgehog explosions at depth 275 feet, remainder on the bottom, considerable quantities of oil with strong smell of diesel. Oil still rising 10 hours later.
 (2) After radar contact E.G.30 carried out six Squid attacks at 0711Z/26 on good asdic contact in position 190° Fastnet 26'. Air bubbles, slight oil and one unexplained explosion. Contact held intermittently until midnight 26th.
 (D.A/U D., 281804A to Cominch, etc.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
 (D.D.I.C., 281416A, 281417A.)

692702

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. An aircraft of 16 Group has attacked a convoy of 14 vessels off Terschelling with bombs and claims a hit on one of them.

Norway.

2. Mosquitoes attacked an U-Boat off S.W. Norway with 6 pdr. cannon and scored hits before their target submerged. 1716

Command

3. Further information on C. in C. Home Fleet's air strike on shipping off Mossjoen brings the list of achievement up to RIGEL (3,800 tons), KORSNES (1,700 tons), a 900 ton merchantman and an armed trawler sunk; a 5,000 ton merchantman, the SPREE (2,900 tons), a 900 ton auxiliary, a 500 ton coaster, 2 armed trawlers and an L.C.T. all damaged by cannon and set on fire.

Northern Waters.

4. Convoy J.W.62, of 31 ships, sailed from Loch Ewe for North Russia, with 12 escorts. Further escorts, ranging from carriers to frigates, up to a total of 44 all told, will join en route. The sailing of the ten Russian submarine chasers, which were to have accompanied the convoy, has been cancelled owing to weather, but various ships are taking relief stores for the newly liberated population of Northern Norway, and included in the escort force are the Norwegian corvettes TUNSBURG CASTLE and EGLANTINE and trawlers TROMOY, KARMOY, OKSOY and JELOY.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

S.L.
Convoys.

5. Sierra Leone convoys are being discontinued for the present. Convoys for the U.K. will sail from Gibraltar at 5 day intervals, beginning with M.K.S.70 on December 11. From December 5, ships from West African ports for the United Kingdom are to be sailed independently to Gibraltar.

693 703

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

- Convoys. 6. K.M.S. and M.K.S. convoys will start 5 day cycles with K.M.S.73, sailing from U.K. on December 18, and M.K.S.70, sailing from Gibraltar on December 11.
- ENGADINE. 7. The aircraft transport vessel ENGADINE left Aden today for Suez and the United Kingdom.
- Aegean. 8(a) At 2217 the S.B.N.O. North Aegean, reported the loss of M.M.S. 101, which struck a mine while sweeping in the Gulf of Salonika. There were three survivors only, all wounded.
(b) Middle East bombers attacked installations in Rhodes Harbour in daylight today, and returned without loss. Hits were scored on the Mole.
- Black Sea, Convoys. 9. In the event of the institution of convoys to the Black Sea, the Flag Officer, Levant and Eastern Mediterranean considers that the Naval Control Service Officer would be best situated at Istanbul.

Australia and New Zealand

- F.O.N.A.S. 10. Rear-Admiral Portal arrived at Melbourne today and assumed the duties of F.O.N.A.S., Australia. His flag was hoisted in H.M.S. GOLDEN HIND, depot ship at Sydney.
- Timor. 11. Two Mitchell aircraft on a sweep south-west of Timor attacked and probably sank a small south-bound coaster 30 miles north of Koepang.
- Philippines. 12(a) General MacArthur's Headquarters announced today that three Japanese destroyers and 10 other vessels of a convoy bound for Leyte were sunk in a sea-air battle off the west coast of the island last night. Four thousand Japanese troops were lost in this attack.
(b) A destroyer was bombed and damaged off the east coast of Cebu by eight Kittyhawks.
(c) One U.S. Navy Mariner left sinking one sea truck off N.W. Mindoro.
(d) Sixteen U.S. Thunderbolts destroyed two coastal transport vessels of about 300 tons each in Sogod Bay, east coast of Cebu.

/Dutch ...

~~694~~ 704

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Dutch
East
Indies.

13. A Liberator aircraft on patrol in the Banda Sea strafed a schooner north of Ugdr Island and forced the crew to abandon her.

Borneo.

14. Two Liberators searching north of Borneo sank two small freighters and probably a third in Varudea Bay.

Tokyo
bombed.

15. The U.S. War Department announced today that American Super-Fortresses of the New 21st Bomber Command based on Saipan, in the Marianas, had bombed Tokyo for the third time in a week. Of 29 aircraft which were despatched, 24 bombed the industrial area of the city and two attacked other targets. Two made no attack and one is missing. A/A fire was meagre and inaccurate, and only one aircraft reported enemy fighters over the target.

29.11.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Conduct of
aircraft
and
Surface
craft

A.511. Your 252051A following amendments proposed:
Para. A. Would prefer that words after
"Recognised as hostile" should read "or seen to
commit a hostile act." Para. ?. After "aircraft"
insert "of Coastal Command."
(Air Ministry, 291737A to Admty.)
Your 252051. Concur with the exception of para.
(B).

(2) It is not considered clear whether I.F.F. may be used for
air direction purposed and such exercises as reconnaissance etc.

(3) Propose para.(B) be amended to read as follows:-
"I.F.F. will normally be switched off in aircraft except for use
of special codes and when in distress. I.F.F. may, of course,
continue to be used to facilitate air direction, for reconnaissance
exercises, and in any other circumstances in which I.F.F.
identification is of value".

(C. in C. W.A. 291838A to Admty.)

Proposals in A.M.252051A are unlikely to affect Home Fleet
and therefore I have no practical grounds for objection in this
particular case.

(2) I am however unwilling to accept the principle of complete
responsibility for visual recognition of aircraft being place on
ships in any area outside the reach of continuous shore based
fighter cover i.e. coastal waters adjacent to friendly territory.

(3) If this is accepted, I feel it will eventually lead either
to bombing of ships which are training in unreadiness, when they
leave a restricted area, or the engagement of friendly aircraft
by ships when they first enter a restricted area.

(4) It is, therefore, considered that in areas where it is
undesirable to switch on I.F.F. the onus of recognition should
remain with the aircraft if they wish to approach within 12,000
yards of a surface vessel by day or by night.

(C. in C.H.F. 292322A to Admty.)

Movements

IMPLACABLE

E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 1400A today Wednesday. Force
7 in company. Request Hoxa and temporary Gates.
Acknowledge.

(C. in C. H.F., 290505A to A.C.O.S.)

SEALION

Reference A.L.D.024855/44 of 13th November
A.M. 242008. Request instructions for the
scrapping of H.M.S. SEALION may be cancelled.
(F.O.S/M. 290921A to Admty.)

Admiralty's 242008A. S.5 reports that SEALION is now ready
Request arrangements may be made to tow SEALION to Rothesay as
soon as possible. S.7 is requested to secure SEALION to
casualty moorings on arrival.

(2) Intend to sink SEALION in position 205°. Pladda 2½ miles
head to tide and to ask Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association
to undertake the sinking operation.

(3) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to provide any assistance
that may be required and a representative to co-ordinate and
attend the operation of sinking.

(C. in C.W.A., 291958A to Admty.)

/SELKIRK...

596 706

War Diary.

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

SELKIRK, M.S. 4 is to sail SELKIRK and ROSS to Cardiff
ROSS. arranging the date of arrival direct with F.O.I.C.
Cardiff.
(2) On arrival they are to be destored and reduced
to reserve Fleet, category C.
(3) On completion of reduction they will be towed to Falmouth
to lay up.
(4) Proposed programmes to be reported.
(C. in C. Plymouth 291105 to M.S. 4.)

O.R.P. Arrived O.R.P. GARLAND.
GARLAND. (C. in C. Plymouth 291244A to F.O.G.M.A.)

HUNTER, My 281044, sailed.
ATTACKER, (C. in C. Portsmouth 291531A to Cs. in C. Plymouth,
STALKER. W.A., Med., F.O.G.M.A.)
My 281911 sailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth 292144A to HUNTER, F.O.G.M.A.,
C. in C. W.A.)

SKATE, A.M. 282113. Proposed to lay up SKATE, SALADIN
SALADIN, and SCIMITAR at Milford Haven.
SCIMITAR. (F.O.C.R.F. 291535 to Admty.)

KENT. Scapa arrival C.S. 1 in KENT.
(A.C.O.S. 291820A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

IMPLACABLE, In heavy weather yesterday 28th IMPLACABLE
VICTORIOUS. suffered considerable damage to the flared bow
plating and structure supporting flight deck
similar to that experienced in VICTORIOUS about
two years ago. As ship was practically hove to
at the time it appears that considerable strengthening of the
structure is necessary.
(2) To avoid further damage it is considered that IMPLACABLE
should not proceed to sea in bad weather until repairs have been
effected which will probably take a minimum of five weeks.
(3) I intend to use her for a short operation in North Sea about
7th to 9th December after which she will be sent to Rosyth.
(4) Sketch of damage is being forwarded by A.S. Orkney to Admty.
Bath with copy to A.S. Rosyth. Further details will be supplied
by Constructor Captain Holt on arrival at Bath on Monday 4th
December.
(C. in C. H.F. 291835A to Admty.)

DOUGLAS, DOUGLAS and WANDERER have been accepted into
WANDERER. R.F. Category C. WANDERER has been moored in
Northumberland Dock, North Shields, a.m. today
Wednesday. DOUGLAS will be towed to the same
destination as soon as weather conditions permit,
and tugs are available. Provisional date is Friday 1st December
no further complement returns will be rendered by these ships.
(S.O.R.F. Tyne 291914A to F.O.C.R.F.)

697 707

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Military. In Holland, Allied advance held up by strong enemy defences Broekhuizen (E.92) area west of Meuse. General. Critical areas undoubtedly judged by enemy to be first Duren and secondly Karlsruhe.

In latter, 256 Division from Holland now followed by a second, 245, and third as predicted by Prisoner of War may well be on way judging by reports from Holland a Parachute Division is a possibility, to west of Tieffenbach first Army making strenuous efforts to hold on present line, well forward of West Wall. 19 Army west of Rhine apparently written off. No signs yet of crossing river to escape. Document reported by agent stated that troops in Vosges were to be considered expendable. In any case great bulk of troops have already been surrounded piecemeal. (S.H.A.E.F. 291700A to War Office.)

Naval. Cositintrep No. 239 part 2 Naval. Captured Ports. Antwerp. A total of 219 berths were reported as cleared by 26th November. Boulogne. Berth at Gare Maritime now has least draught of 14 feet.

Unloading figures for 28th November.

British	Troops	Vehicles	Figures	Pol
E. Calvados	-	-	190	-
Dieppe	103	17	1,276	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,360	-
Calais	-	32	-	-
Ostend	634	65	1,104	2,823
Total	737	114	4,930	2,823

Antwerp no figures received for 28th November.

U.S.				
Cherbourg	-	-	12,683	12,582
Rouen	1,385	682	3,772	2,060
Brittany Ports	-	11	6,764	-
Havre	5,844	685	8,610	-
Total	7,229	1,378	31,829	14,642
Combined total	7,966	1,492	36,759	17,465

(A.N.C.X.F. 292335A to Admty.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Dutch vessels Your 261115 replying to my 231400 is not understood for Flushing. (2) It was not intended to derequisition but to have these ships re-allocated to assist in salvage work of which there is pressing need.

(3) It is proposed they are now operated by R. Neth. Navy primarily for opening Flushing and other Dutch ports but held at your disposal. (F.O.N.P. 1731 290945A to A.N.C.X.F.)

698 708

War Diary.

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea - Contd.

N.P. 1740X
for Goes
S. Beveland.

(1) Request personnel and vehicles for Goes may be made available by 4th December when it is intended minor landing craft flotillas will be sent there. X.F. No. 1979/P/1069 of 16th November 1944 refers.
(2) Naval party No. 1740X has been allocated to this party and para. 3 of letter quoted above should be amended accordingly.
(A.N.C.X.F. 290950A to Admty.)

Patrols.

Nore and Dover Patrol Night 29/30th November.

(1) STEVENSTONE N.F. 4 to N.F. 7 Buoy. RETALICK N.F. 1 to N.F. 3 Buoy. THORNBOROUGH N.F. 7 to N.F. 10 Buoy. DUFF and WALPOLE 051° 35' N. 003° 12' E. to 051° 30' N. 003° 00' E.
(2) Coastal Force Unit F.B. 2 N.F. 10 2130 to 0400 F.A. 8 N.F. 13 2130 to 0400. F.G. 2 and F.G. 3 with THORNBOROUGH F.K.2 and F.K. 3 with RETALICK Middle Stein Bank F.C. 1 051° 39' N. 003° 21' E.
(V.A. Dover 291510 to Ships in area C.)

Suspicious
object off
N.F. 5 buoy.

M.T.B. 673 reports suspicious object sighted at 1117 today Wednesday, in position 065° N.F. 5 Buoy 2.1 miles. Appeared to be under weigh half submerged and proceeding westerly. M.T.B. opened fire and obtained direct hits causing object to disappear.
(V.A. Dover 291835 to Ships off Low Countries and C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Channel.

Engagement of
aircraft by
ships in
Channel.

Your 281615 concur but consider U.K. terminal should be five miles clear of the eastern boundary of the area proposed in S.H.A.E.F. Main add 251530.
(A.N.C.X.F. Main 291015A to Air Staff, S.H.A.E.F.)

Patrols.

Assume patrols as follows: - 3 ships zigzag search between 180 Portland 20' and 180 Start 12'.
2 ships remain on present patrol until 0200/30 then proceed to carry out zigzag search between 49.50 N. 04.45 W. and 49.39 N. 06.00 W.
(C. in C. Plymouth 291023A to S.O.E.G. 15.)

Suspected
U/BOAT

Search area 7 miles radius from 50° 31' N. 00° 53' E. for possible U-Boat. Expect aircraft patrol in vicinity R/T 2410 for communication callsign "Mothburn".
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291348A to GRIMSBY TOWN.)

/To...

99 709

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Suspected U-Boat. (Contd.) To locate U-Boat using Snort zig-zag search steady 8 knots through areas given Start 1800 finish 0830.
(2) Area bounded by Q.Z.S. 636, 575, 626 and line Kansas J.G. Buoy is divided into 3 sections B lines G.1 to 50° 25' 00° 22' E. and J to J.6 Buoy.
(3) ANTHONY north section. (4) HARGOOD centre section. (5) VANOC south section. (6) BRILLIANT H.5 Buoy Z.108, 109 A 4 G.1 Z.109 J Buoy. (7) M.T.Bs. ordered search west of Q.Z.S. 636.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291350A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
My 291348A. Join GRIMSBY TOWN, report E.T.A.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291352A to BLACKTHORN.)
Search areas 10 miles each side line joining 50° 35' 00° 45' E. 50° 25' 00° 57' E.
(2) GRIMSBY TOWN east area from 1900.
(3) BLACKTHORN west area on arrival.
(4) Search courses approx. N.W. and S.E. (5) Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291730A to GRIMSBY TOWN, BLACKTHORN.)

Patrols. Day patrols 30th. HARGOOD, ANTHONY, BRILLIANT, Gamma search limits 50° 30' 49° 45' 01° 10' W. 01° 25' W.
(2) VANOC, BLACKTHORN, GRIMSBY TOWN searching east of Q.Z.S. 575.
(3) VANQUISHER, CROIX LE LORRAINE, relieve ANTHONY, BRILLIANT.
(4) M.T.Bs. returning Portland 0800 without relief.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291837 to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)
Day patrol 30th November from 0830.
(2) Search area bounded as follows: lines 050° from J 2 J 9 Buoys Q.Z.S. 575 East Command limit.
(3) Divide area into 3 sections by lines drawn 050° from 50° 12' 00° 45' E. and J.4 Buoy.
(4) BLACKTHORN take south section.
(5) VANOC centre section.
(6) GRIMSBY TOWN north section.
(7) Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291901A to VANOC, GRIMSBY TOWN, BLACKTHORN.)
Air patrols 30th subject to suitable weather.
(2) Patrols 39 40 callsigns will be signalled if required to co-operate with you.
(3) Day patrols 47 49 callsigns 838 Squadron. R/T "Mothburn" W/T WPX 842 Squadron R/T "Occult" W/T UTA.
(4) All patrols at present withdrawn.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291911 to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable U-Boat kill. Leaving to comply with your 281859 now. No further signs of life. Contact has been much easier to hold during last 18 hours in spite of conditions being worse. It is suggested as a possibility that a U-Boat generated some form of continuous

700 710

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Probable
 U-Boat kill.
 (Contd.)

S.B.T. in which to hide. Underwater tapping and pumping noises reported by CAISTOR CASTLE and whistles and squeaks reported by LAUNCESTON CASTLE and PORTCHESTER CASTLE tend to confirm this. No noises heard since echoes improved. Unsuitable. A below. B. no.

(S.O.E.G. 30 290909A to C. in C. W.A.)

Reference to S.B.T. in your 290909 might be explained by air leak from target causing rising column of air bubbles. Request following information.

- A. Time of initial attack on U-Boat.
- B. Depth recorded initial attack.
- C. Was Radar contact gained by one or more ships.
- D. Period over which S.B.T. was observed.
- E. Recorded depth of S.B.T. echo.

(C. in C. W.A. 291233A to S.O.E.G. 30.)

Your 291233.

(1) A. 0820A on the 26th. B. First attack at 0820 considered bottomed in 420 feet, no result. Second attack at 0852 at 360 feet result air bubble 100 feet diameter. Third attack at 0859 at 360 feet result underwater explosion whistle effects small amount oil. Fourth attack at 0927 at 420 feet small amount oil. Fifth attack at 0951 at 420 feet air bubble 60 feet diameter. Sixth attack at 1000 at 420 feet no result. After this contact became woolly.

C. PORTCHESTER CASTLE only. Contact held for insufficient time to put others in contact.

D. Contact difficult to hold and surrounded by mass of woolliness from 1015 on the 26th to about midnight on the 27th.

E. No depth obtained. Echo sounders also appeared to be affected.

(2) Perhaps S.B.T. is wrong word. At commencement effect was that of a long woolly echo with sharp but faint target echo in centre. Then for long periods woolliness completely hid target.

(3) Now ascertained that LAUNCESTON CASTLE heard a second explosion at 1126 on the 26th, an hour and a half after sixth attack.

(S.O.E.G. 30 291717A to C. in C. W.A.)

ICARUS to
 E.G. 14.

When ready 1st December request you will sail ICARUS to join 14th E.G. in approx. position 050° 45' N. 009° 00' W. R/V to be arranged by S.O.E.G. 14th.

(C. in C. W.A. 291253A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Programme for
 Support
 Groups.

Amend my 231056 as follows:-

Group	Return	Sail	Return	Sail
2	Dec. 12th	Dec. 24th	-	-
6	Nov. 28th	Dec. 10th	Jan. 3rd	-

(C. in C. W.A. 291341A to Com. D. W.A., Capts. D. Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast.)

/Situation...

701 711

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

Situation report. Force 33 2nd E.G. WILDGOOSE 3.0. 5 frigates and 31st E.G. BERKELEY CASTLE 3 corvettes R/V O.N.S. 37 at 2100A/29th and support.
25th E.G. ORKNEY 3 frigates General Area north Minches Cape Wrath and Butt of Lewis.
14th E.G. HAVELOCK, ASSINIBOINE, DUNCAN and 30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE 3 corvettes patrolling off south west Ireland.
Add to my 291212.
(C. in C. W.A. 291449A to Admty.)

3rd E.G. On completion of training request you will sail 3rd E.G. to Merville to fuel and await orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 291625A to T.C. Rockabill.)
Request you will sail 3rd E.G. a.m. 30th November to carry out A/S hunt in area bounded by parallels 55° and 56° and Meridians 07° and 10°.
(2) 3rd E.G. will not form part of Force 33 until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 292310A to Com. D. W.A.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "Provident" account by C. in C.H.F. My 282200. Convoy of 4 ships found at anchor in position 65° 53' N. 12° 25' E. at 1000A/27th. Strike at 1110 found convoy southbound about 3 miles south of anchorage and obtained following results
Norwegian RIGEL (3800 tons) hit by 3 bombs and numerous cannon strikes last observed fore part only above water burning fiercely in position 65° 49' 10" N. 12° 21' 05" E. leaving large number survivors in field-grey uniform in water and on rafts. Norwegian KORSNES (1700 tons) hit by 2 bombs and cannon last seen aground stern awash and burning fiercely in position 65° 50' 55" N. 12° 23' 12" E. one merchant ship of 900 tons and one armed trawler set on fire and driven ashore. Three latter ships considered total loss.
(2) Cannon strikes obtained on anchored merchant ship of 5000 tons in position 64° 56' N. 11° 28' E. by R/C fighters. Found listing and burning fiercely amidships by strike aircraft at 1130 with several small craft alongside and proceeding towards her. Of these one 900 ton auxiliary attempting to give assistance alongside and two armed trawlers were damaged by cannon fire and set on fire.
(3) German SPREE (2900 tons) at anchor in position 66° 01' 24" N. 12° 54' 48" E. a 500 ton coaster and one L.C.T. in Mosjoen all set on fire by cannon.
(4) Cannon strikes obtained on oil tank at Sandnessjoen. Results not observed.
(5) One merchant ship of about 3000 tons and two smaller merchant ships sighted in Rorvik. Norwegian SALTEN and two ships of 500-1000 tons sighted in Mosjoen. All a.m. 27th.
(6) Anti-invasion obstacles observed on Alsten on northern side of Vefsenfjord.
(7) Flak negligible except over Mosjoen and Sandnessjoen where moderate and ineffective. No G.A.F. activity except during withdrawal when force was in contact with single enemy aircraft for two brief periods.
(C. in C. H.F. 291526A to Admty.) /Operation...

702 712

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norway - Contd.

Operation "Provident" account by Press Officer

Operation "Provident". Following account is by Press Officer, IMPLACABLE:-
Naval aircraft, operating from a force under the command of the Commander in Chief, Home Fleet, Admiral Sir Henry Moore, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O. have struck again with great success off the Norwegian coast, and sunk or damaged 17,000 tons of enemy shipping. Battling through heavy seas and a gale of 60 knots, the force arrived off the coast of Norway on Monday 27th November and flew off a striking force of Barracudas, Fireflies and Seafires. One hour later, the aircraft returned having inflicted heavy damage and loss to important German shipping and shore installations.
In a convoy of 4 ships destroyed the RIGEL of 3,800 tons (a German troopship) the KORSNES of 1,700 tons, a vessel of 1,000 tons and an armed escort vessel were driven ashore and left wrecked. The German troops on the RIGEL were seen to be struggling in the ice cold water after the ship was sunk and many men must have perished.
The German ship SPREE of 3,000 tons and a merchant ship of 4,000 tons were also severely damaged. Two armed escort vessels and a tender were strafed and set on fire. A vessel of 1,000 tons and a tank landing craft were also strafed and damaged. Moderate anti-aircraft defences were encountered. Again, on the way back to their base, the ships of the force had to fight against another violent gale. All our ships and aircraft returned without damage or casualties.
Note - photographs will be sent by courier leaving Scapa tomorrow 30th November.
(C. in C. H.F. 291810A to Admty.)

Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/30th and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone A.
A. SOKOL 61° 08' N. 01° 01' E. probably on surface through 61° 13' N. 000° 01' E. and 090° Muckle
Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick 9 knots.
B. SOLENT as in my 271718.
(F.O. S/M 291809A to Admty.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Possible U-Boat. D/F bearings on 3800 k/cs at 2127Z indicate U-Boat within 30 miles of 58° 30' N. 04° E.
(D.D.I.C. 290005A to S/Ms north of 51° N.)

Convoy J.W. 62. Scapa arrivals owing to weather BULLDOG, BEAGLE and 5 Russian submarine chasers. Intend to sail at 0900/29th November weather permitting.
(A.C.O.S. 290251 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Following...

703 713

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy
J.W. 62.
(Contd.)

Following is a repetition of BULLDOG 290454,
"A.C.O.S. repeated C.S. 1, C. in C. H.F. from
BULLDOG. S/M Chasers inform me they will not
sail to meet convoy direct."

(A.C.O.S. 290609 A to C.S.1, C. in C. H.F.)

Your 290454 and 0840. Take BEAGLE and S/M chasers
under your command and proceed as soon as ready by Q.Z.S. 15
direct Skaalefjord. Report time Swith Gate required and E.T.A.
before sailing. Acknowledge.

(A.C.O.S. 290852A to BULLDOG.)

My 290852A delete reference to S/M chasers. Proceed with
BEAGLE only passing Gate at 1100 today Wednesday. Liaison
officer should be disembarked to Munro before sailing, where
drifter will be sent to transfer him to IRON DUKE. Acknowledge.

(A.C.O.S. 290954A to BULLDOG.)

Weather considered unsuitable at present for Russian S.Cs.
to proceed to Skaalefjord. They are to remain at Scapa pending
further instructions. Request you will sail BULLDOG and BEAGLE
to Skaalefjord to fuel and join convoy as previously ordered.

(2) Captain Zinovieff and Liaison Officer should be disembarked
before sailing.

(3) Admiralty pass to Naval Russian Mission.

(C.S. 20 291050A to C.S. 1.)

Scapa departures BULLDOG, BEAGLE.

(A.C.O.S. 291138 to N.O.I.C. Faroes, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

C.S. 1 sailed in KENT.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 291233A to A.C.O.S.)

Owing to adverse weather Russian S/M chasers will not sail
in J.W. 62. My 291050 refers.

(2) Admiralty pass to Naval Russian Mission and Admiral Archer.

(C.S. 10 291342A to Admty. C.S. 1, etc.)

J.W. 62. FORT BOISE, FORT ISLAND, FORT HIGHFIELD, FORT
MASSAC, EMPIRE STALWART, LUCULLUS, LAURELWOOD, RATHLIN, LONGWOOD,
BRITISH RESPECT, EMPIRE GARRICK, U.S. ships CECIL N. BEAN,
EDWARD N. HURLEY, NELSON W. ALDRICH, RENALD FERNALD, STANTON H.
KING, WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, U.S.O., ANDREW TURNBULL, BARBARA
FRIETCHIE, ROBERT LOWRY, STEVENSON TAYLOR, WILLIAM H. WILMER,
JOHN GIBBON, STEPHEN LEACOCK, LINN BOYD, OWEN WISTER, W.R. GRACE,
WILLIAM TYLER PAGE, AMAS A DELANO, AUGUST BELMONT. M/F D/F
guard 365 k/cs LUCULLUS, 446 EMPIRE GARRICK, 527 LONGWOOD. All
ships hold outcon 987 S.P. 2272 (33) (34) in addition LUCULLUS
hold S.P. 2413 (2672) LAURELWOOD S.P. 2413 (61) LONGWOOD S.P.
2413 (664) BRITISH RESPECT S.P. 2413 (2140) and EMPIRE GARRICK S.
P. 2413 (2591.)

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 291720A to Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in
C. W.A.)

J.W. 62. A. 1730/29th. B. CYGNET, LAPWING, WESTCOTT,
KEPPEL, ALINGTON CASTLE, BAMBORO' CASTLE, (N.S.) TUNSBURG CASTLE
(N.S.) EGLANTINE, TAVY, TORTOLA, BAHAMAS, SOMALILAND sail to join
LARK, BULLDOG, BEAGLE.

C. 31. D. Cdre. E. Ullring R.N.N. in FORT BOISE.

E. Vice Cdre. of convoy master EMPIRE STALWART.

F. Rear Cdre. Master M.T. BRITISH RESPECT. All ships and escorts
hold outcon 987.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 291730A to Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in
C. W.A.)

/Scapa...

704 714

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Northern Waters.Convoy
J.W. 62.
(Contd.)Scapa departure at 1700/9th E.G. S.O. ST. JOHN
with NENE, STORMONT, LOCH ALVIE, PORT COLBORNE,
MONNOW.Scapa departure at 1741 ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, OBEDIENT,
OFFA, ORWELL, LARK.

(A.C.O.S. 291750A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Distribution
of supplies to
Northern
Norway.Request M.W.T. representative Archangel will
provide 100 tons of provisions. 200 tons of
coal is available at Kola. A.M. 282008 refers.(2) Request M.W.T.R. Murmansk will take action in
accordance with para. 2 of A.M. quoted.

(3) Admiralty pass to M.W.T. and W.S.A.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 290837A to S.B.N.Os. Archangel,
Murmansk.)

Patrols.

Establish Gamma between 062° 15' N. 000° 17' W.
and 061° 40' N. 001° 05' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth 290949A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

If not in contact establish Gamma by midnight
tonight between positions 061° 08' N. 001° 48' W. and 061° 42' N.
002° 26' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth 291839A to S.O.E.G. 17.)

Convoy
R.A. 61.Intend to sail Group 17 from North Dvina fairway
at 1200A/1st December consisting of following 5
American ships - KEITH PALMER (special Cdre.)
ELEAZOR LORD (Vice) HAROLD L. WINSLOW, JOYCE
KILMER, WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT.

(2) This will clear White Sea ports.

(3) Local Russian escort of destroyers and submarine chasers
arranged.British and U.S. Naval Signalman in S.O. escort, M/S 113, for
Liaison duties.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 290955A to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

E.G. 31 to
relieve E.G.
17.My 271457 para. 8 not to all. On detaching from
O.N.S. 37 probably p.m. 30th November 31st E.G.
is to proceed at best speed to Scapa thence to
relieve 17th E.G. operating under the orders of C.
in C. Rosyth.

(C. in C. W.A. 291210A to S.O.E.G. 31.)

Situation
report.2000 Movements Wednesday. E.G. 9 ST. JOHN (S.O.)
and LARK 058° 43' N. 004° 07' W. to R/V J.W. 62 at
0012/1.ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, OFFA, OBEDIENT, ORWELL 059°
10' N. 003° 50' to Faroes 17.E.G. 17 ASCENSION (S.O.) patrolling between 062° 15' N. 000°
17' W. and 061° 40' N. 001° 05' W.J.W. 62 CYGNET S.O. Cape Wrath 2300 to northward 10 BULLDOG,
BEAGLE 060° 10' 004° 30' to Faroes 12.

- 705 715

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Northern Waters.

Situation
report.
(Contd.)

E.G. 25 ORKNEY S.O. patrolling in Cape Wrath and
Butt of Lewis area.
KENT Cape Wrath 1900 to Scapa ONSLOW, KEPPEL,
WESTCOTT 059° 00' N. 005° 30' W. to Faroes 17.
(A.C.O.S. 291302A to Admty.)

Flag of
C. in C. H.F.
to RODNEY.

48Z. Cancel my 211039A and F.O. 10th C.S.
281935A. Flag of C. in C. H.F. will be transferred
to RODNEY about 1500/29th November.
(C. in C. H.F. 291407A to H.F.)

706 716

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HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

Postpone-
ment of
navigational
aids in
Channel.

A.853 Nov. 29 Top Secret. Schnorkel buoys. At the C. in C's Plymouth suggestion not considered advisable at the moment to replace a buoy at Trevoise Head in view of suspected enemy operational activity in this area. This also applies at present to the radar buoy intended for Polperro then to be diverted to Trevoise Head.
(19 Group, 291717A to H.Q. Coastal Command.)

Attack on
shipping off
Terschelling.

Nr.1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact of 14 unknown vessels in position 53° 26' N., 5° 00' E. Based on a Gee fix at 2300.
(A/C PMH12, 292241 to Group 16.)
Nr.2. P.C.S. of enemy 53° 31' N., 5° 22' E., 080°, 9 knots.
(A/C PMH12, 292315 to Group 16.)

Nr.3. Have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimate one hit.

(A/C PMH12, No T.O.O./30 to Group 16.)

Attacks of
shipping off
Southern
Norway.

C.C. Daily Operational Summary No. 897 period ending 2359/29th November, 1944. Day 29th. Mosquitoes attacked a U-Boat off the S.W. coast of Norway with 6-pounder cannon, scoring several hits before the target submerged.
Evening. 2 Beaufighters attacked shipping off south Norway with torpedoes, results not observed.

Shipping off the Frisians also attacked by Barracudas and Beaufighters. 1 possible hit on an E/V with bombs and 1 probable torpedo hit on an M/V. Other attacks, results not observed.

(H.Q.C.C., 292359 to H.Q.B.C., H.Q.F.C., C. in C. Nore, S.H.A.E.F.)

Mining

Sitrep.

Negative results from "Progress" and other operations.

(Capt. M/S. N.F., 291003 to C.T.F. 125.)

Sweep off
Humber.

Proceed with FRASERBURGH, LYME REGIS, BOOTLE, LLANDUDNO, WORTHING and ARDROSSAN passing Gate outwards at 2300 today Wednesday 29th November.
(2) Instruct danlayers CALVAY and KINGS GREY to proceed ahead as requisite.

(3) Commence search at 0800 tomorrow Thursday from D.6 carrying out operation as in your 232305 except that in para. 6 for D.6 read D.1 buoy.

(4) Beaufighter fighter protection has been requested under codeword "Deborah".

(F.O. Humber, 291059 to S.O. M.S.F.15.)

707 717

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining - Contd.

M.S.F.31 to Cherbourg. As soon as ready proceed Cherbourg with COWICHAN, FORT WILLIAM and MALPEQUE.
 (2) Route via Needles and Q.Z.S.631, 633, speed 13 knots. Report own E.T.A. and request instructions from C.T.G. 125.2 on arrival.
 (3) Acknowledge.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291209A to M.S.F. 31.)
 My 291209A sailed 1538A November 29th.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291720A to C.T.G. 125.2.)

Situation Report. Operation "Calendar".
 (1) Sweeping today Wednesday 29th November SA and LL.
 (a) Terneuzen to Bat. (b) Terneuzen to N.F.17.
 (c) N.F.13 to N.F.17. (d) Special sweeping referred to in C. in C. Nore's 261609. (e) LAA sweeping at Antwerp. Oropesa. (?a) N.F.13 to N.F.18. (b) Flushing outer. None. Surveying work continuing. (a) 2 M.F.V. Port Office Timers. (b) 12 each of charts numbers 1872, 325, ?12-.
 (3) B.Y.M.S. 2051, 21, 41, M.M/S. 175, 234, 237, 69, 274, 173, M.F.V.10, ?20, 1074, 1027.
 (Capt. M/S.F.A., 291959A to C. in C. Nore.)

U-Boats

Possible U-Boats. One or two south of Ireland (R) probably moving towards Bristol Channel or Cornish coast. Radar contact and aircraft report a.m./29th Nov. in 50° 34' N., 01° 02' E. considered very doubtful.
 No fresh information on remainder of Channel area, but possibly one westbound south-west of the Lizard.
 (D.D.I.C., 291400A to Cominch.)

Navigational

Forth and Clyde Canal ice free. My 271220. Forth and Clyde canal now clear of ice.
 (T.N.O. Grangemouth, 291045 to N.O.I.C. Leith.)

Port Facilities

Wiping unit for Antwerp. Intend to sail OCEAN PIONEER at 0900 tomorrow Thursday to area 31 for inclusion in M.T.C.52 destination Antwerp. Admiralty's 282002A not to all refers. Request routes and sailing orders may be put on board at St. Helens Roads. OCEAN PIONEER sail to comply.
 (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 290952A to N.C.S.O. Portsmouth.)
 Intend sailing OCEAN PIONEER p.m. Thursday 30th in M.T.C.52 to Small Downs for onward routing to Antwerp.
 (2) A.M. 282002 refers.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291558A to V.A. Dover.)

/Antwerp ...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities - Contd.

Antwerp
clearance.

From P.S.V.O. 12000 tons in complete oil tanker sunk in berth 154-156 Antwerp is a simple compressed air salvage job and will be refloated in one week from now. Local contractor has been employed. Possibilities of completion of ship being investigated.
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 291306A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties and Defects

JOSEPH
SQUIRES,
CHARLES
ROBINSON.

JOSEPH SQUIRES and CHARLES ROBINSON both U.S. Liberty ships fully laden St. Helens for Antwerp have been in collision in Downs while anchoring last evening. Both vessels slightly damaged and will require first proceeding. SQUIRES damaged at stern six feet above water. ROBINSON port side at Nos. 1 and 2 holds almost down to waterline. Neither vessel making water, DAPPER will carry on with repairs at daylight. Please send representative from U.S. Shipping Administration to consult.
(C.S.V.O. Dover, 290200A to V.A. Dover.)

SOUTHCOATES.

SOUTHCOATES attempt refloating yesterday unsuccessful. Tide not up to prediction, water in all compartment now under control operations will continue until vessel is refloated.
(C.S.V.O. Leith, 290915 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

L.C.As. 614,
1374.

Following received from VECTIS to C. in C. Portsmouth. Following received from EMPIRE RAPIER. "L.C.A. 614 lost in heavy weather, L.C.A. 1374 damaged. Report follows by hand".
(Com. L.C.B., 291013A to Admty.)

L.T. 389.

Regret to report that at 0155/28th November, U.S. L.T. 638 rammed and capsized U.S. Army Tug L.T. 389 in position 50° 50' N., 01° 42' W.
(2) 7 survivors rescued. Understood total complement to be Master and 18 ratings.
(3) Weather at the time - wind S.S.W. 607, visibility 3, sea rough.
(4) Tugs were on passage in company from Havre to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291138A to Admty.)

SOUTHCOATES.

H.M. Trawler SOUTHCOATES grounded p.m./26th Nov. in Firth of Forth near Preston Island, whilst towing L.C.I. 288 to Boness. Salvage operations are in hand and it is hoped to refloat vessel shortly.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291224 to Admty.)

Barge
CYRUS.

CYRUS refloated and proceeding to Buoy in Q.Z.H. 477.
(Capt. M/S.N.F., 291249A to C.T.F. 125.)

/JOLIETTE ...

709 719

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

JOLIETTE. (1) My 251321. Request salvage tug be sent to Merville as soon as convenient to await suitable weather for passage of JOLIETTE who is now ready to proceed at slow speed under own power under calm conditions with tug in attendance.
(2) Request repair port may be allocated.
(Com. (D) W.A., 291550 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

Shipping from British operated ports in N. France. Request your remarks on F.O.B.A.A's 281256 which is concurred in generally.
(V.A. Dover, 291221A to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 281256. On closing down of Arrow as from 1st December it is proposed that shipping from Canoe should be routed via 92 Buoy and H.V.3 Buoy, it being understood that this channel has now been swept.

(2) Ships that may be required to sail in convoy to proceed independently to Pasture for inclusion in convoy from there.

(3) In the case of ships for ?8 area, route suggested is simpler than via C.A Buoy and Juno Light Vessel and also provides a greater measure of control, since independent ships could be stopped at H.V.3 Buoy by C.T.F. 125 in the event of U-Boats threatening their passage.
(N.O.I.C. Arrow, 291604A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Downs as Convoy Anchorage. For information. With the re-establishment of Naval control at Ramsgate the Downs will be used as a convoy anchorage from now onwards. The average numbers anchored at any one time may be as many as 20 ocean going ships and 40 coasters. No special A.A. protection is considered necessary.
(D. of L.D., 291242A to Air Ministry.)

Disposal of L.S.Ts. (1) The 20 U.S.L.S.T. released 1st December by S.H.A.E.F. dispatch 1600/16 are selected as follows:-
(A) For transfer to Royal Navy - U.S.L.S.Ts. 980, 16, 377, 1, 378, 379, 72, 522.
(B) For return to United States - U.S.L.S.Ts. 982, 682, 540, 539, 535, 530, 543, 537, 536, 534, 524, 920.
(2) Will notify Admiralty at early date of location and date of readiness ships in (A) above.
(3) Estimated that ships in para. (B) above with L.C.Ts. on board will be ready for sailing to United States about 27 December.
(Comphibsukay, 291647A to Comnavu.)

Ships for Antwerp to anchor in the Downs. Your 271217A. CHARLES ROBINSON and JOSEPH SQUIRES proceeded through Downs and endeavoured to continue unescorted to Antwerp. They were intercepted east of N.F.2 and ordered to return to the Downs.
(2) Request Masters of ships bound for Antwerp may be instructed to anchor in the Downs to await onward orders from N.C.S.O. Ramsgate.
(C. in C. Nore, 291652A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

710720

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

HUNTER, MALCOLM take VERITY and BALLINDERRY under his
ATTACKER, orders and sail at 1300 today Wednesday to R/V
STALKER, HUNTER, ATTACKER and STALKER, relieve U.K. Based
escort to escort, and take over escort to Gibraltar.
Gibraltar. (2) Proceed through:-
(a) 35.59 N. 06.10 W. (b) 36.55 N. 09.05 W.
(k) 38.00 N. 10.00 W. then steer BXTR (JPM) 43.00
N. 10.00 W.
(3) S. of A. 13 knots. (4) Codeword "Cogwheel" 460.
(5) C. in C.Plymouth's 281911 and paras.1 and 3 of C. in C.
Portsmouth's 281044 are being passed. Part 2 will be passed
when received.
(6) R/V will be signalled.
(7) Keep W/T watch in accordance with S 1/44 Section MD throughout.
(F.O.G.M.A., 290948A as amended 291232A to MALCOLM etc.).

Task Group Refer N.S.S. 4125, complying with reference at
29.7 R/V 36.00 N. 35.00 W. at 1800Z/1. Request
track of C.T.F.61 so we can overtake. T.G.29.7
P.C. and S. 0900Z/29 35.59 21.59, 287° 15.
W.X. 3571 3381.
(C.T.G. 29.7 in WHIPPLE, 291115 to C.T.F.61,
C.T.G.69.7).

Will comply N.S.S.42.59 of C.T.G.69.7 and N.S.S. 42.08 of
C.T.F.61 C.T.G.29.7. Arrive Horta 1200Z/30th November. Will
leave late afternoon.

(WHIPPLE, 291811 to C.T.F.61, C.T.G.69.7).

THANE. Request your intentions for escorting THANE to U.K.
(F.O.G.M.A., 291208A to C. in C.Med.) See 292021A
C. in C. Med.).

French ships Sailed my 282146 amended by my 281123 F.S.HOVA,
for Brest. SOMALI, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, hold Q.Z.H.(C) 604 (L)
66 S 646 X 146 and Y 520 Y.M.S.hold only
approach route to Brest. HOVA, SOMALI, ADMIRAL
MOUCHEZ carry B.N.L.O's.
(F.O.G.M.A., 292012A to C. in C.Plymouth).

South Atlantic

S.L. S.L. convoys are being discontinued, for the
convoys present. Convoys for U.K. will sail from Gibraltar
Independent at 5 day intervals commencing with M.K.S.70/11th
Routes. Dec.
(2) Commencing 5th December, ships from West
African Ports for U.K. are to be sailed
independently to Gibraltar as follows.

(3)...

711721

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

S.L.Convoys (3) From Lagos by route Donyto Perch to:-
Independent Position U. 06.17 N. 14.18 W. thence through
Routes 10.00 N. 17.54 W. 15.00 18.20 24.40 N. 18.20 W.
(Contd.) 28.08 13.55 33.03 N. 10.40 W. 35.05 06.30.
(b) From Takoradi by route Minnow to:-
Position ?R 06.25 N. 13.46 W. then 10.00 N. 17.46 W.
15.00 N. 18.10 W. 24.33 N. 18.10 W. 28.04 N. 13.51 W. 33.00 N.
10.30 W. 35.45 N. 06.30 W.
(c) From Freetown through positions:-
10.00 N. 17.38 W. 15.00 N. 18.00 W. 24.22 N. 18.00 W. 28.00 N.
13.48 W. 32.55 N. 10.22 W. 35.45 N. 06.30 W.
(d) From Dakar (by standard British Coastal Route).
(4) Ships from Ports south of Freetown are to be sailed so as to
make as much of their passage between seven degrees north and
nine degrees north as possible in daylight. If (?) between
these latitudes (7° N. 9° N.) during dark hours they are to burn
dimmer (?dimmed) navigation lights.
(5) Ships are not to zig zag south of 26° N.
(6) In event of emergency ships in Area P.1, P.2, and P.3 will
be ordered into Dakar Freetown and Takoradi respectively to
await convoy. Ships are to be issued with necessary approach
route instructions.
(7) Ships should be bunkered to arrive Gibraltar with bunkers
for 16 days at convoy speed.
(8) Ships are to be warned that they may overtake shipping on
these routes.
(F.O.C.W.A., 291131Z to N.Os. i/c etc.).
Reply from F.O.G.M.A. 021043A.

S.L.180, Your 281215A. In view of A.M. 271956A part 2,
STONECROP. escort not required. STONECROP will be sailed
30th to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.W.A., 291627Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

Intend sailing STONECROP at 1400Z/30th November.

- (2) Route to 33.00 10.30 W. thence Gibraltar through 35.45 N.
06.30 W.
- (3) Assumes Med. W/T organisation at 2000Z/4th Dec.
- (4) Speed 12½ knots. E.T.A. 1400Z/7th Dec.
(F.O.C.W.A., 291759Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

~~712~~ 722.

War Diary.

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CURIE,
DORIS.

Marine Paris proposes that French submarine CURIE until due for refit in March and French submarine DORIS should be employed for operational duties in North Sea.

Your 081252 Nov. and 201110 Oct. not to all.
(F.O.W.M. 291048A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Reply: 011244A Dec. Comment of F.O. S/M see 021409A Dec. in Home Commands.

DUQUESNE,
GLOIRE,
for Brest
and Plymouth.

M.S.C.I. 5.

(1) F.S. DUQUESNE ?(S.O.) and GLOIRE at 011700A Dec. to Brest for onward routing to Plymouth.

(2) 19 knots. (3) Route basic westbound to position 16 thence 35.58 N. 05.34 West thence as ordered by Admty. 271124A.

(4) E.T.A. position 16 020545A E.T.A. Brest 041400A.

(6) High. Codeword "Amusement" 112. Guard on area broadcasts 2150 k/cs and 375 k/cs. Both ships have liaison parties.

(9) A. C. in C. Med. 270847A not to all refers.

B. Request F.O.G.M.A. ?shall place on board both ships at position 16 necessary Q Messages and Publications.

(Comnob Oran 291300 to Admty.)

Convoy cycles. K.M.S. and M.K.S. convoys will start 5 day cycles with K.M.S. 73 sailing from U.K. 18th Dec. and M.K.S. 70 sailing from Gibraltar 11th Dec.

(2) Further signal will be made if K.M.S./M.K.S. convoys revert to 10 day cycles.

(C. in C. Med. 291429A to All Mediterranean Ocean Routing Authorities.)

Italian ships
in Spain.

Amendments have been received and understood by Italian Naval Attache, Madrid, and Italian ships concerned. Your 191636 refers.

(B.N.A. Madrid 291830A to C. in C. Med.)

TUMULT.

Your 282327. Destination of TUMULT is Portsmouth.
(D.O.D.(F) 291846A to C. in C. Med.)

EMILE BERTIN
proposed
visit to
Beirut.

A.M. 281913. Acting Foreign Minister has agreed that visit to Beirut should be postponed for one month and is seeing Minister of Marine this afternoon to have necessary instructions sent to EMILE BERTIN.

(2) French are informing General de Gaulle by telegraph.

(3) Further signal will be made when it is known whether arrangements in para. 2 of A.M. under reference are desired.

(P.A.S.(L) 291908A to C. in C. Med.)

/CROOME...

29.11.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

CROOME,
THANE.

CROOME will arrive Gibraltar 1st Dec. and act as escort to THANE to U.K.
(2) Destination of CROOME is the Nore. Your 290920 and A.M. 282326 not to F.O.G.M.A. neither to D.18 refer.

(C. in C. Med. 292021A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Your 291947A acknowledged. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800 1st Dec.
(CROOME 292201A to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea
Convoys

In the event of institution of convoys to Black Sea, consider N.C.S.O. best situation at Istanbul. Ships bound into Black Sea could be released by escort off Dardanelles to pick up pilots. Ships bound from Black Sea to (?Aegean) could wait at

Istanbul and be sailed as necessary to R/V with escort off Dardanelles entrance. Propose agreement of Turks be obtained to this arrangement and to waiving or reduction of port dues for ships using Istanbul for convoy as opposed to commercial purposes. It is understood that at present 4 pilots are stationed at Chanak. Depending on anticipated size of convoys it would be necessary to ask Turks to increase this number. C.O.S.709 dated 6th October refers.

(F.O.L.E.M., 292120B to C. in C. Med.)

A.F.D.53
(Taranto
to India)

It is considered Naval Skeleton Dock Operating Crew will be necessary for passage of end portions of A.F.D.53.

A.M. 141644 para. 3 refers. Further signal will be made giving proposals for composition of crew.
(C. in C. Med. 292124 to Admt.)

M.M.S./S.
101
sunk.

Regret to report loss of M.M./S.101 by striking mine whilst sweeping near south anchorage.

(2) There are three wounded survivors only which have been taken by MAINE.

(3) Next of kin not informed.

(S.B.N.O. North Aegean, 292217 to S.B.N.O. Greece).

~~714~~ 724.

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B No fresh information. Scales remain unchanged in
dispositions. all areas.
(C. in C. B.P.F., 290336Z to S. and A., E.I.)

GENERAL As soon as U.S.S. GENERAL MANN is ready about 7th
MANN. Dec. request you will sail her independently for
Melbourne. My 201003 not to all refers.
2. Route from Bombay.
3. U.S.S. GENERAL MANN should be ordered to zig-zag while passing
between longitudes of 100° and 120° East.
4. Request you will report firm date of sailing as soon as known.
(C. in C. E.I., 290359Z to F.O.B.)

A/U A/U Carrier Squadron Situation on East Indies
Carriers. Station.
(2) The 4 Wild pilots of 845 Squadron are being
converted to Hellcats to meet the over-bearing of

No.105 Wing.
(3) Only 2 of the A/U carriers will be available for A/U
operation in next three months.
(4) The 3 pilots of 834 Wildcat flight are being used for F.D.
exercises with Fleet and it has not been possible to enlarge
other Wildcat flights to 6 I.E. each. Para. 6 of A.M. 232258 Oct.
refers.
(5) It is estimated that several pilots of the 3 A/U Squadrons
will shortly be due for relief from first line duties. Therefore
propose amalgamating these squadrons to reform 832 and 851
squadrons only as there is no employment for 845 Squadron at
present. Para. (3) above refers. When sufficient pilots become
available propose reforming 845 Squadron.
(6) Request an early decision on proposals in para. 5.
(C. in C. E.I., 290419Z to Admty).

NADDER Sailed NADDER for Port Louis, Mauritius for
(frigate) onward passage to South Africa to refit. My
refit. 231141 not to all refers.
(2) Route.
(3) E.T.A. Mauritius 1300Z Dec. 14th.
(4) N.O.I.C. Mauritius is requested to sail NADDER on completion
of refuelling.
(C. in C. E.I., 290428Z to N.O.I.C. Mauritius, C. in C. S.A.)

Cable STORE NORDISKE proceeding at 1500Z/28th to repair
repair. cable in new position 000° 17' S., 043° 00'.
E.T.A. A.M. 29th. N.C.S.O. Kilindini's 210725
(N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(N.O.I.C. East Africa (Kilindini) 291303 to Admty.
E.T.C).

ENGADINE Sailed ENGADINE at 1430Z/29th Nov. to Suez for
onward routing to U.K. to comply with C. in C.
E.I. 091237.
2. E.T.A. Suez 1500Z Dec. S. of A. 14 knots.
3. Request arrangements for transit of Canal.
(Com. Aden, 291620, to N.O.I.C. Suez).

715 725

War Diary.

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

- CORSAIR. From January onwards it is essential that CORSAIR or her relief should be available to work with Piarco on extended observer training (see my 161633).
- (2) Ref. Admty., 240346 "W" class destroyer could not be completely T.R.N.V.R. manned, (details).
- (3) CORSAIR is defective (details).
- (4) Before CORSAIR can undertake service elsewhere it is considered she should undergo dockyard refit.
- (5) In view of urgent need for CORSAIR or her relief at Trinidad from January, request earliest decision whether she will be replaced.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 291235Z to Admty.).
- S/M. attack and sighting summary. No report since my 181506 para. (D).
ARVIDA 3 attacks on unconfirmed Asdic contact
44° 03' N. 45° 53' W. about 1730Z/28th.
(N.S.H.Q. 291406Z to Admty., Cominch).
- U-Boat dispositions. Estimate 1200Z/29.
(Cominch, 291525Z, N.S.H.Q. 291329Z).
- T.G.22.7 Include FREDERICK C. DAVIS in your Task Group.
(Cinclant, 291537Z to C.T.G. 22.7).
- Escort Oiler. H.X.323 PRESIDENT DE VOGUE is making first passage as escort oiler. Request opportunity be given to exercise gear. Ship officers instructed.
(B.R.L.O.New York, 291949Z to F.O.N.F.).
- Tugs for Horta. RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK should be sailed independently. Your 272236 refers.
(2) Request you will examine possibility of
(a) Starting these tugs in tow for some 350 miles which should make passage to Horta within their capacity.
(b) Carrying sufficient deck cargo for the first day or so.
(3) Should neither of these methods be practicable, tugs should be retained at Bermuda for the present and BARBADOS sailed for U.K.
(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 292050A to S.B.N.O.W.At.).
- BIRMINGHAM. Norfolk departed 28th November BIRMINGHAM for Azores for onward routing to U.K.
(N.S.H.Q., 292045Z to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand

- Digest No.1043 for Nov. 28 (3) Four Mitchells from Darwin conducting fore-noon sweep Azores sea sank, destroyed or severely /damaged...

~~716~~ 726.

29.11.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest damaged 80 ton barge and 12 barges Raoemere and
No.1043 vicinity.
for Nov.28. (5) Enemy convoy small ships apparently reached
(Contd.) west coast Leyte vicinity Yamampon early hour.
At first light 4 Kittyhawks attacked and sank 4
sea truck type vessels at Lomonon also strafed
troops in lifeboats besides strafing 3 more similar craft
already unloaded.
(6) Later during morning aircraft observed one destroyer, 2
destroyer escort, 2 small merchant ships off northeast tip
Leyte course south. One air search plane reported two destroyers
one merchant vessel approaching Ormoc Bay from west, one
merchant ship near Ormoc under cover smoke screen and 2 other
vessels surrounded by small barges west side Ormoc Harbour.
(10) R/C. plane over Cebu morning 27th sighted 8 sea trucks
many small craft Cebu(?) Harbour: attacks damaged one sea truck.
(11) One medium Freighter and 2 burning luggers sighted off
southwestern end Jose morning 27th. Shortly afterwards 3
destroyers or destroyer transports anchored southeast coast
Marcluque Island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 290826Z).

Tokyo The U.S. War Department announced today that
bombed. American Super-Fortresses of the new 21st Bomber
Command (based on Saipan, in the Marianas) had
bombed Tokyo for the third time in a week. (The
Times, 30.11.44).
The War Department announced on November 30th that
none of the Super-Fortresses that raided Tokyo
in the early hours of Wednesday 29th was lost through enemy
action. This was the first night mission carried out by Super-
Fortresses from their Saipan base. (The Times, 1.12.44).

Convoy General MacArthur's H.Q. issued the following
attacked announcement today: Three Japanese destroyers and
off Leyte: 10 other vessels of a convoy bound for Leyte were
sunk in a sea-air battle off the west coast of the
island on November 28 - 29. Four thousand Japanese troops were
lost in this attack. (The Times, 30.11.1944).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M.attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/29th November.
and sighting Para.C. H.M.C.S. ARVIDA attacked unconfirmed echo
summary. at 1630Z/28th November in 44° 03' N. 45° 53' W.
(D.D.I.C., 291124A).

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 291350A, 1355A).

717 727

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) Attacks on the Schelde Approaches were made by E-Boats in the small hours. The torpedo attack on the Antwerp Convoy, and mining attempts N.E. of Ostend were driven off, but mines laid N.W. of Ostend damaged the frigate DUFF and L.S.T. 321, both of which, however, came into port under their own power. In the evening the destroyer STEVENSTONE also struck a mine, but is also returning to harbour, with assistance. E-Boats were again reported p.m. by Coastal Command aircraft.

(b) An aircraft of 16 Group has dive-bombed enemy shipping off the Texel and claims one hit.

(c) Two ships of the Antwerp Convoy came into collision off Terneuzen of which EMPIRE NESS sank, fortunately without obstructing the channel.

Channel.

2(a) One of the cross-Channel pipe-lines from Dungeness to Boulogne has now passed its tests and is being filled with spirit for operation.

(b) The oyster-minesweeping barge CYRUS, which dragged ashore at Le Havre on the 22nd, has been refloated.

Western Approaches.

3. Escort Group C.8 reports "firm contact" with a U-Boat 40 miles S.E. of Cape Clear at 2200.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Destroyers for Home.

4. The Hunt class destroyers FARNDALE, EGGESFORD, HAYDON, BRECON, AVONVALE and CROOME are being sailed for the Nore, for service at home until required to give leave and adjust complement before proceeding to their Mediterranean refitting ports.

Convoy escorts.

5. C. in C. Mediterranean states that it is no longer considered necessary that K.M.F. convoys should be escorted in the Mediterranean. He proposes that ocean escorts should detach at Gibraltar and be available for A/S operations in the approaches until required for the next M.K.F. convoy. The Admiralty approved this on December 7.

/Adriatic ...

~~718~~ 728

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

6(a) L.C.I.(L) 102, seriously damaged at Vis Island, Yugoslavia, in recent gales, has been abandoned as beyond economical repair.
(b) Today's Army Summary states that Scutari is reported evacuated and that few Germans can now remain in Northern Albania.
(c) No authority has yet been received from Marshal Tito's headquarters for the passage of any ships east of Dubrovnik, and as the local Yugoslav Navy and Army authorities state they are unable to warn batteries of the approach of a sweep, they ask that ships should not go south of Molunat, to avoid possible incidents. (See also December 1.)

Greece.

7(a) Mediterranean Station Order 277B, issued at 2337A today, directs authorities to resume normal traffic to Greek ports.
(b) S.B.N.O. Greece, reports the loss of the South-African manned auxiliary minesweeper BEVER by striking a mine. Nine survivors were brought to the Piraeus.

East Indies

Cruiser
Commands.

8(a) Rear-Admiral E.J.P. Brind, with his flag in the SWIFTSURE, is to take over command and administration forthwith of the 4th Cruiser Squadron, comprising the SWIFTSURE, CEYLON, ACHILLES, GAMBIA, BLACK PRINCE and ARGONAUT.
(b) The cruisers NIGERIA, KENYA, NEWCASTLE and PHOEBE will constitute part of Force 61. Rear-Admiral A.D. Read is appointed Flag Officer Commanding Force 61, to date November 22, and will continue to wear his flag in the NIGERIA.
(c) The title C.S.B.P.F. lapses.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines. 9(a) General MacArthur's headquarters announced today that another Japanese convoy bound for Ormoc, on Leyte Island, had been destroyed by U.S. aircraft. Four transports were sunk, and a

/destroyer ...

~~719~~ 729.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.
(Contd.)

destroyer and a cargo ship set on fire. It was estimated that 5,000 Japanese were lost. This was stated to be the seventh convoy destroyed in the Leyte area. The action apparently took place off the east coast of Cebu, in the vicinity of Carmen.

(b) P.T. Boats operating in the Samar Sea last night attacked a medium freighter apparently unloading at the south tip of Masbate Island and left it burning and listing.

(c) A patrol aircraft last night damaged a tanker in Puerto Princesa Bay.

(d) Eighteen Kittyhawks bombed and sank a freighter of 7,000 tons and machine-gunned small vessels off the east coast of Masbate Island, Philippines. One sea truck and one barge were sunk off the north of Cebu.

Borneo.

10. A Navy search Liberator bombed and possibly sank a ship about 300 feet long in Brunei Bay.

Timor.

11. Eight U.S. Mitchells on a sweep of the Flores Sea sank one lugger and machine-gunned another near Ende, Flores Island, and also bombed targets near Dilli, Timor.

~~720~~ 730

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy .

Conduct of aircraft and surface craft. A.M. 252051 November concur. (C. in C.Rosyth, 300929A to Admt.). Herewith repetition our A/839 27 Nov. T.O.O. 271900. To Air Ministry for D. of Ops (A.D.) Your 252051A agree. Suggest extension of area eastwards to include area mentioned in S.H.A.E.Fs. 251530A May prevent further signals in the near future. (H.Q.C.C., 301245A to Admt.). Your 291737 concur. (2) Propose further amendments to Admiralty 252051 as follows:- Para.(b) Add "I.F.F. may of course continue to be used in circumstances where it is considered to be of value". Para.(d) to commence with "If operational conditions permit". (3) As it is proposed to promulgate the A.G.M. on 1st December, early consideration of these proposals will be appreciated. (A.C.N.S.(H), 302345A to Air Ministry).

Movements

VINDICTIVE The broad pendant of R.A.(D) H.F. will be transferred from GREENWICH to VINDICTIVE at 1000/1st Dec. (C. in C.H.F., 300027A to Home Fleet).

BACHAQUERO. My 271651A amended by my 290917A sailed. (N.O.I.C.Faroes, 301041A to A.C.O.S.).

DOUGLAS, WANDERER. DOUGLAS and WANDERER reduced to reserve category C 29th November. (F.O.C.R.F., 301819A to Admt.).

Operations

Situation Reports.

Military. G.2 summary No.69 dated 30th November 1944. Operations. West of Mulhouse reduction of pocket north of canal continues. Advance north across Doller stopped by blown bridge at Pont D'Aspach. Further west advance from Rimbach, north towards St. Amarin continues. In North Vosges where ground and visibility conditions poor, German positions largely collapsed and Allied line now runs roughly Ste. Marie, Barr, Erstein all inclusive then east to Rhine. North of Strasbourg enemy continues offer resistance La Wantzenau and Gamshein that is, along railway about 2 miles from Rhine. South of Hagenau, Neiderschneffelsheim about 3 miles from town taken after bitter fighting whilst patrols reaching Schweighausen less than 2 miles west of Hagenau observed enemy withdrawing to northeast. East of Ingwiller Allies over River

/Moder...

War Diary.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report.

Military
(Contd.)

Moder and captured Bischoltz. To west, Tieffenbach cleared of enemy despite orders to garrison to hold at all costs. Farebersviller on approaches to Saarbrucken increasingly strongly hold.

Enemy resistance ceased Keslar and Allies reached Roer. To north enemy believed withdrawing northeast from Beeck - Lindern area. Allied troops in parts both towns.

In Holland, Broekhuizervorst (E.9023) Wfll Ferry (E.8529) and Kasteel (E.8329) all on Meuse still holding out.

General Garrison along water barrier in Holland believed reduced to minimum.

In Cologne plain front yielding slightly as enemy withdraws behind lines of Wurm, Roer, and Inde rivers. Defence in Hurtgen woods remains bitter. Withdrawal and new arrivals have allowed extensive re-organisation.

(S.H.A.E.F., 301735A to War Office).

Naval

Cositintrep No. 240 part II Naval.

(1) General.

Night 29/30 November. 4 or 5 groups of enemy

E-Boats attacked the South Falls - Schelde Channel with mines and torpedoes. Torpedo attack on Antwerp Convoy was beaten off but mines were laid in Channel north west of Ostend. These caused damage to one Frigate and one L.S.T. Antwerp and Ostend Convoys are proceeding by diversion route. A further attempt to mine the Channel N.E. of Ostend was beaten off.

(2) Unloading figures for 29th November.

British

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
E.Calvados	770	84	96	-
Dieppe	29	-	921	-
Boulogne	38	149	1798	-
Calais	-	32	-	-
Ostend	1839	329	4238	2873
Antwerp	Figures not yet received.			
Total	2676	594	7053	2873
United States				
Cherbourg	195	-	1,3414	-
Brittany Ports	-	38	6661	-
Rouen	520	213	5271	1194
Le Havre	536	24	5541	-
Total	1251	275	3,0887	1194
Combined Total	3927	869	3,7940	4067

Antwerp British figures for 28th November

- 42 2687 -

(A.N.C.X.F., 302345A to Admty.).

~~722~~ 732.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea.

Wreck dispersal vessels for Far Shore. P.S.V.O. Antwerp's 290646 request wreck dispersal vessel CLYNE CASTLE be sailed to Ostend to relieve YEZO and wreck dispersal vessel LUNE to Ostend for onward routing to Terneuzen.
(2) Both vessels now lying at Short Reach Chatham. (S.V.O.X.F., 300924A to C. in C.Nore).
N.O.I.C. Antwerp's 290946A and my 301020A. Request you will sail wreck dispersal vessels, CLYNE CASTLE to Ostend and LUNE to Ostend for Terneuzen.
(2) Request Admiralty divert mails accordingly. (C. in C.Nore, 301001A to Com. Southend).

E-Boat activity off Ostend. L.S.T.321 mined in position 051° 22' N. 002° 36' E. at 0650 today, Thursday. Vessel arrived Ostend under own power and now reports as follows:-
Damage so far ascertained compartments 408, 411 and 413 badly holed. Tank deck leaking badly split. Shell plating starboard hand badly damaged. Can make 7 knots. Further report will be made.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 301125A to C. in C.Nore).
E-Boat activity night 29/30 appears to have been carried out by 3 or possibly 4 Groups.
(2) An attempt to mine swept channel east of N.F.8 Buoy was beaten off by patrols but either one or two groups penetrated patrol line and mined swept channel in vicinity N.F.5 and N.F.6 buoys.
(3) Yet another group attempted a torpedo attack on the Antwerp convoy but were beaten off by patrol and convoy escort, enemy sustained damage. Enemy fired torpedoes but convoy suffered no casualties.
(4) As a result of enemy mining DUFF and L.S.T.321 sustained damage, L.S.T.321 has arrived Ostend and a damage report is awaited. DUFF is proceeding Harwich at 12 knots and reports forward boiler room flooded.
(5) W.A.P.37 was ordered to remain in Small Downs and remainder of traffic proceeded by diversion route.
(C. in C.Nore, 301525A to Admty.).
Have struck a mine.
(STEVENSTONE, 301823 to Chatham W/T).
At 1919/30th. Plot number S.1 surface craft detected by Radar bearing 032° Ostend 17 miles.
(Ostend W/T, 301937 to Nore).
Plot No. S.2. Surface craft detected by Radar 034° Ostend 17.5 miles.
(Ostend W/T, 301851 to Nore).
Plot No. S.2 039° Ostend 17 miles.
(Ostend W/T, 301958 to Nore).

Survey of Schelde. SCOTT arrived Terneuzen. Your 261530 refers. (Capt. M/S F.A., 301659A to C. in C.Plymouth).
A.M. 201310 not to all. D.S. HYDROGRAPH is allocated to F.O.N.P.1731 for survey of south Beveland Canal entrances and Flushing. F.O.N.P.1731 should call her forward when required.
(A.N.C.X.F., 301733A to F.O.N.P.1731).

/Patrols...

~~723~~ 733War Diary30.11.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.

Patrols. Nore and Dover patrol. Night of 30th Nov./1st Dec. 15 CURZON, 16 SEYMOUR, 18 EKINS, 19 STAYNER and STEVENSTONE.

(2) Coastal Force Unit F.B.2 at N.F.10 till 0400 F.A.8 at N.F.13 till 0400 M/S trawler STEINBANK F.C.(051°?) 39' N. 003° 21' E. F.G.2 and F.G.3 with SEYMOUR F.K.2 and F.K.3 with AKINS F.L.2 and F.L.3 with CURZON.
(V.A.Dover, 301705A to ships in area "C").

EMPIRE NESS sunk in Schelde. EMPIRE NESS sunk after collision with WILLIAM PACO near Terneuzen. WILLIAM PACO proceeding to Antwerp EMPIRE NESS does not obstruct channel. Casualties if any are very light, further report follows.
(N.O.I.C.Antwerp, 301937 to A.N.C.X.F.).

OperationsChannel.

C. in C. Portsmouth to visit C.T.F.125. Intend visiting Havre December 6th to December 8th staying with C.T.F.125. Propose to take passage in KINGSMILL to Dieppe and will see F.O.B.A.A. at Rouen during my stay in France.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 301050A to F.O.B.A.A., A.N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C.Dieppe).

French Fishing Facilities. Fishing started in the area defined in my 271913 October para.3 subject to the conditions imposed by A.N.C.X.Fs. 061752 November as soon as the latter signal could be implemented.
No necessity for a Fishery Control Ship has yet become manifest.
(2) In view of disadvantage of employment of Chasseurs on the duty as described in C. in C.Portsmouth's 281626 November propose fishing shall continue without control ships until the need for them becomes apparent.
(F.O.B.A.A., 301158A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Patrols. Night patrols 30th/1st.
Zig zag search for Snort areas bounded by following positions.

(2) VANQUISHER H.5 buoy H.10 buoy L.1 buoy 50° 10' N. 1° 25' W.
(3) L'AVENTURE Q.Z.S.636 50° 05' N. 1° 08' W. 1° 25' W.
(4) HARGOOD 50° 05' N. 1° 08' W. Q.Z.S.616 637 636.
(5) VANOC 50° 15' N. 49° 50' N. 00° 25' W. Q.Z.S.636.
(6) Ships to be in Night Patrol Areas by 1900A.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 301314A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).
Air patrols 47 and 49 1st December subject to suitable weather 838 Squadron R/T MOTHBURN W/T T.Z.C. 842 Squadron R/T OCCULT W/T J.B.Q.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 301830A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force etc.).

/Leave...

~~724~~ 734

War Diary.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel.

Patrols
(Contd.)

Leave patrol at 1200/1st. BLACKTHORN return Portsmouth GRIMSBY TOWN return Newhaven.
(2) Report E.T.A. to Authorities concerned.
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 301831A to BLACKTHORN, GRIMSBY TOWN).

Cross
Channel
pipe line.

Hais six line has passed preliminary pumping tests and is now being filled with spirit for operation.
(S.N.O.Pltuo, 301700A to C. in C.Ports., A.N.C.X.F. F.O.B.A.A., S.H.A.E.F., Admty., V.A. Dover., N.O.I.C.Boulogne.).

Operations

West Coast France.

Sweeping
in Gironde.

In order that French may be advised as to sweeping methods in Garonne and Gironde request information whether it is considered that danger from British mines in Q.Z.X.775 is sufficient to necessitate use of modified single L observing that this would increase time required for clearance.
(A,N.C.X.F., 301526A to Admty.).

Operations

Western Approaches

E.G.19

Cdre. (D) Western Approaches is requested to sail 19th E.G. a.m. 1st December to carry out A/S hunt in area between 56° and 57° N. and 07° and 10° W.
(2) When ready about 3rd December, F.O.i/c Liverpool is requested to sail LOCH INSH to join 19th E.G.
(C. in C.W.A., 301247A to Com.D.W.A., F.O.i/c Liverpool).

Patrols.

On crossing 10° W. approx. 0200/1st December 31st E.G. is to detach in accordance with my 291210 not to all.
(2) On crossing 12° W. 2nd E.G. is to return to Merville for 48 hours rest. Time of detaching to be reported.
(3) At this time 3rd E.G. and 19th E.G. are to form Force 33.
(C. in C.W.A., 201253A to S.O.Force 33, S.O.E.G.31.).
E.G.3rd DUCKWORTH 4 Frigates operating north west of Ireland.
E.G.14th HAVELOCK, ASSINIBOINE, DUNCAN patrolling off south west Irish Coast with E.G.30th PEVENSEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes.
Force 33 E.G.2nd WILD GOOSE 5 frigates and E.G.31st BERKELEY CASTLE, supporting O.N.S.37 E.G.31st leaving during dark hours for Scapa.
E.G.25th ORKNEY 3 frigates general area Cape Wrath Butt of Lewis and North Minches.
(C. in C.W.A., 301415A to Admty.).

/Weather...

~~725~~ 735.War Diary30.11.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern ApproachesWeather
reporting
corvettes.My P.C.S. 052° 10' N. 018° 08' W. 061° 10.
(2) Now knowing CELANDINE'S position and
assuming her to be west of me by 0300A/1st
December, intend to make last weather report at
0600A/1st December.(3) Your 281115A and my 281359A November.
(PENNYWORT, 301859A to C. in C.W.A.).Suspected
U-Boats.No change. Search (A) average (B) (?yes) as
reported in my 270215A.
Weather report 5772 2553 position 5109 suitable.
(S.O.E.G.14, 302110 to C. in C.W.A.).Investigating possible contact in position 050° 52' N.
009° 53' W.

(S.O.E.G.14, 302330A to C. in C.W.A.).

At 2200Z position 50.50 N. 008.47 W. HUMBERSTONE and
EDMUNDSTON in firm contact with submarine.

(S.O.C.8, 302345Z to C. in C.W.A.).

10th E.G. proceed forthwith to investigate hydrophone
effect and Radar contact reported by APOLLO in position 50.32 N.
05.15 W. at 2140A/30.

(C. in C.Plymouth, 302357A to S.O.E.G.10).

OperationsNorway.

Patrol

P.S. SOKOL reports: some A/S activity from
large M/Bs.

No other shipping sighted.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 301920A to S.O. S/M.).

Operation
"S.C.""Ramosse Tempestuous" VIGRA returned to Balta at
1900A/30th November.

(2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 301925A to A.C.O.S.).

OperationsNorthern Waters.Disposal of
16 Russian
submarine
chasers
waiting
passage.4th Group of Russian S.Cs. (5 ships) have not
been sailed for North Russia owing to weather.(2) It is desired to keep all 16 S.Cs. together if
practicable at a West Coast port until next
opportunity of onward passage.

(3) Request your proposals.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 300045A to Cs. in C.W.A.).

Convoy
J.W.62

. Faroes arrivals Capt.(D) 17th in ONSLOW,

/ ONSLAUGHT...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters.

Convoy
J.W.62
(Contd.)

ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, OBEDIENT, OFFA, ORWELL, KEPPEL, WESTCOTT, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, LAPWING.
(N.O.I.C.Faroes, 300929A to A.C.O.S., C.S.1.).
18 Group aircraft may be met patrolling in area between latitude 061° and 063°.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 301211A to Escorts of J.W.62).
Faroes sailed at 2300:- KEPPEL, WESTCOTT, BULLDOG, LAPNING.
At 2359 Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, OBEDIENT, OFFA, ORWELL in company.
(N.O.I.C.Faroes, 302359A to A.C.O.S., C.S.1.).

Suspected
U-Boat.

Investigate grade 2 A.S.V. contact in 061° 25' N. 003° 00' W.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 301109A to S.O.E.G.17).

Icelandic
corvettes.

CHARLOCK has not been arcticised and is already experiencing trouble. When real cold starts she will be largely inoperative.
(2) STARWORT has main crank shaft out of true.

With adjustments now being carried out estimated maximum safe speed will be only 12 knots. Complete repairs not feasible in Iceland.

(3) Propose that these ships return to U.K. for necessary work to be undertaken. Request temporary reliefs be allocated, Commanding Officers being if possible junior to OXLIP who has assumed duties of S.O. Iceland corvettes.

(4) It is hoped that on completion of work STARWORT and CHARLOCK may return to Iceland as they now know local conditions and have proved most efficient.
(A.C.I.C., 301252A to C. in C.W.A.).

Patrol.

If not in contact establish Gamma by midnight tonight between positions 060° 55' N. 003° 02' W. and 061° 14' N. 004° 14' W.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 301802A to S.O.E.G.17).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy shipping bombed off Texel. Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and estimate one hit. Position 53° 05' N., 4° 42' E. (A/C PBO 31 300245 to 16 Group).

Cross-Channel flying restrictions. S.H.A.E.F. Signal 281626A (not to Admty. or A.N.C.X.F.) proposes that regulations governing operation in existing cross Channel corridors be changed to permit two-way air traffic night and day.

2. As non-Operational flights are permitted both by day and by night without prior clearance in channel west of line North Foreland - Dunkirk present position is that aircraft are at liberty after giving notification to fly anywhere in channel west of this line day or night except in certain corridors which are restricted to day use only or one-way traffic only. Flying in these corridors is therefore subject to greater restriction than flying outside corridors.

3. If proposal agreed suggest:-

(i) that it should be limited to Channel West of line North Foreland - Dunkirk in which conditions stated in para. 2 above apply.

(ii) that as Corridor 13 (Deal-Gravelines) crosses Dover A.A. Artillery Zone, this corridor remain excluded from use by night unless Fighter considers it acceptable to cancel or alter A.A. Artillery Zone so as to leave corridor clear.

4. Request your views.

(Air Ministry 301131A to S.H.A.E.F., Admty. A.N.C.X.F.)

E-boat sightings off Ymuiden. Position, course and speed of enemy one E-boat 52° 28' N., 4° 19' E., 2819 based on Gee fix obtained within half an hour of 2200 270° 30 knots. (A/C WAJ 18 302214 to 16 Group). My 2214 - 7 E-boats position 52° 29' N., 4° 19' E. course 110° speed 30 knots. (A/C WAJ 18 302320 to 16 Group).

Mining.

Re-organisation of minesweepers on Far Shore. 80 day periods for LL/SA sweeping after last possibly enemy lay expire as follows:- Dieppe, 17th November. Boulogne, 18th December. Calais, 22nd December.

2. Propose therefore that the 3 M.M.S. of 101st M.S.F. working from Dieppe should be withdrawn forthwith and re-allocated to Boulogne so that the whole of the 101st M.S.F. will be working from this port.

3. Consequent upon this re-distribution the 113th M.S.F. to operate at Calais.

4. Should future minelaying occur at Dieppe, minesweepers to be provided as necessary from Boulogne using new coastal channel - Dieppe Boulogne.

5. On re-organising after my release, it is considered that Minesweeping Officer on the Staff of Capt. i/c British Operated Ports N.F. would fulfil requirements for M/S Officers, Lieut. Cmdr's. M/S at Boulogne and Calais to be released for other appointments. One M.M.S. Flotilla to be stationed at either

/Calais ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Re-
organisation
of mine-
sweepers on
Far Shore.
(contd).

Calais or Boulogne to operate as required in Northern French Ports.
6. Lt. Cdr. M/S Dieppe to be released now.
7. As no Oropesa Sweepers are allocated to F.O.B.A.A. it is proposed that F.O.C. Dover or C.T.F.125 should co-operate in the initial stages of any new M/S commitments.
(F.O.B.A.A., 301239A to A.N.C.X.F.)

1st M.S.F.

1st M.S.F. with Danlayers now in company are to proceed to Harwich tomorrow Friday.
Acknowledge and report time of movement.
(C. in C. Nore, 302353A to M.S.F.1)

Enemy Intelligence.

Increased
German sea
transport
from Norway
to Denmark.

(A) Reported from Denmark that during coming 3 or 4 weeks one SS armoured division and 2 mountain divisions from Norway are expected to pass through Denmark destined for Western Front. B.2.
(B) My 281609. In addition to 3 small fast passenger vessels already reported following vessels have now been requisitioned.

New vessels AGAMAS, FREM and SKIPPER KLEMENS. B.2. In addition to above a further 2 medium transports have now been identified on route Oslo to Aarhus.

(C) 2 vessels carrying unidentified units and equipment from Rendulic's army have already made passage from Norway to Aarhus.

(D) Inference. Increased transport requirements having already materialized and further vessels being requisitioned lend support to reported speeding up of military withdrawals from Norway to be expected in immediate future.

(N.A. Stockholm, 301917 to Admty).

N.I.D. Comment. Para. A. So far as is known there is no SS. Armoured division in Norway.

Para. B. N.A. Stockholm's 281609/11 reported the requisitioning of two Danish ships, KRONPRINS OLAV, 3038 grt. and HANS BROGE, 2013 grt. The AGAMAS may be the ANGAMOS, 3540 grt. FREM, 1176 grt. SKIPPER KLEMENS is unknown.

Para. D. Believed correct.

U-boats.

Suspected
U-boats.

One possibly still in central Channel. One or two between N. Cornish Coast and Cape Clear. Possibly one westbound within 90 miles S.W. of Scillies.
(D.D.I.C., 301410A to Cominch).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.F.V.1045 Regret to report that M.F.V.1045 grounded at 1340 on Monday 27th, November inside southern extension of Queensborough Pier. Ship assumed list of 75° and flooded. Salvage operations unsuccessful up to date. Further attempts being made.
(Com. Sheerness, 300944 to C. in C. Nore).

GRETHE MORTHENSEN. Ref. your 300539A. My 071431A. To C. in C. Nore (R) Cdre. i/c Sheerness begins:-
Received information as follows from ANDYK.
GRETHE MORTHENSEN abandoned at 0915 in position 040° 4 miles Foreland buoy, drifting E.S.E. 2 knots
Following C.Bs. on board. C.B.3086, S.P. 2530(3), S.P. 2550, S.P. 2538 (24) S.P. 2573(2). Recognition signals to 14th Nov. Chart Folio 301. Confidential information in pencil. Ends.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 301535A to C. in C. Nore).

Frigate DUFF Following received from DUFF begins:
Following damage sustained at 0745 30th November from ground mine position 170° N.F. 6 - 3 cables.
(a) Forward boiler room completely wrecked full of oil fuel and water.
(b) Following tanks damaged and full of salt water. A2F, A3F, A411F, A412F.
Remainder of ship's fuel tanks at present uncontaminated by water.
301630 Ends. Further signal will be made.
(D.16, 301840A to C. in C. Nore),

ELFREDA ELFREDA sustained structural damage in salving CYRUS. Intend to sail her to Portsmouth a.m. Friday December 1st for repair.
Request C. in C. Portsmouth will sail ELFREDA with tugs as soon as arrived to tow CYRUS to U.K.
(Capt. M/S N.F., 301723A to C.T.F.125)

L.S.T.321 My 301125 temporary repairs are being carried out. Anticipate sailing L.S.T.321 to U.K. tomorrow, no casualties. Cargo discharged.
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 301834A to C. in C. Nore).

Shipping & Convoys.

Pilot ship for Antwerp. My 211841 para. 6 and your 221929. Request it may be confirmed that action is being taken to provide another pilot ship as quickly as possible.
(Com. Belgium, 301111A to C. in C. Nore).

/T.M.C...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

T.M.C/M.C.T. In view of closing down of Arrow from tomorrow
convoys from 1st request that until introduction of T.B.C/
Arromanches. B.T.C. convoys the escorts of T.M.C. and M.T.C.
convoys should, from tomorrow 1st December, be
routed to and from Pasture anchorage but continue
by same name T.M.C/M.T.C.

2. C.T.G.125.15 is requested to assemble and sail the M.T.C.
convoy from Pasture daily at 0830 to be at E.A.5 buoy at 2030.

3. Escorts should be directed to report to C.T.G.125.15 on
arrival.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301233A to C. in C. Nore, Com. Southend).

Your 301233A. Concur. Escorts will be instructed
accordingly.

2. Ships for Ouistreham and Caen will be instructed to part
company at 58 E buoy thence proceeding unescorted by Q.Z.S. 640,
569, 538 and 561.

(C. in C. Nore, 301848A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Folkestone - My 261302. Opening of Folkestone Ostend service
Ostend postponed until about December 7th. Further
service signal will be made. Com. Belgium pass to Exfor
postponed. Rear.

(A.N.C.X.F., 301438A to V.A. Dover).

Antwerp To conform with A.M. 031341 October request
convoys: convoys to Antwerp composed of M.T. ships and/or
nomenclature. stores ships be called T.A.M. and not T.A.C. (A).
(A.N.C.X.F. (Buco), 301441A to C. in C. Nore).

Shipping Your 291221A. Concur generally in F.O.B.A.A.'s
from British 281256A.
operated (C. in C. Nore, 301518A to V.A. Dover).
ports in Your 281256 para. 2. confirm para. 3, 4B and 4C
N. France. with the introduction of T.B.C./B.T.C. through-
channel convoy. It is intended to institute daily
cross-channel convoy W.V.C/V.W.C. between St.

Helens and Baie De la Seine.

2. Coasters returning by route ZK for Newhaven and ports West
thereof should, under present circumstances of U-boat menace and
winter conditions, sail escorted by joiners the V.W.C.

3. Coasters for port east Newhaven would sail independently via
French coastal channel as in para. (2) your signal.

4. Until introduction of T.B.C./B.T.C. and W.V.C/V.W.C. convoys
T.M.C/M.T.C. convoy will continue to run but re-routed to
pasture. Ships from Canoe should comply with N.O.I.C. Arromanches
291604 which is concurred in.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301524A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Ships for In order that advantage may be taken of any
O.S/K.M.S. opportunity to detach ships to proceed independent-
convoys. ly on their ocean voyage when in Coastal convoy
for inclusion in O.S/K.M.S. convoy, following
instructions are issued.

2. Masters should be warned that they may be ordered to proceed
independently at any time while en route Milford Haven.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- Ships for O.S/K.M.S. convoys. (contd).
3. Route for ships which would normally proceed in K.M.S. convoys through:
(a) 48.30 N., 06.00 W., 43.00 N., 10.00 W. 39.00 N., 10.00 W. 37.00 N., 10.00 W. 35.51 N., 06.10 W.
(b) Ships for Lisbon from 3rd position direct.
(c) Ships for Casablanca from 4th position direct.
(d) Ships for Gibraltar from last position direct.
(e) Ships for ports east of Gibraltar from last position direct to Mediterranean, independent route.
(f) Attention is invited to M.A.R.I. Section two para. 12, sub. para. 5.
4. O.S. ships for West Africa, including Freetown, South Africa and South America are to be routed through 48° 30' N., 06° 00' W. thence:
(a) Freetown, West Africa and Cape to second Maroon and Liberian and Red or Cocoa as applicable.
(b) Ships for South America direct to first Gold.
5. All O.S. Ships are to report to Admiral Freetown on crossing latitude 14° N.,
6. Appropriate Outcon Table for O.S. or K.M.S. convoy is to be issued.
7. N.C.S.O. Southend or Ramsgate when issuing route given in paras. 3 or 4 is to allocate letters which are to be changed for each ship.
8. N.C.S.O. Southend or Ramsgate is to signal for each ship to Adnty. and C. in C. Plymouth only the following information:-
(a) Name of ship. (b) Signal letters. (c) Declared speed.
(d) For K.M.S. ships letters allocated to route in 3 above and Mediterranean Route and for O.S. ships number of coloured route selected and letters.
(e) Destinations. (f) Recoding tables held.
9. Admiralty will promulgate information in 8 above if and when necessary.
(D.T.D., 301804A to N.C.S.Os., Southend and Ramsgate).

QUEENS MARY and ELIZABETH to Southampton.

A.M. 102056 November and further to my 011123 Nov. check survey of Southampton approaches has been carried out and established a governing depth 33 feet below chart datum.
(2) Ocean Dock has been accepted for berthing, and dredging of one half of dock to a depth of 41 feet, to maintain floatation at all states of tide, is due to start 29th November estimated time of completion 3 weeks.
(3) Least charted depth of 37 feet in the vicinity Nab will necessitate ship passing through this area within 3 hours either side high water at Nab.
(4) As it is understood that the turn round is to be 5 days the dates on which ship can be accepted at Southampton must be those on which first high water occurs (in mid Winter) between 0900 and 1100 B.S.T. so ship can make passage from Cowes and be docked in daylight. Ship would then undock at first high water about 1430 and proceed to Cowes in daylight 5 days later.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291945A to Adnty. N.O.I.C. Southampton).

/Disposal...

732 742

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Disposal of Craft at Arromanches. 1. The following craft hitherto employed in Arrow can now be released.
(A) Fuel and water, fuelling trawler RUGBY, L.B.Os. 17 and 75, L.B.Ws. two, ten and seventeen. Water Carrier FAITH is not required back at Arrow.
(B) Landing Craft. Remaining 5 L.C.M., of 653 Flotilla all remaining United States L.C.T.
(C) Harbour Craft. 9 H.L. (P) 5 H.L. (S), 2 F.M.B., 1 M.T.L. and M.F.Vs. no. 103, 192, and 193.

2. The following will then remain for maintenance of L.C.Ts. Tugs M.T.Ls. and other craft employed dismantling harbour numbers will be decreased as dismantling progresses.
(a) Fuel and water CHANT 42 for 73 Octane and CHANT 43 for Diesel. Collier SINCERITY, EMPIRE ALDERNEY and L.B.W.12. Water carrier BRITISH STATESMAN to remain returning to U.K. to replenish when necessary.
(b) Landing craft, 34th L.C.T. Flotilla employed dismantling whales. 808 L.C.V.P. Flotilla working with L.C.T., L.B.K. 10.
(c) Harbour craft. 2 H.L.(P), 1 M.T.L. and 1 F.M.B. as control boat. Hospital fitted M.F.V.95.
(d) MISOA to act as depot ship and victualling supply ships for all craft.
(N.O.I.C. Arrow, 302002A to F.O.B.A.A.)

International Red Cross supplies for Prisoners of War. There are now three vessels in the Red Cross supplies traffic between Gothenburg and Lubeck under the control of the I.R.C.S., namely LILLIE MATHIESSEN, JAMAICA, and MAGDALENA. First named vessel is on her third round voyage, the JAMAICA on her first, and the MAGDALENA will shortly make her first voyage on this route. It is therefore possible to give some idea of how this traffic is planned to develop.

(2) Each vessel is calculated to make 3 voyage a month to Lubeck provided weather is favourable and military operations do not intervene, and will carry on an average 1,000 tons per voyage which for the three vessels would amount to 9,000 tons a month. According to the I.R.C.S. delegate the German authorities allow the importation by all routes into Germany of a maximum of 10,000 tons of Red Cross supplies a month (excluding next of kin parcels). It is possible that the difference between the quantities which it is calculated can be despatched and the maximum quota allowed to be imported by the Germans can be made up in the course of time because the latest information concerning the rate of discharge at Lubeck is stated by the I.R.C.S. shipping adviser to be more than 500 tons a day. Since the 9,000 tons a month estimated above is based on a daily rate of discharge at Lubeck of about 300 tons, it seems that a quicker turn-round at Lubeck is possible and thus the average number of voyages per vessel per month might be slightly increased. It would therefore appear that should other routes fail, the 10,000 tons of Red Cross supplies could in theory be carried on the Gothenburg - Lubeck route, though it is appreciated that there is no margin to allow for unforeseen circumstances and Lubeck is of course not approved by the Allied authorities as a port for permanent service.

(3) The I.R.C.S. delegate reports that of the 12,500 tons of Red Cross supplies brought to Gothenburg in September by the TRAVANCORE and MANGALORE 5,303 tons had been despatched by Nov. 15th as follows: 2,067 tons by ferry and rail (Helsingborg - /Elsinore),...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

International Red Cross supplies for Prisoners of War. (contd). Elsinore), 2,336 tons by LILLIE MATTHIESEN, and 900 tons by JAMAICA. Approximately 850 tons have since been despatched on LILLIE MATTHIESEN's third voyage. Of the above 5,303 tons, 3,200 tons went to French prisoners of war who, it is understood, must now wait for some time before they receive further consignments. The reason for this is stated to be that the French prisoner of war camps, which were situated near the Franco-German border, are in the process of being moved.

(4) Regarding the Red Cross supplies carried on the Halsingborg - Elsinore ferry, of which this Legation has until recently been left in ignorance, the following information has just reached us from the I.R.C.S. delegate Muller at Gothenburg. Up to last week it was possible to dispatch 12 railway waggons of 13-17 tons each per diem, but for reasons not stated, it has been possible to send only 2-4 waggons per diem during the last week. Muller remarks that it is in the interest of all Red Cross societies concerned to maintain and perhaps extend the rail and ferry traffic since the freight for this amounts to only Kr. 3:00 per ton by the shuttle service Gothenburg - Lubeck. Whether an extension of the ferry service is possible will presumably depend on the willingness and ability of the German authorities to place sufficient rolling stock at the disposal of the I.R.C.S.

(5) In spite of the difficulties mentioned in my telegram 1077 of September 16th regarding the Sassnitz ferry service, the I.R.C.S. delegate Fulleman, who plans to visit London in the near future (see my telegram 1340 of November 11th), is reported to be in Berlin investigating the possibility of using this service for the carriage of Red Cross supplies. According to Muller, this ferry can carry about 30 waggons a day but the Swedish Government will not allow their ferry to be used owing to the risks involved and the fact that, should she be sunk, it would take them two years to build a new one. The I.R.C.S. shipping adviser has also stated that the route is uneconomical and that the ferry could carry only 240 tons per diem. We have not yet received any evidence in support of any of these statements but are making enquiries.

(Stockholm Embassy No T.O.O. 30.11, to Foreign Office).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

F.Y.M.S. 58. F.Y.M.S. 58 has returned Gibraltar defective. My 292012 not to HOVA refers. (F.O.G.M.A., 301127A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BIRMINGHAM. Request route for H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM from Horta to Portsmouth. U.S. Port Director Norfolk Virginia 281544 Nov. to Admty. only refers. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 301240Z to Admty.)

M.K.S. Convoys. Admty. 271956. In order that reasonable lay-over for Western Approaches escorts may be provided, following arrangements for escorting M.K.S. convoys are proposed.

(2) M.K.S. Convoys	Date of sailing from Gibraltar	Proposed escort
69	5th December	RUSHEN CASTLE
70	11th December	PIMPERNEL
71	16th December	Escort of K.M.S. 71
72	21st December	STORK
73	26th December	Escort of K.M.S. 72
74	31st December	Escort of K.M.S. 73

(3) Thence each M.K.S. convoy will be escorted by the escorts of the K.M.S. which arrived Gibraltar approximately 5 days previously. (F.O.G.M.A., 301240A to Admty.)

LORRAINE, SIMOUN, BASQUE. Intend to sail F.S. LORRAINE escorted by F.S. SIMOUN and F.S. BASQUE at 1800A December 1st. (2) Route - (M) 35° 59', 06° 10'. (N) 36° 00', 08° 00'. (O) 39° 00', 11° 30'. (P) 44° 20', 11° 20'. (R) 180° Lizard Head five miles and current swept channels to Plymouth. (A.M. 181150 and Q.Z.Y. 516 refer). (3) S. of A. 15 knots.

(4) E.T.A. Plymouth 0800A Dec. 5th speed being adjusted south of 47° 30' N., ship proceeding at best speed after crossing that latitude.

(5) Codeword "Excavation" 320.

(6) Ships will shift from Gibraltar to BN broadcast at 0900A December 3rd.

(F.O.G.M.A., 301301A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

ADRIAS. In order that arrangements may be made with refitting yard, request you will report when you expect to be able to sail ADRIAS for U.K. Your 251035 not to F.O.I.C. Tyne, refers. (D.O.D.(F), 301633A to F.O.G.M.A.)

~~735~~ 745

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

FAL.

Intend sailing FAL 1700Z/2nd Dec. speed 14 knots for Bermuda, E.T.A. 1400Z/12th Dec. Amend my 271301 accordingly. FAL calls St. Vincent with mail, E.T.D. 1200Z/5th Dec. Onward route (Details).

(F.O.C.W.A., 301206 to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

My 271335. FAL will arrive St. Vincent 0800Z/5th Dec. with diplomatic mail and 14 Portuguese seamen ex MATIOTA and (2 corrupt groups).

To sail on completion of disembarkation.
(Sierra Leone, 301340Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Rhodes bombed. It was announced from H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. today: Middle East bombers operating from Eastern Mediterranean bases attacked installations in Rhodes Harbour, in daylight yesterday. Hits were scored on the Mole. Other bombers saw bursts alongside the runway of Calato airfield, Rhodes, after an attack. From these and other operations none of our aircraft is missing.
(G.H.Q.M.E., 300930Z.)

Convoy escort in Mediterranean. It is no longer considered necessary that K.M.F. convoys should be escorted in the Mediterranean. (2) Propose that (A) Ocean escorts should detach at Gibraltar and be available for A/S operations in approaches until required for M.K.F. convoy. (B) K.M.F. ships for Naples proceed by basic eastbound route to position 120 thence by route P.7.
(C. in C. Med., 301111 to Admty.)
Approved. (Admty., 071504A December.)

DEPTFORD (for U.K.) Intend sailing DEPTFORD at 0600A/2nd Dec. S. of A. 13 knots to Gibraltar by Q.B.B. 246, Route D and basic westbound route and Q.B.A.64. E.T.A. Boom 1500A/4th. Codeword "Appetite" 979. C. in C. Med.'s 271233 not to all refers.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 301141A to F.O.G.M.A.)

L.C.I.(L) 102 lost. Regret to report L.C.I.(L) 102 seriously damaged at Vis in recent gales, and salvage operations have been abandoned; craft is considered beyond economical repair.
(C. in C. Med., 301156A to Admty.)

EMILE BERTIN. Marine Paris proposes following amended programme for F.S. EMILE BERTIN. Leave Piraeus Dec. 4th. Arrived Alexandria Dec. 5th. Leave Alexandria Dec. 8th. Arrive Oran Dec. 12th.

(2) Leave Oran when ready with personnel for Toulon. My 221612A.
(F.O.W.M., 301208 to C. in C. Med.)
Concur your 301208.
(C. in C. Med., 301822A to F.O.W.M.)
My 301822 not to all refers.
Programme for EMILE BERTIN (repeated).
(4) Authorities addressed are requested to sail ships accordingly.
(C. in C. Med., 301836A to S.B.N.O. Greece, etc.)

Destroyers for U.K. FARNDALE, EGGESFORD, HAYDON, BRECON, AVONVALE, CROOME are being sailed to comply para. 4. Admty. 282326.
(C. in C. Med., 301215 to Admty.)

/KING GEORGE V ...

737 747.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- KING
GEORGE V. Taking WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER under (?his) orders, KING GEORGE V is to sail p.m./1st Dec. to pass 309 at 1715B and proceed to Port Said adjusting course and speed to arrive position 399 at 0500B/2nd. Codeword "Marcus" 519 (corrupt group) Con ship. If desired carry out exercise on passage to northward of basic routes.
(2) S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to onward sail ship from Suez to comply Admiralty 271143 and C. in C. E.I. 290943, neither to all.
(F.O.L.E.M., 301352B to ?KING GEORGE V, S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)
- FLARE,
A.F.D. 49. A.M. 281811A (H.M.R.T. FLARE allocated for towage of A.F.D.49). A.F.D.49 requires two months to complete from date of arrival of outstanding equipment from U.K. C.S. Taranto's 301802 Sept. refers.
(C. in C. Med., 301402A to Admty.)
Reply: Admty. 011910A.
- M.Vs. for
Marseilles
and Toulon. Merchant vessels for discharge at Marseilles are to be routed to that port and not via Toulon.
(2) M.Vs. specifically loaded for Toulon are to be routed to that port unless otherwise directed by routeing authorities.
(3) Golfe de Fos may be used as a holding ground for ships.
(C. in C. Med., 301454A to various.)
- BEVER
mined. Regret loss of BEVER by striking mine. 9 survivors being returned to Piraeus.
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 301745B to F.O.L.E.M., F.O. 15th C.S., C. in C. Med., Admty., NILE, PROMETHEUS.)
- M.M.S. 101
sunk. Situation report No. 492. While sweeping Gulf of Salonika Motor M/S. 101 struck a mine and sank. There were 3 survivors.
(C. in C. Med., 301757A to Admty., etc.)
- G.2 Summary
No. 91. (3) Albania. Scutari reported evacuated and few Germans can now remain northern Albania.
(4) Aegean. On Crete, P.W. reveals formation of "Infanterie Regiment Kreta" believed ad hoc unit composed non-infantry personnel no longer required in normal role.
(A.F.H.Q., 301845A.)
- Minesweepers,
Yugoslavia. Local Navy and Army Authorities state confirmation received p.m./today, Thursday, from Cerni and Corps Commander that no authority yet received from Tito's headquarters for passage of any ships east Dubrovnik.

~~738~~ 748.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Minesweepers, (2) In absence of this authority batteries have
Yugoslavia. standing orders to open fire.
(Contd.) (3) In view of (1), local authorities state they
are unable to warn batteries of approach of
sweep and request we do not go south of Molunat
to avoid possible incidents.
(4) This is probably reliable but request confirmation that
sweep as detailed in your 251307, modified in your 281245, and
implied again in your 291723, not to C. in C. Med. is still an
immediate requirement before risking incident.
(5) Corps Commander quoted locally states no intention landing
military supplies Kotor area at present.
(6) Capt. M/S. remaining until clarified.
(L.C.(H) 97, 301945A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
W.D. Note: Authority given, see O12120A December.

ENGADINE. Herewith repetition of my 291620. Addressed
N.O.I.C. Suez.
Sailed ENGADINE at 1430Z/29th Nov. to Suez for
onward routeing to U.K. to comply with C. in C.

E.I. 091237.
(2) E.T.A. Suez 1500Z/3rd December. S. of A. 14 knots.
(3) Request arrangements for transit of Canal.
(4) Keeping constant watch on Broadcast R.
(5) Mast Messages Q.B.D. 250, Q.B.H. 634. (Ends). Alex.
C.C.O. pass to A.H.Q.E. Med.
(Aden C.C.O., 302237Z to Suez C.C.O., etc.)

Greek For Shore Authorities. Resume normal traffic
Traffic. to Greek Ports. 224B refers.
All authorities are warned that communication
facilities in Greece are insufficient for heavy
traffic. It is essential as many signals as
practicable be prefixed deferred, despatched by hand (Airgram).
Best route for Airgram is to Piraeus C.C.O. for onward trans-
mission.
New subject: Correction to C. in C. Med.'s O41148 (Med. Station
219B) in para. 3, cancel all after "considered necessary".
(C. in C. Med., 302337A to Med. Station 277B, Admty.)

EMILE Following is a repetition of my 301337 (begins).
BAUDOT. Addressed V.A.M., info C. in C. Med., Admty., etc.
Intend to sail H.M. cable ship EMILE BAUDOT at
0642 tomorrow 1st December by basic westbound
route to pass 309 at 0926/2nd, to 292 at 0951/6th
thence for onward routeing by V.A.M. to Malta for bunkers and
onward routeing to Gibraltar. S. of A. 7 knots.
(2) Codeword "Detour", W/T call sign 526. Continuous watch
on area broadcast.
(4) F.O.L.E.M's 192017B not to all refers. All times B.
(Port Said, 302347B to Admty.)

Cositintrep Strategic Air Force. No operations night 28/29
No. 508, and day 29 Nov. due to non-operational weather.
Part 3 Air. Coastal Air Force. 4 Beaufighters and 2 Spitfires
patrolling Caorle/Lake Marano, scored R.P. and
cannon hits on dredger, 4 times 100 foot barges and
a 150/200 foot minesweeper under construction.*
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., No T.O.O./30.)
* W.D. Note: No date or time given.

~~739~~ 749.

War Diary.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas remain unchanged.
(C. in C. E.I. 300356.)

L.S.T.
from U.K.

Your 282359 Nov. Request L.S.T. be sailed as in para. 3.
(C. in C. E.I. 300410Z to Admty. Info. S.A.C.S.E.A.)

Flag Command.

R.A. Brind wearing his Flag in SWIFTSURE is to take over command and administration of 4th C.S. comprising SWIFTSURE, CEYLON, ACHILLES, GAMBIA, BLACK PRINCE, ARGONAUT forthwith.

(2) Cruisers NIGERIA, KENYA, NEWCASTLE and PHOEBE will constitute part of Force 61, R.A. (?Read) still appointed Flag Officer Commanding Force 61 to date 22nd November and will continue to wear his flag in NIGERIA.

(3) The title C.S.B.P.F. lapses.

(C. in C. E.I. 300558Z to E.I. Stn. 163C.)

Flag of
B.P.F.

At 0800 F.G. 2nd Dec. the Flag of Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser as C. in C. Brit. Pac. Fleet is to be struck in TARANTULA and hoisted in HOWE.
(C. in C. B.P.F. 300910Z to HOWE, TARANTULA, (R) S.N.O.A. Trincomalee, N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, F.O. Ceylon, Admty.)

LARGS.

A.M. 211132 Oct. not to all. LARGS is allocated to Force W as from date of sailing from U.K.
(D.C.O.D. 301049A to LARGS, F.O. Force W, R.A.L. S.C.U. Info. F.O.I.C. London.)

ERITREA
(Italian Sloop
refitting
Taranto.)

Request information on future employment of R.N. I.S. ERITREA.. A.M. 151559 June and my 041147 July refer.
(C. in C. E.I. 301114Z to Admty.)
Reply from C. in C. Med., 021206A and from F.O.(S) 021236A

740 750

War Diary.

30.11.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 301347Z, Cominch 301515.)

Submarine
attack &
sighting
summary.

No report since my 291406. Para. D.
(1) 2 attacks by M.L. 45.32 N. 61.13 W. before
0301/30.
(2) Sighting by shore watcher near Cape Ray 1600/29
(N.S.H.Q. 301625Z to Admty., etc.)

LAUZON.

The following allocation is effective to date
30th Nov. from new construction to the Mid Ocean
Force for duty with C.6 H.M.C.S. LAUZON.
(2) Pay accounts to be held in AVALON.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 301715Z to N.S.H.Q.)

T.F. 68,
U.G.F. 18,
G.U.F. 18.

Task Force 68, hereby constituted, Captain
Smith-Hutton in MERVILLE, Comdesdiv 32 in BOYLE,
LAUB, MACKENZIE, MCLANAHAN, ALDEN, MATTAPONI.
Escort convoy U.G.F. 18 departing Hampton Roads
10th Dec. for Mediterranean Ports. Upon arrival
detach Comdesdiv 32 with Desron 16 ships to report
Com. 8th Fleet for duty. Return escorting G.U.F. 18 with
MERVINE and 4 destroyers to be assigned by Com. 8th Fleet.
Detach MATTAPONI, ALDEN vicinity Azores to assume duties Eastern
Terminus Tanker.
(Cinclant 302059Z to Comdesron 15.)

TRACKER,
TROUNCER.

TRACKER and TROUNCER will be sailed in U.C. 48A
for New York, leaving U.K. about 8th Dec. unless
Cominch wishes otherwise.
(2) Allocation of the third carrier will be made
when reply to para. 1 of A.M. 271744 to B.A.D.
only is received.
(3) Your 272041 to Admty. only refers.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 302132A to B.A.D.)

Australia & New Zealand.

F.O.N.A.S.
Australia.

Rear Admiral Portal arrived Melbourne and assumed
duties of F.O.N.A.S. Australia 29th November.
(2) F.O.N.A.S. A and portion of staff will remain
at Melbourne for the present. Until further notice
signals should be passed to A.C.N.B.
(3) Admiralty is requested to inform all authorities.
(V.A.(Q) Brit. Pac. Fleet 300928Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

/Digest...

741 751

30.11.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

- Digest No. (3) At first light 2 Mitchells swept southwest
1044 Nov. Timor attacking and probably sinking small coaster
29th. southbound 30 miles north of Koepang.
(6) Previous night Navy Mariner attacked and left
sinking solitary sea trucks off northwestern
Mindoro.
- (8) Evening 28th Search Mariner unsuccessfully attacked small
ship in company with two sea trucks off south coast Bohol Island.
- (9) Reference Digest 1043 para. 6, convoy in Ormoc Bay effectively
attacked afternoon and evening 28th involving 3 Mitchells,
8 Kittyhawks, 16 Thunderbolts leaving both merchant ships on fire
and damaging one warship.
Next morning, 41 Thunderbolt Sorties finished off both freighters
and 1 destroyer escort being all that remained in Ormoc Bay:
Freighters believed not yet discharged. 8 more Kittyhawks
attacked and destroyed 4 unloaded sea trucks afternoon 28th near
Palompon making total of 8 similar ships sunk this vicinity during
day. Japs maintained continuous fighter cover Ormoc and 13
definitely shot down plus 4 probables: 1 Mitchell, 1 Thunderbolt
lost.
- (10) More ships possibly 8 or 10 small merchant ships reported
unloading Ormoc and southeast thereof evening 29th.
- (15) Search plane bombed and hit one unidentified ship anchored
off Myri night 28th.
- (16) Earlier that day two small Merchant ships only seen Brunei
Bay.
- (17) 5 Mitchells on shipping sweep northeast Borneo noon 28th
attacked and sank one sea truck one loaded barge North of Balik-
papan.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 300952Z.)

Ammunition Para. (2) and (3) of C. in C.E.F.'s 120617 Nov.
Stocks will, it is considered, apply to an increasing
B.P.F. extent in Pacific. Whatever outfit of H.E. shells
is carried on board ships consider sufficient must
be immediately available for heavy expenditure on
special occasions.

(2) Propose scale in para. (5) of C. in C.E.F.'s 120617 Nov.
should apply. This will require following stocks ashore or in
A.S.I.S.:

- (a) 14 inch H.E. 3150 per ship.
- (b) 6 inch H.E. 6480 per 12 gun ship.
- (3) Request stocks may be built up to this level as soon as
possible.

(C. in C.B.P.F. 301137Z to Admty.)

Enemy Last night's report from General Mac-Arthur's
Convoy Headquarters in the Philippines stated that another
destroyed. Japanese convoy bound for Ormoc, on Leyte Island,
had been destroyed by American aircraft. Four
transports were sunk, and a destroyer and a cargo
ship were set on fire. It is estimated that 5,000

Japanese lost their lives. This was the seventh convoy
destroyed in the Leyte area.

(The Times, 1.12.1944.)

War Diary

30.11.1944
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine
attack
and
sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/30th November.

Para. A. A/C T and H and V/248 attacked U-boat at 1528Z 29th November in latitude 58°00' N, longitude 06° 30' E.

Para. B.

A/C X/10 sighted four puffs of smoke at regular half mile intervals at 1230Z 29th November in Latitude 51° 04' N. longitude 09° 42' W.

(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2013Z 29th November in latitude 55° 21' N. longitude 05° 47' W.

(3) A/C Reported possible U-boat at 2320Z 29th November in latitude 56° 14' N. longitude 07° 32' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C O/224 obtained disappearing radar contact, grade 2, at 2353Z 29th November in latitude 61° 35' N. longitude 03° 51' W.

(2) A/C B/206 had grade 2 contact at 0308Z 30th November in latitude 62° 44' N. longitude 04° 08' W.

(D.D.I.C. 301101A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-boat Estimates.
dispositions (D.D.I.C., 301415, 301423A.)