

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

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

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

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

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

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1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- (1) 72 heavy A/A guns and three searchlight batteries are being surrendered by Portsmouth, Nore and Orkney Commands for service in the Low Countries.
- North Sea. (2) The mined area off the mouth of the Humber has now been swept clear.
- Channel. 3(a) Having fulfilled its purpose, the synthetic port of "Arrow" at Arromanches (Mulberry B of Operation "Neptune") has closed down after almost 6 months service: the eastward sweep of War has made it unnecessary to maintain it against the onset of winter gales.  
(b) The Dieppe-Boulogne coastwise channel has now been swept clear of mines.
- West Coast France. (4) Two U-Boats are reported to have arrived at St. Nazaire.
- Western Approaches. (5) Three U-Boat hunts are in progress in the Western Approaches, but none of them on very definite indications.
- Norway. (6) A bomber of 18 Group has attacked a 5,000 ton merchantman off the Skaw and claims hits.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Destroyer Organisation. (7) Changes in the organisation of "Hunt" class destroyers in the Mediterranean from today were outlined in a signal from the C. in C. at 271245A November. Five Greek destroyers, hitherto divided between the British flotillas, are to form a new flotilla.
- Large convoy. (8) With the addition of the Casablanca joiners, Convoy G.U.S.60, sailing from Oran on Dec. 3, will have 111 ships, with 9 escorts. C. in C. Mediterranean, asks for approval to exceed the limit of 100 ships in this convoy.

/Adriatic...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

- Adriatic. (9) Four Beaufighters and two Spitfires of the Coastal Air Force left two barges and a tug sinking on Lake Marano and five or six barges hit on a canal near Caorle.
- Minesweepers off Yugoslavia. (10) The Yugoslav Partisan Navy stated this evening that authority had been received from their headquarters for sweeping as far as Ostri Point, Gulf of Kotor (42.24 N. 18.32 E.). At Sibenik, the situation is unchanged. The local authorities continue very helpful but permission has not yet been received from higher authority to set up a shore establishment.
- Greece. (11) N.O.I.C. Patras, reports that the British ferry steamer EMPIRE DACE, carrying about 140 passengers, sunk at the entrance to Missolonghi, blocking the channel, after an explosion. There is no indication of the cause. Survivors numbered 48 British service personnel, of whom 15 were seriously injured. The entire crew are missing, believed killed.

East Indies

- Escort carriers. (12) H.M.S. EMPRESS, now in the Western Approaches Command, is to proceed to the East Indies as soon as possible to take over No.845 Squadron and work up as a trade protection carrier with Avenger and Wildcat aircraft. She will relieve the BEGUM, which will be withdrawn from service for non-operational duties.

Australia and New Zealand

- Philippines 13(a) A freighter off the north coast of Panay Island was attacked by aircraft at midday. Later it exploded and sank, leaving about 100 men in the water.  
(b) Five Kittyhawks and two Mustangs bombed the coastline of Lembeh Strait this afternoon and destroyed one barge and other small craft.

/Borneo...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Borneo.

(14) A reconnaissance Liberator sank a large sea truck in Brunei Bay, and also destroyed one small escort vessel and damaged a second.

Burma.

(15) Shipping in Mergui, south-east of Burma, was attacked by 12 U.S. Liberators. One coaster was sunk and several damaged.

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Conduct of A/C and surface craft.

Your 302341A concur.  
(2) Reference Coastal Command 301245A, proposal to extend area eastwards under consideration. Expect to be in position to submit proposals to you shortly.  
(Air Ministry 011247A to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Reduction of A.A. defences.

A.M. 281201A. The following immediate reductions in A.A. defences of naval commands have been authorised. Heavy A.A. guns A.C.O.S. area 24 Dover 12 Isle of Wight, 16 Portsmouth/Southampton 20. Searchlights Portsmouth/Southampton 3 Batteries. (D. of L.D., 011344A to A.C.O.S. C. in C. Portsmouth V.A. Dover.)

Movements

BERWICK

Intend to commence movement out of Basin at 1430A tomorrow Saturday and to proceed by searched channel route to Scapa E.T.D. Austin 1900 S. of A.24 knots.  
(2) E.T.A. 0200A Sunday 3rd December Hoxa Gate

0230.

(3) Request following lights May Island 1730 to 1930 Saturday Scapa group 2 0130 to 0245 Sunday anchor beacons one to 7 0230 till anchored.  
(4) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to acknowledge.  
(BERWICK, 011127A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Frigate SHIEL

Arrived SHIEL.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011222A to F.O.G.M.A.)

BUTTERCUP

A.M. 260127 November. Proposed date for turnover of BUTTERCUP to French Navy is 7th December.  
(2) My 011910 gives further details.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 011907A to Admty.)

BACHAQUERO

Scapa arrival, BACHAQUERO escorted by ELM and HAZEL.  
(A.C.O.S. 011941 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

MATCHLESS, MILNE.

Your 282225. For 22nd December in paragraph 2 of A.M. 281727 November read 28th December.  
(D.O.D.(H) 012342A to F.O. Humber.)

Operations

North Sea

6 Hunt destroyers for Nore command.

Your 221910 Nov.  
6 Hunts are expected to return from the Mediterranean, shortly for temporary service in Home waters

/and...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

6 Hunts  
destroyers  
for Nore  
command.  
(Contd.)

and will be allocated to you on arrival.  
(2) These ships will be required to give leave and adjust complements before proceeding to the Mediterranean to refit at a date which will be signalled later.  
(3) MACKAY and WALPOLE may be retained until arrival of Hunts.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 010050A to C. in C. Nore.)

Threat to  
East Coast  
convoy  
route

16 Group Wellingtons attacked and turned back about 8 E-boats off Yjmuiden last night Thursday. Enemy course indicates possible intention to attack East Coast convoy route. Such attacks may well take place from time to time with object of compelling us to maintain strong forces on East coast in addition to defending route to Schelde.  
(C. in C. Nore, 011116A to F.O.I.Cs. Humber, Harwich and Yarmouth, Ds. 16, 21, C.C.F.)

Suspicious  
object  
off N.F.5  
buoy.

My 291835. Object is now considered to have been wreckage.  
(V.A. Dover, 011327A to C. in C. Nore.)

South  
Beveland  
Canal  
Port  
Party.

Your 271111A. "P" Party 1573 E.T.A. South Beveland p.m. tomorrow 2nd Dec.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 011254A to A.N.C.X.F.)

West  
Holland  
relief  
supplies

Para. D. of your 301750A November concur in priorities given as between 3 and 4.  
(2) I should like to point out however that the plan for relief supplies to West Holland is largely dependent on the rapid clearance of the South Beveland Canal. It may well be too late to afford highest priority to this after enemy withdrawal

from West Holland.

(3) Reference B. of your 301750A November will you please consider giving South Beveland Canal a higher priority.

(4) I should like to discuss the naval implications arising out of "Placket" and "Eclipse" with you before any major decisions are taken in the near future.

(C. in C. Nore 011700A to A.N.C.X.F.)

War Diary1.12.1944  
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelEscorts in  
Portsmouth  
Command.Regret no relief for ACTIVE is available at present.  
Your 200932 November refers.

(2) Your escort commitments will be reduced shortly when W.A.P. convoys run from Folkestone, and owing to the change in the date of "Independence" you will not now be reduced by one

frigate.

(3) If additional escorts are required for rescue work on the cross Channel route, these should be drawn if necessary from the A/S patrol, the additional risk being accepted.

(4) The U-boat threat in the Channel is under constant examination and support groups will be made available when the situation demands.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 010055A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Patrols

LORING and NARBOROUGH steer towards position 49.11 N 07.25 W. forthwith. Further signal will follow.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011124A to LORING and NARBOROUGH.)

Night Patrols 1st/2nd. Zig-zag search at steady 8 knots for U-boat at snort depth commence at 1800, finish 0830.

(2) HARGOOD Z.108, 112, 109 Eastward to Q.Z.S.635 between Z and J Buoys.

(3) VANOC Z.113, 114, 110 Eastward to Q.Z.S.636 between J buoy and Kansas.

(4) L'ADVENTURE Z.119, 126, 127 East to H. Buoy North limit route E.

(5) VANQUISHER Z.128 East to H channel and Z.122 North of 49° 45'.

(6) No M.T.B. patrol.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011256A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

Day patrols 2nd December; Search Areas limits F.X. given.

(2) HARGOOD, VANOC, Z.112, 108.

(3) BRILLIANT, ANTHONY relieve HARGOOD, VANOC.

(4) L'ADVENTURE, VANQUISHER, Z.109, 110, 111 to 49° 47'.

(5) M.T.Bs. A.1 to N.1 Buoy and 10 miles South.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011514A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Air patrols 2nd Dec. My Basegram 281728 Nov. paragraph 12.

(2) Patrols 39, 40, 47, 49.

(3) 838 Squadron W.Q.U.842 Squadron P.T.Q.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 011540A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

Cross-  
Channel  
pipe line.My 271651. Para. 2. D, E, F, G, postponed 24 hours owing to weather.  
(S.N.O. Pluto, 011439A to V.A. Dover, C. in C.Nore.)Admiral  
Ramsay  
to England

Pass Spithead Gate 0230A 2nd December and proceed to Dieppe.

(2) Routed by Q.Z.S. 373, 646, 626, 575 and 576 speed 14 knots, E.T.A. 1030A 2nd.

(3) On arrival report to N.O.I.C. Dieppe for instructions. (4) Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011555A to KINGSMILL.)

/Request...

1.12.1944  
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Admiral  
Ramsay  
to England  
(Contd.)

Request KINGSMILL may be sailed to enter Dieppe at 1030 tomorrow Saturday to embark A.N.C.X.F. for passage to Newhaven if weather is unsuitable for flying.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 011646A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Trawlers  
for  
Boulogne  
and  
Calais

Your 171306 September. It is necessary to maintain two trawlers at Boulogne and one at Calais.  
Request one further trawler be sailed for Dover as soon as convenient.  
(V.A. Dover, 011629A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

West Coast France

Minesweeping  
in Gironde

Your 301526 November. Yes. Mining situation is similar to that at Brest and the same minesweeping methods should be adopted.  
(D.M.S., 012329A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations

Western Approaches

Suspected  
U-boat

APOLLO's 302201. 10th E.G. expects to arrive 0200.  
(S.O.E.G.10, 010014A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
APOLLO reports at 2140A/30th slow hydrophone effect and Radar contact which suddenly disappeared

after 10 minutes in position 50° 32' N. 05° 15' W. 10th E.G. has been ordered to investigate.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 010043A to Plymouth. Command)

Your 302201A. Request following details may be reported if known.

- (1) Ranges at which Radar contact was gained and lost.
- (2) Any movement of contact given by plot and any other Radar indications.
- (3) Whether Asdic contact was gained and if so any details.
- (4) Any amplification of hydrophone effect.
- (5) Any other information which may be of assistance.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 010204 to APOLLO.)

If not in contact when farthest on position is reached turn and sweep area in vicinity of contact.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 010450A to E.G.10)  
Your 010204.

- (1) 2400 yards closing 2100 and lost at 3900.
- (2) None apparently.
- (3) No.
- (4) Classified as slow diesel.
- (5) Hydrophone effect first bearing immediate confirmation by type 285. Type 276 did not confirm.

(APOLLO 010831A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Patrol...



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U-boat  
(Contd.)

Patrol rectangle sides 090° 30 miles 180° 20 miles from position 50° 45' N. 5° 35' W. also carry out an occasional search of Q.S.Z.583 from patrol area to Hartland Point.

(2) The possibility of a U-boat snorting close inshore should not be overlooked

- (3) Practice Snort Buoy is laid in position 51.09 N. 04.22½ W.  
 (4) No further information since APOLLO's 302201.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 011114A to S.O.E.G.10.)

Further  
suspected  
U-boat

Join HUMBERSTONE, EDMUNDSTON in contact 050° 50' 008° 57'.

(C. in C.W.A.W.A. 010032A to S.O.E.G.14.)

Have joined HUMBERSTONE and EDMUNDSTON. All ships in contact probable S/M position 051° 00' N. 008° 30' W. 8 Squid and 1 depth charge attack

carried out. Target still shows considerable movement.

Weather report 47.82 20.58 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G.14, 010359A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 010359A contact still held but now consider doubtful.

(2) Squid attack by HUMBERSTONE at 0224 produced large air bubble and smell of diesel oil was noticed after Squid attack at 0445.

(3) 2 Hedgehog attacks carried out by HAVELOCK. First attack all charges exploded after 10 seconds sinking time.

Second attack no charges exploded.

(4) Echo sounder traces show probable wreck 36 ft. high 300 ft. long with an indistinct trace 12 ft. in diameter situated 12 ft. above sea bed within 100 yds. of wreck. Depth of water 60 fathoms.

(5) QH\* positions do not indicate any movement. Movement previously reported due to surface drift and tide.

(6) HUMBERSTONE and EDMUNDSTON ordered to rejoin S.O. E.G. C.8.

(7) Intend buoying position and remaining in the vicinity with 1 ship over contact and remainder carrying out Observant.

(8) Asdic conditions poor. Weather report 3872 1868 5109 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G.14, 010630A to C. in C.W.A.) \*As received.

My 010630A position buoyed at 0700 but port bow buoy itself observed to have broken adrift or dragged. A/S contact maintained. No apparent movement. Present ?weather attack.

(2) Western Approaches message 910 N.(A) HAVELOCK 41%, DUNCAN 35%, ASSINIBOINE 29% (B) 12% A/S conditions poor, 1868 1668 5109 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G. 14, 011025A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 010630A para. 4. Existence of wreck of dimensions quoted confirmed by further echo sounder trace. No further indication of 12 foot indistinct trace. Consider this is part of wreck but am unable to confirm.

(2) No further indication oil or movement.

(3) Position quoted in my 010359A is accurate within half mile. 2nd dan laid.

(4) Relieved on contact by S.O.E.G.30. Am proceeding in accordance with your 011149A.

Weather report 5872 1369 unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G.14, 011618A to C. in C.W.A.)

Have taken over E.G. 14's contact. Am laying Dan Buoy and hope to remain in vicinity in spite of weather. May have to heave to to avoid weather damage. Consider echo too large to be

/U-boat...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Further  
suspected  
U-boat  
(Contd.)

U-boat. Unsuitable.  
(a) Poor.  
(b) Not known.  
(S.O.E.G.30, 011635A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Amend paragraph 3 of my 011149.  
14th E.G. remain at Milford Haven for 24 hours  
rest.  
(C. in C.W.A. 011750A to S.O.E.G.14, F.O.I.C.  
Milford.)

Operations

Channel

L.C.Ts.  
to shelter

L.C.T.1139 and 7 L.C.Ts. is 10 miles ahead of you  
southbound and has not obeyed orders to proceed to  
Cloveley Bay for shelter. If not order her  
proceed with group to Cloveley Bay.  
(2) APOLLO reports possible U-boat 050° 32' 005°  
15' at 2140/30th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 010041A to PIORUN.)

Non-submarine  
contact.

My 303220A. Classified wreck inspected 2 pieces  
H.40 feet L. 105 feet. Position 050° 52' 30" N.  
008° 52' 30" W., am complying with your 010032A.  
(S.O.E.G.14, 010125A to C. in C.W.A.)

Third  
suspected  
U-boat.

Investigate stationary plot in position 354° Lands  
End 13 at 0125.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 010157A to PIORUN.)

Patrol

My 301128 and C. in C.W.A.'s 301247 on completion  
of calibrating F.O. I/C Greenock is requested to  
sailing LOCH INSH to join 19th E.G. in area between  
56° and 57° N. and 07° and 10° W. Rendezvous to  
be arranged by S.O. 19th E.G.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 011025A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Sailed 19th E.G. less ANTIGUA to comply with C. in C.W.A.'s  
301247A November.  
(Com. D.W.A. 011151A to S.O. Force 33.)

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"Urbane"

Request you will carry out following operation.  
Force one consisting of IMPLACABLE, PREMIER,  
TRUMPETER, DIADEM and 8 destroyers detailed by Com.  
(D) sail from Scapa under your orders p.m. D-day or  
a.m. D+1 to carry out mining and shipping strike in  
the area between Bergen and Stavanger.  
(2) Mining objective is Salhusstrommen 59°22.7' N. 5° 18.2' E.

/(Chart...

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"Urbane"  
(Contd.)

(Chart 881)

(3) On shipping strike 18 Group is requested to provide Mosquito reconnaissance between Stavanger and Bergen at first light on D+1 so that shipping strike may act on sighting reports.

(4) Shipping strike is to be flown off about noon D+1 followed by mining strike from a position west of Q.Z.Y.1452.

(5) Shippingstrike to consist of Barracudas Fireflies and Wildcats. Mining strike to be carried out by Avengers escorted by Wildcats. 881 Squadron ex PURSUER is available to embark as required.

(6) Outward route to be direct or North of Orkneys as desired. If D+1 is unsuitable for flying strikes may be postponed until D+2 but not longer. On completion of strikes Force 1 to return Scapa.

(7) Codeword and D-day follow.

(C. in C.H.F., 011823 to C.S.10.)

Paragraph 7 of my 011823 codeword "Urbane".

(C. in C.H.F. 011917A to C.S.10.)

D-day Wednesday 6th December. Paragraph 7 of my 011823 refers.

(C. in C.H.F. 011943A to C.S.10.)

Operation  
"S.C."

"Ramosé Satire" postponed. E.T.D. now 0001A 3rd December.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 012001A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Patrol

Establish Gamma by 1800 today first between 060° 25' N. 004° 15' W. and 060° 57' N. 005° 13' W.

No air patrols until daylight 2nd.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 011054A to S.O.E.G.17)

Establish now Gamma by 0600A 2nd between position 059° 52' N. 004° 25' W. 060° 18' N. 005° 30' W. air patrol from 0500A 2nd.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 012138A to S.O.E.G.17.)

On completion of Fuelling proceed without delay to R/V E.G. 17 on patrol between position 059° 52' N. 004° 25' W. 060° 18' N. 005° 30' W. Your R/T Call Sign for co-operation with aircraft will be Colombia, W/T 624 C. in C.W.A. 291210 refers.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 012144A to S.O.E.G.31.)

Convoy  
J.W.62

Convoy J.W.62 is to alter course during daylight Saturday 2nd December to pass through new position N.090° position D.140 miles thence through new position O.333° position J.90 miles thence through route Red.

B.A.M.S. is being made.

(C. in C.H.F. 011201 to C.S.1.)

/Suspected...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Suspected  
U-boat

Obtained Naval enigma transmission. By a U-boat on 6790 kcs. at 1442Z bearing 355° 2nd Class near ships position 58.56 N. 04.56 W. am searching to 60 miles on bearing. Unsuitable.

(S.O.E.G.25, 011510Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 011510\*

Resume patrol.

(C. in C.W.A. 011813A to S.O.E.G.25.)

\* Obtained Naval enigma transmission.

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1.12.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSAllied Air Activity

Patrols over Kattegat. Position of enemy 57° 17' N., 11° 36' E.  
(A/C MWQ23 No T.O.O., T.O.R. 010400 to 18 Group.)  
Position of one merchant vessel 5000 tons four  
escort vessels 57° 17' N., 11° 36' E. position  
based on A.S.V. contact within half an hour of  
0400 000° 10 knots.  
(A/C MWQ23, 010413A to 18 Group.)  
Position of enemy 4 unknown 58° 03' N., 11° 06' E.,  
position based on A.S.V. fix within half an hour of 0400  
course 180°, 10 knots.  
(A/C MWQ23, 010434A to 18 Group.)  
Position 3 unknown 57° 30' N., 10° 39' E., position based  
on A.S.V. fix obtained within half an hour of 0400 180°, 10  
knots.  
(A/C MWQ23, 010438A to 18 Group.)  
My 0413 - have attacked merchant vessel with bombs position  
058° 17' N., 011° 37' E., course 000°, 10 knots, estimate hits.  
(A/C MWQ23, 010445A to 18 Group.)  
Position of 2 enemy merchant vessels 58.17 N., 10.58 E.,  
position based on A.S.V. fix obtained within half an hour of  
0200, 180°, 10 knots.  
(A/C MOW56, 010208A to 18 Group.)

Control of aircraft over Channel. Your 301131. Concur in two way traffic in  
corridors during times for which they are at  
present in force.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 011239A to Air Ministry.)

Patrols off Holland. Experience shows that E-Boats from Hook and  
Ijmuiden now operate in small groups at high  
speed probably leaving harbour with time interval  
between sailings.  
(2) Sixteen Group Wellingtons have many times  
prevented E-Boats attacking not only by direct attack on them  
but more often by shadowing and reporting. As I now have over  
250 miles of channel to defend against minelaying as well as  
torpedo attack on convoys, I consider it essential that 16 Group  
should be in position to maintain patrols of aircraft capable of  
effective and protracted shadowing and reporting on following  
scale, namely, separate patrols close off Ijmuiden and Hook by  
at least two aircraft each throughout the night, so that if one  
shadows an E-Boat group, the other can remain on patrol to deal  
with further sailings.  
(3) Surface patrols particularly on East Coast are now so  
attenuated that the only hope of patrol vessels positioning them-  
selves to intercept E-Boats lies in reports from shadowing  
aircraft.  
(4) It is also necessary that these aircraft be equipped with  
modern A.S.V. but no reduction in number of aircraft available  
for patrol can be accepted during re-equipment of existing  
Wellingtons. It appears essential therefore that additional  
aircraft properly equipped for detecting shadowing and reporting  
E-Boats be provided. I am informed that at least nine aircraft  
are required each night to maintain adequate patrols.  
(C. in C. Nore, 011638A to Admty.)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining

- Sweep off Humber. Your 291059. Search completed result negative. (S.O. M.S.F.15, 010130A to N.O.I.C. Humber.)
- 15th M.S.F. Your 302353 acknowledged.  
(2) Proceeding Harwich with 15th M/S. Flotilla and danlayers, negative LYME REGIS speed of advance 9 knots, my position D.6 buoy.  
(3) E.T.A. Cork Light Vessel 0200A tomorrow, Saturday.
- (4) N.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail DUNBAR and direct mails. (S.O. M.S.F.15, 010140A to C. in C. Nore.)  
S.O. 15th M.S.F. 010140.  
Intend to sail DUNBAR today Friday to join F.S. 52 before dark. Proceeding independently at daylight Saturday to Harwich.  
(2) Admiralty are requested to divert mails for FRASERBURGH BOOTLE, WORTHING, LLANDUDNO, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, CALVAY and KINGS GREY to Harwich. LYME REGIS to Grimsby.  
(F.O. Humber, 010805A to C. in C. Nore.)
- Far shore minesweeping. Operation "Progress" negative result. One magnetic mine swept in position to (corrupt group) H.V.4 buoy 2.6 miles.  
(Capt. M/S.N.F., 010931 to C.T.F. 125.)  
Report of sweeping carried out today Friday,
- December 1st. Oropesa search of H and L channels from H.8 position to L.1 position. Negative result.  
(Lieut. M/S. Cherbourg, 011659A to Cousnaab Cherbourg.)  
Operation "Progress" completed. Request Q message may be promulgated and buoyage in accordance with my 272221A.  
(Capt. M/S.N.F., 012239 to C.T.F. 125.)
- Minesweeping of Schelde. Operation "Calendar".  
(1) Sweeping today Friday 1st December SA-LL.  
(a) Terneuzen to Bat. (b) Terneuzen to N.F.17.  
(c) N.F.17 to N.F.13. (d) Special sweeping referred to in C. in C. Nore's 261609.  
(e) Flushing Harbour. (f) Terneuzen Bight between Terneuzen and Eendrachtspolder. (g) LAA sweeping at Antwerp. Oropesa N.F.13 to N.F.18.  
(2) None. (3) Surveying work is continuing.  
(5) B.Y.M.S. 21, 41, M.M.S. 17569, 17326, 113, 234, M.F.Vs. 1074, 1027.  
(Capt. M/S.F.A., 011950A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence

- U-Boats at St. Nazaire. Two submarines reported to have arrived at St. Nazaire 21st November.  
(C.G. 94th Inf. Div., 011610A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

Antwerp. From S.O.S.V. request hospital M.F.V.93 be sailed as soon as possible to Antwerp for temporary duty until relieved by Nore.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 011746 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

N.O.I.C. Antwerp in urgent need of two hospital M.F.Vs. these are being fitted out by F.O.I.C. Humber.  
(2) Understood N.O.I.C. Dieppe can release hospital M.F.V. 58 at once.  
(3) If you agree request she be sailed to Antwerp for temporary duty until relieved by M.F.V. from Nore.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 011750 to F.O.B.A.A.)

Portsmouth. Admiralty Message 270010A, owing to damage to Dolphins and subsidence of Fountain Lake Jetty East, the only berth available for RAMILLIES is number six buoy, the use of which would necessitate the removal of B. Trot north and south, with resultant loss of four destroyer berths. Apart from the loss of four destroyer berths, the permanent surrender of number six buoy is unacceptable.  
(2) In order to provide a berth for RAMILLIES it is urged that the reconstruction of the Dolphins should be put in hand forthwith, 15 months have already been allowed to pass since the North Dolphins collapsed. Future requirements for berthing the Reserve Fleet make reconstruction inevitable, and as it is a years work to reconstruct the beacons to modern standards, RAMILLIES could be accepted at Portsmouth early in 1946 if work were begun now.  
(3) Following correspondence between Admiralty, C. in C. Portsmouth and Admiral Superintendent Portsmouth refers.  
(A) Portsmouth's 4884/M/6813/109 of 25th September, 1943.  
(B) Portsmouth's 5057/P/6813 of 30th September, 1943.  
(C) A.L. C.E. in C. 012260/43/17A of 1st January, 1944.  
(D) Portsmouth's M/6814/1 of 24th January, 1944.  
(E) Y.L. number 5049 of 28th July, 1944.  
(F) Portsmouth's 6881/M/24/29 of 16th October, 1944.  
(G) Y.L. number 7986 of 23rd November, 1944.  
(H) Portsmouth's message 231925 November, 1944.  
(4) Regarding para. 7 (C) of enclosure to reference three (B) it is not now considered feasible to make use of anchors laid out to the north-eastward in place of the North Dolphin. This device would overstrain the centre Dolphin.  
(5) Propose that RAMILLIES should be berthed at Mother Bank, Spithead with a special mooring until Dolphins are completed. Captain H.M.S. EXCELLENT concurs with the proposal as an interim measure.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 012145A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

STEVENSTONE. SCALPAY, STEVENSTONE, COWDRAY.  
(C. in C. Nore, 011714A to Admty.)  
From S.S.V.O. STEVENSTONE mined and stokers mess deck flooded to 37 bulkhead. Bulkhead shored.

/Ship ...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

STEVENSTONE. Ship left for Nore under own power stern first  
(Contd.) with tug EUSTON CROSS and salvage steamer LINCOLN  
SALVOR in attendance. Speed 7 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 011824 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

L.S.T. 321. From S.S.V.O. L.S.T. 321 mined. 2 main and 2  
starboard side tanks flooded. Necessary  
temporary repairs and counter ballast carried  
out. Ship left for Nore 1500 today under own  
power. Anticipated speed 8 to 9 knots.  
(N.O.I.C. Ostend, 011826 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Shipping and Convoys

Calling Admiralty Message 291520 November indicates  
forward position of Commodity Vessels other than  
of vessels remaining in Solent and Portland or en route  
for Antwerp. to far shore.  
No further signal in this series will be made  
unless vessels do not conform to movements in  
message referred to.

(2) It is understood you will address your requests for calling  
forward of vessels for Antwerp to A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) in future.  
A.N.C.X.F.'s 281855 refers.  
(D.T.D., 010049A to O.C.O.T. Com. Zone.)

Antwerp Your 301441A passed to all addressees. This  
convoys will be done commencing with T.A.M.6 sailing from  
nomenclature. Southend tomorrow 2nd.  
(C. in C. Nore, 011107A to A.N.C.X.F.)

K.M.S. & Your 301240 November.  
M.K.S. (1) Concur generally. My 301158 November refers.  
Convoys (2) In order to save escorts it is desired when  
escorts. possible to provide through escort for M.K.S.  
convoys from Gibraltar by using ships which are  
due to return to United Kingdom. For instance,  
corvettes escorting Applan flights might be used.

(3) Such an arrangement would enable the whole of the United  
Kingdom escort of a K.M.S. convoy to return with the appropriate  
M.K.S. convoy from 47° N. unless a special onward escort were  
required for a submarine or other craft.

(4) I shall be grateful for early information of any ships  
returning from other Commands which could be used in this way.

(5) Neither reference to all addressees.  
(C. in C. W.A., 011259A to F.O.G.M.A.)

K.M.S. & Sailing dates of Gibraltar convoys are amended  
M.K.S. as follows:- O.S.97/K.M.S.71 - Dec. 3rd.  
Convoys O.S.98/K.M.S.72 - Dec. 13th. O.S.99/K.M.S.73 -  
sailing Dec. 18th. Then at five day intervals.  
dates. (2) M.K.S. convoys will sail from Gibraltar as  
follows: M.K.S. 69 - Dec. 6th. Then at five  
day intervals.



1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

K.M.S. &  
M.K.S.  
Convoys  
sailing  
dates.  
(Contd.)

(3) (A) Three escorts will escort each O.S./K.M.S. convoy to about 47° N., where convoy will disperse.

(B) One of these escorts will normally proceed from dispersal point to Gibraltar to bring back the appropriate M.K.S. convoy.

(C) The other two escorts will transfer to the M.K.S. convoy then on passage home, escorting the special rescue ship if one is present.

(4) When possible, other ships due to return home from Gibraltar will be used for through-escort of M.K.S. convoys, thus enabling all three ships of the local escort to join the M.K.S. convoy as in para. 3 (C).

(5) Until the system is in working order, escorts will be detailed by C. in C. W.A. Ultimate intention is to disband B.21, B.22 and B.23 Groups and form an Escort Pool for Gibraltar convoys. This Pool will be based at Liverpool and Captain (D) Liverpool will be requested to detail the escorts for their duties.

(6) O.S.97/K.M.S.71 and O.S.98/K.M.S.72 will be escorted to dispersal point by B.22 and B.23 Groups respectively. Further arrangements will be signalled.

(7) My 241653 October and 131550 November neither to all are cancelled.

(C. in C. W.A., O11301A to Cpts. (D) Greenock, Liverpool.)

1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

G.U.S.60  
over  
100 ships.

It would appear that with addition of Casablanca joiners G.U.S.60 will have over 100 ships in convoy. Cominch 251641 February and Com. N.O.B. Oran's 301630 Nov. not to all refers.

(F.O.G.M.A. 011210A to C. in C.Med.)  
See also Med. 011833A and A.W.I. 012049Z.

KILMINGTON,  
F.Y.M.S.58.

Intend sail KILMINGTON (S.O.) and F.Y.M.S.58 at 0900A Dec. 2nd. for Brest.

(2) Route.  
(3) S. of A. 10 knots.

(4) Codeword "Dishrag" 377. (5) Communications.  
(6) E.T.A. position (M) 0530A Dec. 6th.  
(7) Following signals, none to all refer: Com. N.O.B.Oran's 251900 A.N.C.X.F. 251720 and 141905 C. in C. Med. 250932. My 272146 281123 292012 and 301127.  
(8) C. in C.Plymouth is requested to ask Brest authorities to sail KILMINGTON to Gibraltar on completion of escort duties. (F.O.G.M.A., 011608A to C. in C.Plymouth).

LORRAINE,  
SIMOUN,  
BASQUE.

My 301301 sailed. Q.Z.H.(C) 601 (L) 66 (S) 645  
(X) 1463 (Y) 520.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 011822A to C. in C.Plymouth).

South Atlantic

FAL (for  
Bermuda).

Add to my 301206 shift to area P W/T organisation at 0400Z December 8th.

(F.O.C.W.A., 011045Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.).

BUGLOSS,  
THYME.

Sailed BUGLOSS and THYME to Kilindini through

(B) 028° 32' S. 032° 31' E.

(?c) 024° 56' 035° 36' .

(D) 016° 09' 041° 11'.

(E) 010° 08' 041° 57'.

(2) S. of A. 11½ knots. (3) E.T.A. Kilindini 0500Z/8th.  
(4) Continuous W/T guard on S.L. shifting to V at 0100Z/5th. (Cdre. Durban, 011935B to Admty.).

1.12.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

L.S.T.(2). U.S. Chiefs of Staff have been asked to consider turning over to the British 10 L.S.T.(2) now in Mediterranean.  
(2) As stated in our recent discussions it is desired that as many as possible of these should arrive S.E.A.C. by 15th March after refit in Mediterranean, for operations before the monsoon. Request you will make preparations in anticipation of U.S. concurrence.  
(First Sea Lord, O11132A to C. in C. Med.)

CURIE, F.O.W.M. 291048 November. Neither of these  
DORIS submarines are required for operations in  
(French S/Ms.) Mediterranean.  
(2) CURIE has carried out successful patrols both off south coast of France and in Aegean as a unit of the Tenth and First Submarine Flotillas.  
(3) DORIS arrived in the theatre too late for operational employment.  
(C. in C. Med., O11244A to Admty.)

BLACKMORE. On completion of refit and practices BLACKMORE will proceed as first ship of 18th D.F. to join E.I. Station. Your 271227.  
(D.O.D.(F), O11515A to C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE DACE sunk. EMPIRE DALE (EMPIRE DACE intended?) sunk entrance Missolonghi. Channel blocked. M.A.B. 661 investigating. Further details follow.  
(N.O.I.C. Patras, O11630B to S.B.N.O. Greece, Info. F.O.L.E.M.)

G.U.S. 60, excess numbers. G.U.S.60 sailing from Oran 3rd December with 98 ships in convoy.  
Para. 2. Casablanca ?has 13 additional joiners.  
Para. 3. Escorts are nine in number.  
Para. 4. Request approval exceed total 100 in convoy.  
(C. in C. Med., O11833A to Admty.)  
See also North Atlantic O11210A.

METEOR, E.T.A. North end Piskopi noon 2nd.  
Aegean. (METEOR, O11843B to MARNE.)

FLARE Your 301402.  
A.F.D. 49. H.M.R.T. FLARE is temporarily allocated for service with F.O.L.E.M. until A.F.D.49 is ready for towage and should be sailed to Alexandria accordingly. A.M. 102134 and 211236 November, not to all refer.  
(D.O.D.(F), O11910A to C. in C. Med.)

/French ...

1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

French movements from Beirut. A.M. 291808, para. 3 and F.O.W.M's 301208. French Admiralty state:  
(a) Reliefs will be landed Alexandria for onward transport to Beirut.  
(b) French Naval Authorities at Beirut are being instructed concerning transport of stores and may ask for British assistance.  
(P.A.S.(L), 012031A to C. in C. Med.)

Minesweeping off Yugoslavia. Kotrep (?13).  
(2) Partisan Navy stated this evening authority received from their H.Q. for sweeping as far as Ostri Point. Prior to this sweepers had accordingly swept south Molunat towards Ostri without incident prior to recall.  
(3) F.O.T.A.L.I. 010905 and 011205 refer. Partisans were kept informed of sweepers intended movements.  
(L.C.H.97, 012120A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Sibenik. Sibenik Sitrep 6. Situation unchanged. Local authorities continue very helpful and friendly but permission not yet received from higher authority to set up shore establishment (corrupt group) full ships company (corrupt group) times a week until 2100. Officers have complete freedom.  
(2) In harbour H.M.S. VULCAN, B.Y.M.S. 2023, 2031, 2012, M.M.S. (?302), 36, 561, 992, 261, 108, H.D.M.L. 1305. Last 2 sail tomorrow.  
(L.C.A. 315, 012234 to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

MILNE, MATCHLESS, (date of leaving U.K.) For 22nd December in para. 1 of A.M. 282326 November read 28th December.  
(D.O.D.(H) on O.D. 1587/44, 012331A to C. in C. Med.)

Aegean Patrols. At 0001B/3rd December, MARNE southern patrol, METEOR northern patrol, KELVIN at Khios.  
(2) Quite impossible to turn over by signal therefore intend MUSKETEER meet you position 614 at 0001B when I propose flotilla signal officer transfers to you. Suggest you take southern patrol and order KELVIN to collect him on her way to Alex.  
(3) MARNE, METEOR join me in position 614 at 0230B/3rd.  
(MUSKETEER, 012358B to EXMOOR, Info. F.O.L.E.M., Force 54. AURORA.)

War Diary.1.12.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U/B dis-  
positions.

Area V.P. 1 scale X.5. Area V.P. 2 scale X.4.  
Area C.B. 2 north of 005° N. and east of 080° E.  
scale X.4. Area K.D. 3 scale X.4. Remainder  
of C.B. 2 and all other areas scale W.5.  
(C. in C. E.I. 010411Z.)

HOWE.

HOWE will be temporarily administered by C. in C.  
B.P.F. from 2nd December, 1944.  
(C. in C. E.I. 010629Z to S.N.O. (A) Trincomalee,  
HOWE, (R) Admty. KING GEORGE V.)

GENERAL BUTNER. Departure U.S.S. GENERAL BUTNER escorted by  
WESSEX and WAKEFUL in accordance with C. in C. E.F.  
180510 Nov. and Cdr. S.W. Pac. Seafron 240751 Nov.  
neither to all addressees.

- (2) S.O.A. 18 knots. (3) E.T.A. destroyers Trincomalee 0230Z/  
7th Dec. GENERAL BUTNER Melbourne 0200Z/15th Dec.  
(4) GENERAL BUTNER changes from Bombay V to B at 0200Z/10th Dec.  
and from B to Bells at 0700Z/11th Dec.  
(F.O. Bombay 011001Z to Admty., etc.)

ATHELING,  
BATTLER,  
aircraft.

In the event of Fleet Carriers remaining in Indian  
Ocean for an appreciable time some of the aircraft  
now under shipment to Sydney in ATHELING and  
BATTLER should be retained as necessary to maintain  
the squadrons. R.A.N.A.S. I.O. 031047, A.M.  
051835 and para. 1A of A.M. 311824 Oct. refer.

- (2) ATHELING and BATTLER should leave for Sydney on December 9th  
as at present arranged.  
(3) Transfer of reserve aircraft to Sydney on the lines of para.  
3 of A.M. 311724 Oct. and A.M. 172232 Nov. not to all, is still  
required.  
(4) Request report as to revised load being carried by ATHELING  
and BATTLER and probable number of Avengers and Corsairs which  
can be transferred to Sydney by UNICORN when available.  
(A.C.N.S.(A) 011119A to C. in C. E.I.)

TRADEWIND.

At 0430Z/16th Dec. after short patrol on west coast  
Sumatra TRADEWIND passing position D. 006° 00' S.  
100° 28' E. speed 10 knots.

- (2) Request onward route forthwith.  
(3) TRADEWIND will shift to B broadcast at 1630Z/15th and keep  
watch on NU until 1630Z/16th. (4) S.Ps. held, (list).  
(5) Naval cypher and M table not held.  
(6) Submarine will report if time of crossing 006° S. differs  
by more than 2 hours from time in para. 1.  
(S.O. Submarines E.I. 011120Z to C.T.F. 71.)

GENERAL BUTNER. U.S. Transport GENERAL BUTNER sailed 1st December  
for U.S.A. via Australia with personnel. E.T.A.  
Melbourne 0200Z/12/44\*

(D.S.T.O. Bombay 011133Z to A.C.N.B.)

\*As received, verification being obtained.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

EMPRESS, BEGUM 845 Sqdn. Approved for EMPRESS to proceed to East Indies as soon as possible to take over 845 Squadron to work up as a trade protection carrier with 8 Avenger I plus 4 Wildcat V, to be increased to 9 Avengers plus 8 Wildcats during 1945. She is required to be brought into service as soon as possible and will relieve BEGUM.

(2) On relief BEGUM will be withdrawn from service and allocated for non-operational duties. Her Squadron will be disbanded to adjust the Avenger I.E. consequent on re-equipping IMPLACABLE with Avengers at that time.

(3) Allocation of 850 Squadron to EMPRESS is cancelled.

(4) On passage to Ceylon EMPRESS will be required to transport aircraft and ratings, including replacement aircrews and maintenance ratings for 845 Squadron. Details will be signalled separately.

(5) C. in C. E.I. is requested to take these requirements into account when making the adjustments referred to in para. 5 of his 290419 not to all addressees, which should aim at the reduction of 832 Squadron when BEGUM is relieved by EMPRESS.

(V.C.N.S. Q11345A to C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.T.)

1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B  
dispositions.

(N.S.H.Q., 011338Z, Cominch, 011540Z).

E.G.27,  
S.C.162.

E.G.27, H.M.C. Ships COATICOOK (S.O.), ETTRICK, LEVIS, LA SALLE, sail with S.C.162 to provide support until further orders. My 301240 not to Admiralty refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 011605Z to F.O.N.F.)

T.F.63,  
U.G.S.63,  
G.U.S.63.

Task Force 63 reconstituted Capt. Ellis in SAMPSON Comcortdiv 54 in FRANCIS M. ROBINSON, FOWLER, SOLAR Comcortdiv 79 in CARTER, NEAL A. SCOTT, MUIR. Escort Convoy U.G.S.63 departing Hampton Roads 11th December to Europa Point then escorts proceed to Oran. Return escorting G.U.S.63 when directed by C. in C. Med. to Bermuda Station. Tanker KENNEBEC A.O., EASTEYS, TERMINUS, ESOKOMIN and MATTAPONI My S.P. Ltr. 03129 of 4th November not to all refers.  
(Cinclant, 011707 to C.T.F.63) W.D. Note. Amended by 080446Z, q.v.

T.G.21.7,  
C.U.50.  
U.C.50.

Task Group 21.7 Captain Chase in CLARK Comcortdiv 58 in PRINCE, Cortdiv 58 plus CLARENCE L. EVANS, Comcortdiv 59 in EDSALL, STEWART, DANIEL escort convoy C.U.50 departing New York and Boston 9-10 Dec. for U.K. and Continent. Comtaskgroup 21.7 in CLARK, C.C.D.59 in EDSALL, STEWART, DANIEL, FORSTER\*, CLARENCE L. EVANS return escorting U.C.50 A Section. Commander Garcia Comcortdiv 58 in PRICE with STRICKLAND, STOCKDALE, HISSSEN hereby designated Task Unit 21.7.7 return escorting U.C.50 B section when directed by Admiralty. Comdeslant direct ships of Cortdiv 59 proceed to Boston and escort Boston Section to R/V designated by Port Director New York.  
(Cinclant, 011757Z to C.T.G. 21.7)  
\*Delete FORSTER. (Cinclant, 080447).

GENERAL  
MANN

When discharged and ready for sea about 7th Dec. C. in C. E.I. requested to sail U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN (A.P. 112) without passengers or cargo from Bombay to Milne Bay. Request C. in C. E.I. 290359 be amended accordingly. Before departure ship advise Com. 7th Fleet, supplies required. Cdr. 7th Fleet embark passengers including loading of patients designated by C. in C. S.W.P.A. and despatch ship to San Pedro.  
(C.N.O. 011830Z to C. in C. E.I., U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN, Cdr. 7th Fleet).

Transports  
for E.  
Indies.

2 Transports mentioned in my 190137 are GENERAL MITCHELL and GENERAL RANDALL sailing Los Angeles about 20th December. C.N.O. 281215 not to all addressees refers. Melbourne pass to Com. South-West Pacific Sea Frontier.  
(B.A.D., 011831Z to C. in C. E.I.)

/S.L...

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1.12.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

S.L. Convoys. Request Comtenthfleet C. and R. be informed of contents of A.M. 271956 Nov. and asked to advise U.S. R.Os. in South America. (D.T.D., 011939Z to B.A.D.)

G.U.S.60, numbers. All presenters are acceptable for G.U.S.60. F.O.G.M.A., 011210A refers. (Com. 10th Fleet, 012049Z to C. in C. Med).

NELSON Anticipated that NELSON will be ready to sail for U.K. 15th January. Ship has 75% previous ship's company but will not be worked up.  
2. Request Admiralty guidance as to escort, route preferred and final destination. (B.A.D., 012143Z to Admty) Reply: 030107A.

Captured Enemy Ships. C.O.S.(W) 483 1st Dec. 1944. OZ 7046. Following from Chiefs of Staff.

We agree that U.S. amendments to C.C.S. 697 set out in para. 3 of J.S.M. 367, conform to C.C.S. policy concerning ships still in course of construction.  
2. We proposed that Theatre Commanders should be authorised to hand over captured enemy ships in liberated ports to Ally concerned because -  
(a) majority would be damaged and not made fit for service until Allied Government was fully re-established, when they would probably be unwilling to negotiate about title:-  
(b) we have no particular desire to take on manning commitment. We remain doubtful whether Allies will regard question of title as open to negotiation but have no objection to C.S.A.B. assuming responsibility for settlement with the Ally rather than the Theatre Commander. We accordingly agree directive as amended by U.S. C.O.S. (A.M.S.S.O., 012255Z to J.S.M. Washington).

Australia & New Zealand.

INDEFATIGABLE Following has been received from F.O.A.C. B.P.F. concerning INDEFATIGABLE. (Begins):

Minimum of 7 clear days disembarking flying is required to bring air crews to state where they can make use of time on passage for training. A further period of disembarkation will be required to bring crew to full operational standard (Ends).

2. I have told F.O.A.C. B.P.F. to consider remaining at Suez for 7 days training so that best use can be made of subsequent passage.\*

(C. in C. B.P.F., 010630Z to Admty. (R) F.O.A.C., B.P.F.)

\*Not waiting, see 021129Z.

/22...



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1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.- Contd.

22 M/S Flotilla. It is desirable to retain both Oropesa and LL sweeps in 22nd M/S Flotilla. Request further details may be forwarded to show sacrifice that (?must) be made from A/S aspect to obtain sufficient stability Your 271238 refers.

(3) After passage to Australia as A/S escort it is intended that 22nd M/S Flotilla should be employed primarily in A.M/S Role. (C. in C. B.P.F., 010659Z to A.C.N.B.)

Digest 3. Two quartets Mitchells swept Flores Sea morning 1045, Nov. destroying one lugger, straffing another lugger 30. off Sirqseen near Ende on Flores Island also bombed area near Dilli on Timor.

4. Previous day Liberator patrolling Banda Sea straffed schooner North of Ugdr Island causing personnel to abandon ship.

5. Navy search Liberator sighted 6 ships described as one cruiser, one transport, 4 unidentified in Brunei Bay before dawn: bombs hit and possibly sank one ship estimated 300 feet long.

10. 18 Leyte based Kittyhawks bombed and sank one possible 7,000 ton freighter and straffed Lifeboats off east coast Masbate Island forenoon: also destroyed one sea truck one barge off Northern tip, Cebu. Same time another 8 Kittyhawks straffed and damaged one destroyer off Calmen on East coast Cebu.

Previous afternoon 16 Thunderbolts sweeping Cebu untels burndw cr (sic) destroyed 2 coastal transport estimated 300 tons each in Sogod Bay on Cebu East coast.

11. Observer reported one cruiser 2 transports took refuge Sogod Bay afternoon. (W.D. Note - Attacked, see 020712Z). (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 010730Z).

F.O.N.A.S. Flag of F.O. N.A.S. Australia hoisted in H.M.S. Australia. GOLDEN HIND. My 300928 Nov. refers. (V.A. (Q) B.P.F., 011126Z to Admty).

618 AX. 45 Dec. 1st. Ref. my AX. 409, Nov. 24 (N.T. Squadron. in W.R.) Following for Group Capt. Keary on arrival Australia.

2. To enable 618 Squadron to keep in deck flying practice Admty. have been asked to provide deck flying facilities and a small number of F.A.A. aircraft from their overseas resources. In addition not more than four of Squadron's Highball Mosquitoes may be used for deck flying and essential operational training.

3. In order to conserve 618 Squadron's Highball and P.R. Mosquitoes for operations and at same time to keep squadron in general flying practice 12 standard Mosquito VI aircraft being shipped to arrive Australia approx. end Jan. 12 F.46 cameras also being despatched for fitting locally.

4. Arrangements being made to provide three replacement crews a month. These crews will be experienced on standard Mosquitoes and in deck flying F.A.A. type only. Weapon training and deck flying in Mosquitoes will have to be done in squadron. Date of availability of first crews not yet known, but cannot be for at least three months.

(Air Min., 011640Z to Air Attache, Melbourne, for Base Accounts Officer).

/Escort...

1.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Escort  
Vessels  
for B.P.F.

In view of the continuance of the submarine threat in home waters, escort vessels for British Pacific Fleet will have to be provided initially from East Indies Station, but reliefs will be sent as they become available.

2. Request C. in C. B.P.F. will indicate his requirements as soon as the basing of the Fleet has been determined and movements of supply and fleet train ships can be forecast.

(D.O.D. (F) (O.D.1570/44) Approved V.C.N.S., 011836A to C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. East Indies).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z 1st December.

Para. A.

1. APOLLO reports hydrophone effects and disappearing radar contact at 2040Z/30th Nov. in latitude 50° 32' N. longitude 05° 15' W.

2. HUMBERSTONE and EDMUNSTON reported firm contact with U-boat at 2100Z/30th November in latitude 50° 50' N. longitude 08° 47' W.

3. E.G.14 with HUMBERSTONE and EDMUNSTON carried out 8 squid and 1 D/C attack on moving contact, originally located by later vessels, prior to 0259Z 1st December in latitude 51° 00' N., longitude 08° 30' W.

Para. B.

A/C B/206 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0912Z/30th November in latitude 61° 25' N., longitude 03° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 011115A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 011425A, 011436A, 011437A).

War Diary.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

(1) New rules have been promulgated for the mutual conduct of air and surface craft by Admiralty and Air Ministry. The principal provisions are to the effect that in the North Atlantic north of 35° N. and west of the West Coasts of Spain, France and the United Kingdom, and thence from Cape Wrath past the Faroes to Iceland and to 70° N. 20° W; and also in the English Channel west of 0° 30' W; all aircraft are to be assumed as friendly unless visually recognised as hostile or seen to commit a hostile act. Similarly aircraft will not attack surface objects until they are visually recognised as hostile; and I.F.F. will normally be switched off.

North  
Sea.

- 2(a) S.S. ARIZPA, 5437 tons, was mined in the Schelde, but reached Antwerp.  
(b) One moored and one ground mine have been swept in the Schelde.  
(c) It is now reported that EMPIRE NESS is lying athwart the Schelde Channel, but not so as to block the fairway.  
(d) Eight one-man torpedoes, ready for use, are reported at Burgsluis on Schouwen Is.

Channel.

(3) Channel M.T.B. patrols were weatherbound, and the damaged trawler NORTHCOATES sank from stress of weather whilst being towed across the Channel.

Foreign Stations

South Atlantic

(4) The WILLIAM SCORESBY, whaler, left the Falklands today for Deception Island and Port Lockroy.

War Diary2.12.1944.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORTMediterraneanReturn of  
13 M/S.F.

(5) On the completion of their present local mine clearance operation, vessels of the 13th Minesweeping Flotilla (ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, BUDE, POLRUAN, RHYL and STORNOWAY) are to return to the United Kingdom.

Riviera.

6(a) Four Beaufighters, escorted by two Spitfires, scored R.P. and cannon hits on two barges at South Giorgio and another two barges at Falazzolo, leaving one in flames. A motor launch was left sinking. Later in the same area, two Beaufighters and two Spitfires scored hits on five barges.  
(b) Four Venturas on armed reconnaissance of the Savonne - Spezia area attacked 20 barges and an E-Boat with unobserved results.

East IndiesC. in C.  
B.P.F.

(7) The flag of Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser as C. in C. British Pacific Fleet, was hauled down in H.M.S. TARANTULA, base ship at Colombo, at 0800 F.G. and hoisted in the battleship HOWE, which left for Australia, escorted by the QUILLIAM, QUADRANT, QUALITY, and QUIBERON.

Force 64.

(8) A list of the units which are to form Force 64 is given by C. in C. East Indies in his O21214Z to the Admty. H.M.S. HAITAN will be H.Q. ship, and the Force will be under the operational command of Captain D.C. Hill, N.C. Force 64. It will include immediately, besides the H.Q. ship, the destroyers NAPIER and NEPAL, 23 major landing craft, and 184 minor landing craft. The following will join later:- 4 sloops, 6 convoy escorts, 2 L.S.(I) and 12 minesweepers.

THOROUGH  
R. of P.

(9) On her third Far East patrol the submarine THOROUGH sunk five vessels (three junks and two coasters) between November 13 and 22 off Sembilan Island (west coast, Malay Peninsula), and laid 12 mines. The two coasters were sunk west of Sembilan Island on the 14th. One was believed to have been carrying explosives.

War Diary2.12.1944.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.Shipping  
Routes, U.S.  
to Med.

(10). Two standard independent routes for fast ships between the United States and the Mediterranean, Quince (eastbound) and Prune (westbound) are proposed by the Commander, 10th Fleet, Convoys and Routeing. The Admiralty concurred on December 3.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

11(a) A 5 ship convoy, including probably two or three transports, plus destroyers and escorts, was sighted in the southern Sibuyan Sea proceeding southward and was last seen off the northern tip of Cebu. Allied destroyers in the Camotes Sea, west of Leyte Island after dark apparently did not make contact, and were subjected to continuous air attacks in which they suffered damage.

(b) Kittyhawks bombed a jetty at Palompon in the evening and rendered it unserviceable.

(c) Two Liberators bombed the seaplane base at Tawi Tawi at noon.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicyConduct  
of aircraft  
and surface  
craft.

In the areas defined in paragraph 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 seen to commit 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 of Coastal Command except for use of special codes and when in distress. I.F.F. may of course continue to be used in circumstances where it is considered to be of value.
- (c) Aircraft are instructed that before they attack surface objects located by radar the contact must be visually recognised as hostile.
- (d) If operational conditions permit 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 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 latitude 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. 96 A.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. (Hd. of M., 021005A "A" Message Home and Abroad 982 A(B2).) Air Ministry's 021603A to Coastal Command is identical, less paras. 4 and 5.

Utilisation  
of French  
Submarines.

The following are my views on F.O.W.M. 291048 Nov.\* At present the operations of British, Norwegian, Dutch and Polish submarines based in the United Kingdom are being curtailed in order to meet requirements for A/S training and by their encroachment on the anti-U-Boat activities of Coastal Command. Before French submarines are accepted it is considered that at least available British submarines at Home should be assured of full employment on operations and until the latter situation arises, the only useful employment for DORIS and CURIE is on A/S training, a task which appears perhaps naturally to be distasteful to the French Naval Authorities.

(2) Before French submarines could be employed in any capacity a base will have to be found for them. There is no space available for French submarines in British Depot ships, while at Dundee where the British personnel are shortly to be withdrawn to conserve

/man-power ...

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Utilisation of French submarines. (Contd.) man-power (my 261307/4 refers), there will be no maintenance staff available. At Dundee the Allied submarines will in future depend on what maintenance their own nationals can supply, and it is not thought that the French Authorities have the requisite qualified maintenance staffs available to send to Dundee, observing that the submarines in question are British 'U' class.

(3) In addition to DORIS and CURIE, French submarine MORSE has now started working up with the Third Flotilla and will be available for employment late in February.

(4) At present two British 'U' class VAMPIRE and UNSWERVING are being employed on A/S training in the Mediterranean and it is considered that the most economical use of submarines would be achieved by DORIS and CURIE undertaking this commitment, thereby releasing the former for operations or A/S training at home. CURIE is due for refit in March, but her place could then be taken by MORSE. (My Minute of 8th November on Admty. Docket O.D. 1491/44 refers). (F.O. S/M., 021409A to Admty.)

\* Marine Paris proposal that French S/Ms. CURIE and DORIS be employed for operational duties in North Sea. / VIKING, VENTURE to be transferred to 3rd S/M Flotilla, TRUSTY to be transferred to S/M. 7<sup>th</sup> Flot. On completion of transfers Dundee Base no longer be used for British submarines.

Movements

IMPLACABLE. Para. 3 C. in C. H.F's 291835A November. Ship can be received in the Basin a.m./9th December or any subsequent day. De-ammunitioning will be required. Full dockyard labour will not be available till 18th due to completion of NABOB and CHASER but interval can be utilised for investigating suitable leads for ventilation, trunking, etc. (A.S. Rosyth, 021305A to Admty.)

LARGS. It is intended that LARGS should sail in K.M.F. 38. (D.O.D., 021713A to R.A.L.S.C.U.)

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval. Cositintrep Number 241 Part 2 Naval. (1) General. River Schelde P.S.V.O. reports EMPIRE NESS loaded with oil pipes sunk in channel as result of collision in position 8½ cables true north of Eendrachtspolder, lying 309°. Wreck reduces width of channel by her length of 316 feet. Salvage likely to be difficult.

/Unloading ...

War Diary.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Reports

Naval.  
(Contd.)

Unloading figures for 30th November.

Place	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
<u>British -</u>				
East Calvados	25	29	Nil	Nil
Dieppe	Nil	16	1,710	Nil
Boulogne	24	110	1,964	Nil
Calais	Nil	30	102	Nil
Ostend	507	191	3,167	7,501
Antwerp	Nil	132	5,528	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>12,471</b>	<b>7,520</b>
<u>United States -</u>				
Cherbourg	Nil	Nil	19,486	8,853
Brittany Ports	Nil	23	5,890	Nil
Rouen	1,062	706	7,311	2,272
Le Havre	1,971	254	6,365	Nil
Antwerp	Nil	24	5,436	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>44,488</b>	<b>11,125</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>3,589</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>56,959</b>	<b>18,645</b>

Antwerp  
(United States) 253 Nil 390 Nil

Figures for  
28th November

(A.N.C.X.F., 020017A to Admty.)

Cositintrep No. 242 Part 2 Naval.

(1) Intelligence. 2 U-Boats are reported to have arrived St. Nazaire 21st November. It is reported that 8 one man torpedoes ready for operating are under concrete bridge in Burgsluis Harbour.

Unloading figures for 1st December.

British -	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
East Calvados	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	75	15	2,880	-
Boulogne	112	142	3,493	-
Calais	-	-	-	-
Ostend	2,304	108	4,131	1,190
Antwerp	-	160	10,537	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>1,190</b>

U.S. figures not received for 1st December.

(A.N.C.X.F., 022340A to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Wreck  
dispersal  
vessels for  
Schelde.

Request wreck dispersal vessel BURKE be sailed to Terneuzen. Vessel now lying at Short Reach Chatham.  
(S.O. X.F., 020944 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Request ...



2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Wreck  
dispersal  
vessels  
for Schelde.  
(Contd.)

Request salvage vessel LADY SOUTHBOROUGH be sailed to Antwerp vessel now lying in area 24 Portsmouth.  
(S.O. X.F., 020946 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Ship mined  
in Schelde.

SS. ARIZPA was reported mined at 0850A yesterday 1st December in vicinity of N.F.13 Buoy. N.O.I.C. Antwerp has reported that ship has been berthed at Antwerp no further details available.  
(C. in C. Nore, 021157A to Admty.)

Surveying  
vessel for  
Schelde.

It is requested that surveying vessel HYDROGRAAF now lying Grimsby may be sent to western Schelde. (2) HYDROGRAAF has requested to be fuelled and watered at Sheerness on route.  
(F.O.N.P. 1731, 021600 to C. in C. Nore, Admty.)

Additional  
escorts  
desired.

Your 011629 December. Regret no additional trawler available at present it may be possible to send one when Arrow has finally closed down.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021637A to V.A. Dover.)

South  
Beveland  
Canal.

Your 011700 paras. 2 and 3. P.S.V.O. expects to be able to complete salvage work at entrance to south Beveland Canal in about 10 to 14 working days if using maximum resources. He is ready to commence work at priority given in my 301750 as soon as mine clearance allows and will be able to work on both ends at same time. Limiting factor is likely to be repairs to locks. Probable date of their completion is being investigated.  
(2) As army anticipate German withdrawal would take 3 weeks consider that salvage at Zeebrugge must at present have higher priority than south Beveland Canal but P.S.V.O. will do everything possible to reduce time for salvage work.  
(3) Your para. 4. I shall be glad to discuss these matters during my visit to you next week.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 021800A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations

Channel

Cross-  
channel  
passages  
of A.N.C.X.F.  
and C. in C.  
Portsmouth.

Sailed my 011555A.\*  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 020606A to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)  
\* KINGSMILL to Dieppe.  
My 011646. A.N.C.X.F. is proceeding to U.K. by air. KINGSMILL should therefore be sailed to Portsmouth.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 021217A to N.O.I.C. Dieppe.)

/You ...

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

Cross-channel passages of A.N.C.X.F. and C. in C. Portsmouth. (Contd.)

You will be required to carry out the following programme between Portsmouth and Dieppe. (All times B.S.T.)

Date	From	Weigh	Pass Spithead Gate	Arrival
5th Dec.	Portsmouth	0600	0630	1400
5th "	Dieppe	1400 to 1500		2300
6th "	Portsmouth	0645	0715	1445
6th "	Dieppe	1445 to 1645		2345
7th "	Portsmouth	0745	0815	1545
7th "	Dieppe	1545 to 1745		0045/8
8th "	Portsmouth	0900	0930	1700
8th "	Dieppe	Before dark		0200/9

- (2) You are to sail as necessary to comply with above programme.
- (3) Routed Q.Z.S. 373, 646, 626, 575, 576.
- (4) Communications (Details).
- (5) You will be further instructed as to the passengers you will be conveying (my 011459 to KINGSMILL only refers).
- (6) Acknowledge.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021450A to KINGSMILL.)

Patrols. Your 011514A. Weather unsuitable for M.T.B. for A/S patrol. (N.O.I.C. Portland, 021138A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Night patrol 2nd/3rd December. Anti-Snort. zig-zag search at steady 8 knots through areas limits given.

- (2) Start 1730, finish 0830.
- (3) Courses to be approximately east and west.
- (4) L'VENTURE 50° 30', 50° 06', 01° 30' W. command west limit.
- (5) Remainder 50° 30', 49° 47', 01° 30' W., 00° 20' W., divided into 3 sections by parallels of 50° 15' and 50° 00' ships start search north-west corner of own section finish at south-west corner of section.
- (6) VANQUISHER take north section.
- (7) BRILLIANT centre section.
- (8) ANTHONY south section.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021252A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Day patrols 3rd December. Search areas limits given.

- (2) M.T.Bs. Q.Z.S. 629 50° 00' W. command limit and 10 miles eastward.
- (3) L'AVENTURE, VANQUISHER, Z.119, 118, 117.
- (4) BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, Z.112, 113, 114, 115 south limit Q.Z.S. 526.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021416A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

/Cross-Channel ...

War Diary.2.12.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.Cross-  
Channel  
routes.

A meeting will be held at the War Office at 1100A on Wednesday December 6th to discuss the selection of cross-Channel routes for B.L.A. leave and reinforcements.  
(2) Request your representatives may attend. It is suggested that they meet first in Room 29 North Block, Admiralty about 1040.  
(D.O.D.(H), 021444A to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols.

Your O11635. Leave contact and without incurring weather damage patrol area 51° to 51° 25' N., between 07° and 09° W.  
(C. in C. W.A., 020012A to S.O. E.G.30.)

Arrived 2nd E.G. for 48 hours rest.

(Com. (D) W.A., 020706A to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived 14th E.G. C. in C. W.A.'s O11149A refers.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 020807A to C. in C. W.A.)

(1) LORING and NARBOROUGH if not in contact proceed forthwith to carry out zig-zag search between (A) 50.25 N., 05.43 W. and (B) 50.06 N., 06.20 W.

(2) LOUIS, LAWSON and INGLIS if not in contact shift zig-zag search to between (C) 50.03 N., 03.15 W. and (D) 49.50 N., 04.46 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021121A to E.G. 15.)

Request you will sail 14th E.G. at 1000 tomorrow 3rd to vicinity Trevoise Head to operate temporarily under orders of C. in C. Plymouth.

(C. in C. W.A., 021207A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

E.G.30, PEVENSEY CASTLE, 3 corvettes patrolling south of Ireland.

Force 33, E.G.3, DUCKWORTH (S.O.), 4 frigates with E.G. 19 HESPERUS, 3 frigates supporting S.C.161. Add to my 021217.

APOLLO sail Milford Haven southbound via Trevoise Head 21 knots.

(C. in C. W.A., 021405A to Admty.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

E.G. 31.

Scapa arrival S.O. E.G.31 in BERKELEY CASTLE with DUMBARTON CASTLE, HADLEIGH CASTLE and LANCASTER CASTLE.

(A.C.O.S., 020944 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Patrols ...

War Diary.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Northern Waters

Patrols.

2000 position Saturday.

25th E.G. (ORKNEY S.O.), patrolling Butt of Lewis Cape Wrath area.

17th E.G. (ASCENSION S.O.) patrolling between

060° 18' N., 003° 44' W., 060° 42' N., 004° 46' W.

E.G. 31 (BERKELEY CASTLE S.O.) from Scapa relieves E.G.17 about 2100 thence E.G. 17 to Greenock.

(A.C.O.S., 021202A to Admty.)

Scapa departure S.O. E.G. 31 in BERKELEY CASTLE with DUMBARTON CASTLE, HADLEIGH CASTLE, LANCASTER CASTLE.

(A.C.O.S., 021439 to C. in C. Rosyth, S.O. E.G. 17.)

On relief by 31st E.G. proceed direct Clyde making your own expected time of arrival.

My 012144 and C. in C. Western Approaches' 291210 refer.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 021638A to S.O. E.G.17.)

After R/V with E.G. 17 shift to Gamma as in my 012138.

Air patrol will be resumed at 0900/3rd.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 022210A to S.O. E.G.31.)

War Diary.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Deep mining  
in  
St. George's  
Channel.

C. in C. Plymouth 262151 Nov. Admty. 251331 Nov. and 010105 Dec. Carry out operation H.W.A.3 at 1800 December 2nd. Thence to Plymouth. (N.O.I.C. Milford, 021037 to APOLLO, C. in C. Plymouth).  
My 021037 and Admty's 010105 sailed APOLLO. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 021825A to C. in C. Plymouth).

M.S.F.31

When no longer required by C.T.F. 125, request 31st M.S.F. may be sailed to Plymouth. A.M. 191634 Nov. and C.T.F.011125 refer. (A.N.C.X.F., 021619A to C. in C. Portsmouth). On completion of sweep of H Channel proceed to Plymouth A.N.C.X.F.'s 021619A refers. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 022117A to M.S.F.31)

Minesweeping  
of Schelde.

Operation "Calendar".

(1) Sweeping today Saturday 2nd December SA/LL  
(A) Terneuzen to (corrupt group) Bat.  
(B) Terneuzen to N.F.17.

(C) N.F.17 to 2 miles west of N.F.13.

(D) Flushing harbour.

(E) Hansweerde harbour entrance.

(F) LAA sweeping at Antwerp.

Oropesa N.F.18 to N.F.12.

(2) Moored mine 1.8 miles west of N.F. (?13) ground mine swept position (Flushing outer harbour).

(3) Surveying work is continuing.

(4) Nil

(5) B.Y.M.S. 2141, M.M.S.175, 173, 69, 113, 234, M.F.V.1074, 1027. (Capt. M/S Force A, 021959A to C. in C. Nore).

Minesweeping  
off Cherbourg.

Report of sweeping carried out today Saturday, December 2nd, 1944.

LL/SA search of approach channel and outer anchorage. Oropesa search of H and L channels from H.8 and 14 E. All results negative.

(Lieut. M/S Cherbourg 022027A to C.T.F.125).

U-boats.

Situation  
Report.

One possibly North of Hartland Point and another may be approaching North Cornish coast from attack at 0259Z 1st December.

Possibly one indefinitely in Central English Channel area.

(Admty., 021349A to Cominch).

Port Facilities.

Antwerp

A.N.C.X.F. 011750. One hospital fitted M.F.V. is to be sailed by French Coastal Channel to Boulogne for onward routing to Ostend as soon

as weather and forecast permit. Official number of M.F.V. is to be reported.

(F.O.B.A.A., 021419A to N.O.I.C. Dieppe).

/Port...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Port Facilities.

Antwerp. Port Executive Committee Antwerp has decided that  
(contd). ships carrying more than 3,000 gross tons of  
ammunition will not be accepted on the river side  
quays or in the wet basins. It is not considered  
practicable to carry out discharge in the river to lighten fully  
laden ships to 3,000 tons so ships arriving fully laden with  
ammunition will therefore be held clear of the port pending  
instructions. The Port Executive Committee recommend that no  
ammunition ships at all be sent to Antwerp in the early stages  
but if this cannot be avoided that no ships containing groups 1,  
2, 4, 7 and 8 that is Amanol, Gelignite, T.N.T., Bombs, Grenades  
should be sent. N.O.I.C. Antwerp 301504A and A.N.C.X.F. 011014A  
refer.  
(S.H.A.E.F. No T.O.O. 2nd December to A.N.C.X.F., Admty).

Rouen. This Office advised that an average of 4 M.T. ships  
per day can be accepted at Rouen with maximum of  
6 when necessary. Pursuant to wishes of G4  
maximum use of M.T. vessels will be made and loadings for this  
class will take precedence. Balanced load of vehicles to take all  
available supplies will be maintained. All vehicles plus all  
personnel except replacement troops will be embarked for Rouen.  
Replacement Troops will be handled at Le Havre and should be  
handled by L.S.I. L.S.Ts. will be continued by loading of M.T.  
vessels will have preference. Maximum draught has been given as  
19 feet 6 inches but vessels must be on exactly even keel to do  
Seine River.  
(U.K. Base, 021548A to C.O. 14th Port).

Casualties & Defects.

H.M.S. Sustained heavy damage.  
COLUMBINE. Top bridge and asdic cabinet washed overboard 4  
inch gun out of action. W/T set 25% active.  
No I.F.F. Returning to harbour. E.T.A. Liverpool  
1100/3. P.C.S. 056° 23' N., 012° 26' W. 105° 15 knots. Weather  
report 4667 8677.  
(COLUMBINE, 021202Z to C. in C. W.A.)

H.M. Trawler NORTHCOATES sunk.  
NORTHCOATES. (RESOLVE, 021206A to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
Regret to report loss of H.M. Trawler NORTHCOATES  
who from stress of weather sank at 1206 on Dec.  
2nd in position 50° 40' 20" N., 00° 37' 20" W. while in tow of  
H.M. Rescue Tug RESOLVE. NORTHCOATES ships company all safe  
regret to report loss of two of salvage party of 6 men placed on  
board by BOSTON SALVOR.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021526 to Admty).

SS. EMPIRE My 301937.  
NESS. (A) EMPIRE NESS no loss of life. Vessel total  
SS. ARIZPA loss no evident reason for collision is apparent  
(mined) other than normal river risks. Vessel has swung  
across channel at Baarland and may have to be  
demolished to improve width of channel though  
convoy passed safely yesterday. WILLIAM PACO  
damaged superficial.

/(B)...

War Diary.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SS. EMPIRE  
NESS,  
SS. ARIZPA  
(mined).  
(contd).

(B) ARIZPA berthed in wet basins and discharging cargo, it may be possible to dock and repair ship at Antwerp.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 021302A to Com. Belgium).

"Infatuate 2"  
losses.

Operation "Infatuate 2".  
Regret loss of the following craft by enemy action on 1st November.

(14) L.C.G.(L) 1, 2. L.C.G. (L) 101, 102. L.C.S. 37, 38.  
L.C.S. (L) 252, 256, 258.

Full casualty lists are being forwarded as soon as possible.  
(S.O. Force T., 022314A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Ships for  
O.S/K.M.S.  
convoys.

Add to para. two of A.M. 301804 November "orders to do so will be received either from the Escort or by B.A.M.S. Message. On no account should ships break off without specific orders".  
(D.T.D., 021254A to N.C.S.Os. Southend and Ramsgate).

T.B.C/  
B.T.C.  
convoys  
(Southend to  
Bristol  
Channel and  
vice-versa)  
in lieu of  
T.M.C.,  
B.E.C., T.M.M.  
and their  
reciprocal  
convoys.

Pass to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os.

(1) It is intended to commence daily T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys (minimum speed for inclusion 7 knots) on December 8th. A.M. 091642\* and 241804 November refer. T.M.C. and B.E.C. convoys and their reciprocals will cease from that date.  
(2) T.B.C. convoys will leave Southend about 1030 (according to tide) to pass Sandhead buoy at 1700 "C.2" 0030, "F" 0815, "A.3" 1230, Start Point 2330, "D.1" 0730, splitting at Lundy 0130 to arrive Breaksea L.V/"M.H" buoy about 0830.  
(3) B.T.C. convoys will pass Breaksea L.V/"M.H." buoy about 0930 (according to tide) to rendezvous Lundy 1630, thence to pass "D.1" buoy 1030, Start Point 1830, "A.3" buoy 0530, arriving St. Helen's

1100. Convoy will then leave St. Helens at 1630, to pass "C.2 A" 2330, Sandhead 0900, arriving Southend about 1530.

(4) Joiners should be sailed in accordance with the above timetables.

(5) Cs. in C. Nore and Plymouth are requested to arrange the through escorts and C. in C. Portsmouth the cross-channel escorts in his command.

(6) T.B.C. and B.T.C. convoys will be available for traffic now sailing in T.M.M. and M.T.M. convoys, which will cease to operate.

(7) N.C.S.Os. Southend and Cardiff are requested to sail Commodores to the Wight area and N.C.S.O. Portsmouth to arrange for a Commodore for the onward portion. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to promulgate any special orders for joining that will thus be required in T.B.C. convoys.

(8) A new C.H. route book will shortly be available to cover the whole passage of these convoys.

/ (9) ...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

T.B.C/  
B.T.C.  
convoys  
(Southend  
to Bristol  
Channel and  
vice-versa)  
in lieu of  
T.M.C.,  
B.E.C, T.M.M.  
and their  
reciprocal  
convoys.  
(contd).

(9) It is suggested that C. in C. Nore collaborate with Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Plymouth and F.O.I.C. Cardiff and issue such Escort and Convoy orders as may be necessary.

(10) Further signal will be made concerning ships to and from French Ports.

(D.T.D., 021256A to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth, A.N.C.X.F., V.A. Dover, F.O.I.Cs. Cardiff, and Milford Haven).

\*Institution of daily 7 knot convoy between Thames and Bristol Channel with connections to French ports, in place of T.M.C. and B.E.C. convoys and their reciprocals.

Release of  
L.S.Ts.

Mydis 291647A of Nov.

1. Following U.S. L.S.Ts. nominated for transfer to Royal Navy will be ready at Southampton 8 December: L.S.T.1, 16, 72, 377, 378, 379, 522.
2. Readiness date U.S. L.S.T. 980 will be

furnished later.

3. Request transfer be effected at Base 2 Roseneath.
  4. When your instructions are received Com. L.S.Ts. will co-ordinate.
- (Comphibsukay, 021437A to Admty).



War Diary.2.12.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

S.L. convoys discontinued. Independent routes. Your 291131 Nov. para. 3.  
 (1) Request last position in sub-paras. A B and C may be amended to read 35.51 N. 06.10 W.  
 (2) Request also that position A of British standard coastal route as in my 091910 June 1943, not to all, may be amended as above for northbound shipping.  
 (3) Admty. 081858 Nov. refers.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 021043A to F.O.C.W.A.)

KILMINGTON F.Y.M.S. 58. Sailed my 011608 KILMINGTON Q.Z.H. (C) 609, L 66, S 646, X 1463, Y 520 F.Y.M.S. 58 holds only approach route to Brest.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 021107A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

FORMIDABLE. Admty. 250209 Oct. and 201520 Nov. Following is intended approx. programme for FORMIDABLE, (details)  
 D. Full power trial 31st December.  
 E. Examination by E. in C. representative 1st to 3rd January, 1945.  
 Above programme is independent of any work connected with alignment of turbines and gearing which may be found necessary after checking readings afloat.  
 (C.S. Gibraltar 021253A to Admty.)

JOHN BANVARD, My 312120 (Liberty Ship JOHN BANVARD fully laden (aground 31 October.) hard ashore in Praia Bay, Terceira, believe hull holed by rocks.) JOHN BANVARD floated yesterday 1st December.  
 (2) Ship is extensively damaged. EXTRICATE standing by. TENACITY no longer required and will be sailed to St. Johns after fuelling at Horta.  
 (3) U.S. Naval Authorities are arranging towage of BANVARD when ready.  
 (S.B.N.O. Azores 021302Z to Admty.)

T.G. 41.1, EDISON. E.T.A. Europa Point 1600Z/4 Dec. After fuelling OMAHA intends depart Gibraltar forenoon Dec. 5th.  
 (C.T.G. 41.1 021452A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
 Comnob Oran is requested to sail EDISON so as to arrive Gibraltar a.m. 4th Dec.  
 (2) EDISON will be sailed to R/V GENERAL MEIGS and C.T.G. 41.1 south of Carnero Point.  
 (3) On relief C.T.G. 41.1 is to enter Gibraltar.  
 (4) Further signal will be made.  
 C.T.G. 41.1 021452 and my 011618 (neither to C.T.G. 80.6) and C.T.G. 80.6 290957 Nov. (not to Admty.) refer.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 021735A to Comnob Oran, C.T.G. 41.1.)

BALLINDERRY. It is intended that BALLINDERRY should remain in Gibraltar Escort Force, as with removal of frigates in A.M. 241720, ship is only remaining frigate in this force.  
 (F.O.G.M.A. 021719A to Admty.)  
 Reply: Admty. 052220A.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

WILLIAM  
SCORESBY.

WILLIAM SCORESBY sailed 1300Z today for Deception and Port Lockroy. Sub. Lieut. Reece, your 151913 Sept. not to B.N.A. Buenos Aires, is on passage to Deception, Military dentist is being taken at request of Lt. Commander Marr.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands 021308Z to Admty., Info. C. in C. S.A., B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

STONECROP,  
CONCOLVULUS.

Intend to sail STONECROP and CONVULVULUS in company at 1700Z/2nd December for Gibraltar by route as issued to STONECROP. F.O.C.W.Af. 011620 and 011951 refer. S.O.A. 11 knots, E.T.A. p.m. 8th Dec.  
(Comar Dakar 021640Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

War Diary.2.12.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ERITREA. C. in C. E.I. 30114. No operational requirement can be foreseen for ERITREA in Mediterranean. F.O.T.A.L.I. 261755 not to all refers. (C. in C. Med. 021206A to Admty.) See also F.O.(S) 021236A in East Indies.

Supplies for French Navy. (1) C.C.S. E.T.I. 358 and F.A.N. 424 refer. In view of A. probability that French will shortly assume immediate control of North African ports in Mediterranean and Casablanca with consequent withdrawal of British and U.S. authorities. B. French already being in immediate control of ports in southern France; C. Uncertainty regarding future disposition and employment of French fleet, Admty. 300104 Sept. not to all refers; and D. institution of Marine Paris and abolition of Naval France, it appears essential that respective responsibilities of U.S. and U.K. regarding supplies to French Navy and its establishments and methods of arranging for supply should be re-examined as a matter of urgency. (2) Request early confirmation that this matter will be handled by Admiralty and B.A.D. in conjunction with Cominch and Marine Paris. My 181312 Sept. not to all refers. (C. in C. Med. 021238 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 080033A.

Gunboats for Far East. Gunboats referred to in Admty. 101426 Nov. are considered fit for service in the east after refit of approx. six weeks. (2) In view of C. in C. E.F's 131305 Nov. are these gunboats still required in Ceylon?\* (3) If so, request date in order that priorities of repair may be assessed. (C. in C. Med. 021406 to Admty.) \* Reply: C. in C. E.I. 051917Z.

M.S.F. 13. On completion of boiler cleaning programme and present local mine clearance operation now in progress, request you will sail M.S.F. 13 to Gib. for onward routing to U.K. Ref. A.M. 242130 and my 272250 both June neither to all refers. Before leaving ships are to land M.S. equipment as listed in B.R. 366 for use in your area. (C. in C. Med. 021804A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

EMPIRE DACE. Regret crew EMPIRE DACE are missing presumed killed. Only 2 bodies recovered, one wearing shoulder straps, 2 straight (2 corrupt groups) stripes, other 2 stripes with diamond. No means of

/identification...

War Diary.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

EMPIRE DACE  
(Cpntd.)

identification has been discovered yet. One body in chart house inaccessible at present. My 011630B (not yet identified in W.R.) Only 48 survivors, 15 seriously wounded. Believed 140 passengers embarked. Cause of disaster uncertain. (N.O.I.C. Patras 021857B to Admty., etc.)

Situation  
report No.  
493.

(1) South African manned whaler BEVER has been mined and sunk in Aegean. There was 9 survivors.  
(2) Partisans report following results of bombardment of Rab Island by LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD on 17th November. Situation report number 487 refers. 1 coast defence gun destroyed and 2 badly damaged, 2 flak guns destroyed and others badly damaged, observation post Cap wireless station destroyed and a number of houses hit. (C. in C. Med. 022210A.)

Air Cosit-  
intret No.  
510.

Cite FHGCT and FHGBI signed Wilson.  
Day 1. Coastal Air Force. 4 Beaus. and 2 Spits. left 2 barges and a tug sinking in Lake Marano and 5 of (?or) 6 barges hit on canal near Caorle. A Ventura attacked 3 barges and an E-Boat at Spezia with unobserved results. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. No T.O.O/2.)

War Diary2.12.1944  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

- U-Boat dispositions. No fresh information. Scale in all areas remains unchanged. (C. in C. E.I. 020430Z)
- Force 61. My 300558 Nov. (NIGERIA, KENYA, NEWCASTLE and PHOEBE to form part of Force 61). F.O.C. Force 61 will (?continue) to administer the ships referred to in para.2 and it is requested that correspondence and signals may be addressed accordingly. (C. in C. E.I. 021052Z to Admty. C.S.4., S.O. Force 61)
- Force 64. The following units will form Force 64 as from the T.O.O. of this signal.  
 (A) H.M.S. NAPIER (Capt.(D) 7) H.M.S. NEPAL.  
 (B) Force H.Q. Ship H.M.S. HAITAN.  
 (C) Major Landing Craft. 1 L.C.H. 3 L.C.M. Depot ship, 7 L.C.I.(L) forming 150th L.C.I.(L) Flotilla. 120th L.C.T.(5) Flotilla of 12 craft.  
 (D) Minor Landing Craft. 60 L.C.A. of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 24th R.I.N. Flotillas. 16 L.C.P.(L) of 21st and 23rd R.I.N. Flotillas. 70 L.C.M.(3) of 41st, 42nd 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 48th, 50th and 4th R.I.N. Flotillas. 16 L.C.M. of 901st and 903rd R.M. Flotillas. One L.C.N.  
 (E) Coastal Forces. 21 B type Fairmiles of 36th, 49th and 55th Flotillas.  
 (2) The following units will join Force 64 on dates which will be decided later.  
 (A) Sloops: H.M.I.S.KISTNA, H.M.I.S.NARBADA, H.M.I.S.JUMNA, H.M.S. FLAMINGO.  
 (B) Convoy escorts: H.M.S. JED, AWE, AVON, SHOREHAM, H.M.I.S. GODIVARI and one escort to be nominated.  
 (C) L.S.I., H.M.I.S. LIANSTEPHAN CASTLE (?) S.S. BARPETA (Red Ensign)  
 (D) Minesweepers, 8 B.Y.M.S., 4 MM/S. C. in C.'s 110536 Nov. not to all refers.  
 (3) The force will be under operational command of Capt. D.C. Hill N.C. Force 64. Present administrative authorities will remain unchanged.  
 (4) Appropriate authorities are to pass this information to ships and craft concerned.  
 (5) Chittagong pass P/L to N. Cdr. Force 64.  
 (C. in C. E.I. 021214Z to Admty.)
- ERITREA. S.M. 363/224 of 24th November on Admiralty Docket M.011940/44, recommend that ERITREA return to her previous duty of submarine tender at Trincomalee. Para. 1 of C. in C. E.F. 041147 July and C. in C. E.I.'s 301114 Nov. refer. (F.O.(S), 021236A to Admty.)

/THOROUGH ...

War Diary2.12.1944  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Cond.

THOROUGH, THOROUGH 3rd Far East patrol. All by Gun Action.  
R. of P. 13th Nov. off Pulo Jarak sank one 25 ton Junk.  
Crew of 7 Malay Chinese rescued.  
(2) 14th Nov. West of Sembilan Is., engaged 2350  
tons Coaster and (one) 1800 tons Coaster bound  
North. One small Coaster received 12 hits and stopped. Fire  
shifted to other small Coaster which was hit repeatedly and  
beached, crew abandoned ship. A large explosion was subsequently  
observed from this position, ship believed to be carrying explosive  
which blew up. Fire was shifted to largest Coaster which  
returned fire ineffectually. After (corrupt group) round ship  
was ashore listing heavily with smoke coming from hold.  
The first target was then seen to have refloated and was pro-  
ceeding out of range so fire was redirected against the 2 beached  
ships. Another 20 well placed rounds were fired estimated that  
these ships are total loss.  
(3) 21st Nov. West of Sembilan Is. sank one 80 ton junk at anchor.  
(4) 22nd Nov. South of Sembilan Isles sank 25 ton junk. 5  
Sumatra Chinese rescued.  
(5) 12 mines laid.  
(C. in C. E.I. 021311Z to Admty.)

R.M.B.P.D. A. Following are the views of S.A.C.S.E.A. on  
A.M.132155 Nov:  
(1) Lack of carriers severely curtails operations  
by units of the small operations group. It is not  
considered that R.M.B.P.D. Sections if sent to S.E.A.C. would  
have any greater opportunity of employment.  
(2) The addition to S.O.G. of a specialised unit with a one  
purpose role would be uneconomical and is not recommended.  
The more economical course appears to be as proposed in S.A.C.  
96.75 dated 7th Nov. T.O.O.070901 Nov. to C.C.O. by which units  
of S.O.G. are trained to operate craft now used by R.M.B.P.D.  
(3) In present circumstances no requirement for R.M.B.P.D. Section  
appears to exist in S.E.A.C.  
B. The above views are concurred in.  
(C. in C. E.I.021317Z to Admty)

Victualling C. in C. E.F.'s. 151106 to Admiralty only and my  
Store 162012 Nov. having regard to necessity for re-  
Issuing fitting FORT Class V.S.I.S. following arrangements  
Ships. should be made:  
(a) FORT ALABAMA to join East Indies Station on  
completion of refit.  
(b) FORT KILMAR to sail for Sydney for refit early  
December and to return to East Indies on completion.  
(c) CITY OF DIEPPE (N.S/V.S.I.S.) to sail for Australia for  
service with British Pacific Fleet end December or later if  
acceptable to C. in C. B.P.F.  
(d) FORT McDONNELL to be taken in hand for refit on completion of  
FORT EDMONTON. After refit to join East Indies Station.  
(e) FORT PROVIDENCE to sail for Sydney for refit on relief by  
FORT ALABAMA. After refit to join B.P.F.  
(f) FORT WRANGELL which should be ready to sail from Vancouver  
early January to join B.P.F.  
(g) FORT DUNVEGAN and FORT CONSTANTINE to join B.P.F. on comple-  
tion of installation of refrigeration.  
(D. of V. Approved by 4th S.L. 022049A to C. in C. E.I. C. in C.  
B.P.F.) Reply C. in C. E.I. 100539Z.

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.              (N.S.H.Q., 021327Z, Cominch 021509Z).

Independent              Do not consider advisable standardize Monster  
routes                      routes, Admiralty 261711A refers (N.T. in W.D.).  
U.S. to                      Propose following standard fast independent  
Medit.                      ship routes U.S. to Mediterranean eastbound route.

Quince:-

(A) 36 30 69 30              (B) 34 50 67 00  
(C) 34 00 63 00              (D) 35 30 50 00              (E) 35 10 36 01              (F) 34 40 20 00  
(G) 34 40 10 00.

Westbound route Prune:-

(A) 35 00 10 10 00 (?)              (B) 35 00 18 00              (C) 36 00 34 00  
(D) 36 00 50 00              (E) 36 40 55 00              (F) 36 40 63 01              (G) 37 50 69 00  
(H) 39 30 72 30.

(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 021339Z to Admty.).

Reply, concur Admty. 031208A. Comment by C. in C.Med. 041231A.

HYDRANGEA.              HYDRANGEA expected to be ready to leave Bermuda  
about Dec. 11th. Your 081228 Sept. to  
F.O.C.W.Af. refers.

(2) Intend sailing her to U.K. via Azores for  
fuel. Request destination.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 021550Z to Admty.).

JASPER                      JASPER expected to complete work up about  
(Bermuda).              December 11th, request sailing instructions.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 021552Z to Admty.).  
Reply: Admty., 051827A.

PURSUER.                      Your 282130 Nov. PURSUER. Following are major  
items of defects (list).

(2) Further message will be made regarding  
alterations and additions.

(D. of D. (Bath) 021625A to B.A.D.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest                      (7) Several torpedo attacks made on naval surface  
1046 Dec.1st.              forces in Southern Leyte Gulf afternoon, all  
ineffective: contacts depth charged, results  
unreported.

/(8)...

2.12.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand .

Digest (8) Ref. Digest 1045 para.11, 16 Kittyhawks  
1046, Dec.1st. attacked two transports, one destroyer off Carmen  
(Contd.) on East Coast on afternoon 30th, setting both  
merchant ships on fire and damaging destroyer.  
Twelve covering Jap fighters were encountered and  
two were shot down for loss of one Kitty. Same  
day Lightnings swept Negros meeting nine enemy fighters, whereof  
one probably shot down.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 020712Z).

INDEFATIGABLE. My 010630. R.A.A.C.B.P.F. is not waiting at Suez.  
(C. in C.B.P.F., 021129Z to Admty.).

V.A.(Q) Your 250920 Nov. (not to PRESIDENT). Your  
Pacific flag is deemed to have been transferred from  
Fleet. PRESIDENT to GOLDEN HIND at 0800 K Monday 27th  
November.  
(Head of M., 021643A to V.A.(Q) B.P.F.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/2nd.  
and sighting Para.C.  
summary. (1) SS. THOMAS WOLFE reported underwater  
explosion and large quantities of oil at noon  
26th November in 49° 46' N. 00° 39' W.  
Ref. A.M. 011115A para.A. (2) HUMBERSTONE made 2  
attacks at 0124Z and 0345Z/1st December. HAVELOCK also made  
2 attacks.  
(D.D.I.C., 021122A to Cominch N.S.H.Q.).



War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. The amalgamation of the Home Fleet and Orkneys and Shetlands Commands is proposed by Admiralty, chiefly to economise man-power.

North Sea.

2(a) The Luftwaffe again came up over 500 strong in reaction to our sorties and lost at least 32 of their aircraft. We lost 28.  
 (b) C. in C. Nore stresses the importance of increasing Coastal Command's anti-E-Boat measures off the Low Countries, Admiralty fully concurring.  
 (c) SS. FRANCIS ASBURY, 7176 tons was mined off Blankenberghe out of Convoy T.A.M.6. She was later reported abandoned, aground, and breaking up.  
 (d) One moored and two ground mines have been swept in the Schelde.

Channel.

3. Bad weather has compelled the postponement of the laying of the next cross-Channel oil pipe-line.

Western Approaches.

4. Fifth Escort Group deny having molested the Spanish Virgin of Song off Tarifa (VIRGEN DEL CARMEN).

Foreign StationsMediterraneanConvoys.  
Discontinued.

5. T.C. Convoys (Bizerta to Corsica and Sardinia) and C.T. Convoys (reverse direction) will be discontinued after 10th December.

Adriatic.

6(a) The destroyers BROCKLESBY, LAMERTON, QUANTOCK and WILTON and two L.C.Gs., accompanied by two M.T.Bs. bombarded Porto di Lussinpiccolo (Gulf of Quarnero) one of the best and most convenient harbours in the Northern Adriatic. A prolonged shoot was carried out at very close range, simultaneously with an aircraft attack. The WILTON was slightly damaged by machine gunfire.  
 (b) M.T.B. 633 entered Cigale Cove and destroyed three explosive M.T.Bs. and damaged a fourth. She was slightly damaged and had one rating killed and two wounded.

/Greece ...

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greece.  
Disorder  
in Athens.

7. A general strike was declared in the Athens-Piraeus area at 0900B. No public utility services are working except water. Left Wing demonstrations held in defiance of the Greek Government's orders were broken up by the Civil Police after some shooting in which casualties were caused on both sides. A curfew was imposed by the Government at 1900B.

Aegean.

8. Kavalla Harbour, Greece, was reported clear of mines at 1734B today. It has been found to be practically undamaged.

America and West Indies.

CORNWALLIS  
sunk.

9. The British SS. CORNWALLIS, 5458 tons, routed from Trinidad to St. John N.B., was reported torpedoed about 1000 G.M.T. in the vicinity of Mount Desert Rock, in the Gulf of Maine, approximately 43.58 N., 68.18 W. She sank at about 1015. Survivors were landed at Rockland, ~~Maine~~, Maine.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

10. An announcement from General MacArthur's Headquarters in Leyte states that a U.S. destroyer was sunk last night in a light naval action in the Ormoc Gulf. American units engaged three Japanese destroyers, sank one and damaged a second, in spite of enemy air attack and shore fire.

China

11. A Liberator laid mines in the Yangtze, north of Hankow.

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Proposed  
amalgamation  
of Home  
Fleet and  
Orkneys and  
Shetlands  
Commands.

Consequent on changes in the situation in Northern waters, it is under consideration to amalgamate the Home Fleet and O.S. Commands.

2. There are obvious operational advantages in having only one Command in this area, if it is practicable.

3. There is also an urgent need for economy in manpower. It is considered that integration of the Commands would allow a large saving of officers

and men.

4. It is requested that in consultation with A.C.O.S. you will examine this proposal, including the movement of your H.Q. to Lyness and forward your comments.

5. The advisability of A.S. Orkney assisted by a Maintenance Captain relieving you of most local matters should be considered.

6. It should also be practicable to reduce Commodore D's staff.

7. It is hoped to effect a net reduction of at least 50% in the amalgamated staffs.

(V.C.N.S., 031651A to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

BERWICK

Scapa arrival - BERWICK.

(A.C.O.S., 030254 to C. in C. Rosyth).

DIDO

Intend to sail DIDO, to arrive Rosyth a.m. Monday 11th December.

2. 7 days leave may be given to each watch subject to concurrence of C. in C. Rosyth.

3. Report is to be forwarded in accordance with H.G.O. 151.

4. DIDO will be required to arrive Scapa on 28th December.

(C. in C. H.F., 031925A to DIDO)

BERWICK in  
collision  
with  
EASTERN COAST.

Regret collision with SS. EASTERN COAST at 1803/2nd December in position 185° May Island 18 3½ miles. Present whereabouts of merchant ship unknown. Superficial damage to BERWICK guard rail stanchions and one bottle screw slip. Merchant ship considered to be entirely at fault. Full report is being forwarded.  
(BERWICK, 031940A to Admty).

DUQUESNE,  
GLOIRE.

Onward route for DUQUESNE and GLOIRE from Brest.  
A. 48.20 N., 05.30 W.  
B. 180° Lizard 5 miles thence by swept channel to Plymouth.  
(Admty. 031459A to C.T.F.125).

RAMILLIES

Reference para. 5 of my 012145. Are suitable moorings available at Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031746A to A.S. Portsmouth)

/IMPLACABLE...

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

**IMPLACABLE** A.S. Rosyth's 021305. Request re-consideration that de-ammunition is necessary observing that no work is required in the vicinity of the main magazines and ship can be lightened to the requisite draft to enter basin by de-fuelling.

2. Embarking ammunition took 8 days at Rosyth in the basin with assistance of Dockyard cranes, de-ammunitioning is certain to take even longer.

(IMPLACABLE, 032001A to C. in C. H.F.)

**EMPRESS** A.M. 011345. EMPRESS can be accepted at Devonport for docking and cleaning and coating bottom only on 18th December.

2. 10 days leave is to be given to each watch, one watch from the Clyde and the other from Devonport.

3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship for Plymouth on 16th December.

4. Complement will be adjusted whilst at Plymouth.

5. On completion of leave C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail EMPRESS for Belfast to embark aircraft referred to in para. 4 of A.M. 011345.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 032318A to F.O.C.T., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.Situation Reports.

**Air.** German Air Force activity; 520 plus enemy aircraft observed during one period. 8th Air Force Fighters sighted 240 enemy aircraft chiefly in the target area and claim 32 - 2 - 6, and the Bombers sighted 150 enemy aircraft of which 30/40 pierced the Fighter screen, Bombers claim 2 - 1 - 1. First Tact. Air Force sighted approximately 105 enemy aircraft in their tactical area and claim 4 - 0 - 6. 9th Air Force report no claims for the period but sighted 30 plus enemy aircraft of which 2 were Jet aircraft. Ground claims were 7 - 0 - 2 H.E. 111 on Loren airfield.

(S.H.A.E.F., 031100 to Air Ministry).

**Military.** G.2. Summary No.72 dated 3rd Dec. 44.

Operations. Southeast of Mulhouse, enemy lost Huningue (A.88) but still hold bridgehead over Rhine at Loeche (A.89). Enemy still applying pressure on Mulhouse and fighting delaying action in Hart Forest and to west of city in Bourbach Le Bas Area (V.40). Allied drive through Vosges now reached Rhine Valley Plain where Germans stubbornly defending Selestat. Ebersheim and Boofzheim lost by enemy to Allied armour driving south. At Strasbourg enemy retreated to East of Rhine and blew bridges at Kehl. To North resistance from infantry and tanks continued strong at Mietesheim and to northwest. Enemy continues stubborn house to house fighting in Sarre Union (Q.53) and launched counter-attacks at Mackwiller and Domfessel to East. Heavy enemy movement to North and Northeast this sector. Allied entrance into Saarlautern (Q.28) delayed somewhat by mines and house to house fighting by Germans. Light drizzly rain fell through entire day.

/In...

War Diary.

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Military.  
(contd).

In Holland civilians report enemy withdrawn and no troops between Maas and Waal between Zaltbommel and 36 easting.

General. 19th Army showing more determined opposition in centre as well as on flanks. 106 Panzer Brigade being brought up in support in centre: Prisoner of War has stated eventual crossings of Rhine intended East of Colmar and this supported by documents. Rail traffic towards 1st Army Sector indicates considerable reinforcements coming up probably both to Saar and to Palatinate. (S.H.A.E.F., 031545A to War Office.)

Naval.

Cositintrep No. 243 Part II Naval.  
1. Unloading figures for 2nd December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	3	3	1,966	-
Boulogne	-	-	3,124	-
Calais	-	34	95	-
Ostend	1,343	196	4,208	3,681
Antwerp	-	138	12,206	11,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>21,599</b>	<b>15,281</b>
<u>United States</u>				
Cherbourg	-	-	12,294	984
Brittany Ports	-	25	5,749	-
Rouen	2,706	872	6,392	4,348
Le Havre	3,370	504	8,669	-
Antwerp	-	-	7,238	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>40,342</b>	<b>5,332</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>7,422</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>61,941</b>	<b>20,613</b>

2. U.S. Figures for 1st December.

Cherbourg	-	-	12,251	4,151
Brittany Ports	-	33	5,278	155
Rouen	1,990	586	7,067	656
Le Havre	8,097	313	7,675	-
Antwerp	-	-	6,273	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,087</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>38,544</b>	<b>4,962</b>

(A.N.C.X.F., 032330A to Admty).

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Anti-  
 E-boat  
 measures.

Concur in C. in C. Nore, 011453A.\* Request high  
 priority be given for early bombing.  
 (A.C.N.S. (H), 030119A to H.Q.C.C.)

\* Precision bombing of E-boat pens.

Fully concur in the importance of increasing the  
 anti-E-boat measures in the Nore Command. C. in C. Nore's  
 011638 refers.

2. A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command is requested to make the full  
 strength of 524 Squadron available to A.O.C. 16th Group.
3. C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange with A.O.C. 16 Group  
 for the full strength of 524 and other Squadrons in 16 Group  
 to be available for anti-E-boat operations, if necessary at the  
 expense of anti-shipping strikes.
4. Should the E-boat menace intensify and these measures be  
 insufficient to meet the new situation consideration will have  
 to be given to reinforcing 16 Group from other Groups even at  
 the expense of the anti-U-boat effort.  
 (A.C.N.S. (H), 032009A to C. in C. Nore, A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

FRANCIS  
 ASBURY  
 mined off  
 Schelde.

One ship mined in position 135 N.F.10 buoy  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 mile. FERNIE standing by.  
 (HOLDERNESS, 030535A to C. in C. Nore).  
 Com. Belgium's 031122A and N.O.I.C. Ostend's  
 031026A. Position of wreck was last reported at  
 043° Ostend approximately 8 miles, aground.

It is not advisable for ships to proceed out of searched channel  
 to fix and mark wreck. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 032349 to SCOTT).

Wreck-disposal  
 craft to  
 Schelde.

My 020944 Request wreck dispersal store carrier  
 MADDEN be sailed to Terneuzen in company.  
 2. MADDEN lying at Shortreach Chatham.  
 (S.V.O.X.F., 030954 to C. in C. Nore).

Operation  
 "Alphabet"  
 against  
 flying-bomb  
 carriers and  
 E-boats.

Operation "Alphabet".  
 1. Object to control night fighters on to diver  
 carrying aircraft. CAICOS will also have anti  
 E-boat role.  
 2. Naval Forces taking part. CAICOS and 2  
 M.T.B. Units under Ship control. Unit call signs  
 will be allotted daily.

3. Intention: Starting tomorrow Monday CAICOS  
 is to patrol between 52° 11' N., 02° 17' E. (N.3880) and 52°  
 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' N., 02° 17' E. (N.3890). As best suited to primary task  
 from one hour after sunset to two hours before sunrise unless  
 otherwise ordered.

4. Anti E-boat role: If E-boats are detected M.T.B. units  
 are to be vectored to intercept. Usual enemy reports are to  
 be made on 1780 k/cs.
5. CAICOS is to operate on cycle of two nights on patrol and  
 one in harbour.

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.North Sea.

Operation  
"Alphabet"  
against  
flying-bomb  
carriers and  
E-boats.  
(contd).

6. Postponement: 12 Group will inform D.16 through F.O.I.C. Harwich if possible by 1400 on days when weather is considered unsuitable for enemy aircraft. If C. in C. Nore cancels Operation on account of weather, F.O.I.C. Harwich will be directed to inform 12 Group. Procedure for cancellation by CAICOS is given in H.Q.F.C's 011554 not to all addressees. (C. in C. Nore, 031145A to CAICOS, D.16).

Schelde  
Survey.

Intend to sail HYDROGRAAF at 0930 tomorrow, Monday, by inshore route to Harwich, expected time of arrival 1730 Tuesday, 5th December, for onward passage to Sheerness for onward routing to Western Schelde as ordered by C. in C. Nore. Anchoring for the night Monday-Tuesday at Blakeney (F.O. Humber, 031450A to F.O. Harwich).

Patrols.

Nore Night Dispositions. Sunday Dec. 3rd.  
Humber Force (Group 2) Harbour CATTISTOCK,  
COTTESMORE, CHARLESTOWN.

Harwich Force (Group 3) Patrols 15 SEYMOUR, 16 CURZON, 18 EKINS, 19 TORRINGTON and SLAZAK.

(Group 4). Harbour MACKAY, HAMBLEDON, WALPOLE, LEEDS, CAICOS, RETALICK, STAYNER, GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER, WIDGEON, SHELDRAKE, MALLARD.

Sheerness Force (Group 5) T.A.M.7, VERSATILE, LA COMBATTANTE A.T.M.3, HOLDERNESS.

(Group 6) Harbour PYTCHLEY, VIVACIOUS, GARTH, LUDLOW, VIMY, MENDIP, KINGCUP, ARMERIA, DRUMHELLER.

At Southend COSBY, LOOSESTRIFE.

At Yarmouth BLEASDALE, at Antwerp FERNIE.

(C. in C. Nore, 031539A to Admty).

Coastal force dispositions night 3/4 December:-

K.O.E.R2100 - 2 M.T.Bs., F.B.2.

K.O.M.C2654 - 1 Frigate, 4 M.T.Bs., F.9 2 (2 M.T.Bs.) F.9 3 (2 M.T.Bs.).

K.O.E.R2415 - 4 M.T.Bs.

2. No patrols from U.K. due to weather.

(C. in C. Nore, 031749A to Admty).

6 Hunt  
destroyers  
for Nore  
Command.

AVONVALE, BRECON, CROOME, EGGESFORD, FARNDALE, HAYDON are allocated to the Nore Command for service on arrival in U.K.

2. Four of these ships are required to adjust complements and give leave about the end of January, one mid February and one mid March

before returning to the Mediterranean for refit.

3. CROOME is expected to arrive in U.K. on 5th December and the remainder shortly afterwards.

4. A.M. 010050 Dec. refers.

(D.O.D. (H), 032135A to C. in C. Nore, and ships concerned).

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Cross-  
 Channel  
 pipe-line.

Owing to shore end difficulties at Dumbo  
 Operation Hamel, postponed 24 hours. Further  
 signal will be made.

(S.N.O. Pluto 030600A to V.A. Dover).

My 030600A. Owing to rapid deterioration in  
 weather conditions regret necessity of cancelling operation  
 Hamel for this tide period. Unit will be sailed towards Downs  
 as soon as cleared from Dungeness Buoys.

V.A. Dover is requested to sail Unit consisting of MARAUDER,  
 BUSTLER, CONUN and SCHELDE to Southend of Tilbury to arrive  
 Tilbury H.W. p.m. tomorrow Monday.

(S.N.O. Pluto, 031200A to V.A. Dover).

Your 031200A (not to C. in C. Nore) in view of weather  
 forecast it is considered inadvisable for unit to proceed to  
 Tilbury tomorrow Monday. Unit should remain at anchor in  
 Dungeness East Roads. Further signal will be made.

(V.A. Dover, 031756A to S.N.O. Pluto)

Patrols.

Night patrols 3/4th. Anti Snort zig-zag search  
 at steady 8 knots through areas limits given.

2. Start 1730 finish 0830. Courses to be  
 approximately east and west.

3. L'AVENTURE 50° 30', 50° 10', 01° 30' W. command west limit or  
 if no M.T.B. patrol extend south limit to 50° 06'.

4. VANQUISHER, BRILLIANT, ANTHONY as in my 021252.

5. M.T.Bs. 50° 10', 49° 50', 01° 30' command west limit.

U.S.S. BORUM may be met in this area.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031239A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).

Day patrols 4th December. Search Areas limits given.

2. L'AVENTURE, VANQUISHER. Z.107, 108, 112 North limit 50°  
 35'.

3. HARGOOD, VANOC, relieve L'AVENTURE, VANQUISHER.

4. BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, Z.119, 120, 121, 122 South limit 49° 47'.

5. M.T.Bs. command west limit and 10 miles east Q.Z.S.692. 50°  
 00'.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031251A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).

Air Patrols 4th. My Basegram 281728 Nov. Paras. 11, 12  
 and my 011554 December refer. (A) Patrols 6, 7. (B) 838  
 Squadron S.M.U. 842 Squadron W.F.M.

2. No Patrols tonight.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031607A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol  
 Force).

Cross-Channel  
 Telephone  
 lines

Para. 5 of S.N.O. Pluto's No. Tom/95 of 30th  
 October forwarded to Admiralty under Portsmouth No  
 7523/0/9814 of 5th November (neither to N.O.I.C.  
 Arrow).

As operation of Port-en-Bessin including "Tombola"  
 installation is being undertaken by the French intend to hand  
 over to them these two M.F.V. which are essential to the working  
 of "Tombola". Request covering approval.

(A.N.C.X.F., 031425A to Admty).

/Verification...



3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel - Contd.

Verification of suspected U-boat. It is required to examine the position of NORTHERN WAVE's attack on a suspected U-boat on 1st November, 1944, in approximate position 240° Lizard Head 8 miles.

2. The object of the examination is to confirm the presence of a U-boat, and if time and weather permit to obtain any available intelligence and ascertain the effect of weapons used in the attack.

3. It has been approved for TEDWORTH to be employed on this work.

4. Request you will - (a) arrange for the wreck to be accurately fixed and marked before diving is started.  
(b) provide A/S escort as considered necessary during the Operation.  
(A.C.N.S.(W) 031609A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Reliefs for French vessels. In order to provide reliefs for French vessels giving leave.  
(a) C. in C. W.A. is requested to transfer 2 frigates temporarily to C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(b) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to employ 2 vessels from the support groups operating in his command as necessary.

2. A.M. 280005 para. 4 refers.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 030113A to Cs. in C. W.A., Portsmouth, Plymouth)  
Present and additional commitments are such that I have no spare ships with which to meet A.M. 030113.

2. It has therefore become necessary to use ships from a support group temporarily and the two ships of 18th E.G. at present ready will be sailed for Portsmouth. My 031026 refers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 031028A to Admty).

Alleged boarding of Spanish VIRGEN DEL CARMEN. Report whether any ship of 5th E.G. has any knowledge of boarding of Spanish Fishing Vessel VIRGEN DEL CARMEN in approximate position six miles to westward of Tarifa Light at 0230A 14th November. F.O.G.M.A's 021641 to C. in C. Western Approaches only refers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 030138A to S.O.E.G.5).  
Your 030138A. Reply negative.  
(S.O.E.G.5, 031109A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. On relief by E.G.14 10th E.G. is to return to Plymouth for short lay over. C. in C. W.A., 021207A refers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 030934A to S.O.E.G.10)

/Request...

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches. - Contd.

Patrols. Request you will sail 2nd E.G. (Less LOCH FADA  
(contd). and LOCH RUTHVEN) p.m. tomorrow 4th through  
Irish Sea to relieve 30th E.G. operating in area  
51° to 51° 25' N., between 07° and 09° W.

2. On relief 30th E.G. proceed to Londonderry to lay over.
3. LOCH FADA and LOCH RUTHVEN are to arrive Belfast a.m. 6th  
for structural stiffening.

(C. in C. W.A., 031154A to Com. D.W.A.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 021207. Sailed HAVELOCK, DUNCAN and ICARUS  
to comply.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 031227A to Cs. in C. W.A. and  
Plymouth).

1. 14th E.G. on relieving 10th E.G. is to patrol rectangle  
saide 090° 30 miles, 180° 20 miles from position 50.45 N.,  
05.35 W. also carry out occasional search of Q.Z.S.583 from  
patrol area to Hartland Point.

2. The possibility of a U-boat snorting close inshore should  
not be overlooked.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031244A to S.O.E.G.14).

Sailed KENILWORTH CASTLE to rejoin group repairs to Asdic  
completed.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 031445A to S.O.E.G.30).

C. in C. Western Approaches' 021207 sailed ASSINIBOINE  
to rejoin Group.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 031517 to S.O.E.G.14).

30th E.G. PEVENSEY CASTLE, PORTCHESTER CASTLE, LAUNCESTON  
CASTLE operate South of Ireland.

KENILWORTH CASTLE joining from Milford Haven. Force 33 3rd  
E.G. DUCKWORTH, S.O., 4 Frigates with 19th E.G., HESPERUS, 2  
Frigate support S.C.161 U to 057° N., thence to area North of  
Ireland. Add to my 031209 25th E.G.ORKNEY, 3 Frigates operate  
Cape Wrath area.

(C. in C. W.A., 031525A to Admty).

Programme  
for Support  
Groups.

Following programme for support groups  
supersedes my 231056 November.

Group	Sail	Return	Sail
1.	Dec. 4	Dec. 28	-
2.	-	Dec. 12	Dec. 24
3.	-	Dec. 22	Jan. 3
4.	Dec. 11	Jan. 4	-
5.	Dec. 16	Jan. 4	-
6.	Dec. 10	Jan. 3	-
9.	-	Dec. 18	Dec. 30
10.	-	Dec. 9	Dec. 26
14.	-	Dec. 17	Dec. 29
15.	-	Dec. 8	Dec. 20
17.	-	Dec. 4	Dec.16
19.	-	Dec. 12	Dec. 24
20.	-	Dec. 18	Dec. 30
21.	Dec. 7	Jan. 1	-
25	-	Dec. 22	Jan. 3
26	Dec. 7	Dec. 6	Dec. 18
30	-	Dec. 6	Dec. 18
31	-	Dec. 12	Dec. 24

(C. in C. W.A., 031733A to Com. D.W.A., Capts. D.  
Liverpool, Greenock, Belfast).

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches - Contd.

A.A. sloops  
working up  
prior to  
sailing  
east.

It is desired that the 9 A.A. sloops in the  
address which are now refitting for service in  
East Indies should have -

(a) One week's training, including A/S exercises  
with a submarine, before leaving U.K. balance  
of A/S training to take place on East Indies  
Station; and

(b) about one week's intensive A.A. gunnery practices in the  
Mediterranean.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for training referred  
to in para. 1 (a).

3. C. in C. Med. is requested to afford facilities required by  
para. 1 (b). Sailing dates will be reported in due course.

(A.C.N.S. (F), 031735A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., PHEASANT,  
WOODCOCK, WHIMBREL, MAGPIE, STARLING, PEACOCK, AMETHYST, HART,  
WREN).

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SundayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Operation "V.P.77". M.T.B. 722 and M.T.B.711 returned at 1445A to-day 3rd December.  
(2) Two sweeps in Bommelo Fiord carried out. No shipping sighted. Very bad weather experienced in the Leads.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 031506A to A.C.O.S.)

Minelaying off Stavanger. Propose RUBIS shall carry out minelaying operation about 17th December in vicinity of 58 degs. 51' N. 05 degs. 31' E.  
(F.O.S/M 031614A to Admty.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Patrols. Relieved by 31st Escort Group. Proceeding at 16 knots. E.T.A. Cumbrae 0300A/4.  
(S.O.E.G.17, 030201 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)  
My 022210 Air Patrols cancelled due to weather.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 030859A to S.O.E.G.31)

2000 Movement Sunday section 1. E.G.31 BERKELEY CASTLE S.O. patrols between 060 degs. 25' N. 003 degs. 43' W. and 061 degs. 2' N. 004 degs. 15' W.  
E.G.25. ORKNEY S.O. patrol BUTT of Lewis and Cape Wrath area.  
(A.C.O.S. 031232A to Admty as amended by his 031644)  
Air patrol will be resumed between Faeroes and Shetlands from 0900 tomorrow 4th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 032231A to S.O. E.G.31)

Convoy R.A.61. Your 290955A. Group 17 arrived 2150A/2 December. Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O.North Russia, 030729A to S.B.N.O. Archangel)

Icelandic Corvettes. A.C.I.C. 301252. Reliefs for CHARLOCK and STARWORT cannot be provided without reduction in strength of close Escort groups as in my 292255 para. 3 or further breaking into Support groups. My 031028 refers.  
(2) Request Admiralty decision.  
(3) Neither signal to A.C.I.C.  
(C. in C. W.A. 031031A to Admty)

16 Russian S/M Chasers awaiting passage. A.M. 300045. It is proposed to accommodate 16 Russian S.C's at Inverary as soon as these ships are ready.  
(C. in C. W.A. 031107A to Admty)

3.12.1944  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Deep mining in St. George's Channel. Arrived APOLLO. (C. in C. Plymouth, 030910A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Final ground-mine reports. Final Ground-mine reports 20th to 23rd Nov.  
 (1) (a) 0947A/20th November, 1944.  
 (b) LL/SA in 'Q' MM/S 225 138 281.  
 (c) 2 Cables.  
 (d) MMS 281, 137 degs. N.F. 10 Buoy 11 Cables, 082 degs.  
 (e) Green 160 degs. 1 cable. (f) On, Blue to Port.  
 (g) 2 seconds.  
 (2) (3) (a) 1257A/20th November, 1944.  
 (b) LL/SA in 'Q' MM/S 281, 138, 225.  
 (d) MM/S 138, 063 degs. N.F. 10 buoy 22½ cables, 267 degs.  
 (e) (2) Red 160 degs. 2 cables (3) Green 170 degs. 2 cables.  
 (f) On, Blue to port. (g) 4 seconds.  
 (4) (a) 1307A/23rd November, 1944.  
 (b) MM/S 225, 138, 228, LL/SA in 'Q'.  
 (d) MM/S 225, 155 degs. N.F. 10 buoy 10½ cables, 261 degs.  
 (e) Red 172 degs. 1¾ cables.  
 (f) On, Blue to Starboard.  
 (g) 3 seconds.  
 (Capt. M/S F.B. 031052A to Admty.)

Proposed re-organisation of M/S Flotillas. A.N.C.X.F.'s 171535 October and F.O.B.A.A.'s 301239/ November.  
 It is for consideration that the time has now arrived when M/S Flotillas operating in the coastal and approach channels of the Dover Strait and in the ports of Calais, Boulogne, and later Dunkerque should be allocated to V.A. Dover who would

administer maintain and operate them.

(2) The following advantages would accrue from such an arrangement

(a) Control of M/S in the Dover Strait would be centralised under one administrative and operational authority.

(b) A.C. Dover would provide N.O.I.C. Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque with ships for their operational requirements relieving them as necessary.

(c) A regular cycle of work would be given to all M/S involved providing each with a fair share of interest and rest.

(d) Cross-Channel searched channels would be swept on passage to and from Continental ports.

(e) Immediate replacements of defective ships could be provided from Dover

(f) An economy in number of ships required would be effected.

(g) A high standard of efficiency and team-work should result and be of benefit during post-war mine clearance.

(3) Responsibility of Q messages and diversions of traffic in the Dover Strait would rest with A.C. Dover.

(V.A. Dover, 031403A to A.N.C.X.F., F.O.B.A.A.)

/Minesweeping...

War Diary3.12.1944  
SundayHOME COMMANDSMining - Contd.

Minesweeping Operations "Calender".  
of (1) Sweeping to-day Sunday 3rd December SA/LL.  
Schelde. (a) Terneuzen to Bat.  
(b) Terneuzen to N.F.17.  
(c) N.F.17 to 2 miles west of N.F.13 with local extra laps.

(d) Flushing Harbour. (e) Hansweerd Harbour entrance.  
(f) Anchorage in Schaar Van De Noord.  
(g) Special sweeping referred to in C. in C. Nore's 261609.  
(h) LAA sweeping at Antwerp.  
(i) LAA sweeping in canal at Terneuzen.

Oropesa (Sweep). (a) N.F.18 to 2 miles west of N.F.13.  
(b) Western half of Hoofdplaat.  
(2) Ground mines 2 (one acoustic off Kaloot(?s) in Flushing harbour) moored mine one (near N.F.16 outside channel, mine sunk).  
(3) Surveying work is continuing.  
(4) (a) 30 V. Cutters complete pattern number 8931, 20 Kites (corrupt group) pattern number 8733.  
(b) Request L.C.P.(L) 275, believed to be at Sheerness, be sent Terneuzen as soon as practicable.  
(5) B.Y.M.S. 2141 M.M.S.175, 173, 69, 113, 26, M.F.V. 1027, 1074.  
(Capt. M/S.F.A.031959A to C. in C. Nore.)

U\_Boats

Situation No fresh information in this area, one possibly  
Report. north of Hartland Point, another possibly west  
of Trevoise Head.  
Possibly one quite unfixed in Central English  
Channel area.  
(D.D.I.C. 031417A to Cominch)

Shipping and Convoys

QUENTIN My 012348 December.  
ROOSEVELT. Methil is requested to sail French Vessel QUENTIN  
ROOSEVELT to Leith.  
(2) On arrival, vessel to be paid off except that  
care and maintenance party may be required, if  
necessary, until vessel is taken over on demand by D. of S.T. for  
return to French Authorities.  
(3) Dates of sailing, arrival and handing over to be reported to  
Admiralty.  
(D.S.V.P.030103A to N.O.I.C's Methil and Leith)

NAP/ANP Cancel my 261211 November. To meet requirements  
Convoys of N.O.I.C.Ostend namely:  
to and from (a) Ships arrive off Ostend 3½ hours before H.W.  
Ostend. and (b) Sail on same tide one hour after H.W.  
Following revised programme is intended commencing  
with sailing of S/S CANTERBURY at 0915 Friday 8th.

/All ...

3.12.1944  
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

N.A.P/A.N.P. Convoys to and from Ostend. (Contd.)	All times B.S.T. Date	Convoy	Leave	Arrive
	8th	N.A.P.1	0915	1615
	8th	N.A.P.2	2145	0445/9
	9th	N.A.P.3	2300	0600/10
	10th	N.A.P.4	2359	0700/11
	12th	N.A.P.5	0055	0755
	13th	N.A.P.6	0140	0840
	14th	N.A.P.7	0215	0915
	15th	N.A.P.8	0245	0945
	8th	A.N.P.1	2045	0445/9
	10th	A.N.P.2	1015	1815
	19th	A.N.P.3	1030	1830
	11th	A.N.P.4	1130	1930
	12th	A.N.P.5	1225	2025
	13th	A.N.P.6	1310	2110
	14th	A.N.P.7	1345	2145
	15th	A.N.P.8	1415	2215

- (2) C. in C. Nore is requested to sail two escorts to arrive Dover p.m. Thursday 7th.
- (3) It is important that times of departure which are from berth alongside be adhered to strictly.
- (4) To allow sufficient time for turn round of A.N.P.2 in daylight, sailing must be delayed until two hours after H.W.
- (5) Ensuing programme will be promulgated by letter.
- (V.A.Dover, 031408A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Ostend, R.N.O. Folkestone). (as amended by his 041930A)  
 A.N.C.X.F..Buco 301438 November.
- When W.A.P. convoys are replaced by N.A.P. convoys running from Folkestone their escort is to become a Nore commitment.
- (2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to transfer 3 destroyers to the Nore for this purpose.  
 (D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 032358A to C's in C. Portsmouth, Nore.)

Major troopship movements to 1st Jan.

Following is summary 67 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period to 1st January, 1945:

Serial No.	Convoy	Ship	Port	Due.
(A) In: -				
(1)	C.U.48	Composition as notified		4.12
(2)	M.K.S.68	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	Clyde	4.12
(3)	A.T.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	7.12
(4)	A.T.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	8.12
(5)	A.T.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	12.12
(6)	C.U.49	ARAWA	Liverpool	} possibly after disembarkation at Southampton 12.12
		BRITTANIC	Liverpool	
(7)	A.T.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	14.12
(8)	A.T.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	16.12

War Diary3.12.1944  
SundayHOME COMMANDSShipping and ConvoysMajor  
troopship  
movements  
to 1st Jan.  
(Contd.)

Summary No.67 continued.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
(9)	A.T.173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	16.12
(10)	S.D.60	ORDUNA	Clyde	18.12
(11)	M.K.F.36A	ORMONDE	Possibly Liverpool	abt. 18.12
(12)	C.U.50	Ships not yet allocated to ports		20.12
(13)	A.T.174	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	22.12
(14)	A.T.175	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	abt. 22.12
(15)	A.T.176	AQUITANIA	Clyde	28.12
(16)	A.T.177	PASTEUR	Liverpool	30.12
(B) Out:				<u>Sails</u>
(17)	T.A.168	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	abt. 6.12.
(18)	U.C.48A	U.S.Ships ex C.U.48		8.12
(19)	D.S.60	ORDUNA	Clyde	11.12
(20)	T.A.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	12.12
(21)	T.A.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	13.12
(22)	T.A.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	16.12
(23)	U.C.49A	U.S.Ships ex C.U.49 plus ATHLONE CASTLE ex Liver- pool.		16.12
(24)	M.K.F.37	Composition as notified		16.12
(25)	T.A.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	17.12
(26)	K.M.S.73	DILWARA	Clyde	18.12
(27)	T.A.170B	U.S.MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	19.12
(28)	T.A.173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	21.12
(29)		ANDES	Liverpool	21.12
(30)	U.C.50A	U.S.Ships ex C.U.50		24.12
(31)	T.A.174	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	28.12
(32)	T.A.175	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	Abt. 28.12

(2) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 9.12 when further signal will be made.

(D.of S.T.031703A to P.S.T.O's Clyde and N.W. Portsmouth)



War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

Zig-zagging. Is it your intention that zig-zagging should be suspended for all ships in Area 3A? Your 291131 November para. 5 and A.M. 221251A January refer.  
(D.T.D., 030034A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

FAL. FAL sailed 1656Z/2nd Dec. Q.L.A. 230, L.H.4, Q.J.B. 10 to 14.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 030953Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

DUGUAY-TROUIN. Arrived 0800/3rd Dec. F.S. DUGUAY-TROUIN.  
(Comar Dakar, 031307Z.)

S.L. Convoys, cessation. Consequent on cessation of S.L. convoys request you will pass to F.O.G.M.A., Info. F.O.C.W.Af. signals such as your 021821 November including brief description of cargo.  
(D.T.D., 031705A to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

Consequent on certain vessels previously sailed to Freetown for convoy now being routed to Gibraltar request you pass following information to F.O.G.M.A., Info. Admiralty -

- (a) Name of ship.
- (b) Brief description of cargo.
- (c) Destination in U.K.
- (d) Estimated deepest draught on arrival in U.K.

(D.T.D., 031716A to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af., Info. F.O.G.M.A.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 051315A.

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- EMILE BERTIN. Sail at 0900B/4th through Q.B.C. 927 thence via R.2 to Alexandria, S.O.A. 24 knots, E.T.A. 0800/5th. Codeword "Carnival" callsign 130. Keep continuous W/T watch on area broadcast. (S.B.N.O. Greece 031135B to EMILE BERTIN.)
- KING GEORGE V. Owing to temporary blockage in Canal transit of KING GEORGE V is delayed 24 hours. Ship now arrived Suez 4th Dec. My 301352 Nov. refers. (F.O.L.E.M. 031145B to Admty., etc.)
- PACIFIC, Programme for cable ship PACIFIC on return to cable repairs. Malta. Restore A. Malta-Alexandria number 10, 68 miles from Malta. B. Malta-Alexandria number 1 in approx. position 34° 46' 17" 12'. C. Malta-Alexandria number 3 in approx. position 34° 28' 20" 10'.  
(2) Ship is to be sailed without escort and ordered to proceed Alexandria on completion.  
(C. in C. Med. 031150 to V.A. Malta, F.O.L.E.M. Info. Admty.) Reply 041320.
- Air Cosit- Coastal Air Force. (?Day 2 Dec.) 4 Beaufighters with 2 Spits. escorting, scored R.P. and cannon hits on 2 barges at South Giorgio and another two barges at Falazzolo, leaving one in flames. A 150 foot coaster and 2/30 foot motor launches were also attacked and one motor launch left sinking.  
Later in same area, 2 Beaufighters and 2 Spitfires scored hits on 5 barges. 4 Venturas on armed R/C Savona/Spezia attacked 20 barges and an E-Boat with unobserved results.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 031233A.)
- TERPSICHORE, Taking TUSCAN and TYRIAN under your orders proceed TUSCAN, to pass 309 at 1330B/5th thence direct to 035° TYRIAN. 08' N. 017° 45' E. for onward routeing as directed by V.A.M. to Malta. My 261054 Nov. not to all refers.  
(2) S.O.A. 20 knots. (3) "Paternity" 586.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 031417B to TERPSICHORE.)
- ENGADINE. After transit of canal request you sail ENGADINE as convenient to area limit for onward routeing by V.A.M. to Gibraltar for U.K. N.O.I.C. Aden's 301620 not to all refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 031431B to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)
- EMPIRE DACE M.S.O. 436 D. (1) EMPIRE DACE. (2) British. (sunk 1st (3) 1st December 1700A. (4) Entrance Missolonghi December.) Channel. (5) Explosion cause not yet found. (6) Sunk. (7) 48 Military officers and British other ranks and 1 other tank.

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

EMPIRE 436A para.3. Entire crew missing believed killed.  
 DACE 2 bodies recovered no identification other than  
 (sunk 1st shoulderstrap. (a) 2 Straight. (b) 2 stripes  
 December) and diamond. Crew list not held, not known if  
 (Contd.) D.E.M.S. carried.  
 (B.N.L.O.Patras, 031655B to Admty.).

Economy in Arrangements outlined in para.1 of your 181513  
 communications. Nov. should enable F.O.G.M.A. to include brief  
 description of cargo in advance and sailing  
 telegrams and estimated deepest draught on  
 arrival in U.K. in sailing telegrams for M.K.S.  
 convoys. Item 11 of sailing telegram cannot be dispensed with.  
 No objection to omitting Gibraltar from info. addressees of  
 para.1 (b).  
 (D.T.D., 031704A to C. in C.Med.).

Kavella Kavella Harbour is clear of mines.  
 minesweeping. (?S.O. M/S, 031734B to F.O.L.E.M.).

Minesweeping Retrospect situation report 4.  
 Italy (a) Q.B.Y.25 swept to depth 13 fathoms today  
 (south). between latitude 039° 45' 42" N. and 039° 43' 24"  
 N. six mines cut; 3 near position 039° 44' 30"  
 018° 06' 00", 2 near position 039° 44' 06" 018°  
 05' 48" and one in position 039° 43' 30" 018° 05' 15". Expect  
 to complete this area, including check sweep over area where  
 mines were found A.M. tomorrow then -  
 (b) High percentage search in Q.B.133 and returning to Taranto  
 with remainder of sweep force on completion.  
 (c) Sweeping carried out in Q.B.133 was to depth 16 fathoms.  
 (S.O. M/S.F.13, 031847A to F.O.T.A.L.I.).

Situation On 28th Nov. METEOR and KELVIN who were  
 report accompanied by Coastal Craft, bombarded Piscopi.  
 No.494 Enemy sustained casualties and C. O's. house  
 was hit. Surrender was demanded but enemy did  
 not respond. A small raiding party was landed  
 during this operation.  
 (C. in C.Med., 031959A).

*Convoys*  
*Discontinued.*

*(in C med, 031833A) See next page.*

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B No fresh information. Scales unchanged.  
dispositions. (C. in C. E.I., 030341Z).

11th D.F. Relief of 11 Flotilla. Your 281046 not to  
refits. C. in C. S.A. refers. Arrangements had been made  
in my 181103 November to C. in C. S.A. for  
RELENTLESS and RAIDER to refit from mid February  
to end March and for ROCKET from end March to mid May in South  
Africa. No other destroyers will be available from East Indies  
Station to refit there between these dates.  
2. Request confirmation that above destroyers should accompany  
their Flotilla to U.K. and not refit in South Africa.  
(C. in C. E.I., 030601Z to Admty). Reply from C. in C. S.A.,  
091632B.

Refits at Expect CUMBERLAND to arrive Simonstown early  
Simonstown. Jan. to refit followed by NIGERIA and LONDON  
in that order at 6 weekly intervals. Your 242025  
and my 181103 Nov. not to all refer.  
2. Probable that VALIANT will require dock at Durban for  
examination of under water damage about 1st week January.  
3. No further programme for capital ships or Fleet Carriers can  
yet be forecast.  
4. Escort carrier programme remains as in para. 4 of my 181103  
Nov.  
(C. in C. E.I., 030602Z to C. in C. S.A.)

S/Ms from Departure BENGAL, submarines RORQUAL, VIVID,  
Mediterranean. VIRTUE.  
(Com. Aden, 031520Z, to Admty).

U/B German U-boat by D/F on 11470 k/cs within 120  
miles of 024° S., 086° east at 1217Z/3rd Dec.  
(C. in C. E.I., 031715Z to E.I. Stn).

A.F.D.17 MASTERFUL has been diverted to Massawa with  
defects E.T.A. 5th N.O.I.C. Massawa is requested  
to report estimated time required to make good  
defects after arrival. LARIAT continuing tow of  
A.F.D.17 to Aden.  
(Com. Aden, 031810Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean

Convoys T.C/C.T. convoys will be discontinued after 10th  
Discontinued. December.  
2. Ships for (?dispersal) are to be escorted from  
seaward end of Q.B.B. 280 and routes signals are  
to be made at least 48 hours before estimated time of departure  
to allow local escort to effect R/V.  
3. F.O.N.A.M. is requested to arrange that 3 local escorts  
are provided at Cagliari by 9th December.  
4. Med. Station 186 B para. 10 is amended accordingly.  
(C. in C. Med., 031833A to F.O.N.A.M., N.O.I.C. Tunisia).

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- NELSON. Subject to the concurrence of Cominch, NELSON should be sailed for U.K. in C.U. convoy. Destination Portsmouth. Your 012143 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 030107A to B.A.D.)
- KIOWA. At 14 knots U.S.S. KIOWA departs point X Bermuda 1230/03 through (K) 34.25 N., 60.10 W. (L) 36.05 N., 50.15 W. (M) 36.20 N., 40.05 W. (N) 36.30 N., 30.55 W. (O) 38.30 N., 27.00 W. thence Bahia, Praia, Terceira, Azores. Times Z. KIOWA holds this message Q.B.A. 137 and Q.J.H. 363. E.T.A. (M) 0530/07, (O) 0430/09. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 030408 to Comnavzor.)
- Independent Routes, U.S. to Med. "Quince" and "Prune". Your 021339. Concur. C. in C. Med. is requested to promulgate as necessary. (Plot T.D., 031208A to Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.))
- U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 031405Z, Cominch 031525Z.)
- S/M O.21. Comeastseafron amend sailing date my 221103 of Nov. not needed by all to read 10 December. About 30 Dec. when ready Cinclant sail H.N.M. S/M O.21 New London to Canal Zone for onward sailing by Compaseafron. Cinclant provide escort New London to Canal Zone. Compaseafron sail O.21 independently to Fremantle and direct vessel report Comseventh Fleet for duty in Task Force 71 on arrival Sovespac area. (Cominch, 031922 to Cinclant, Comeastseafron, Compaseafron, Com. Seventh Fleet.)
- CORNWALLIS, torpedoed. First report since Cominch 282049 para. B. About 031000Z British cargo CORNWALLIS reported torpedoed vicinity Mt. Desert Rock in Gulf of Maine. (Cominch, 032013Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)
- SS. CORNWALLIS torpedoed believed sunk in approximate position 43.59 N., 68.20 W. at 1000Z/3rd. (C. in C. C.N.A., 032257Z to Admty., etc.)

Australia and New Zealand

- Digest 1047, covering 2nd Dec. (1) 11 new (corrupt portion) towing fuel barge 150 miles south-east Balikpapan course south-east; larger merchantman hit exploded and sank almost immediately.

War Diary.3.12.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest 1047,  
covering  
2nd Dec.  
(Contd.)

- (8) One sea truck, one lugger unsuccessfully attacked south-east coast Tablas Island evening. Previous day one medium freighter, 1 gunboat seen this location by search Ventura which also attacked one sea truck off north-east coast Mindoro.
- (9) 5 ship convoy including probably two or three transports plus destroyers and escorts sighted southern Sibuyan Sea (corrupt groups) proceeding southward and last seen off northern tip Cebu. Allied destroyers in Camotes Sea after dark apparently did not contact, but were subjected to continuous air attacks suffering damage. [Further details, see page 92 B]
- (11) Midday R/C Liberator destroyed one sea truck in northern Guimarad Strait.
- (14) Kittyhawks bombed strafed jetty Palompon evening rendering same unserviceable.
- (?15) Night 29th November P.T. Boats operating Samar Sea attacked medium freighter apparently unloading south tip Masbate Island leaving same burning, listing and setting (5 groups missing), 8 experienced and one shot down another damaged.
- (?16) Search Paanjs midday 1st December D.B.F.R. saw single large freighter transport (corrupt portion) SX LL freighter off Capix on north coast Panay; ship later exploded and sank leaving one hundred personnel in water.
- (18) Next night one tanker damaged by patrol plane Puerto Princesa Bay.
- (22) 2 Liberators searching north Borneo 29th November, sank two small freighters probably sank third similar vessel Varudea Bay. Next day two large, two small cargo vessels observed Marudu Bay and on 1st December only three luggers, one small coaster present; last named ship destroyed by R/C plane.
- (23) R/C Liberator sunk large sea truck in Brunei Bay 1st December, also destroyed one small escort and damaged second escort. Next day one large freighter only present Brunei Bay besides sunken ship visible.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 030758Z.)

S/Ms. for  
B.P.F.

W.P.S. Glasgow's 291735 Nov. Any postponement of AORANGI's date of completion will delay the build up of submarines in British Pacific Fleet. Admiralty's 251111 Nov. refers.  
(F.O. S/M., 031337A to Admty.)  
Note by War Registry: A.M. 251111 November was Hush Top Secret.

618 Sqdn.

Following from Air Ministry to Air Attaché Melbourne for Base Accounts Officer is passed to you for information. (Quotes X.45 1/12 T.O.O. 011640Z.)  
(A.C.N.S.(A), 031649A to F.O.N.A.S. (Australia), F.O.C. Aircraft Carriers, B.P.F.)

War Diary.

3.12.1944.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/3rd December.  
Para. D. At 0712Z/3rd December, F.S. L'AVENTURE  
attacked contact probably non-submarine, in lat.  
50° 07' N., long. 01° 54' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 031137A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 031401A, 031429A.)

War Diary4.12.1944  
MondaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. Cominch has directed the return to U.S.A. of all repairable L.C.T's as they become surplus and transport is available. They are now being assembled at South Coast ports. It is estimated that 60 craft can be loaded in L.S.T's and merchant ships during the next two months.

2. Prisoners of War on the Western Front now exceed three-quarters of a million.

North Sea.

3. In the South Beveland Canal the locks at Hansweerd and Wemeldinge can now be operated by hand. Minesweeping has been completed as far as the Hansweerd blockships.

Channel.

4(a) Portland M.T.Bs. were again weatherbound, and no air patrols were flown.  
(b) An E-Boat, probably operationally fit, is reported in St. Peter's Port by our Photographic Reconnaissance Unit.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

KING GEORGE V. 5. The KING GEORGE V completed the transit of the Canal southward, with two slight groundings without damage. She left Suez on the 5th for Aden.

Minesweeping. 6. The Commander-in-Chief has congratulated the minesweepers on the station on sweeping over 2,000 mines since September 1. The achievements of the B.Y.M.S., M.M.S. and M.L's have been particularly praiseworthy.

Greece.  
Disorder  
in Athens.

7. Disorders occurred in the Athens-Piraeus area to-day between rival parties in Greece. At 0630 armed forces of the E.L.A.S. made an assault on the Greek Royal Naval College (headquarters of the Royal Hellenic Navy and Combined Naval Headquarters in Piraeus). The situation was restored by 1130. A stray shot killed an R.N. officer's interpreter. Three British seamen were injured, one seriously. Subsequently the White Ensign was hoisted at the Naval Headquarters alongside the Greek Ensign.

/The ...



War Diary4.12.1944  
MondaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanGreece.  
Disorder  
in Athens.  
(Contd.)

The unloading of cargoes has been interfered with, but continues. In the Peloponnese, a general strike was declared to-day in Patras.

Aegean.  
Rhodes  
bombarded.

8. The cruiser AURORA and destroyers MUSKETEER, MARNE and METEOR carried out a bombardment of enemy shipping at Rhodes at 1855B, in heavy rain. Radar fixes of all the ships agreed within 200 yards. Rounds fired were 154 of 6 inch and 399 of 4.7 inch. Enemy reaction was slow, the first star shell bursting four minutes after the cease fire; the delay was attributed to rain and supertime.

East Indies.

U-Boat

9. A U-Boat was sighted on the surface last night and attacked by a Liberator aircraft in 12.37 N. 88.40 E. about 290 miles west of the Andamans, and a probable kill claimed.

SEADOG.

10. The submarine SEADOG had left the United Kingdom in Convoy K.M.S.71 for Gibraltar, Malta and the East Indies.

Trincomalee.

11. There is a shortage of watering craft at Trincomalee and H.M. ships cannot be serviced adequately. Of 11 1300 ton tankers promised in the autumn of 1943 only five have arrived.

China

Air Attacks.

12. Three Liberators attacked three enemy vessels south-east of Formosa, probably sinking one and damaging another. One 250 ft. freighter was also sunk off Shanghai.

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Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

Future of  
Navicert  
System.

13. Replying to the U.S. Chiefs of Staff inquiry on November 23, the British Chiefs of Staff propose to discontinue the censorship of mail between Europe and South America at Trinidad, San Juan and elsewhere, three months after German hostilities cease. It is intended to continue the Navicert system substantially in its present form as long as may be politically expedient after hostilities cease in Europe.

U.G.S.63.

14. A total of 116 ships has been authorised for Convoy U.G.S.63.

Australia and New Zealand

Dutch  
S/MS.

15. The material condition of the Dutch submarines K.14 and K.15, at present at Melbourne, has become very poor. The C. in C. U.S. Fleet, purposes they should be returned to the Dutch. B.A.D. Washington concurs.

Philippines.

16. A reconnaissance Liberator destroyed one lugger and one barge in Sarangani Bay.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Return of  
L.C.Ts. to  
U.S.A.

CR No.224. Return to United States of all repairable L.C.Ts. as they become in excess and transportation is available on L.S.Ts. and merchant ships has been directed by Cominch. Craft now being assembled at South Coast bases.

Use of Northern Ports for loading appears inadvisable due -  
(A) Risk involved in sailing craft and undue length of time required in movement of L.C.Ts. to Northern ports, and  
(B) Lack of U.S. Navy disassembly crews and supervision by established U.S. Navy Bases.

Comphibsukay will provide these facilities at Plymouth and Portsmouth. Admty. requested to provide necessary crane facilities for accomplishing lift at both ports. Heaviest lift disassembled L.C.Ts. to be loaded on Merchant ships is approximately 65 tons. Total weight per L.C.T. approximately 160 tons. Estimate 60 craft to be handled in this manner over period next two months. Comphibsukay will be directed to make necessary local arrangements.  
(Comnaveu, 041406 to Admty).

Conduct of  
air and  
surface  
craft.

As from 0001 Greenwich Mean Time 5 December, cancel last sentence of A.G.M. 885A of 13th November, and add new para. 5 -  
"Where the areas specified in A.G.M.982A of 2nd December overlap the areas defined in paragraph 1 of A.G.M. 885A the rules in A.G.M.982A will apply"  
(Hd. of M., 042036A to Air Ministry).

Movements.

IMPLACABLE

D.5122's 032001. Request this be given favourable consideration to avoid delay in returning ship to service.  
(C. in C. H.F., 041043A to C. in C. Rosyth).

KENT

KENT leave Scapa passing Hoxa Gate at 1100 Thursday 7th Dec. and proceed by Minches and standard route to Greenock arriving Clyde Gate at 0800/8th Dec. My 271142 not to all refers.  
2. Com. D. H.F. is requested to provide two destroyers to escort KENT from Scapa as far as 58° N.  
3. KENT is to sail from Clyde so as to arrive Scapa by a.m. Sunday 17th December.  
(C. in C. H.F., 041259A to KENT, Com. D.H.F.)

DUQUESNE,  
GLOIRE.

Following French ships arrived Brest 1430 this date December 4th. DUQUESNE, GLOIRE, SOMALI, HOVA, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ and 7 minesweepers.  
(C.T.U., 125.14.7, 041451A to C.T.F.125, C. in C. Plymouth).

/ROSELYS...

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.ROSELYS,  
ACONIT.

Reference Admty. 280005A and my 281741A and my 281741A F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail F.S. ROSELYS and ACONIT to Brest a.m. 6th December to arrive position A of Q.Z.S.617 at

0900A/7th. Daylight entry is necessary, as no navigational lights in Brest approaches are working.

(2) Route - Standard convoy route to position D of Q.Z.S. 583 thence to position A of Q.Z.S.617 and into Brest.

(3) B.N.L.O's communication ratings and all S.Ps, C.Bs. etc. are to be disembarked before ships leave Milford Haven. Admty's 021524A (not to all) refers.

(4) Ships will boiler clean whilst at Brest and all necessary gear is to be embarked before sailing. Admiralty's 290006A refers.

(5) C.T.F.125 is requested to sail ROSELYS and ACONIT to arrive Milford Haven 27th December.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041839A to F.O.I.C. Milford, C.T.F., 125)

SNOWDROP

When ready about 8th December SNOWDROP should be sailed for Tobermory for about one weeks work up. 2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for SNOWDROP to return to F.O.C. W.Af. as convenient on conclusion.

(D.O.D. (H), 042306A to F.O.I.C. Tyne, C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.Situation Reports.

Military.

In Holland moderate opposition but considerable artillery fire offered by enemy Venlo Area Blerick clear but small pocket resisting to Northeast.

Enemy blew dyke at E.710763 evening 3rd December causing flooding up to two feet depth area between 61 and 71 Eastings and 76 and 71 Northings. Elst-Arnhem road partially submerged.

Prisoners of War: Accumulative total to 2400 hrs. 30th Nov. 752,109.

General: Flooding initiated by enemy between Neder Rijn and Waal may portend renewed effort to drive Allies back behind Nijmegen: enemy's continued nervousness about this area shown by presence of valuable 6 Parachute Division.

(S.H.A.E.F., 041645 to War Office).

Naval.

Cositintrep No.244 Part II Naval.

1. South Beveland Canal.

Locks at both Handsweerd and Wemeldinge now capable of manual operation.

Minesweeping up to blockships at Handsweerd has been completed and salvage vessels are about to commence clearance.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Reports.

Naval  
(contd).

11. Unloading figures for 3rd December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	59	16	1,050	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,748	-
Calais	-	-	-	-
Antwerp	-	36	15,702	5,057
Ostend	Figures not yet received.			
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>5,057</b>
<u>United States</u>				
Cherbourg	-	-	12,905	-
Brittany Ports	-	60	5,885	-
Le Havre	1,762	166	5,544	-
Rouen	539	177	4,892	3,327
Antwerp	-	-	6,908	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>36,134</b>	<b>3,327</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>55,634</b>	<b>8,384</b>

(A.N.C.X.F., 042350 to Admty).

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols Weather unsuitable your 031251\*para. 5.  
(N.O.I.C. Portland, 041201A to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
\*Day patrols 4th December.

Night Patrols 4th/5th.

Anti-snort zig-zag search steady 8 knots through areas limits given.

2. Courses to be approximately east and west. Start 1730 finish 0830.

3. HARGOOD H Channel Q.Z.S. 636 route E 49° 47'.

4. Remainder area inside lines joining Z buoy 155° Beachy 9 052° Cape D'Antifer 23.58 E. buoy Kansas.

5. Divide area into 3 sections by lines joining 154° G.1 buoy 4 to J 4 buoy and 154° J buoy 7 to 50° 09' 00° 33' E.

6. ANTHONY take north section.

7. BRILLIANT centre section.

8. VANQUISHER south section.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041253A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).

/My...

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Channel.

Patrols. My 041253A in paras. 6, 7, 8. Ships should read  
(contd). VANOC, BRILLIANT, ANTHONY respectively.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041525A to Portsmouth A/S  
Patrol Force).

Day Patrols 5th.

Search along lines joining points given and also area enclosed.

(2) HARGOOD, VANOC H.2, A.4, H.5 buoys.

(3) BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, J, Kansas, 14 E 12 buoys.

(4) M.T.Bs. area limits Q.Z.S.620 line N.1 to H.5 buoy west to  
command limit.(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041534A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol  
Force).Air Patrols 5th: May basegram 281728 November para. 11, 12  
and my 011554 December refer.

A. Patrols 6, 7. B. 838 Squadron EWW, 842 Squadron MPY.

2. No patrols tonight.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041700A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol  
Force).

Investigation of suspected U-boat off Lizard. Your 031621A and Admiralty's 031609A. Propose proceeding for Falmouth at 0830 tomorrow Tuesday in order to be readily available.  
(TEDWORTH, 041230 to C. in C. Plymouth).  
Your 042000A, and your 041230A approved. Report E.T.A. Falmouth direct.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 042115A to TEDWORTH)

E-boat,  
probably  
operational,  
in Guernsey.

P.R.U. has shown the presence of 1 E-boat in St. Peter's Port on 21st November. As she has now been in Channel Is. for sometime apparently inactive it should be assumed that by this time she is operational.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041654A to Admty, C. in C. Portsmouth and General in Channel Area)

French  
Fishing  
Facilities.

Your 301158 November, para. 2. Approved. C. in C. Portsmouth and A.C. Dover concur.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 041855A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Disposal of  
tugs in  
British  
operated  
ports in  
France.

Proposed arrangements for disposal of tugs in British operated ports in Northern France are in paras. 2 to 5 below.

2. Dieppe. (a) Two Tids to be released about 22nd December. (b) Two Coal Burning Tids and sea-going (Empire) Tugs to be retained.

3. Boulogne.

(a) Two Tids to be transferred to Calais and sea-going tugs to be released about 22nd December, or when stores, discharge programme is reduced. (b) Two Tids to be retained.

4. Exact dates for release or transfer of tugs to be decided by N.Os. I.C. when programme for reduction of ports is firm and to be reported to A.N.C.X.F. (Cotug) and F.O.B.A.A.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel

Disposal of tugs in British operated port in France. (contd).

- 5. N.O.I.C. Boulogne to obtain confirmation from N.O.I.C. Calais that Tids in Para. 3 (a) are still required before sailing them.
- 6. Programme for tugs at Arrow was given in N.O.I.C. Arrow's 281824.
- 7. Propose that Tids to be retained in Dieppe and Boulogne (see Paras. 2 (b) and 3 (b) above) shall be turned over to the French and manned by them as will be the Army Tids left at Caen. Request Admiralty sanction be detained for this transfer.  
(F.O.B.A.A., 041927A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Disposal of Harbour craft from British-operated port in France.

- A.N.C.X.F. 262042.
- 1. Request disposal of Harbour Craft which can be released from British operated ports in Northern France as shown in paras. 3, 4 and 5 below.
- 2. It is considered that only M.F.V. are capable of proceeding under own power to the Ports, and then only if escorted and with favourable weather and forecast which may entail considerable delay in sailing. Other craft must be lifted in either.

(a) Coasters or L.C.T. This can be arranged by N.Os. I.C. subject to concurrence of A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) and D. of S.T. but immediate destination may be governed to same extent by the usual run of these vessels, or

(b) L.S.D. In this case it is anticipated that it will be several weeks at least before any lift can be obtained.

3. Dieppe.

(a) Available now: 2 Harbour Launch Petrol, 1 Fast Motor Boat, 5 Motor Dinghies.

(b) Available about 22nd December: 2 General Service M.F.V. 1 Fire Fighting M.F.V.

4. Boulogne.

Available about 22nd December. 2 General Service M.F.V., 1 Medically fitted M.F.V., 1 Fire Fighting M.F.V., 1 Passenger Launch Diesel. 1 Harbour Launch Petrol. 5 Motor Dorries.

5. Rouen.

Available about 12th December. 1 Harbour Launch Petrol.

6. Craft available at Arrow were reported in N.O.I.C. Arrow's 302002, which includes craft previously reported in N.O.I.C. Arrow's 261937, F.O.B.A.A., 011253 also refers.

7. Request very early reply in view of para. 2 (a) above. Since this method of lift will only be available for very limited period.

(F.O.B.A.A., 041936A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Suspected U-boat.

By D/F on 5405 n k/cs, at 2248Z/3rd, U-boat making WW message estimated possibly within 100 miles of 56° 30' N., 20° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 040034A to Escorts of O.N.S.37)

/Patrols...

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches - Contd.

Patrols. Arrived 10th E.G.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 040939A to C. in C. W.A.)  
25th E.G. ORKNEY 3 frigates operating Cape Wrath area. 30th E.G. CAP DE LA MADELAINE, 3 corvettes operating south of Ireland (R).  
Force 33 3rd E.G. DUCKWORTH, 4 frigates and 19th E.G. HESPERUS, 5 frigates operating in groups Barra Head to Northern Irish coast. (C. in C. W.A. 041553A to Admty.)  
Sailed 2nd E.G. to comply with C. in C. W.A.'s 031154A Dec. S.O. 30th E.G. is requested to arrange R/V.  
(Com. D.W.A. 041720A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Amend my 031154 not to all. 1st E.G. leaving Belfast Lough about 0100/5th proceed to patrol area bounded by A.  $51^{\circ} 02'$ ,  $09^{\circ} 48'$  B.  $50^{\circ} 40'$ ,  $10^{\circ} 30'$ . C.  $49^{\circ} 53'$ ,  $09^{\circ} 35'$ . D.  $50^{\circ} 17'$ ,  $08^{\circ} 50'$ .  
(2) 2nd E.G. less LOCH FADA and LOCH RUTHVEN proceed to patrol area bounded by E.  $51^{\circ} 08'$ ,  $11^{\circ} 10'$  F.  $51^{\circ} 30'$ ,  $10^{\circ} 24'$  G. and H. the same as A and B respectively.  
(3) On 2nd E.G. crossing  $08^{\circ}$  W. 30th E.G. proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 042348A to S.O.E.Gs. 1, 2, 30.)  
1st E.G. AFFLECK sails Belfast Lough 0100A/5 southbound in Irish Sea 12.  
(C. in C. W.A. 042350A to Admty.)

Operations.Norway.

Submarine Chasers Operation "S.C." (4) Between 1830A/6th Dec. and 0600A/7th Dec. intend to sail "S.C" operation from Shetlands.  
(1) 0001A/6th Dec. from Scalloway.  
(2)  $075^{\circ}$  from Sumburgh Head 12 knots.  
(3) 1800A/6th December.  
(5)  $255^{\circ}$  to Sumburgh Head 15 knots.  
(6) p.m. 7th December. (7)  $075^{\circ}$  Sumburgh Head. (8) No. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 041357A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 041357. (1)  $060^{\circ} 41'$  N.  $4^{\circ} 44'$  E. (2) Ramose, Supreme.  
(3) Blank. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 041359A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.Northern Waters.

Patrols. 19th E.G. leave present patrol area so as to relieve 25th E.G. in Cape Wrath area at 0300/6th December.  
(2) On relief 25th E.G. proceed to Scapa for fuel and 48 hours rest.  
(3) On completion A.C.O.S. is requested to sail 25th E.G. to relieve 19th E.G. off Cape Wrath, 19th E.G. thence through Minches to rejoin Force 33.  
(C. in C. W.A. 041145A to S.O. Force 33, S.O.E.Gs. 25, 19, A.C.O.S.)



War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Patrols. 2102A Situation report 4th December.  
(contd). U.R.145, CAPE ARGONA 063° 57' N., 025° 01' W.  
to 064° 20' N., 025° 01' W. thence Reykjavik 9½.  
OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE 064° 20' N., 024° 03' W. 270°  
10 to R/V U.R.145 in 025° 01' W.

Force C THIRLMERE (S.O.), searching vicinity of 064° 09' 022°  
58' to R/V U.R.145 in 064° 20' 023° 00' at 0400Z/5th December.  
HOME GUARD 063° 07' 020° 57' to Reykjavik 9½.  
(A.C.I.C., 041146A to Ships north of 60° N)

If not in contact by 1800 today 4th shift centre of Gamma  
225° 35 miles.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 041211A to S.O.E.G.31)

Russian Cdre. (D) W.A., 011825 and my 031107.  
submarine Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 5th and 6th  
chasers group Russian S.Cs. when ready p.m. 6th December  
awaiting to Inverary. One British escort is to be detailed  
passage to to accompany them. Expected time of passing  
Russia. Lamlash is to be signalled.

2. N.O.I.C. Lamlash is requested to sail S.C.1497  
to join off Lamlash. This craft will proceed  
on one engine maximum speed about 9 knots.

(C. in C. W.A., 041238A to Com. D.W.A., Admty, A.C.O.S.,  
N.O.I.Cs. Lamlash, Inverary, F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Convoy (1) Convoy J.W.62 "Acumen". Following ships are  
J.W.62. selected for White Sea. Group 1 are to proceed  
when detached.

(A) to Molotovsk - EDWARD N. HURLEY, BARBARA  
FRIETCHIE, W.R. GRACE, WILLIAM H. WILMER, LINN BOYD, EMPIRE  
GARRICK (T).

(B) to Dvina River - EMPIRE STALWART, FORT ISLAND, FORT MASSAC.  
Total for group one 9 ships.

(3) Group 2 to proceed temporarily to Kola.  
S.B.N.O. N. Russia will be requested to sail them to White Sea  
in due course.

CECIL N. BEAN, OWEN WISTER, WILLIAM TYLER, PAGE, FORT BOISE,  
BRITISH RESPECT (T), LONGWOOD (T) total group 2, 6 ships.

(4) In event of casualties to group one reserves are CECIL N.  
BEAN and OWEN WISTER.

(5) Watson and Harshaw concur.

Admiralty pass to escorts M.W.T. and all outside Russia.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 041327A to S.B.N.O.s. N. Russia, Murmansk,  
M.W.T., N.C.S.O. Oban.)

4.12.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSAllied Air ActivityM.A.D.  
Catalinas  
for use  
against  
Schnorkel  
U-Boats.

Very little success has been achieved recently in the detection of U-Boats owing to the enemy's adoption of the Schnorkel and their employment of maximum submerged tactics.

(2) It is considered that the M.A.D. equipment installed in U.S. V.P.B. 63 Sqdn. could be profitably employed in combating the U-Boat threat in the shallow waters round these shores. Therefore suggest that approach be made to

Cominch for temporary attachment of four M.A.D. Catalinas of 63 Sqdn. plus maintenance personnel and spares to U.K. for operation under Coastal Command control.  
(H.Q.C.C., 041230A to Admty.)

Enemy IntelligenceEnemy  
warships in  
Skagerrak.

Quest December 4th. ~~2,000~~<sup>6,000</sup> ton cruiser believed KÖLN one KARL GALSTER destroyer and one 2,500 ton vessel position 58° 47' N., 10° 32' E. course N.

(N.A. Stockholm, 041641 to Admty.)

Comment: It is probable that KÖLN and perhaps EMDEN are being used to reinforce escort of troop transports in the Skagerrak.

U-BoatsSituation  
Report.

One or two indefinitely in area of N. Cornish Coast and Bristol Channel, but no good evidence available.

Still one vaguely in central English Channel.  
(D.D.I.C., 041431A to Cominch.)

Mining18th and  
1st M.S.Fs.

18th M.S.F. and HARRIS are to proceed to Ostend on Wednesday 6th December.

(2) On passage carry out LL/SA 1 GMS north side of the centre line between N.F.5 and N.F.8 buoys.

(3) Commencing Thursday 7th continue LL/SA 1 GMS 1 mile either side of centre line between N.F. 5 and N.F.8 buoys.

(4) C. in C. Nore is to be kept informed of progress and of movements.

(5) In the case of bad weather Flotilla may proceed to anchor off Flushing Q.Z.H. 678 (4) or may proceed to Small Downs or Margate Roads for shelter.

(7) 1st M.S.F. and danlayers to return to Harwich on Wednesday 6th reporting E.T.A. 1st M.S.F. to carry out LL/SA 1 GMS on passage south of centre line N.F.8 to N.F.5 Buoy.

(8) Q.Z.S. 596 may be used. M.S. 18 and M.S.1 acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore, 041540A to 18th and 1st M.S.Fs.)

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects

U.S.S. FRANCIS SS. FRANCIS ASBURY in T.A.M.6 was reported mined in position 135° N.F.10 Buoy half a mile at 0535/3rd ship was last reported abandoned and breaking up and aground in position 043° Ostend approx. 8 miles. Survivors at present reported 3 on board SS. ELDORADO proceeding to Antwerp, 27 on board H.M. Trawler ALFREDIAN proceeding to Terneuzen. (C. in C. Nore, 041009A to Admty.)

T.I.D.44. Regret to report loss of T.I.D.44 at Southampton at 1245/3rd December vessel capsized and sank when assisting a U.S.L.S.T. at Hards. Two of crew missing presumed drowned. SQUID's 031650A refers. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041114A to Admty.)

P.L.M. 21. Regret to report that during heavy weather while entering harbour at 1530 on 3rd December P.L.M.21 was found to be making water in engine and boiler room and that steam was no longer available. Vessel was anchored in convoy anchorage but sank during the night in position 245° 10 cables from South Hook Flag Staff. Master and crew landed safely but one man was killed and one injured during attempts that were made to take the vessel in tow to beach her. Investigation has been carried out to establish cause of accident which is considered to be due either to small sabotage charge in the coal cargo loaded at Newport, or to the vessel having touched mid channel rock. Definite evidence is difficult to obtain but the latter is thought to have been the more likely cause prior to the pilot boarding. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 041635A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

T.B.C. Forecast of convoy sailings:-  
Convoys T.B.C.1, T.B.C.2, T.B.C.3, T.B.C.4, T.B.C.5,  
programme. T.B.C.6, T.B.C.7.  
Thames Gate 1110/8, 1125/9, 1125/10, 1130/11,  
1115/12, 1055/13, 1010/14.  
Dumpton Buoy 1535/8, 1540/9, 1540/10, 1540/11,  
1535/12, 1535/13, 1530/14.  
Sandhead Buoy 1700/8, 1700/9, 1700/10, 1700/11, 1700/12, 1700/13,  
1700/14.  
Dungeness 2055/8, 2040/9, 2025/10, 2015/11, 2005/12, 2000/13,  
1950/14.  
C.2A Buoy 0215/9, 0200/10, 0150/11, 0140/12, 0140/13, 0145/14,  
0155/15. thence to comply with approximate timetable in  
Admiralty's 021256A, para. 2 (not to all addressees).  
All times are B.S.T. Speed 7 knots.  
(Com. Southend, 041134A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth,  
C. in C. Plymouth, A.C. Dover, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C.  
Cardiff, A.N.C.X.F.)

/T.B.C. ...

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys - Contd.

- T.B.C. A.M. 021256 December refers.  
 B.T.C. Portsmouth Command intentions:  
 Convoys. (1)(i) Joiners from Wight area for T.B.C. will assemble at St. Helens and sail at about 0630 to R/V at F Buoy, time of weighing being adjusted to effect R/V.
- (ii) As new Commodore will be sailing from St. Helens, main convoy should form astern of St. Helens joiners Comdre. Southend and Cs. in C. Nore and Plymouth are requested to give necessary instructions to Commodores and escorts.
- (2) All ships sailing in B.T.C. convoy for Southampton and Isle of Wight ports should remain with convoy and enter by St. Helens.
- (3) Joiners from Wight area for B.T.C. will assemble in St. Helens Roads, ready to sail by 1630.
- (4) Convoy Commodores and their staffs from both east and west will be disembarked and embarked at St. Helens and accommodated at Portsmouth as arranged by N.C.S.O. Portsmouth.)  
 Cross-Channel Traffic.
- (5) Traffic between Wight area and far shore will be handled by two daily convoys, using St. Helens Roads for assembly and arrival.
- (6) For Havre and East Calvados a 7 knot W.V.C. convoy will leave 1000 to arrive Havre 0900 route ZK, KE and Q.Z.S. 588.
- (ii) Ships for Caen to break off at H.V.3, thence Q.Z.S. 647.  
 (iii) Escort one corvette or trawler.
- (7) C.T.F. 125 is requested to sail a V.W.C. convoy to leave Havre 1400 daily arriving St. Helens 0400 to include all ships capable of 7½ knots except personnel ships, for Newhaven, Wight and all ports to the westward.
- (ii) Similar ships from East Calvados should be sailed to assemble at Pasture for V.W.C. convoy. R.N.O. Caen and N.O.I.C. Arrow are requested to arrange.
- (iii) C.T.F. 125, N.O.I.C. Arrow and R.N.O. Caen are further requested to ensure that all such ships sail complete with routeing instructions for final destinations, observing that those for West Coast ports should leave St. Helens at about 0630 for the T.B.C. convoy and routeing instructions could not be put on board at St. Helens in time.
- (8) Shipping from Wight area for Cherbourg will be sailed as a W.E.C. convoy, leaving St. Helens at about 2330 and routed via Z Buoy and route W to H.2 Buoy and thence Channel H to arrive Cherbourg about 1200.
- (ii) Time of weighing from St. Helens will be adjusted to ensure as far as possible that W.E.C. passes H.2 Buoy about 30 minutes after B.T.C. passes A.3.
- (iii) N.C.S.Os. sailing ships for Cherbourg in B.T.C. are requested to direct them to break off at A.3 and proceed independently to join up with W.E.C. convoy. Escorts of W.E.C. will be warned when to expect such joinings.
- (9) C.T.F. 125 is requested to sail an E.W.C. convoy leaving Cherbourg at 0500 to R/V with T.B.C. at A.3 Buoy, to include also ships for Wight area and eastward.
- (ii) Westbound ships to detach and join T.B.C., forming astern, eastbound and Wight ships to continue to St. Helens.
- (iii) If T.B.C. is running late, the E.W.C. convoy must not delay sailing but must proceed along Q.Z.S. 552 to meet its westbound shipping transferring to T.B.C. on meeting, eastbound shipping proceeding to arrive St. Helens in time for that afternoon's B.T.C.

/(iv) ...

4.12.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

T.B.C. (iv) C. in C. Portsmouth will inform the escort  
B.T.C. of E.W.C. regarding position and progress of  
Convoys. T.B.C.  
(Contd.) (v) C.T.F. 125 is requested to ensure that full

routeing instructions are supplies to ships sailing in E.W.C. the same considerations applying as for para. 7 (iii).

(10) It is under consideration to arrange a system of coloured lights to be hoisted by ships at St. Helens to indicate to the N.C.S. drifters what convoy ship should be sailing with, i.e. T.B.C. joiners, W.V.C., W.E.C., or B.T.C. convoy.

A further signal regarding this will be made.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041938A to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., Cs. in C. Nore, Plymouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.B.A.A., C.T.F. 125, F.Os. i/c Southampton, Portland, Falmouth, Milford Haven, Com. Southend, N.C.S.Os. Poole, Cardiff, Cousnaabs Havre, Cherbourg, N.Os. i/c Dieppe, Arrow, Ouistreham, Newhaven, Capt. (D) Portsmouth, N.C.S.Os. Portsmouth, Cowes, Southampton, Weymouth, Milford Haven.)

East Coast  
ships to  
Downs.

Request you will implement the proposal contained in A.M. 111803A\* November.

(D.T.D., 041948A to Cs. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.B.A.A., C.T.F. 125.)

\* Ships from East Coast and Southend for Boulogne, Dieppe and Le Havre be sailed to the Downs for control.

4.12.1944  
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ANNAMITE Your 040500 (?to) F.O.G.M.A. only. After disembarking officers (?and) ratings proceed to Casablanca for onward routing to Dakar, (Comar Toulon 011602, not to all, refers.)

- (2) Routed by standard (?Y) 2 route.
- (3)? (?Codeword) "Crafty" (024).
- (4) Before proceeding you are to report intended, -
  - (a) S. of A.
  - (b) E.T.A. Casablanca.

(F.O.G.M.A. 041113A to ANNAMITE)

SEADOG SEADOG sailed in K.M.S.71 for Gibraltar Malta and East Indies. Last Q.B.445 Q.B.A. 137 colour Green communication 500 Kcs. and HS routine. (Capt. (8)3, 041435A to F.O.G.M.A.)

BIRMINGHAM Arrived Horta at 1622Z/4th H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM. (From Norfolk Va.) (S.B.N.O. Azores, 042224Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

WYE, DOVEY WYE and DOVEY intend sailing at 1800Z, 6th Dec. (2) Route T. 0700 North, 1500 West U Equator 0937 W., V 1000 S. 01.57 W., W.18.52 S. 05.00 E., X.25.00 S. 10.00 E., Y.32.00 S. 16.00 E., thence Cape Town. Speed 14 knots. E.T.A. 0800Z, 16th December. Shifts to South Atlantic W/T organisation at 2000Z 10th Dec. (3) C. in C., S.A. is requested to sail ships as requisite to comply with Admiralty's 231646A Nov. (F.O.C.W.A. 041653Z to C. in C.S.A.)

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanIndependent  
Routes,  
U.S.A. to  
Med.

Routes given in Connav's 021339 as received cross existing G.U.S. and U.G.S. ocean standard routes in several places. As this appears undesirable request confirmation you concur before promulgation is made. Your 031208. (C. in C.Med., 041231A to Admty.).

PRIMULA.

PRIMULA is nominated to comply A.M.241641.  
(2) Request you will sail her as convenient after arrival Gibraltar to U.K.  
(3) My 251308 and 251325 are amended accordingly. References November, not to all addressees.  
(C. in C.Med., 041243 to F.O.G.M.A.).

PACIFIC,  
cable  
repairs.

PACIFIC has effected one of 3 repairs Malta - (?Leros) cable in deep water and returned here for bunkers. Propose repairs are completed as weather permits before beginning programme in your 031150 of wheel\*(A) could possibly be undertaken by ST. MARGARETS.  
(V.A.M., 041320 to C. in C. Med.).  
(\*?which).

CALEDON.

Intend sailing CALEDON at 1330A/6th S. of A. 17½ knots to Malta by Q.B.B. 246 route D Q.B.B. 422 E.T.A. Boom 0900A/7th codeword "Audrey" 935 C. in C. Med's. 011228 not to S.N.O.E.Sy. refers.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 041321A to V.A.M.).

Cable  
repairs.

Arrangements have been made for MIRROR to undertake cable repairs in para.1A of A.M. 240227 November.  
(2) It is considered inadvisable to release MIRROR for ST. VINCENT repair owing to distance from proper station. Cable ship PACIFIC is at present scheduled for large programme of restoration of cables in Eastern Mediterranean including Greece, but might at any time be required for Red Sea repairs. In this event Mediterranean might be left with no deep water cable ship except ARGO whose value is not yet proved.  
(3) Suggest MARIE LOUISE MACKAY reported Azores 9th November might do St. Vincent job. Managing Director Cables and Wireless has been consulted and is in communications with Head Office about use of this ship.  
(C. in C.Med., 041426A to Admty.).

Changes in  
organisation  
Southern  
France.

Following amendments to Med. Station B message 172 of 23rd Oct. (230840).  
(1) Para.3 add "These combing forces will be referred to as the Flank Force (Short Title Flankfor).  
(2) Para.4. (a) After "Mine clearance" add "He

/will...

War Diary4.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Changes in organisation Southern France (Contd.) will control escorts made available by F.O.N.A.M. and with the assistance of C.O.M.L.A.B. Forces. All allied and neutral seaward movements except those of the Flank Forces.  
(3) Para.4 (b) delete "and C.O.M.L.A.B. respectively".  
(4) (c) (?Delete) from "Control Escorts" to "Should be addressed" and substitute "Assist Prefet Maritime to initiate all Allied and neutral seaward movements except those of the Flank Force."  
(C. in C.Med., 041502 to Med. Stn. 284 B).

Minesweeping. The M/S are to be congratulated on sweeping over 2,000 mines since 1st September. The achievements of the B.Y.M.S., and M.M.S. and M.Ls. have been particularly praiseworthy.  
(C. in C.Med., 041704A to Med. Station 286B, (R) Admty.).

Trawlers for U.K. It is intended that following A/S Trawlers be released to U.K. at first convenient opportunity.  
(a) 4th and 28th A/S Trawler Groups by F.O.L.E.M. as soon as sweeping and escort duties permit 21 M/S A/S Trawler Group remaining allocated to

F.O.L.E.M.  
(b) 3rd L.A/S Trawlers and 20 M/S. Trawler Group when relieved by 3 M/S A/S Trawlers from Central Med. Further signal will be made when these Trawlers become available.  
(2) Admty. is requested to signal ports to which these ships should be sent and nominate establishment to which accounts should be transferred.  
(3) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to reconsider his 213051 periodically so as to release these vessels as personnel are urgently required in U.K.  
(C. in C.Med., 041822A to F.O.G.M.A., F.O.L.E.M., V.A.M., Admty.).

V.A.M. is requested to allocate two Trawlers of 29 Trawler Group to F.O. Tunisia to enable third A/S Trawler Group to be sailed to U.K.  
(2) F.O. Tunisia to sail third A/S Trawler Group to Gibraltar at earliest convenient date for onward routing to U.K. Admiralty is requested to signal final destination in U.K. and nominate establishment to which accounts should be transferred. A.M. 241641 not to all refers.

(C. in C.Med., 041825A to V.A.M., F.O. Tunisia, Admty.).  
Reply: V.A.M. 061050A. *Trawlers allocated: 311814.*

Disturbances in Athens. 274751 F.X. 62828 cipher 4 Dec. Cositintrep No.514 Part 4. (Cositintrep Nos.485 to 513 Part 4 not issued).  
Greece. A general strike was declared in the Athens - Piraeus Area at 030900B, No public utilities services are working except water. Left Wing demonstrations held in defiance of Greek Govt's. orders were broken up by Civil Police after some shooting. Casualties. Police: one killed, four wounded. Civilians: ten killed, sixty wounded. A curfew has been imposed by the Govt. at 1900B.

/One...



War Diary

4.12.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Disturbances in Athens (Contd.) One case of British troops disarming without incident a party of E.L.A.S. carrying arms contrary to Govt. orders has been reported from the Athens Area. Otherwise no British troops have been involved and no sign of anti-British feeling apparent.  
(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./4).

E.L.A.S. assault on Piraeus. My 031815C (N.T. in W.D.).  
(1) E.L.A.S. armed forces attacked Naval H.Q. 0630/4th Brisk small arms fire exchanged by Greeks during which time operations room under fire. Situation completely restored by 1130 with aid of armoured cars and parachute troopers. No British opened fire.  
(2) Greek interpreter rating killed in car beside C.S.O. 3 British communications ratings wounded.  
(3) White Ensign hoisted alongside Greek Ensign at Naval H.Q. at 1600 today.  
(4) 60 free labour working on L.C.T.  
(5) 2 ships working at coal quay with military labour. No interference.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 041900 to F.O.L.E.M. (R) C. in C.Med.).  
Request immediate report on attack on combined naval H.Q. at Athens in which, according to B.B.C. broadcast at 1700 G.M.T. today 4th December 2 British sailors were seriously wounded.  
(C. in C.Med., 041934 to S.B.N.O. Greece Info. F.O.L.E.M., C.S.15., Admty.).

KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V canal transit completed. Transit normal. 2 slight groundings, no damage, no difficulties.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 041934 to C. in C.Med.).

AURORA, bombardment: Rhodes. Night bombardment carried out in heavy rain at 1855B. Radar fixes of all ships agreed within 200 yards. 154 rounds 6 inch and 399 rounds 4.7 fired.  
Enemy (?reaction) slow first star shell bursting 4 minutes after cease fire delay attributable to rain and supertime.  
(3) Force returning Alexandria. AURORA needs no change of guns yet as flashless cordite used.  
(AURORA, 042005B to F.O.L.E.M., (R) C. in C.Med., F.O.15th C.S., Capt. (D) 3rd D.F.).  
Concentrations of enemy shipping in the main port of Rhodes were heavily bombarded after dark, Dec. 4th, by the AURORA, MUSKETEER, MARNE and METEOR. The object of the bombardment was to prevent the enemy from using these vessels for making sorties to the neighbouring islands in search of supplies.  
(Special Correspondent, Med., H.Q. in The Times, 6.12.44).

/Situation...

War Diary.

4.12.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
report  
No.495.

(1) Corrupt group ? has arrived at Heraklion where a R/C. party is in control of port which is only slightly damaged.

(2) Approaches to and harbour of Kavella have been swept and clearance of Mudros Bay is in progress. Kavella is practically undamaged.

(3) At Piraeus declaration of a general strike and cutting off of power and light is interfering with unloading which however continued.

(C. in C.Med., 042149A).

War Diary.

4.12.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-  
positions  
attack by  
A/C.

Area V.P. 2. On night 3/4 U-Boat sighted on the surface and attacked by aircraft in position 012° 37' N. 088° 40' E. Scale Y.Y. 4. Other areas no change. (C. in C. E.I. 040400Z.)

Watering  
craft at  
Trincomalee.

The craft referred to in para. 1 of my 170454 Sept, have not arrived and those mentioned in paras. 2 and 3 are worn out. As a result H.M. ships at Trincomalee cannot be serviced adequately. Increased use of ships' distilling plants can only be a temporary and expensive expedient.

(2) 11 1300 ton tankers were promised A.M. 151549 Sept. 1943 and A.M. 231929 Dec. 1943 refer. Of these five have arrived.

(3) A shortage of fresh water in harbour in the tropics is a hardship cheerfully accepted by all if and when necessary.

(4) Request up to date information so that personnel may realise hardship cannot be avoided in the matter of fresh water in the Fleet Base.

(C. in C. E.I. 040640 to Admty.)

Reply: 051857A.

Ammunition.

Your 120617. It is recommended that expenditure should be based on conclusions set out in C.O.S.

(43) 770(O) in which para. 8 of Annex VI has a particular application. A departure from these

principles compels the uneconomical use of heavy ammunition.

(2) War experience shows that it is always desirable to retain a proportion of piercing shell in addition to H.E. This proportion should not normally be less than 30% and 20% should be regarded as the minimum for planning purposes.

(3) Ref. your 120634, 120636 and 120641Z Nov. in view of other expected commitments and the need still to maintain adequate reserves at Home and in Mediterranean, it is not practicable to meet your requirements in full, particularly in 15 inch H.E. shell, by the dates specified, but endeavour will be made to build up stocks as rapidly as possible.

(4) The following figures show totals expected to be available on station by the dates indicated. They are in addition to authorised scale of reserves but make no allowance for expenditure:

	February	April	May
16 inch	Nil	1,000	1,000
15 inch	1,500	2,000	2,000
8 inch	4,000	5,000	6,000
6 inch XXIII	9,000	9,000	9,000
5.25 inch	5,000	5,000	5,000
4.7 inch IX-XII	15,000	15,000	15,000

(5) 15 inch C.P.C. 4 c.r.h. shell has a greater H.E. capacity than H.E. 5/10 c.r.h. shell but max. range is 2000 yards less. Existing stocks will be used to augment 15 inch H.E. reserve viz: In transit Levant to Trincomalee 310, on station 420, U.K. to be shipped to Trincomalee 350, total 1080.

(6) Reserves of 6 inch H.E. have been increased by transfer of 5000 rounds from the Levant. A.M. 152113 refers. Concur in your proposal to use 6 inch in preference to 8 inch shell until stocks of the latter are augmented. (7) Amounts in paras. 5 and 6 in addition to figures in para. 4.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 041523A to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

CORNWALLIS (torpedoed 3rd Dec.) My 032257\* Interrogation of survivors reveals ship sunk at approx. 1015Z/3rd. (C. in C. C.N.A. 040120Z to Admty., etc.) \* SS. CORNWALLIS torpedoed. Report on survivors, reference R.S. 741. (1) CORNWALLIS. (2) British. (3) Dec. 3rd 1944 1000Z. (4) (?Approx.) 043° 58' N. 068° 18' W. (5) Explosion number 1 hatch. (6) Ship sank in approx. 5 minutes. (7) 5 (crew) survivors at Rockland, St. Lawrence, Maine. My 041509Z with list of survivors follows to first 2 addressees. (C.H.S. Tracy Portland M.E. 041507Z to Admty., Info. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. N.A.)

O.N. 268. NORTH BAY and WENTWORTH investigated suspicious disappearing radar contact in 044° 37' N. 044° 11' W. (X) with no result after 2 hours search. Both rejoining.

P.C.S. convoy at 0200Z/4th Dec. 044° 39' N. 044° 38' W. (X) course 275° speed 10½ knots 044° 28' N. 041° 54' W. (X). Weather report 9080 2972. (S.O.E.G.C. 4 040200Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Navicert System and Censorship of Mails. C.O.S.(W) 485, replying to J.S.M. 338 of 232311 November. (A.M.S.S.O. 041150Z to J.S.M. Washington.) See Lion Copy.

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 041404Z, Cominch 041557Z.)

SERENE M.M.S. 1070. 1400Z/4th Dec. sailed SERENE (S.O.), H.M.M.M.S. 1070 in company to Horta, Azores. Route and speed as in my 031718 Nov. E.T.A. 1200Z/12th Dec. (2) Communications - (a) SERENE as in para. 2 my 091647 Oct. (b) M.M.S. 1070 as in para. 3 my 031718 Nov. (C. in C. C.N.A. 041406Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

CAPILANO for E.G.C.2. The following allocation is effective to date 4th December, from new construction to the Mid Ocean Force for duty with C.2 H.M.C.S. CAPILANO (2) Pay accounts to be held in AVALON. (C. in C. C.N.A. 041453Z to N.S.H.Q.)

U.G.S. 63. 116 ships authorised for U.G.S. 63. Comeastseafrom give information P.D. New York. (Com. 10th Fleet 041506Z to Comeastseafrom.)

Russian Nationals. Re shipping for repatriation. C.O.S.(W) 486. (A.M.S.S.O. 041850Z to J.S.M. Washington.) See Lion Copy.

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# TOP SECRET

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OUT

**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.)

041150Z/December.

To: J.S.M. Washington.

Date. 4.12.44.

C Y P H E R (T/K).

---

From. A.M.S.S.O.

*Navicert System and Censorship of Mails.*

---

IMPORTANT..

OZ. 7085. C.O.S. (W) 485.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

Reference J.S.M. 338.. (232311)

1. Memorandum of United States Chiefs of Staff raises primarily the question of what mail routes shall be kept under censorship control after the end of German hostilities and secondarily whether the navicert system will be maintained so as to render possible any control required.
2. Censorship policy approved by War Cabinet is that censorship must be maintained after German hostilities cease in respect of all lines of communication control of which is necessary for the purposes of Intelligence, Blockade or Security in relation to the Japanese war.
3. Control of transatlantic mails with an Allied terminal do not require support of navicert system but can be dealt with under Municipal law. Only transatlantic mails controlled by navicert system are those between European neutrals and Latin America.
4. Mails between European neutrals and Latin American countries have required close control during German war from point of view of Espionage, Blockade and cognate matters because no control has been possible between European neutrals and enemy countries. It has been necessary therefore to apply remote control at Gibraltar, Trinidad, San Juan and in Continental U.S.A. because close control in Europe was impossible. This remote control has involved diversion of all mails between Iberian Peninsula and Latin America via one or other of above named Censorship stations and corresponding prohibition upon mail carried by ships plying direct between the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. Same remarks apply to aircraft. Arrangements have been supplemented by strict control of passengers.
5. It is not considered that it will be necessary to continue this control once adequate controls inside Europe are established.

/Arrangements

Arrangements are in hand for censorship and frontier control inside Occupied and Liberated territories in Europe. It is also considered that great increase of mail inevitable when Europe freed will render problem intractable from the point of view of straffing.

6. It is not considered that communications between South America and Europe present any particular security or other danger in relation to the Japanese war particularly as Allies are in a position if so advised to control communications from their own countries to Latin America.

7. In view of circumstances set out in para. 5. it is not thought practical politics to maintain strict control of passengers and lengthy diversions of mail for long after German hostilities cease.

8. It is proposed therefore to discontinue censorship of mail between Europe and South America at Trinidad San Juan and elsewhere three months after German hostilities cease subject to all Government Departments concerned being satisfied within that period that adequate controls inside Europe have been set up.

9. It is the intention to continue navicert system substantially in its present form as long as may be politically expedient after the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

041150Z.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
Sec.  
P.A.S.(1)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
Hd. of M.(2)  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.E.W.D.(3)  
D.D.I.C.(3)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake.

Circulation.

Defence Office.  
Foreign Sec.  
First Sea Lord.  
C.6. Tels.  
A.M.C.S.(C)  
Sir E. Herbert.  
Mr. R.H. Wethered.

# TOP SECRET

OUT

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041850Z/December.

To. J.S.M. Washington.

Date. 4.12.44.

CYPHER.

From A.M.S.S.O.

*Russian Nationals, Repatriation*

IMPORTANT.

~~OZ 7100~~

COS (W) 486. 4th December 1944.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

We have been examining the problem of repatriating Russian nationals who have already, or will in future, fall into Allied hands.

2. We have already provided shipping from British resources for 15,400. There are at present a further 26,400 in Allied hands awaiting repatriation, and it is expected that this figure will steadily increase.

3. This appears to be a commitment which should be shared between the United Nations. We are taking steps to invite the Russians to co-operate by making available Rumanian ships captured by them, and we suggest that the Americans should also bear their share.

4. It is therefore suggested that repatriation should be carried out in British shipping, but that it should be accepted that up to one half will be at the expense of assistance to the Americans, insofar as the commitment cannot be met without affecting other movement.

041850Z.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.I.
- 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)
- Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (4)

Recd in War Reg 1038/5.  
Circulated by A.M.S.S.O. to  
internal depts Defence Office.  
Foreign Secretary 1st S.L.  
C.6. Tels. A.M.C.S. (C) M.W.T.

- |                  |               |              |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| D.C.             | D.C.O.D. (4)  | P.A.S. (L)   |
| D.D.I.C. (2)     | Hd of M. (3)  | Ad. Bellairs |
| D.N.I. (4)       | W.D.          | Norfolk Hse  |
| D. of P. (3)     | Ad. Blake.    |              |
| D. of P. (Q) (2) | A.D.O.D. (CO) |              |
| P.A.S. (S)       | D.T.D. (4)    |              |

*Reply: 291621Z.*

War Diary.

4.12.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- Atlantic, Lion and Eagle Routes. Suggest proposals in your 272126 Nov. be modified as follows:-  
A. One route only be laid down each for Eagle and Lion and ships to be routed within about 30 miles of either side, the distance being indicated in route signal, e.g. port 18 starboard 30.  
B. Ships from Canadian ports join Eagle at second or third positions.  
(2) In order to shorten distance to and from Canadian ports a second westbound route be established north of route TY and further to spread the traffic a fourth route be established between Eagle and Lion.  
(N.S.H.Q. 041905Z to Admty. etc.)
- Submarine O.21. Due to trouble port main engine H.M.N. Submarine O.21 will be delayed in departure from Navy Yard Philadelphia, beyond 10th Dec. Probable delay one week. Your 031922Z Dec. Firm date will follow.  
(Com. 4 041950 to Cominch.)
- HYDRANGEA (Bermuda.) When ready about Dec. 11th HYDRANGEA should be sailed for Portsmouth to recommission - S.B.N.O. W.A's 021550 not to all refers.  
(2) After commissioning C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail HYDRANGEA for Tobermory to work up.  
(3) On conclusion of work up C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for her to rejoin F.O.C.W.Af. proceeding with convenient convoy.  
(D.O.D.(H) 041952A to S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. W.A.)
- BARBADOS, BARBADOS has burnt out thrust block port engine tug breakdowns and has returned to Bermuda for repairs together with tugs.  
(2) C.O. reports that during his 36 hours escort duty all three tugs broke down with minor defects necessitating delay to convoy.  
(3) Although weather was exceptionally good for the time of year, sea being 1 and 1 and wind not exceeding 3 - 4, he estimates that tugs could not have made passage at more than six knots.  
(4) Further signal will be made on receipt of dockyard report on BARBADOS.  
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 041952Z to Admty.)
- SKEENA C.N.M.O's 201131 (211131) Nov. Salvage of SKEENA is impracticable until favourable weather conditions i.e. next summer. Fleet Salvage Officer Iceland (C) recommends that eventual cost of salvage and subsequent repairs do not justify the attempt being made. Consider that vessel should therefore be declared a constructive total loss.



War Diary.4.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

October  
SKEENA  
(driven  
ashore 25th  
December)  
(Contd.)

(2) All possible specialist equipment such as radar, W/T and asdic was removed to satisfaction of C.O. of SKEENA and returned to S.N.S.O. Rosyth Marked X SKEENA.

(3) Other equipment e.g. D/C throwers, Armament, torpedo turntable, etc. being removed as and when weather conditions permit. Auxiliary machinery could be salvaged during summer months.

(A.C.I.C. 042050A to N.S.H.Q., C.N.M.O.)

*See 20.11.44, p. 478. (Home Commands)  
(C.N.M.O. 301131A to A.C.I.C.)*

U/B reports. Norwegian BRAGANZA overdue and presumed sunk due to boiler explosion and fire 32.10 S. 47.10 W. 121400Z October. CORNWALLIS now reported sunk about 031015Z. Cause of sinking not yet established but probably by U-Boat Cominch 032013 refers. Para. C. 040001Z NORTH BAY and WENTWORTH radar contact 44.37 N. 44.11 W. (Cominch 042127Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

L.T. 786 tow. Advise date L.T. 786 will be ready tow crane barge B.D. 494 to U.K. also recommendations sailing this tow to U.K. giving consideration possible inclusion slow convoy leaving or passing near Azores. Comtaskgroup 27.4 241510Z refers. (Cinclant 042206Z to Comnavzor.) Reply, Comnavzor 061625Z.

Dutch S/Ms K. 14, K. 15. Following is text of a letter from C. in C. U.S. Fleet (begins):  
"The material condition of the Dutch submarines K.14 and K.15 has become very poor. The battery of K.15 (has) failed completely and that of K.14 is expected to fail soon. It is estimated each ship would require a 15 months refit to place them (in) serviceable condition. (Recent) increases in the number of American submarines (in) the (south) West Pacific areas plus the arrival of submarines of British Flotilla 8 have taxed maintenance facilities particularly dry docking to the limit. As result of these conditions I desire that K.14 and K.15 be returned to the Dutch. (De) commissioning appears (to be) indicated." (Ends.)  
(2) Propose to concur and that they should be dealt with in same way as K.11.  
(3) Admiralty pass to F.O.C. Submarine.  
(B.A.D. 042241Z to Admty.)

Submarine attack & sighting summary. No report since my 301625 Nov. Para. A. Br. CORNWALLIS torpedoed and sunk about 1005/3rd vicinity 43.59 N. 68.20 W. (all times Z.) Para. C. (1) MATAPEDIA reports underwater explosion unaccompanied by surface disturbance 1354/3rd (749.05 ) N. 67.26 W. and at 0453/4th three similar slighter explosions 49.18 N. 66.33 W.  
(2) LEVIS radar contact 5600 yards lost 600 yards before 0412/4th 44.51 N. 56.52 W.  
(3) NORTH BAY and WENTWORTH investigate disappearing radar contact about 0001/4th 44.37 44.11 W. (N.S.H.Q. 042358Z to Admty., Cominch.)

# SECRET

92A  
IN

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Recd in W.D. 16.12.44

PACIFIC

040817/December

WD  
From: G.H.Q. S.W.Pa.  
signed MacArthur

Date: 16.12.44. X

Recd: 1220

C.C.M. 5 Services Gen. S by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty, Air Ministry Whitehall, B.A.D. Washington, F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. Eastern Fleet (Colombo), H.Q. SACSEA, Air Command S.E. Asia, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (for Chief of Staff Committee), Opanv, N.Z.N.B., Repeated: Com. 7th Fleet, A.C.N.B., C.N.F., C. in C. Eastern Fleet (pass to Air Commands Asia and Supreme Allied Commander S.E. Asia)

## IMPORTANT

Digest serial number 1048 December 5th.

Four R.A.A.F. Mitchells from Darwin bombed, strafed radar installations Cape Lore on south coast Timor midday effectively covering target and probably destroying several buildings.

- (2) Previous night single Liberator harassed airdromes south east Meleor bombing Kendari field.
- (3) United States submarine reported southbound convoy comprising four large tankers with (?alert) escorts off Camranh Bay hugging coast Indo China.
- (4) Little progress made by American forces advancing southwards from Limon despite heavy artillery preparation and direct air-ground support by 11 Kittyhawks but road block established 2500 yards south of Leyte river bridge. Japs apparently forming new pockets in rear of our forward positions by infiltrating parties: elimination these and existing pockets proceeding.
- (5) On west coast Leyte patrols from Palanas river probing enemy lines and meeting strong opposition all sectors. West of Dagami fighting in progress on eastern slopes Mount Lobi where elements achieved advances nearly 4000 yards 1st and 2nd December following elimination of two strongly prepared enemy positions by artillery killing over 200 Japs.
- (6) During 2nd December, 14 Thunderbolts attacked installations Pacijan Island in Ormoc Bay hitting Poro bridge and damaging warehouses, also strafed and fired small freighter in bay north of Palompon. Same time 14 Lightnings bombed supply buildings Palompon. Whilst over Ormoc planes shot down one Jap dive bomber.

/(7).....

- (7) Five Japanese aircraft bombed strafed installations Carigara and Baybay night 1st-2nd inflicted nil damage. Following night enemy air activity over Loyte limited despite plane which did not attack.
- (8) Reference enemy convoy approaching Ormoc Bay reported Digest 1047 para. 9, three United States destroyers located undetermined number ships close inshore near Ormoc town midnight 2nd-3rd. Despite continuous air attacks, intense three inch and 40 millimetre shore fire and torpedo attacks or possibly mines, three enemy ships including ~~MINAMI~~ one probable transport destroyer type were engaged whereof one believed sunk and second damaged. Six Japanese planes shot down plus one probable. Our ships suffered damage.
- (9) Four ships described as two destroyers, two large freighters ten escorts seen midday 3rd off south coast Sibuyan Island, course northwesterly, speed 12 knots.
- (10) Search plane night 2nd December sighted 40 small craft Cebu harbour, 26 barges or small craft along north coast Bolol and two barges, two small escorts heading northwest along north coast Negros. Next morning single sea truck seen proceeding southwest into Tanon Strait.
- (11) Patrol Ventura attacked tanker in Verde Island passage 2nd December leaving same sinking also shot down one Zeke same vicinity.
- (12) Following night search mariner sighted seven enemy motor torpedo boats Verde Island passage including three under way heading south/east. Also saw six ships anchored at Calapen on northeast coast Mindoro
- (13) Same night another recce mariner unsuccessfully attacked one escort vessel near Catanuan in Mompogs passage and strafed one sea truck same vicinity.
- (14) On 1st December 12 Mitchells with like number Thunderbolts escorting attacked large airdrome at Cebu while 24 Liberators escorted by eight Thunderbolts bombed Bacolod and another 22 Liberators hit Fabrina airfield: 3-6 Jap fighters intercepted heavies and one was probably shot down. Meanwhile eight Lightnings sweeping Negros encountered 10 enemy fighters shooting down four plus two probables without loss.
- (15) Same day 12 Mitchells attacked Calayan strafing northern Mindanao and eight Thunderbolts shot up Daliao airfield
- (16) 16 Liberators bombed Matsna drome 2nd December.
- (17) Six Liberators conducted shipping sweep north Borneo night 30th November sank two small coastal freighters and damaged three others.

/(18).....

# SECRET

IN 92<sup>B</sup>

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.

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

- 3 -

(18) On 30th November 12 Kittyhawks bombed Galela drome and 21 Kittyhawks attacked Hatetabako. Next day Halmahera and northern Celebes dromes attacked involving 30 Mitchells 35 Lightnings 23 Bostons 31 Kittyhawks 2 Beaufighters: one twin engine aircraft destroyed on Lolobata.

(19) Eight Mitchells attacked ack ack positions and coastal targets Ambon area 1st December.

(20) Two Mitchells harassed Kavieng and third raided Rabaul night 30th November.

(21) Next day 39 Dauntless, 15 Mitchells dropped 40 tons bombs on supply and camp areas Kavieng starting large fires while eight Corsairs, three Venturas patrolled general Kavieng area.

(22) Also 1st December 9 Mitchells bombed dispersal area Lakunai while 12 Corsairs attacked small craft Rabaul harbour and 18 Corsairs conducted offensive sweeps over Bougainville.

040817

Advance copy: Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

/ As received

MH

54

1st S.L.(3)  
D.F.S.L.  
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.  
D. Map Room  
Ops.(2)  
Plot.  
O.D.(5)  
O.I.C.(3)  
D.N.I.(7) & for D.N.L.O.(2)  
M.((63) & for A.M. (35)  
C.C.L.S.  
A.L.O.  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake  
C.W.R.  
D.N.O.R.  
Hydrog.  
D.D.O.D.(C)(2)  
C.N.I.  
Admiral James.

War Diary.

4.12.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

STOIC. STOIC departed Fremantle 2nd Dec. for patrol in West Sunda Strait between 11th and 17th Dec. thence proceed Ceylon. My 240(?221) and your 251248 refer. STOIC instructed that all submarines encountered (?within) patrol area will be considered enemy. (C.T.F. 71 041101Z to C. in C. E.I.)

Attack on  
U/B 18th  
Aug. 1944.

A. Number 22. B. 0022B/18th August. C. M.L. 428  
D. 000° 41' S. 135° 41' E. E. I. Your 091916  
July 1942 (result of attacks on U-Boats) refers.  
(A.C.N.B. 041216Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/4th December.  
Para. A. (1) WILLIAM D. BURNHAM previously thought  
mined at 1420Z/23rd November in 49.46 N. 01.15 W.  
now considered damaged by 2 torpedoes.  
Para. C. (1) NORTH BAY and WENTWORTH investigated  
suspicious disappearing radar contact about 0001Z/  
4th December in 44.37 N. 44.11 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 041040 to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 041441A.)

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. Flying Bomb activity was resumed after 10 days' quiescence. Ten were launched, three destroyed, one crossed the coast, none reached London.

Channel

2.(a) The minesweeping barge CYRUS has again drifted ashore, at the mouth of the Seine, and has broken in two.

(b) A daily Newhaven-Dieppe service, open to Government-sponsored civilians, is to be inaugurated towards the end of the month.

West Coast  
France.

3. One mine has been swept inside the Port de Commerce, Brest.

Western  
Approaches.

4. ABELIA is to be sailed on December 15th for Meteorological Reporting duties in the North Atlantic.

Northern  
Waters.

5. Considerable U-boat activity is apparent off the North coasts of Finland and the Kola Peninsula. S.B.N.O. North Russia, has asked C.S.1 for an escort group to search ahead of the White Sea section of convoy J.W.62, as far as 40° E., to supplement the local escorts. Meanwhile a Russian destroyer has rammed a U-boat on the surface off Cape Cherni, and then depth charged it. This U-boat is considered as sunk, but 3 others have been sighted. One of them was attacked by another destroyer, and one by a Russian Catalina, but the results of these are not known.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

Large  
convoy

6. The sailing telegram for G.U.S.60 from Casablanca to the United States contains the names of 119 ships.

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

7. The QUEEN ELIZABETH, battleship, after refit, left Durban today, escorted by the destroyers ROTHERHAM and ROCKET and the frigate TEST, for Seychelles and Trincomalee. The TEST will detach a.m. on the 7th to return to Durban.

Mediterranean.

Greece.  
Disorder in  
Athens.

8. (a) There was severe street fighting in Athens today between forces of the E.L.A.S. and E.D.E.S. British troops were on patrol and British tanks had to open fire to prevent bloodshed.

(b) In view of the deterioration in the situation, Greek and British warships moved out to Salamis Strait, and stood by to bombard on call from the Army.

(c) The destroyers MUSKETEER and METEOR have been ordered to the Piraeus to come under the orders of the Flag Officer, C.S.15.

(d) At 1709A, General Wilson reported that the Commander of the 3rd Corps, at the request of the Greek Government, had ordered E.L.A.S. Irregulars to be clear of the Athens area by midnight December 6-7 and to cease attempting to disarm the National Guard from 1600, December 4. Failure to obey will be regarded as hostile.

Kavalla,  
Greeks in  
dispute.

9. The Greek destroyer IERAX, which had gone to Kavalla with orders from the Greek authorities to assume control of the port, but was refused control by E.L.A.N., has issued a manifesto indicating an intention of assuming control by gunfire.

The S.O. 5th M/S Flotilla, (in WELFARE) considers this most undesirable, as IERAX has not sufficient force, and firing would precipitate considerable loss of life. E.L.A.N. are willing to turn over their ports to the Royal Navy, and it is suggested that the Greek Navy should be removed for the present so that this can be done.

Melos or Milos

10. A raiding force carried out a successful ambush today at Melos, and the enemy garrison commander who had been largely responsible for the determined resistance on this island, was among those killed.

/Crete...

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Crete 11. A British reconnaissance party is reported to be in control of the port of Heraklion, which is only slightly damaged.
- L.C.T. mined. 12. L.C.T. (3) 328 was sunk by mine at 1000B in a position by the light buoy at the entrance to the Missolonghi Channel, next to that of the EMPIRE DACE (sunk on December 1). Two A.Bs. are missing, believed killed.
- Convoys discontinued. 13. X.I.F. (Alexandria to Taranto) and I.X.F. (Taranto to Alexandria) convoys will be discontinued after arrival of X.I.F.26 at Taranto. Ships are to be sailed independently and not in convoy formation by routes in C. in C. Mediterranean's 241737 November.

East Indies.

- Welfare. 14. Admiralty messages to Commanders-in-Chief Pacific and East Indies Fleets, on the importance of maintaining the welfare of the forces under their command, and quoting a directive from the Prime Minister dated November 20, were made at 052215A and 060001A.
- Watering craft, Ceylon. 15. Replying to the C. in C's representation about the shortage of watering craft in Ceylon, the Admiralty arrangements are to send eight tankers, two for Colombo and six for Trincomalee, leaving the U.K. in January.
- Cruisers. 16. The ARGONAUT and BLACK PRINCE arrived at Trincomalee today from the Mediterranean.
- Carriers. 17. In order to build up the Carrier Force in the East Indies as early as possible, the SLINGER, SPEAKER, RULER and KHEDIVE will leave the United Kingdom on January 11 and proceed direct to Ceylon. The period of Group training for these ships at Alexandria is cancelled.



5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

18. Five Liberators bombed Samah Bay, Kowloon Docks (Hong Kong) and Fort Bayard.

19. Fourteen Mustangs and four Kittyhawks probably sank a freighter of 150 feet in the Anking-Pengtse area (60 miles south west of Anking); set another freighter of 175 feet and one launch on fire; damaged two freighters and 15 river craft; and destroyed one river boat.

Australia & New Zealand.

Philippines

20. (a) An enemy air offensive against shipping in the Leyte Gulf and approaches caused some damage. Naval surface units in the Gulf and Surigao Strait were also attacked. Five or six Japanese aircraft were shot down by fighters and three by ships' A/A.

(b) In connection with an assault launched at early daylight from positions along the south bank of the Palanas River, 15 amphibious tanks landed unopposed near Alogo behind the Japanese lines, harassed enemy communications, and retired without loss.

(c) Reconnaissance aircraft over the Mindoro and Manila area had what the Digest from Headquarters, South West Pacific Area, calls a field day. They destroyed a medium freighter off Southern Mindoro Island and set one sea truck on fire in the vicinity. Another sea truck was set on fire in Subic Bay, and yet another about 150 miles west of Manila Bay.

(d) A search Liberator sank a sea truck off Davao and another sea truck and small coaster off the Talud Islands.

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

French ships (1) L'AVENTURE and LA DECOUVERTE sail to pass  
L'AVENTURE, Needles 1400A/6th December and proceed to Plymouth  
LA DECOUVERTE for onward passage to Brest.  
(2) LA DECOUVERTE at 20 knots to arrive 2000A  
and embark passengers. L'AVENTURE at 15 knots to  
arrive 2200A.  
(3) On completion of embarking passengers in LA DECOUVERTE sail  
in company as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth for Brest. Speed  
15 knots. E.T.A. 1100A/7th.  
(4) Route by Q.Z.S. 631, 629, 590, 591 and 601 to Plymouth  
thence from Plymouth by Q.Z.S. 601 to position F 48° 33' 40" N.  
05° 23' 00" W. thence enter Brest by Q.Z.S. 617.  
(5) Communication. Constant W/T watch on 2450 k/cs shifting  
to 2300 k/cs off Portland Bill. Constant watch on broadcast  
C.N. Help messages on 2700 k/cs. Only Loxo, Cofox and B.R. 996  
carried. Codeword "Brown".  
(6) Ships addressed acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 050930A to L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE, C.  
in C. Plymouth.)

U.S. Arrived U.S.S. POOLE, OSWALD, EBERT, BURROWS,  
destroyers PETERSON.  
arrivals. (C. in C. Plymouth 051011A to P.D. New York.)

RESOLUTION. A.M. 081806A October intend to sail RESOLUTION  
passing Clyde Boom 1300A/7th December for  
Plymouth estimated S.O.A. 11 knots. Smalls, E.T.A.  
1400A/8th December. E.T.A. Plymouth Boom 1245A/  
9th December.  
(2) No armament will be manned on passage.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange escort to R/V as  
requisite.  
(4) RESOLUTION will man appropriate port wave only and will  
carry recognition signals as for a minor war vessel.  
(5) Expected draught on arrival 30 ft. 6 inch forward 30' aft.  
(6) Fighter protection codeword "Chandeliers".  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 051058A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Further to my 051058 which has ben passed to F.S. TONKINOIS.  
Intend to sail TONKINOIS escorting RESOLUTION. Destination  
Plymouth as in C. in C. Portsmouth 281710 November. C. in C.  
Plymouth concurs.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 051526A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

IMPLACABLE. D.5122's 032001 and C. in C. H.F's 041043.  
The ammunition referred to was practically  
the whole outfit. The de-ammunitioning required  
will be much less as ship has bottle rack stowage  
vide NMER 150. As ship will be in dockyard hands at least ten  
weeks and will be docked, I am not prepared to relax Admiralty

/regulations...

5.12.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- IMPLACABLE. regulations without Admiralty authority except  
(Contd.) that due to weather likely ship may de-ammunition  
and ammunition on completion in Basin. All petrol  
should be discharged before arrival and oil fuel  
reduced to about ten per cent.  
(A.S. Rosyth 051120A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- French ships Your 041839. Intend to sail ROSELYS and ACONIT  
ROSELYS, at 1200A/6 to Comply.  
ACONIT. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 051201A to C. in C.  
Plymouth.)
- UGANDA. Intend to sail UGANDA for Rosyth for tilt test  
on 12th December and onward routing to Scapa.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 051212 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- DACRES. Arrangements have been made for DACRES to be taken  
in hand for refit and preparation for Far  
Eastern Service by Messrs. Harland and Wolff and  
the Maintenance Base at Belfast on 15th December.  
(2) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail vessel to comply,  
reporting E.T.A., and keeping Admiralty informed.  
(3) DACRES is to revert to the general administration of  
R.A.L.S.C.U. as from date of arrival in Belfast.  
(D.O.D. 051526A to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. N.I. R.A.L.S.C.U.)
- ALGONQUIN. If operational requirements permit, request  
release of ALGONQUIN for return to Canada for  
annual refit due to commence 15th February, 1945.  
(C.N.M.O. 051736A to Admty.)
- HAWKINS. It is intended to carry out special torpedo  
trials in the Clyde area.  
(2) Requirements necessitate the use of a cruiser  
capable of steaming at speeds up to 20 knots, for  
1 or 2 days a week for the next few months.  
(3) On completion of repairs referred to in F.O.I.C. Glasgow's  
031133, HAWKINS is allocated for these duties until taken in  
hand for conversion to C.W. Training ship.  
(4) Details regarding trials will be forwarded to F.O.I.C.  
Greenock by letter, who is requested to make the necessary  
arrangements.  
(D.O.D.(H) 051920A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- PRIMULA. C. in C. Med's 041243. On return to U.K.  
PRIMULA in to join Portsmouth Command.  
(2) When PRIMULA has become operational in his  
Command C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to  
transfer one Flower Class corvette to C. in C. Western  
Approaches.  
(D.O.D.(H) 051943A to C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.G.M.A.)

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report.

Air. Cositintrep 245. Part 3.  
Flying bomb activity. Flying bombs were again launched against South England, the first since 25th November. From 0600 hours 4th December to 0600 hours 5th December 10 were plotted, one made landfall, nil reached the Greater London area. Claims. Two by anti-aircraft. One by fighter.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 051100A to Air Ministry).

Operations

North Sea.

Schelde My 031450 sailing of HYDROGRAPH delayed further survey. 24 hours by weather.  
(F.O.Humber, 050810 to F.O.Harwich).

SS. LISETA Have swept back 15 miles of "Ounce" and have not overdue on sighted ship number 40299 reported to have N.E. coast. sailed from Tyne.  
(VALOROUS, 051009A to F.O.I.C.Tyne).

Hunt Admiralty 032135A not to all. On arrival U.K. destroyers ships addressed temporarily allocated as to Nore follows.  
Command. (a) 21st Flotilla at Sheerness - CROOME, BRECON, EGGESFORD, HAYDON.  
(b) 16th Flotilla at Harwich, AVONVALE and FARNDALE.  
(c. in C.Nore, 051231A to ships concerned).

Operations

Channel.

Patrols. Take up following patrol forthwith: LOUIS, LAWSON, NARBOROUGH, zigzag search between 050° 08' N. 003° 25' W. and 050° 04' N. 002° 15' W. LORING, INGLIS zigzag search between 049° 58' N. 003° 50' W. and 049° 28' N. 003° 27' W. communication as in my 021121.  
(C. in C.Plymouth, 051030A to S.O.E.G.15).  
My 051030A. Remain on present patrol until further orders.  
My 021121A para.1 refers.  
(C. in C.Plymouth, 051150A to LORING, INGLIS).  
Night patrols 5th - 6th.  
Anti-snort zig-zag search steady 8 knots through area limits given.  
(2) Destroyer area 50° 27' 49° 47' Command Western limit line

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- Patrols 157° from A.4 buoy.  
(Contd.) (3) Divide area into 4 sections by parallels 49° 57' 50° 07' 50° 17'.  
(4) ANTHONY take north section.  
(5) BRILLIANT north centre section. (6) HARGOOD south centre section. (7) VANOC south section. (8) Start 1730 north west corner of sections finish 0830 south west corner.  
(9) M.T.Bs. if weather suitable, search area limits route east. Q.Z.S.629. Line N.1 to H.2 buoy west command limit, when ANTHONY keep south of route E.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 051246A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).  
(1) Estimate convoy H.X.A.321 V eastbound consisting of 20 ships escorted by STATICE (S.O.), NASTURTIUM and RUTHERFORD will be in position 180° Lizard 5 miles at about 1800A/5 thence via route E (Q.Z.H.568) at 9 knots.  
(2) LORING and INGLIS leave patrol forthwith, proceed at best speed to close H.X.A.321 and act in support until relieved by TANATSIDE and MELBREAK at approx. 1800A/5.  
(3) On completion of this duty take up patrol as in my 051030A. (C. in C.Plymouth, 051328A to LORING, INGLIS).  
No "Starlight" today, Tuesday, owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C.Portland, 051405 to C.T.G.125.15).  
Cancel my 051246. Concentrate at H.2 Buoy at 1745.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 051445A to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).  
Night patrols 5th/6th. Cancel my 051246.  
(2) BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, HARGOOD, VANOC 3000 yards apart Gamma search centre line 01° 48' W. between 49° 46' 50° 04'.  
(3) Zig-zag at steady 8 knots.  
(C. in C.Ports., 051542A to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).  
Air Patrols. My 281728 para.12.  
(a) Night 5th/6th Patrols 3 and 4 by Wellingtons day 6th Patrols 3 by Liberators 4 and 5 by Swordfish.  
(b) 838 Squadron R.G.F. 842 Squadron S.F.J.  
(C. in C.Ports., 051616A to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).  
Day patrols 6th. Craft 3000 yards apart Gamma searches as follows:-  
(2) BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, HARGOOD, VANOC 4 miles. Each side of H Channel from H 10 buoy 15 miles north.  
(3) M.T.Bs. 49° 46' to 50° 03' 01° 46' to 01° 55' W.  
(4) SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE, relieve BRILLIANT, ANTHONY.  
(C. in C.Ports., 051642A to Ports. A/S Patrol Force).  
Anti-Snort Night Patrols. Each ship will probably be allocated a separate area to cover during dark hours.  
(2) Ships should zig-zag search at steady 8 knots and unless otherwise ordered on courses approximately east and west.  
(3) Asdics. On these patrols each time the normal echo sweep of port plus starboard side has been completed a 360° sweep for H.E. is to be carried out before continuing next echo sweep cycle.  
(4) Attacks. Ships must be prepared to encounter Snort at very short range and to attack by eye if no contact is obtained.  
(5) Gunfire. While guns may be used to damage Snort, fire should not be opened until the A.T.W. or first depth charge has been fired.  
(6) Look outs, should be warned to listen for Snort as well as look for it.  
(C. in C.Ports., 051926A to SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE, M.T.B.F.66).

/French...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols  
(Contd.)

Request groups may be sailed as follows to vicinity Hartland Point thence as ordered by C. in C.Plymouth.

- (a) 26th E.G. to complete training 1200/6th thence to relieve 15th E.G. in Plymouth Command fuelling at Milford Haven en route.
- (b) 21st E.G. CONN, BYRON, DEANE having fuelled at Bangor to sail at 1800/7th. RUPERT, REDMILL, FITZROY to continue training 8th and 9th thence to rejoin CONN in Plymouth Command.
- (c) 14th E.G. to leave Milford Haven to R/V with first three ships of 21st E.G. on passage to relieve 10th E.G.
- (2) C. in C.Plymouth is requested to detach 15th and 10th E.Gs. on relief to Belfast and Londonderry respectively. (C. in C.W.A., 051829A to Training Centres, Larne and Rockabill, F.O.I.C.Milford, C. in C.Plymouth).

Suspected  
U-Boat.

O.N.270 PARRY SOUND attacking doubtful contact investigating for one hour. Convoy P.C.S. 051° 50' 006° 17' 249° 8. Suitable.

- (S.O.E.G.C.3, 051345A to C. in C.W.A.).  
E.G.C.3's. 051345. Have investigated. The contact is non-submarine. Position 051° 55' N. 006° 17' W.  
(S.O.E.G.2, 051501A to S.O.E.G.C.3., C. in C.W.A.).  
1st E.G. investigate 51° 50' 06° 17' where doubtful contact attacked by PARRY SOUND at 1345.  
(2) PARRY SOUND rejoin convoy on arrival 1st E.G.  
(3) 1st E.G. resume passage if no contact obtained after 2 hours. (C. in C.W.A., 051604A to S.O.E.G.1, PARRY SOUND).  
Cancel my 051604A. Contact has been investigated by E.G.2 and classified non-submarine.  
(C. in C.W.A., 051705A to S.O.E.G.1.).

Meteorological  
report  
ship.

ABELIA is to be sailed for Liverpool p.m. 8th December.  
(2) On arrival ship is to be taken in hand for quick boiler clean and be ready to sail on 15th December as Meteorological reporting ship.  
(3) Full orders for this duty will be signalled.  
(C. in C.W.A., 052134A to Com. West. Isles, Capt.  
(D) Liverpool).

Operations.

Norway.

Operation  
"S.C."  
Chasers  
(Submarine).

Ramose Satire postponed expected time despatch now 0001A/6th December.  
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 050004A to A.C.O.S.).

/Submarine...

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway - Contd.

Submarine  
patrol.

Request you will sail UTSIRA to leave Lerwick 8th December via route Orange to 64° 30' N. thence to position V.G. 64° 30' N. 08° 30' E. thence to patrol Fro Havet north of 63 degs. 50' N.

(2) If presence in Fro Havet is compromised UTSIRA should shift patrol to approaches to Folden Fiord making this area from the North Westward.

(3) Attention is called to enemy minefields listed in F.S.K. mining is also suspected in the vicinity of Kya Light. (F.O.S/M, 051242A to S/M.9.).

Operations

Intend carrying out V.P.77.

"V.P."

(1) 0600A/6th December.

M.T.Bs.

(2) Not later than 2100A/6th December.

(3) Not later 0900A/10th December.

(4) 278° toward Noss Head not more 20 knots.

(5) Not later p.m. 10th December.

(6) No. (7) No. (8) 098° Noss Head (?8th). (9) No.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051504A to A.C.O.S.).

My 051504A.

(1) 098° from Noss Head Bressay. Not more than 20 knots.

(2) 059° 41' N. 005° 00' E.

(3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051506A to A.C.O.S.).

Intend carrying out V.P.82.

(1) 0615/6th December. (2) Not later 2100A/6th December.

(3) Not later 0900A/10th December. (4) 271° toward Moss Head.

Not more 20 knots. (5) Not later p.m. 10th December.

(6) No. (7) No. (8) 091° Noss Head Bressay. (9) No.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051509A to A.C.O.S.).

My 051509.

(1) 091° from Noss Head. Not more than 20 knots.

(2) 060° 05' N. 005° 05' E. (3) Blank.

(N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 051511A to A.C.O.S.).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W. 62. There is considerable U-Boat (German) activity in the vicinity of position MU and thence to White Sea  
(2) Estimate your E.T.A. MU as 1600C tomorrow 6th December.  
(3) Local escorts will meet you there to take over White Sea section.  
(4) Would it be possible to detach one escort group to search ahead of White Sea section to meridian of 040° E. and then return to Kola where they will arrive 24 hours after convoy.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 051412A to C.S. 1.)

U-Boats attacked by Russians. Following U-Boat report received from Russians:  
A. 0145C/5th 2 U-Boats on surface sighted by 2 Russian destroyers off Cape Cherni. One U-Boat rammed depth-charged and claimed sunk. Contact with 2nd U-Boat was lost.  
B. 0830C/5th 1 U-Boat on surface in approx. position 306° Kildin Island 12 miles, sighted and attacked with depth charges by Russian destroyer. Result of attack not known.  
C. 1355C/5th 1 U-Boat attacked by Russian Catalina in position 071° 50' N. 036° 00' E. Result of attack not known.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 051421A to Admty.)

Russian S.Cs. awaiting passage. C. in C. W.A.'s 041238 and N.O.I.C. Greenock's 041618. Intend sailing 5th and 6th groups of Russian submarine chasers escorted by CAISTOR CASTLE from Lisahally at 2200A/6th December. E.T.A. Inveraray 1600A/7th S.O.A. 10 knots to Lamdash ships pass Lamdash at 0900A/7th where S.C. 1497 will join, thence Inveraray at 9 knots.  
(Com. D. W.A. 051555A to N.O.I.C. Inveraray.)  
Your 031107, concur.  
(D.O.D.(H) 051809A to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol. Leave present patrol and establish new Gamma between 061° 00' N. 002° 15' W. and 061° 37' N. 002° 43' W. Probable course of U-Boats 250°. Air patrol will be maintained throughout the night.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 051637A to S.O.E.G. 31.)

Suspected U-Boat. By D/F on 3910 k/cs at 2205Z U-Boat within 30 miles of 59 N. 08.30 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 052355A to A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C., Cs. in C. W.A., Rosyth.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Situation Report Le Havre. All operations cancelled owing to gale. CYRUS broke down during gale and grounded on Banc d'Amfard. (Capt. M.S. N.F. 050909A to C.T.F. 125.)

M.S.F.1. Ostend closed due to weather which makes transfer of Commander Benson impossible. Suggest JASON return U.K. now to land Commander Crick. Am proceeding in anticipation of approval and leaving SPEEDWELL to conduct second sweep and return flotilla to Harwich. Remainder of flotilla at present weighing dans. Request instructions and transport for Commander Crick to Rouen if return is approved.  
(S.O.M.S.F. 1 050915A to C. in C. Nore.)  
C. in C. Nore's 041540 para. 7.  
(2) Sailing postponed 24 hours. 1st M.S.F. is to complete Oropesa clearance tomorrow Wednesday weather permitting. Acknowledge.  
(C. in C. Nore 051216A to M.S. 1.)

New German "Oyster" mines. This message cancels A.G.M. 274A 27th June, 341A 12th July and 459A 5th August. A unit operated by the suction effect caused by ships on the sea bed has now been introduced in German ground mines. This unit is used in combination with a magnetic unit in Type G.C. mines, code letters G.C/P.M. and with an acoustic unit in type G.G. mines, code letters G.G/A.P. The cover name "Oyster" will be used for mines embodying this principle.  
(2) "Oyster" mines may be laid by aircraft or surface craft.  
(3) The following are expected to be max. safe speeds for different classes of H.M. ships in the depths shown:

M.M.S., M.T.B. and small landing craft	5	7	10	15	20 fms.
	No restrictions				
Destroyer (1600 tons)	3½	5	8	12	14
Light cruiser (6000 tons)	-	4	5	8	11
Cruiser (10,000 tons)	-	3	4½	6	9½
Battleship (35,000 tons)	-	2	2½	4	6

(4) S.A. gear for self-protection should not be used.  
(5) The danger from these mines increases with the size of ship, speed through the water and shallowness of water. At six knots and twelve knots respectively through the water, ships of the following displacement tonnages should be reasonably safe in the depths given below:

	6 knots	12 knots
500 - 1,000 tons	5 fathoms	10 fathoms
1000 - 1,500 tons	7½ "	14 "
2,500 - 4,000 tons	10 "	17 "
5,400 - 7,000 tons	12½ "	20 "
8,000 - 12,000 tons	15 "	23 "
14,000 - 20,000 tons	17½ "	26 "
22,000 - 30,000 tons	20 "	28 "

/Merchant...

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New German  
"Oyster"  
mines.  
(Contd.)

Merchant ships of which the displacement tonnage is not known should use the rough rule: displacement tonnage equals length multiplied by beam multiplied by mean draught in feet divided by 45. (6) Para. 5 gives a rough guide for minimum depth of water for speeds of 6 and 12 knots.

Comprehensive tables giving the max. safe speeds based on beam of ship for different depths of water and varying draught of ship are now being issued (under cover of an Admiralty Letter to all Cs. in C. and operational authorities in North European waters) and copies of the instructions and tables will be issued to all N.C.S.Os. at home for the information of Masters. (D.T.M. 051301A G.M. Home and abroad and to all U.S. Forces in N. European waters.)

Brest  
sweeping.

Report of sweeping today at Brest. Swept Oropesa inside entrance of Port de Commerce one moored mine swept. Swept LL/SA in the Rade Abri. Negative.  
(Com. Y Squadron 051914A to C.T.F. 125.)

Schelde  
sweeping.

Operation "Calendar".

(1) Sweeping today Tuesday 5th December, SA and LL  
A. Terneuzen to Bat. B. Terneuzen to N.F. 17.  
C. N.F. 17 to N.F. 13. D. LAA sweeping at Antwerp.  
E. LAA sweeping in canal at Terneuzen, Oropesa  
and special sweeping outside estuary abandoned due to weather.  
(2) None. (3) Surveying work continued in river.  
(4) Nil. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2034, 2141, M.M.S. 175, 173, 69, 291,  
(7457), M.F.V. 1027, 1074.  
(Capt. M.S.F.A. 051947A to C. in C. Nore.)

U-Boats.

Technique  
for homing  
aircraft onto  
Schnorkel.

As the number of disappearing A.S.V. contacts has greatly increased during the past few months trials have been carried out to determine an accurate method of marking the position of the contact after it has faded from the A.S.V. screen. As a result of these trials the following homing techniques for aircraft using A.S.V. Mark XI have been

devised for marking the position of a disappearing contact and for accurate homing onto a Schnorkel.

(2) The range at which a surfaced U-Boat can be expected to be detected by A.S.V. Mark XI is between 7 and 15 miles the range of detection of a Schnorkel target should be between 4 and 9 miles in a sea of force 1 or less, and greater than 3 miles in a sea of force 2. With sea greater than force 3 radar contact is doubtful.

(3) When U-Boats may be using Schnorkel aircraft should always operate at a height which gives sea returns at less than 3 miles. In general this would mean that aircraft should operate at 100 feet by day and not higher than 300 feet by night.

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Technique for homing aircraft onto Schnorkel. (Contd.)

(4) A. The quarter distance 4 times turning angle method. If the target is detected at a range greater than 6 miles it is assumed to be a surfaced U-Boat and the following homing technique is to be adopted: Observer obtains contact and turns the aircraft until the echo is dead ahead. Aircraft closes one quarter of the radar detected range, steering constant Gyro course; this distance is timed by stop-watch, and the aircraft is then turned through four times the apparent drift-angle: the pilot maintains the new Gyro course and a marker is dropped at the stop-watch-estimated point of contact. During the latter three quarters of the distance run the A.S.V. Scanner may be stopped in a position pointing away from the target.

B. The Half distance 2 times Angle Method. If the target is detected at a range of 5 miles or less, it is assumed to be a Schnorkel, in which the following technique is used. Observer turns the aircraft until echo is dead ahead. Aircraft closes to one half the contact range, steering constant Gyro course: this distance is timed by stop-watch and the aircraft is then turned through twice the apparent drift angle: the pilot maintains the new Gyro course and a marker is dropped at the estimated point of contact. The scanner is normally in the "oscillate" position for the whole run.

(5) It is not possible at present to give each squadron training in these homing techniques, therefore individual ships are to commence training their squadrons as early as possible whilst exercising. After practice in these methods the accuracy obtained should be better than that within 300 yards of the position of the target.

(C. in C. W.A. 051147A to W.A. General, Admty.)

Possible U-Boats. Possibly one in Central English Channel with one more at least likely to be anywhere in Bristol Channel Approaches. (D.D.I.C. 051430A to Cominch.)

Navigational.

Goodwin Light vessels. Recent groundings and "near misses" indicate that the north and south approach to the swept channel through the Downs is not clearly enough marked for the many ships using this channel with little experience of pilotage in these waters.

(2) It is therefore proposed that, if available light vessels be established at an early date as follows:

A. North Goodwin light vessel. In the charted position of Dumpton Buoy (51° 20' 14" N. 01° 31' 57" E.) Suggested characteristic: group flashing (3) every minute, visible 10 miles with appropriate fog signal.

B. South Goodwin light vessel. In the charted position of Sandhead Buoy (51° 09' 49" N. 1° 26' 51" E.) Suggested characteristic: group flashing (2) every 30 seconds, visible 10 miles with appropriate fog signal.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Goodwin (3) Commander in Chief, The Nore, concurs in  
Light vessels. this proposal.  
(Contd.) (V.A. Dover 051202A to Admty.)

Port Facilities.

Antwerp. From P.S.V.O.X.F. My 291306. Tanker refloated  
and will be drydocked on Wednesday 6th.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 050944A to Com. Belgium.)  
Request GOLIATH be sailed to Antwerp.  
(2) Belgian tug GOLIATH is allocated to N.O.I.C. Antwerp as a  
Rescue Tug and on arrival is to be remanned by Belgian crew.  
(3) N.O.I.C. Antwerp is requested to signal when GOLIATH becomes  
operational.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 051807A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Casualties & Defects.

SS. EASTERN COAST. Following received from BERWICK begins, Addressed  
Admiralty. Regret collision with SS. EASTERN  
COAST (owner Coastlines Ltd.) at 1803/2nd Dec.  
in position 185° May Island light 3½ miles present  
whereabouts of M.S. unknown superficial damage  
to BERWICK guard rail stanchion and one bottle screw slip.  
M.S. considered to be entirely at fault, full report is being  
forwarded T.O.O. 031940 ends.  
(2) As SS. EASTERN COAST is now in the Tyne request survey be  
arranged without prejudice and report forwarded.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 051131A to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

CYRUS. Bow of CYRUS in position 049° 27' 34" N. 000° 09'  
00" E. stern in position 049° 27' 36" N. 000° 08'  
37' E. unable to reach her owing to uncharted  
shoal water. Both sections appear to be settling  
deeper into sand. Consider CYRUS will have to be abandoned unless  
suitable salvage craft are detailed immediately. Salvage craft  
could only work in (?calm) weather and at high water.  
(Capt. M.S.N.F. 051531A to C.T.F. 125.)

ELKANAH CROWELL. Your 051005A. ELKANAH CROWELL sailed from Bangor  
Bay at 1445A/1. No further news of her has been  
received.  
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 051556 to N.C.S.O. Swansea.)

P.L.M. 21. P.L.M. 21 sunk in Milford Haven Harbour. All  
confidential books recovered and withdrawn from  
Master's custody.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 051718A to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

FORMIGNY.

FORMIGNY in tow of SAMSONIA and JUSTICE now sheltering Mumbles anchorage. Vessel has developed 15° list.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 051825A to Admty.)

SS. SAMNETHY.

Ashore position 52.46 N. 02.00 E. in vicinity No. 7 buoy. Require assistance immediately.  
((MYRN) SAMNETHY No T.O.O/5th to North Foreland Radio.)

S.O.S. Collision unknown steamer damaged stem vessel aground pounding heavily require immediate assistance position 52.46 N. 02.00 E.

(SAMNETHY 052038Z to North Foreland Radio.)

SAMNETHY reported aground 052° 46' N. 002° 00' E. Tug is being sent from Yarmouth.

(C. in C. Nore 052130A to CAMPBELL, WINDSOR.)

Instruct tug ENFORCER to proceed assistance ship aground in approx. position 052° 46' N. 002° 00' E.

(C. in C. Nore 052240A to WOOLSTON, VALOROUS.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Dieppe-  
Boulogne  
Swept  
Channel.

A.M. 041948. Channel is not yet buoyed, but arrangements are in hand. Do not consider it suitable for use until properly marked. Further report will be made.

(V.A. Dover 051219A to Admty.)

V.A. Dover 051219. (1) Until buoyage of Dieppe-Boulogne Channel is completed it is not normally

to be used except expressly authorised by F.O.B.A.A. In particular merchant ships are not to be routed independently by this channel.

(2) For the present therefore traffic from east Calvados for Nore and East Coast is to be included in V.W.O. convoys (C. in C. Portsmouth 041938 para. 7 refers.)

(F.O.B.A.A. 051734A to N.Os. i/c Arrow, Dieppe, Boulogne, Calais.)

"Lion" and  
"Eagle"  
routes for  
independent  
sailings  
between U.K.  
and U.S.A.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. Following routes are promulgated for use by independents from U.K. to U.S.A. and vice versa.

(2) Instructions when to use the "Lion" route will be issued by Admiralty.

(3) "Lion" route. A. 1st position numbered 1 - 10 in steps of six mins. of lat. and six mins. of long. between 46.30 N. 17.30 W. and 45.36 N. 16.36 W. B. 2nd position numbered 11 - 20 in steps of six mins. of lat. and six mins. of long.

between 42.00 N. 25.00 W. and 41.06 N. 24.06 W. C. 3rd position numbered 21 - 30 on long. 37.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 40.30 N. and 39.36 N. D. 4th position numbered 31 - 40 on long. 50.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 39.00 N. 38.06 N. E. 5th position numbered 41 - 50 on long. 61.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 39.00 N. and 38.06 N. F. 6th position numbered 51 - 60 on long. 67.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 39.00 N. and 38.06 N.

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Shipping & Convoys.

"Lion" and  
"Eagle"  
routes for  
independent  
sailings  
between U.K.  
and U.S.A.  
(Contd.)

(4) "Eagle" route. A. 1st position numbered 101 - 110 on long. 68.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 41.00 N. and 40.06 N. B. 2nd position numbered 111 - 120 on long. 59.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 42.00 N. and 41.06 N. C. 3rd position numbered 121 - 130 on long. 49.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 43.00 N. & 42.06 N. D. 4th position numbered 131 - 140 on long. between 35.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 46.00 N. and 45.06 N. E. 5th position numbered 141 - 150 on long. 23.00 W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 49.00 N. and 48.06 N. F. From 5th position "Eagle" to 180° Fastnet 10 miles.  
(5) Ships for Canadian ports leave "Lion" route at 4th or 5th positions as ordered.  
(6) Ships from Canadian ports join "Eagle" route at 2nd position. (Admty. 051325A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore.)

Newhaven-  
Dieppe daily  
service.

It is intended to institute new daily cross-Channel service Newhaven/Dieppe commencing towards the end of December. This service will be operated initially by ISLE OF GUERNSEY and ISLE OF THANET and will be run by Southern Railway on behalf of M.W.T.  
(2) These ships will be in the same relation to N.O.I.C. Newhaven as other red ensign ships operating from the port and the position of N.O.I.C. will not be affected (C. in C. Portsmouth 281212 November refers.)  
(3) This service will replace the present N.M.S.S. but accommodation each way will be reserved for naval requirements as in A.N.C.X.F. 231153 November as follows:- 2 S.Os. 6 Junior Officers, 50 ratings., these figures including 2 W.R.N.S. officers and 10 W.R.N.S. ratings. Accommodation will also be reserved for naval despatches and mails as well as urgent stores up to 10 tons D.W.  
(4) In addition to service personnel it is intended that this service shall carry civilian passengers sponsored by Government Departments.  
(5) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to discuss detailed requirements in connection with civilian passengers with local representatives of Southern Railway.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 051653A to C. in C. Portsmouth, A.N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

L.S.T.  
sailings to  
Le Havre.

Your 041809 cancelled all U.S.L.S.T. sailings to Le Havre. No reason was given for this arbitrary decision to disrupt the troop build-up. Requested that before decisions of this nature are made this command be consulted and the true position ascertained. A letter containing a brief study of possible L.S.T. distribution is being forwarded to first info. addressee copy you. (C.T.F. 125 052043A to A.N.C.X.F.)

/Antwerp...

112

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Antwerp  
Convoys.

Your 031820A passed to Commodore Southend and N.C.S.O. Ramsgate. Concur generally.

(2) T.A.M. 10 sailing tomorrow 6th December, and subsequent T.A.M. convoys will be sailed to pass Flushing at 1330, repeat 1330 daily.

(3) Commodore Southend reports that Commodores of convoys are capable and willing to lead convoys from N.F. 8 to Flushing and vice versa without sea pilots. Consider however, that whenever practicable, sea pilots should be carried by eastbound convoys, as many American ships have little experience of pilotage waters. In the case of westbound convoys, pilots could be disembarked off Flushing as ships will have already made the passage once.

(4) When pilots cannot board eastbound convoys at N.F. 9 consider it essential that they should embark off Flushing.

(5) Amend my 201445A November, paras. 3 and 8 accordingly.

(C. in C. Nore 052148A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM Departure Horta at 1043Z/5th. BIRMINGHAM  
routed as in Admty., 011943. S. of A.20 knots.  
E.T.A. Nab 0930Z/8th.  
(2) Request Lizard light from 2330Z/7th till 0130Z/  
8th and Start Point light from 0230Z till 0430/8th.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 051302Z to Admty.).

NARVAL C.R.D.6. Intend sail French submarine NARVAL  
ANNAMITE. escorted by ANNAMITE 1000A/6 to Dakar, speed  
12.5 route British standard coastal omitting F,  
E.T.A. Dakar, 0700A/11.  
(2) Communications.  
(3) F.O.G.M.A. to promulgate bombing restrictions as necessary.  
(Commorseafron, 051418A to F.O.G.M.A.).

C.F.B. Re closing down.  
Gibraltar. (C. in C.Med., 051522). See Mediterranean.

CRANE. Intend to sail CRANE a.m. 1700 Dec. 7th to  
Malta.  
2(a) 16.  
(3) Route.  
(4) 0700/Dec. 10th. (6) "Wormbridge" 3787 (a).  
(9) After disembarking passengers V.A.M. is requested to onward  
route ship to Port Said for Eastern Fleet.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 051706 to V.A.M.).

TENACITY. Sailed TENACITY from Horta 1751Z/5th Dec. in  
accordance with Admty's. 011558 not to all,  
routed through  
(a) 39.12 31.15 W. (b) 42.12 38.32. (c) 45.15 46.38 thence  
destination.  
S. of A. 10.5 knots. E.T.A. St. Johns 0800Z/10th Dec.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 051840Z to F.O.N.F.).

BALINDERRY. Your 021719. Yes, for the present.  
(2) BALINDERRY and three sloops were left to you  
as S.O. of the 38th to 41st Escort Groups.  
(D.O.D.(F), 052220A to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

S.L. convoys Ref. Admty. 031726A, (031716 intended).  
cessation, (A) and (B) will be signalled.  
information  
of  
independent  
sailings. /((C)...



5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

S.L. convoys  
cessation  
information  
of  
independent  
sailings .  
(Contd.)

(C) Is not normally known until supplied by Admty. after receipt of convoy pre-sailing telegram. Submit (C) be signalled by Admty. direct to F.O.G.M.A. and (D) by F.O.G.M.A. as this will be more accurately known at assembly port.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 051315Z to Admty.).

QUEEN  
ELIZABETH,  
ROTHERHAM,  
ROCKET,  
TEST.

Sailed QUEEN ELIZABETH, ROTHERHAM, ROCKET and TEST routed through  
(P) 025° 40' S. 048° 12' E. (Q) 005° 07' S. 055° 15' E. thence by Q.C.B. 140 to  
(R) Seychelles for all ships to refuel, thence by Q.C.B.69 to  
(S) 003° 44' S. 055° 28' E. (T) 001° 30' N. 073° 22' E. (U) 005° 42' N. 081° 40' E. thence 30 miles off coast of Ceylon to Trincomalee.  
(2) S. of A. to Seychelles 14 knots, then 16 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. (a) Seychelles 0400Z/13th (b) Trincomalee 0230Z/19th.  
(4) Continuous wireless guard on 3L shifting to V at 2200Z/7th.  
(5) TEST will be detached a.m. 7th to return to Durban.  
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 051610Z to Admty. etc.).

~~Confidential~~ 114 H

CONFIDENTIAL.

IN

WARNING.—This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

\* (NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad ("O.T.P.") are excepted from this rule.)

*Recd in W.D. 27.12.44*

051318Z/December

From: F.O.C. W.A.F.

Date: 6.12.44

Road: 0358

NAVAL CYPHER "X" (F.O. PLUG) BY W/T RECIRCULATED

To: Admiralty  
Info: C. E. in C. Bath, Director of Dockyards

West African Escort Force.

Request I may be informed whether C.E. in C. 021942 to Commodore-in-Charge, Freetown, stating that majority of SRR.(D)'s will be withdrawn from Freetown in near future is based on fact, observing that this appears to be contrary to policy laid down in A.M. 231635<sup>+</sup> August since escort force cannot be maintained without SRR(D)'s.

051318Z

<sup>+</sup> W. African escort force to be replaced on defeat of Germany.

Note: This signal is referred to in F.O.C.W.A.F.'s, 221147 (Top Secret) already circulated to you.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L. (2)  
Contr.  
Vice Contr.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.A.S. (S)  
U.W.R.  
Ops. (2)  
Plot  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D. of P. (3)  
D. of S. (3)  
D. 57 O.B. 1.  
E. in C.  
M. (2)  
W.D.  
Ad. Blake (4)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.N.O.R.  
D.A./S.W.  
D.A./U.D.

Dept. Controller (3)  
D. (4)  
E. in C.  
S.W.R. (6)

Bath

5.12.1944  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Ships, disposal. Treatment of enemy ships captured in ports of Southern France. (WARX 72580, FAN 463, FACS 113, Agwar 050133A to A.F.H.Q. and Versailles) See Lion Copy.

ENGADINE. Intend to sail ENGADINE at 1000 to-day 5th Dec. by basic westbound route passing 309 at 0032/6th to 292 at 2351/7th for onward routing by V.A.M. to Gibraltar S. of A. 14 knots. All times B. F.O.L.E.M's 031431B refers. (2) Codeword "Pasture" W/T callsign 325 constant watch on area broadcast 3 requires complete set of area one S.P. Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 050257B to V.A.M.)

M.E. Air Report. A.322. Daily Opsum Number 587. December 4th, 10 Baltimores A.30 despatched to bomb Coastal Batteries near Rhodes Harbour returned owing to bad weather, 2 Beaufighters despatched to spot for H.M.Ships bombarding Rhodes Harbour returned as operation was cancelled. (H.Q. M.E. 050948Z)

TUMULT, (for Portsmouth). Sail at 1700/5th. S. of A. 21 knots to Gibraltar. (2) Route Northwest Channel positions 278 Tunisian war channel position 19, 92, 89 and Q.B.A. 64. E.T.A. at position 19 1245/6th, 89 0200/7th Gibraltar breakwater at 1700/7. (3) Codeword "Radical" 582, low. (4) TUMULT is for onward routing to U.K. in accordance with A.M. 291846 not to all and will require navigational information and S.P. for area 1 on arrival at Gibraltar. (5) All times A. (V.A.M. 051030 to TUMULT)

Cable Repairs. My 041426 para. 3. Cables and Wireless advise MARIE LOUISE MACKAY now homeward bound and available. Request ship may be diverted. (C. in C. Med. 051210A to Admty.)

Alexandria-Taranto Convoys discontinued. X.I.F/I.X.F. convoys will be discontinued after arrival of X.I.F. 26 at Taranto. (2) Ships are to be sailed independently and not in convoy formation by routes in my 241737 Nov. not to all. (3) Ships for Taranto are to be sailed to allow R/V with local escorts to be made in daylight. (4) Cancel my 271737 Nov. (C. in C. Med. 051250A to F.O.L.E.M. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

KING GEORGE V. Departure H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. (N.O.I.C. Suez, 051325B to Admty)

/C.F.B...

**TOP SECRET**

IN

115<sup>A</sup>

**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.)

050133A December

From AGWAR

Date 5. 12. 44.

Received 1715A

Cipher

Addressed A.F.H.Q. and Versailles  
Repeated U.K.Base

*Enemy Ships, Southern France,  
(treatment and disposal).*

U.S.2418  
Ref.No. WARX 72580  
FAN 463/FACS 113

5th December, 1944.

"EDITED LITERAL TEXT"

Interior Addresses:

From: AGWAR from CCS  
Action to: Allied Force HQ to Wilson (FAN 463)  
Versailles for Eisenhower (FACS 113)  
Info to: U.K. Base for BCS.  
Attention invited to NAF 763, *f201326/argument*.

1. Combined Chiefs of Staff agree with your proposals for the handling of Italian warships and merchant vessels captured in ports of Southern France. That is to say, these ships will be dealt with under the surrender instrument and the Cunningham-Crurtin agreement, being turned over to the Italians for operations of care and maintenance pending ultimate settlement concerning the Italian fleet and merchant shipping.
2. With regard to recaptured Allied ships, Combined Chiefs of Staff agree that these should be treated in accordance with SHAEF AG 546-1 GDS-AGM of 13 May, which means that they will be returned to the Ally concerned. The disposal of ex-Yugoslav ships would follow the arrangements made between Dr. Subasic and Marshal Tito.
3. Treatment of enemy ships captured in French ports is more difficult in that no agreement exists comparable to that concerning recaptured allied ships upon which SHAEF's instructions of 13 May are based. Question is a general one not confined to ports of Southern France and Combined Chiefs of Staff have agreed on the following policies concerning enemy ships captured before the surrender of Germany:

/A.

A. SCAEF and SACMED should have first call for the purpose of their operations on enemy ships captured in ports within their command as they have on ex-Allied ships.

B. When enemy merchant ships captured or found in ports within the command of SCAEF and SACMED are no longer required for military operations under such Commanders, they should be turned over to the representatives of the Combined shipping adjustment board who will arrange for manning and for operation within the combined shipping pool, such vessels to remain subject to all claims including salvage claims and to be accounted for in the ultimate shipping settlement.

C. Captured enemy warships other than ex-Allied ships should be at the disposal of SCAEF and SACMED who should refer to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for direction concerning their assignment.

4. Any negotiations to obtain Allied Agreement to the above policy will be conducted by the appropriate merchant shipping authorities of the United States and United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the above Directive will be operative.

050133A

✓ T.O.O.201326 Aug.

Circulation:

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (L)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (4)  
D.C.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
Hd. of M. (2)  
Admiral Blake  
T.N.L.O.  
D.T.D. (4)  
W.D.

Defence Office.  
Foreign Secretary,  
1st Sea Lord.  
C.6 Tels.  
A.M.C.S. (C)  
Minister of War Transport

116

5.12.1944  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

C.F.B. Gibraltar. The closing down of C.F.B. Gibraltar is approved in principle. Request your remarks regarding C.C.F's proposals in Appendix A of his number 5021/15 of the 18th Nov. not to Admty., for implementing this.  
(C. in C. Med. 051522 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Ships for U.K. V.A. Malta is requested to sail FARNDALE, HAYDON and AVONVALE to Gibraltar to arrive by a.m. 11th.  
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail  
(a) ships in para. 1 escorting ORMONDE with ADRIAS (G.S.) in company to U.K.  
(b) EGGESFORD escorting ENGADINE.  
My 051605 not to all (N.T. in W.R.) refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 051607A to V.A. Malta, F.O.G.M.A.)

Independent Routes, U.S.A. to Med. Comtenthfleet (C. & R.) 021339Z is being re-cyphered and transmitted to you.  
(2) A.M. 031208A is confirmed as the only crossing takes place West of 50 degs. W. Your 041231 refers.  
(D.T.D. 051610A to C. in C. Med.)

Athens, Army Report. FX 63461 cipher 5 Dec. Cite FHGCT - Signed Wilson. Comd. 3 Corps at Greek Govt. request has ordered E.L.A.S. Irregulars to be clear of Athens area by midnight 6/7 Dec., moving only by day and to cease attempting disarm National Guard from 1600 hours 4 December. Failure of E.L.A.S. to obey will be regarded as hostile.  
(A.F.H.Q. 051709A to W.O.)

Sweepers, Mudros Bay. Sail with all fleet sweepers to join me in Mudros Bay as soon as possible. Report E.T.A.  
(S.O. M/S.F.12, 051743B to S.O. M/S.F.5)

Enemy Sick and Wounded. Proposed repatriation plan (FX 63534, signed McNarney, 051831A Dec. to Agwar, Troopers). See Lion Copy.

Bulgaria. Situation of Allied Control Commission, and relations with Russian Command.  
(A.C.C. Bulgaria, 071845 to Air Min.)  
See Lion Copy. See page 169A.

/Kavalla ...

# SECRET

IN

116A

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MEDIT  
051 831 A/December.

FROM: F X 63534 signed  
McNarney.

Date 6.12.44.

Recd. 0435.

CCM (5 Services) ETO (Sec) by T/P.

TO: AGWAR, Troopers.

INFO: SOLOC Mideast, EADIST, Admiralty, ETOUSA, U.K. Base,  
S.H.A.E.F. Main CITE NAGAP.

Enemy Sick, Repatriation

IMPORTANT.

(a) Proposed repatriation reference your cable WX 71161 of 1st December '44 is subject, copies not to all.

(b) Proposed plan to transport German repatriables on the GRADISCA is agreed upon here. Movements will be from Algiers (and possibly Oran subject to later commitment) to Trieste. C. in C. Mediterranean concurs to general plan and to ports and movements. C. in C. Mediterranean will require ten days notice movements for this interchange.

(c) British Resident Minister and United States Political Adviser have been consulted and concur generally to entire plan.

(d) Agreed here between United States and British that we can accept at Algiers and Oran from outside this Theatre 1000 sick and wounded at each place. Contingent upon Agwar plans, A.F.H.Q. can accommodate up to 2000 sick and wounded at Algiers and Oran for 10 days holding. British had estimated 374 sick and wounded here and are receiving 213 sick and wounded from Mideast. British have no surplus protected personnel in United States custody, sick and wounded repatriables under convention are 448 at Oran and 114 at Naples subject to passing by mixed medical commissions which is now en route here. Protected personnel in MTOUSA custody are 39 doctors, 4 dentists, eight chaplains, 883 enlisted men. On usual scale we are only entitled to retain for our approximate 3000 German prisoners of war and 4500 mixed nationals 15 doctors, eight dentists, eight chaplains and 45 enlisted men, but deemed as a matter of necessity minimum requirements for retention are 39 doctors, eight dentists, eight chaplains and 309 enlisted men. Request you notify us as to how many we must repatriate. In any event if sick and wounded from United States are to be staged this Theatre in numbers discussed by you, able minimum of 446 enlisted Sanitary Corps Men must be retained for care and should not be repatriated in advance.

(e) The United States Hospital Ship MEANY now in this Theatre has been requested to return to United States. Since this entire plan depends on an intra-Mediterranean shuttling of sick and wounded request retention of the MEANY in this Theatre be authorized until plan is firm and completed.

Para f./.....

2.

(f) Due to operational and administrative changes in Theatre and specifically the closing out of MTOUSA installation in North Africa request position of proposed repatriation be reaffirmed every 10 days.

051 831 A

/ Not identified in War Registry.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Sec.  
P.A.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (L)  
U.W.R.  
Ops. (2)  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D. of P. (Q) (3)  
D. of P. (2)  
Ad. Blako.  
M. (2)  
W.D.  
cwM. D. G.



5.12.1944  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Kavalla,  
Greek  
dispute.

Kavalla Situation at 2000B/5th Dec.

(1) G.S. IERAX in accordance with his orders is trying to assume control of Port. He has been refused control by E.L.A.N. He has now issued manifesto indicating intention of controlling Port by gunfire which is most undesirable.

(2) He has not sufficient forces to do this. Minesweepers in Port can assist him and military force can provide certain guards but first display of force by IERAX will start considerable loss of life and will delay ultimate engagement.

(3) Reputation of British Army and Navy is high. E.L.A.N. are willing to turn over Ports to R.N. and are extremely proud of their own record.

(4) Agreed with B.N.L.O. and all British authorities that British Naval forces have deciding (corrupt group) effect and that it is desirable that R.H.N. should be removed for the present. This is in consideration of long term view.

(S.O. M/S.F.5, 052055A to S.B.N.O. Greece)

Destroyers  
for  
Piraeus.

MUSKETEER and METEOR are being sailed to arrive Piraeus dawn (?7th or 8th) December and to come under your orders.

(F.O.L.E.M.052153B to C.S.15, (R) Admty C. in C. Med., S.B.N.O. Greece)

Situation  
report  
No.496.

(1) Piraeus. E.L.A.S. armed force attacked Naval H.Q. early on 4th December, brisk small arms fire between Greeks. Our operation room was under fire. Situation was later restored, and British did not open fire. Three Naval ratings were wounded. Unloading of cargo continued.

Situation deteriorated to-day, Tuesday, and Greek and British warships present moved out to Salamis Strait, and stood by to bombard on call from army.

(2) Rhodes. AURORA, MARNE, METEOR and MUSKETEER carried out night bombardment for Rhodes harbour in heavy rain, and using Radar fixes, on 4th December. Bombardment, in which 154 rounds 6 inch and 399 rounds 4.7 inch fired, designed to destroy enemy ships and so prevent sorties to other islands. Enemy re-action slow, first star shell burst second minute after cease fire. Delay described as "attributable to rain and supertime".

(3) Adriatic. H.M. ships BROCKLESBY, LAMERTON, QUANTOCK and WILTON and two L.C.Gs. accompanied by two M.T.Bs bombarded Lussinpiccolo on 3rd December, prolonged shoot being carried out at very close range, while aircraft also attacked simultaneously. H.M.S. WILTON slightly damaged by machine-gun fire. M.T.B. (633) entered Cigale Cove and destroyed three explosive M.T.Bs and damaged a fourth. She was slightly damaged. 1 rating was killed and two wounded.

(4) M/S in Mediterranean have swept over 2,000 mines since 1st September.

(C. in C. Med. 052227)

Piraeus  
situation.

British ships are only to bombard at the request of 3 Corps. Your 051325, not to Admty.

(F.O.L.E.M.052255B to S.B.N.O. Greece, C. in C. Med., C.S.15, Admty, 3 Corps.)

/Italy ...

118

5.12.1944  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Italy and  
Yugoslavia,  
Army  
Report.

G.2 summary No.96. A. Italy. (1) On Adriatic flank enemy abandoned Ravenna night 3/4 Dec. Own troops advancing along route 16 have reached bridge over Lamone at M.4744 without opposition and believed that no organised enemy remain East of river. Strong resistance met West of river on left flank 356 Inf. Division, where determined counter-attack in estimated strength two battalions with tank support succeeded in destroying our bridgehead. South of Faenza still no major reaction from 26 Panzer Division to our crossings over Lamone. On remainder of front no changes of note.

(2) Slight indications of move on part of 90 P.G. Division. Though not possible on present evidence to deduce destination movement does not appear directed towards 8 Army Front.

(B) (1) (A) One Mountain Division moving Osijek and according one report already beyond town and crossing Drava at Moslavina. Division evidently intended to reinforce danger area 68 Corps.

(B) Elements 21 Corps reached Lijevo Rijeka, Northeast Vilac (or Visac) on 2 Dec.

(C) Partisan capture Knin confirmed.

(A.F.H.Q.No. T.O.O/5th Dec.

119

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U-Boat During further hunt for U-Boat attacked on  
dispositions. night 3rd/4th aircraft obtained an A.S.V. contact  
0420Z/4th in position 012° 55' N. (7092°) 21'  
E. at 2225Z/4th; a further A.S.V. contact was  
obtained in position 012° 41' N. 087° 52' E.  
scales remain Y.Y.4.

All other areas scales remain unchanged.  
(C. in C.E.I., 050354Z).

LEWES. C. in C.E.I. 050857.  
(N.T. in W.D., but see reply in 091841A).

Gunboats There is no immediate operational requirement  
from Med. now in sight for gunboats referred to in C. in  
C. Med's. 021406.  
(2) Request that they may be given thorough  
refit before being routed to join East Indies Fleet.  
(C. in C.E.I., 050917Z to Admty.).

Movements. Arrivals ARGONAUT, BLACK PRINCE, LAOMEDON.  
Departures NEPAL, TRADEWIND.  
(N.O.i/c Trincomalee, 051729Z to Admty.).

Watering Your 040640. Hardship caused by shortage of  
craft, water in tropics is appreciated.  
Ceylon. (2) An exhaustive examination of our total  
requirements of small tankers for water and fuel  
in S.E.A.C. and S.W. Pacific area has recently  
been carried out and efforts are being made to obtain American  
assistance in meeting deficiency.  
(3) As regards water facilities in Ceylon, present arrangements  
are to send you from British resources eight "Chant" class  
tankers of 350 tons capacity 2 for Colombo and 6 for Trincomalee.  
These vessels are expected to leave U.K. in January.  
(Director of Stores, Approved by 4th S.L., 051857A to C. in C.  
East Indies).

Carriers. A.M. 212150 Nov. In order to build up the  
carrier force in the East Indies from as early  
a date as possible SLINGER, SPEAKER, RULER,  
KHEDIVE will leave U.K. on 11th Jan. and  
proceed direct to Ceylon. The period of group training for  
these ships at Alexandria is cancelled.  
(V.C.N.S., 052040A to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.Med., F.O.C.T.).

Far Following is text of directive dated 20th Nov.  
Eastern 1944, addressed by Prime Minister and Minister  
Theatres, of Defence to Viceroy of India, C. in C.India,  
Welfare of and Supreme Commander, South East Asia Command.  
personnel. Begins:-

(1) The end of the war in Europe will be a time  
of particular importance in the Far Eastern  
Theatres. The general relaxation of tension, and the thought  
of substantial releases to civil life, will disturb the minds

/of...

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary,FOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesFar  
Eastern  
Theatres  
Welfare  
of  
Personnel  
(Contd.)

of those who must continue the fight against Japan far from their homes, and under bad climatic conditions. In matters concerning the welfare of the forces it is necessary that a new view should be taken, so that as far as is humanly possible all reasonable cause for complaint shall be removed. A wholehearted drive is now required to ameliorate conditions of service, and to prepare to make the fullest use of the air transport and other resources

which will become available when Germany is defeated.

(2) The welfare of the men of all three Services, and of the Merchant Navy, must be given a higher place relative to operational requirements than it occupies at present. The aim should be to provide British sailors, soldiers and airmen with a standard of amenities as close to that enjoyed by American troops as the resources at your disposal will allow. Financial considerations must not be allowed to stand in the way of improvements which are otherwise possible.

Indian and Colonial troops must receive full consideration, but improvements in the amenities for British troops must not be held back because they cannot be fully extended to troops more accustomed to the climate and to local conditions.

(3) The most important direction in which action is required is in the improvement of accommodation and amenities in leave centres and static camps. Present scales should be drastically revised to bring them into line with those which have been approved for British troops in the west. Modern design and construction should be adopted, buildings should be made properly flyproof, and should be fitted with modern appurtenances, including refrigerators, ample shower baths, and good furniture. There should be no hesitation in requisitioning suitable houses, irrespective of ownership, to serve as canteens and clubs in the larger cities. Up-to-date and hygienic systems of preparing and cooking food should be brought into operation, and special attention should be paid to providing as varied a diet as possible.

(4) All this will require the provision of personnel, materials and equipment from the U.K. or the U.S. Your demands should be formulated without delay, and I will take steps to ensure that they are met as fully and as rapidly as possible.

(5) The presence of British women at leave centres, hostels etc. is of importance of the maintenance of morale. We at home are examining means for augmenting the numbers available to proceed to India. You should furnish the statement of your requirements for which you have been asked, and in the meanwhile you should do all that you can to encourage the British women now in India to play their full part.

(6) Nothing will contribute more greatly to the wellbeing of the troops at the front than the rapid delivery of mails and fresh food, and the liberal use of air transport for the evacuation of casualties, for the movement of men on urgent compassionate leave, and on ordinary leave from the forward areas so far as may be possible. Every effort is being made to improve the services to the Far East, and to increase your

/resources...

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5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Far  
Eastern  
Theatres,  
Welfare  
of Personnel.  
(Contd.)

resources in transport aircraft. A much greater quantity will be available when Germany is defeated, but in the meanwhile in assessing the priorities for the use of transport aircraft you should accord a greater degree of importance than at present to welfare purposes.

(7) The assurance of full support and a sense of contentment in the minds of the man and women in the Forces, including the Merchant Seamen, will yield fruits on the battlefield.

I count on you to drive these matters forward, and you can be sure that the efforts of those at home will be fully engaged to support you.(Ends).

My immediately following message T.O.O. 060001 will inform you of your position in this matter.

(Head of Naval Branch, Approved by 1st S.L., 052215A to C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C.E.I.).

War Diary.

5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Atlantic  
Routes.

Eagle and Lion routes as in my 272126 but longitude of 6th Lion amended to 67° W. have been promulgated to British Authorities concerned. (Plot (TD) 051240A to N.S.H.Q., Com. 10th Fleet C. & R)

M.M.S. 1070,  
defect.

M.M.S. 1070 broke down, defective scavenger pump, fuel line choked. Am taking in tow returning Halifax. Estimated position 042° 58' 060° 50' following is un-coded weather report 3601 6118 3601 2622 1889. (SERENE, 051240Z, to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q., 051322Z).

BEAUHARNOIS

The following allocation is effective to date 5th Dec. from new construction to the Mid Ocean Force for duty with C.4, H.M.S. BEAUHARNOIS.  
2. Pay Accounts to be held in AVALON.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 051539Z to N.S.H.Q., BEAUHARNOIS)

Carriers.

Cominch would appreciate RAJAH being made available for transport duty under C. in C. Pac. since she can commence ferry duty much earlier than ATHELING and time is an important factor. He requests she be sailed in an appropriate U.C. convoy and he will arrange onward routeing etc. A.M. 271744 Nov. and 302132 Nov. refer.  
2. Cominch notes TROUNCER and TRACKER will sail in U.C.48 A and that the former will be relieved by BATTLER in mid-February 1945.  
(B.A.D., 051701Z to Admty).

JASPER  
(Bermuda)

On completion request you will sail JASPER to Granton for inspection and M/S work up.  
2. Your 021552Z not to all addressees refers.  
(D.M.S., 051827A to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

KIOWA

Suggest KIOWA towing SS. JOHN BANVARD be sailed from Azores to join special towing convoy departing U.K., about 11th Dec. This convoy has adequate escort and stand by tug.  
(Cinclant, 052012Z to C.N.O. Info. Admty. etc).

# TOP SECRET

IN

122A

**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.)

050338Z December.

From H.M.S. CHALLENGER

Date 6.12.44.  
Recd. 1328.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T.

Second Correction.

(Recd - W.D.)

27.12.44

Addressed C.T.G. 70.5, Admiralty for Hydrographer,  
Repeated A.C.N.B., C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Surveying by CHALLENGER

## IMPORTANT

Anticipate channel from Booby Island through Prince of Wales Channel and between Alert and Herald Patches at 36 feet and thence to Harvey rocks at 48 feet will be completed by end December including sounding of Prince of Wales Channel.

2. Neither H.M.A.S. POLARIS or Motor Launch 1353 yet joined unit and trawlers attached have maximum sweeping speed of 5 knots and due to sagging of sweep wire bottom sweep only is practicable.

3. Unless ship capable of Oropesa at not less than 9 knots can undertake 48 feet formation sweep of Gt. N.E. Channel (my 190850Z/November and 180221Z/November to C.T.G. 70.5 only refer) it can only be swept by echo Oropesa with boat wire sweep checking obstruction. Trawler may be able to wire drag some portion of the channel. To ensure earlier completion if fast sweeper not available it is suggested depth of sweep be reduced to 42 feet and North East limit to Stephens Island.

4. Owing to weather being bad between January and April it is considered that survey of South approach Adolphus Channel and second 3 mile opening be postponed until May and that ships on completion of Gt. N.E. Channel be employed on any urgent work required by OCH B such as South approach to China Strait where conditions are more favourable.

050338Z.

Advance copy Hydrog.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
D.C.  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.D.I.C.(3)  
D.M.S.  
D.T.D.(4)  
D.T.D.(C)  
D.T.M.

Hydrog.  
D. of N.  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(3)  
D.D.O.D.(C)  
D. of L.D.  
Admiral Blake (4)  
Plot.  
Hd. of M.(2)  
W.D.

NOTE by War Registry  
22nd December.

Above is the result of many attempts made by War Registry to obtain correct version of this signal. It is suggested that Hydrog make signal to CHALLENGER for repetition of any particular words still considered doubtful.

TOP SECRET

IN

**WARNING:** This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From War Registry

Date. 21.12.44.

3rd Correction to 050338Z/December from H.M.S.  
CHALLENGER - 2nd line for Herald Patches read Herald Channels

V.C.N.S.

...C.N.S. (F)

D.C.

D.O.D. (H) (4)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.D.I.C. (3)

D.M.S.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (C)

D.T.M.

Hydrog.

D. of N.

D. of P. (2)

D. of P. (Q) (3)

D.D.O.D. (C)

D. of L.D.

Ad. Blake (4)

Plot

Hd. of M. (2)

W.D.



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5.12.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Surveying.

Anticipate channel from Booby Island through Prince of Wales Channel and between Alert and ~~Herald~~ <sup>Channels</sup> ~~these~~ at 36 feet and ~~(corrupt group)~~ <sup>Rocks Patches</sup> ~~thence to~~ Harvey ~~limb~~ at 48 feet will be completed by end December including sounding of Prince of Wales Channel.

2. Neither H.M.A.S. POLARIS or Motor Launch 1353 yet joined unit and trawlers attacked have maximum sweeping speed of 5 knots and due to sag of sweep wire bottom sweep only is practicable.

3. Unless ship capable of Oropesa at not less than 9 knots can undertake 48 feet formation sweep of Gt. N.E. Channel (my 190850Z/November and 180221Z/November to C.T.G.70.5 only refer) it can only be swept by echo Oropesa with boat wire sweep checking obstruction. Trawler may be able to wire drag some portion of the channel. To ensure earlier completion if fast sweeper not available it is suggested depth of sweep be reduced to 42 feet and North East limit to Stephens Island.

4. Owing to weather being bad between January and April it is <sup>Considered</sup> ~~(soon)~~ ~~consideration~~ that survey of South approach Adolphus Channel and second 3 mile opening be postponed until May and that ships on completion of Gt. N.E. Channel be employed on any <sup>(y OCH B)</sup> ~~urgent work required.~~ ~~Case by~~ South approach to China Strait where conditions are more favourable.  
(CHALLENGER, 050338Z to C.T.G.70.5, Admty. for Hydrographer, (R) A.C.N.B., C. in C. Eastern Fleet)

Welfare of  
Personnel.Admty. 052215A to C. in C. B.P.F.  
(See East Indies).U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.For 24 hours 0900Z/5th December.  
Para. A. During night 3rd/4th December aircraft attacked surfaced U-boat in latitude 12° 27' N. longitude 88° 40' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 051055A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)U/B  
dispositions.Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 051415A, 051425A)

6.12.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. Over 600 enemy aircraft took the air, of which 103 were shot down. Flying bomb activity continued.

## North Sea.

2. A preliminary report on Flushing suggests that three months' repair work will be necessary to put cranes and locks in working order, although the small dock (245 ft.) should be in service by the end of December, and the large one (486 ft.) by the end of January.

3. A.N.C.X.F. concurs in the suggestion that all minesweeping be placed under the direct control of V.A. Dover.

## Western Approaches.

4. C. in C. Western Approaches is asking for Naval Air Arm squadrons to patrol the approaches to the Irish Sea in view of the U-Boats evident intention of working as close in to our vital areas as they can. But he proposes to dispense with all fighter escorts in his Command.

## Northern Waters.

5. The frigate BULLEN, 19th Escort Group, was torpedoed and sunk off Cape Wrath. LOCH INSH and GOODALL, in company, carried out squid and hedgehog attacks on the U-Boat, resulting in wreckage and quantities of oil. HESPERUS later landed 97 survivors from BULLEN, and 3 from GOODALL's capsized whaler, at Scapa.

## Weather Reports.

6. In reply to the request from the U.S. Chiefs of Staff (c.f. November 23), the Chiefs of Staff informed Washington today that arrangements are being made to station a vessel in the vicinity of 58° N., 20° W. (south of Iceland and about 500 miles from the British Isles) to provide weather information. It might be necessary to withdraw this vessel if a serious U-Boat situation developed. (page 149)

Foreign StationsNorth Atlantic

## Azores.

7. Commander J.A. Jaap, U.S.N., assumed command of the U.S. Naval Force, Azores, with effect from today, vice Captain W.G. Tomlinson.

6.12.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTMediterranean

Greece.

8(a) The C. in C. Mediterranean today reported the situation at the Piraeus as quieter, but Allied Force Headquarters said that the general situation in the Athens-Piraeus area continued to deteriorate. E.L.A.S. (Left Wing organisation) made a systematic attempt to eliminate the police force in this area and captured two-thirds of the police stations. British troops intervened on several occasions, and in conjunction with Greek troops are endeavouring to suppress E.L.A.S. by force. British military casualties so far are about 20 wounded.

(b) E.L.A.S. also made determined attacks on Navy House between 1200 and 1800, during which British casualties were one killed and one wounded.

(c) H.M. Ships are standing by at all docks and ports of importance.

(d) Access at Kalamata and Volos is not certain, and destroyers are being sent to investigate.

(e) Patras is reported strongly held by our troops. The general strike declared there on December 4 ended today, but the situation remains tense.

(f) A general strike was declared at Salonika today.

Italy.

9. Pending further instructions, the drafting of naval personnel to H.M.S. HAMILCAR, base ship at Messina, is to cease, and only urgent operational drafting will be carried out from that base. The sailing of craft to and from Messina is restricted to operational requirements.

Minesweeping  
Organisation.

10. Several "Isle" class trawlers have been allocated to Fleet Minesweeping Flotillas as additional danlayers. Depth charge equipment is to be removed, and each trawler equipped with 30 dan buoys. They will relieve whalers on danlaying duties, and the whalers, after landing minesweeping gear at Malta, will return to the United Kingdom.

East IndiesSTRATAGEM  
lost.

11. The submarine STRATAGEM, Lieut. C.R. Pelly, D.S.C., R.N., is four days overdue and presumed lost. As she was operating in water less than 20 fathoms it is possible that S.Ps. and C.Bs. may be compromised.

/Air ...

6.12.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Air Mining,  
Burma.

12. Last night, 12 Liberators laid mines in the harbours of Mergui and Ye, 350 miles S.S.E. and 155 miles S.E. of Rangoon respectively.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

13(a) P.T. Boats operating in the Camotes Sea sank six barges eastbound off the north-west tip of Pacijan Island; three were carrying personnel.  
(b) Two enemy torpedo bombers attacked a damaged merchant ship under tow east of Leyte and sank her, but both aircraft were shot down.  
(c) An enemy convoy of about five merchant ships and seven escorts, including destroyers, with a constant air umbrella of about seven fighters, was attacked in the Samar Sea with some success, but results were unobserved.  
(d) A Liberator on reconnaissance set on fire a sea truck at anchor off the north-west of Mindoro Island and shot down a Japanese float-plane over the Central Visayan Sea.  
(e) Two U.S. Liberators operating over the South China Sea - Formosa region damaged a 300 ft. freighter and attacked six other ships.

Use of  
L.S.Is.

14. The Flag Officer, Force X, reports that L.S.I. of his force are being used as "sausage machines" to train battalion after battalion of American troops, and ships and gear are being used ten times more than they were before Operation "Overlord", with resultant very heavy wear and tear. There are no American repair facilities in the training area, and he asks for a Mobile squad to self-refit the L.S.Is. and keep them running.

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6.12.1944  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Conduct of  
Air and  
Surface  
Craft.

Admiralty O21005A refers. Cominch has called attention to fact that Western Boundary is not clear and that positions 70° N. 20° W. 64° N. 20° W. are within area of U.S. strategic responsibility. Please refer to C.C.S.1/4 which is incorporated in H.O. chart No. 1262A of 1st November, 1944 which I hold.  
(Commaveu, O61541 to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom

Retention  
of A/T  
defences  
in Bristol  
Channel.

Your 262054A Nov. Approved.  
(2) Subject will be reviewed in two months' time.  
(V.C.N.S. O60552A to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements

SLINGER,  
SPEAKER,  
RULER,  
KHEDIVE.

C. in C. W.A. O41548 and O51120, sailed ESKIMO and IMPULSIVE to rendezvous.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, O61101A to C. in C. W.A.)  
A.M. 112310 Nov. and O52040.  
VOLAGE, VENUS, ESKIMO and NUBIAN will be required to escort SLINGER, SPEAKER, RULER, KHEDIVE leaving Clyde 11th January to join East Indies Station.

(2) Request destroyers be sailed to arrive Clyde 10th January.  
(3) SAUMAREZ (D.26) VIRAGO and VIGILANT will be required to leave U.K. 7th January. Further signal will be made.  
(D.O.D.(F) O61938A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth.)

TRUCULENT

In company NORTHERN SPRAY. My position course and speed at 1000A O57° 10' N. O24° W. 249° 6½ knots. Weather report 3667 9766.  
(TRUCULENT, O61139A to Admty., F.O.S.M., C. in C. W.A.)

IMPLACABLE

A.S. Rosyth's O51120.  
De-ammunitioning 4.5" is not the limiting factor. Latter is boxing and landing close range weapons and aircraft ammunition. Boxes for some of this

are not on board.

(2) Estimated time to de-ammunition in accordance with N.M.E.R. 150 at least 7 days.

(3) It is intended in any case to land:

(a) V.T. Fuzed ammunition.

(b) Warheads and depth charges in view of conversion of 828 Squadron to Avenger aircraft.

(c) Fireworks detonators etc.

(4) If permission could be given to land only the items in para. 3 the estimated time would be reduced to 3 days.

(5) The above times are based on de-ammunitioning in the basin; times will be extended if in the stream.

(IMPLACABLE, O61301A to C. in C.H.F.)

/KENT...

6.12.1944  
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMovements

**KENT** Cancel my 041259 and substitute following:  
 (1) KENT leave Scapa passing Hoxa Lt. 2100A Thursday 7th December and proceed by Minches and Sounds of Mull and Islay to Greenock arriving Clyde Gate at 1730A 8th December.  
 (2) Cdre. (D) Home Fleet is requested to provide two destroyers to escort KENT to 58° N.  
 (3) Admiralty divert mails to Greenock forthwith.  
 (4) KENT is to sail from Clyde so as to arrive Scapa by A.M. Sunday 17th December.  
 (C. in C. H.F. 061500A to KENT.)

**LEWES** Following has been received: From C. in C.E.I. 050857Z. To. F.O.S/M.  
 LEWES has proved quite unsuitable for S/Ms practice and escort duties in tropical climate due to excessive heat in machinery compartments and boiler rooms causing numerous cases of heat stroke.  
 (2) Would you consider an exchange with MILFORD or ship of similar class now believed to be attached to Home flotillas.  
 (3) LEWES is being sailed to U.K. 050857Z.  
 (2) My 021236 refers.  
 (F.O. S/M 061634A to Admty.)

**French vessels for France to give leave.** ROSELYS and ACONIT for Brest are due to arrive position (A) of Q.Z.S.617 from Longships area at 0900A/7.  
 (2) L'AVENTURE and LA DECOUVERTE from Plymouth are due Brest A.M./7th routed through (F) 48° 33' 40" N. 5° 23' 00" W. and thence by Q.Z.S.617.  
 (3) Anticipate KILMINGTON will leave A.M./7th for Plymouth.  
 (4) L'AVENTURE and LA DECOUVERTE carry no codes.  
 Intercommunication for all ships on 2410 Kcs. R/T.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 061645A to ROSELYS, ACONIT, L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE.)

**RESOLUTION** F.O.I.C. Greenock's 051058 paragraph 3 and 051526 and C. in C. Portsmouth's 060956. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail TANATSIDE (S.O.) and MELBREAK to R/V with RESOLUTION and F.S. TONKINOIS on standard route at 52° N. in accordance with paragraph 1 of F.O.I.C. Greenock's 051058 and escort her to Plymouth.  
 (2) References quoted not to all addressees.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 061712A.)

**DUQUESNE** Intend sailing Brest 1400A/7th. Speed of Advance 10.5 knots E.T.A. 0900A/8th.  
 (F.S. DUQUESNE, 061901A to Admty.)

6.12.1944  
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report

Naval

Unloading figures for 4th December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	-	-	2,196	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,420	-
Calais	-	30	-	-
Ostend	360	140	4,857	1,969
Antwerp	-	475	15,347	3,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>24,820</b>	<b>5,569</b>

U.S.

Cherbourg	-	-	10,043	12,838
Brittany Ports	-	-	6,114	-
Havre	3,849	37	5,268	2,359
Rouen	1,554	729	4,270	1,332
Antwerp	-	-	9,380	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,403</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>35,075</b>	<b>16,529</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>5,763</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>59,895</b>	<b>22,098</b>

Ostend unloading figures for 3rd December.

2,041      443      2,977      2,454

Antwerp Cumulatives from 28th November to 1400  
 3rd December.

253      24      26,290      -

(A.N.C.X.F. 060051A to Admty.)

Cositintrep No. 246 part II Naval.

(1) U.S. ~~SAVED~~ FRANCIS ASBURY, 7,176 tons mined on  
 3rd December in the approaches to the Schelde.

She is a total loss.

Unloading figures for 5th December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
East Calvados	-	-	191	-
Dieppe	22	-	2,316	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,480	-
Antwerp	-	452	14,394	1,100
Calais	-	-	-	-
Ostend	-	-	3,918	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>23,299</b>	<b>1,100</b>

U.S.

Cherbourg	-	-	11,501	7,034
Brittany Ports	-	-	5,334	620
Le Havre	-	-	5,384	-
Rouen	1,849	791	4,445	615
Antwerp	-	-	10,374	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>37,038</b>	<b>8,269</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>60,337</b>	<b>9,369</b>

(A.N.C.X.F. 062300A to Admty.)

/Air...

War Diary

6.12.1944  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation - Contd.

**Air** German Air Force activity: During the periods about 600 plus E/A sighted. 8th Air Force sightings were mainly in the Berlin area and of the 277 - 300 E/A observed 230 were engaged by escort fighters claiming 91/7/23. R.A.F. Fighter Command on escort sighted and engaged 100 F.W.190s. and M.E.109s E. of Wesel claims 3/1/0. 95 plus E/A were sighted by Second T.A.F.50 plus were engaged in the Wesel area claiming 5/0/0 and one M.E.262 was destroyed by a Tempest in the Rhine area one Zero was also destroyed by A/C on night patrol. 9th Air Force sightings were 85 plus E/A 12 plus F.W.19 239s were engaged in the Euskirchen area claiming 1/1/0 and 4 Me.109s. were engaged by 2 R/C A/C for claims 0/0/2. Night patrol destroyed one H.E.111. Flying bombs: Night 4/5 December. 10 were launched and one made landfall, but none reached the London area, 6 were claimed as destroyed by A.A. Night 5/6 December 15 were launched 6 made landfall and one reached the London Area. Fighters claim 3, A.A.2. (S.H.A.E.F., 061100A to Air Ministry.)

**Military** Estimated that enemy has lost the equivalent of 17 German divisions since the start of Allied November offensive, that is, between 4 and 5 a week 7 Divisions considered destroyed and 22 others very badly battered. About the same number of divisions have been brought up during the period. Enemy casualty rate on whole front has lately dropped from peak of 9,000 to about 5,000 per day (conservative estimates, prisoners of war accounting for nearly half the total). (S.H.A.E.F. 061615A to War Office.)

Operations

North Sea

**Schelde Survey** My 031450 and my 050810. HYDROGRAPH sailed. (F.O. Humber, 061055 to F.O. Harwich.)

**All mine-sweeping off Low Counties to be under V.A. Dover.** Your 031403. I agree that the particular circumstances of the Dover Command and requirements of economy would best be met by placing all mine-sweeping under your direct control. (2) Subject to concurrence of Admiralty propose that this arrangement should come into force on about 20th December on which date it is anticipated F.O.B.A.A. will be relieved by Senior Officer British Operated Ports, France who will be established at Calais. (A.N.C.X.F., 061225A to V.A. Dover.)

/Unidentified...



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Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea - Contd.

Unidentified explosion off The Wash (COTTESMORE, 061944A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 My 061944 believed crashed aircraft.  
 (COTTESMORE, 062001A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 My 062001. Further double explosion in approximate position 087 E. Dudgeon Buoy 12.  
 (COTTESMORE, 062009A to C. in C. Nore.)  
 My 062009; Further flashes bearing not distinguishable.  
 Am returning to patrol.  
 (COTTESMORE 062016A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations

Channel

Investigation of sunk U-boat Admiralty's 031609A December, and your 031621 December. Not to all addressees. Visited position marked by 2 Dan Buoys. Depth 38 fathoms. Wind west, Force 5, Sea moderate, heavy swell, conditions unsuitable for diving, am returning to Falmouth to await suitable weather conditions.

(TEDWORTH, 061102A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

A.M. 031609 paragraph 2. Following details are required if possible.

- (1) Thickness and material of pressure hull.
- (2) Distance of deck from pressure hull.
- (3) Material and thickness of deck planking.
- (4) Damage caused by attack.
- (5) Any constructional data which would elucidate calculations of lethal plan area.

(A.C.N.S.(W) 061315A to C. in C. Plymouth, TEDWORTH.)

Patrols LOUIS, LAWSON and NARBOROUGH shift patrol forthwith to establish zig-zag search between (AA) 50.11 N. 02.40 W. and (B) 50.03 N. 04.00 W.  
 LORING and INGLIS proceed to sweep through the following positions.

(WW) 49.31 N. 03.29 W. (XX) 49.18 N. 04.08 W. (YY) 49.48 N. 05.00 W. (ZZ) 49.52 N. 06.00 W. On completion establish zig-zag search between (YY) and (ZZ)

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061452A to E.G.15.)

Day patrols 7th. Search as follows HXX ships 2 miles apart.

- (2) HARGOOD, VANOC Q.Z.S.526, L.2 to H.10 Buoys one ship in channel the other to Northward.
- (3) SPRAGGE L'ESCARMOUCHE both sides of H. channel 50° 05' to H.10 Buoy one ship approximately 1/2 mile from centre line of channel the other on outer flank.
- (4) M.T.Bs. ordered Gamma search centre line 338° for 20 miles from 49° 46' 01" 52' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061552A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

/Air...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Channel

- Patrols (Contd.)      Air Patrols December 7th.  
My 281728 Para. 12.  
(a) Night 6th/7th. Patrols 3 and 4 by Wellingtons. Day 7th Patrol 3 by Liberators, 4 and 5 by Swordfish.
- (b) 838 Squadron R.W.M.  
842 Squadron W.T.J.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061706A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)  
26th Trawler Group is reallocated temporarily to C. in C. Plymouth primarily for A/S duties.
- (2) F.O.I.C. Portland is requested to sail vessels to Plymouth as soon as practicable.  
(D.M.S. 061904A to F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 061301. M.T.Bs. withdrawn.
- (2) SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE take M.T.B. patrol.  
(3) HARGOOD take X North VANOC, X South.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061930A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)  
(1) 26th E.G. will operate in 2 divisions.
- (2) BEACON HILL, JONQUIERE and NEW GLASGOW proceed to relieve LOUIS, LAWSON and NARBOROUGH carrying out zig-zag search between (AA) 050° 11' N. 002° 40' W. and (BB) 050° 03' N. 004° 00' W. report E.T.A.
- (3) MONTREAL and RIBBLE proceed to relieve LORING and INGLIS carrying out zig-zag search between (YY) 049° 48' N. 005° 00' W. and (ZZ) 049° 52' N. 006° 00' W. report E.T.A.
- (5) 15th E.G. when relieved proceed to Belfast for lay over report E.T.A. direct. As LORING and INGLIS will be relieved about 12 hours later than remainder of group they are to proceed to Belfast as ordered by S.O.E.G.15.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 062352A to S.O.E.Gs.26, 15)

- Potato Traffic Brittany to Seine.      French authorities are anxious to ship potatoes from North Brittany ports to Havre and Rouen in some eighty small craft, mostly under 100 tons carrying capacity and over 30 of which are sailing craft. Shipment is required before frost spoils potatoes.  
(2) Request early decision whether such traffic can be accepted in Western Channel observing that it is unlikely to be possible to control craft on passage.
- (3) C. in C. Portsmouth and C. in C. Plymouth are requested to signal their remarks to Admiralty.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 061907A to Admty.)

Operations

Western Approaches

- Suspected U-boat      By D/F on 5750 N. kca at 0629Z U-boat within 40 miles of 55° N. 22.30 W.  
(D.D.I.C., 060813A to Escorts O.N.S.37.)

/Patrols...

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Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols E.G.1, AFFLECK (S.O.) 4 Frigates and E.G.2 WILD GOOSE, 3 Frigates, patrol area off south west Irish Coast.  
33 Force E.G.3 DUCKWORTH, 5 frigates patrol off Northern Ireland.  
E.G.19, HESPERUS, 4 Frigates also ORKNEY and ST. THERESE operate general vicinity Cape Wrath.  
(C. in C.W.A. 061409A to Admty.)

N.A.A. aircraft for inshore U-boat patrols

It is apparent that the enemy intends to use his S/MS as close in to the vital areas around our coasts as he can contrive. Should he penetrate into the Irish Sea the consequent dislocation of shipping and interference to the training of our A/S forces would be most serious and any successes achieved would be hailed as a great victory by the enemy and go far to restore the morale of the U-boat flotillas. To a lesser

extent this is also applicable to the Cape Wrath area and the Minches.

(2) To counter this threat I propose that A/C equipped with centimetre A.S.V. should be operated in the following areas as soon as possible.

- (a) St. George's Channel.
- (b) Oversay Mull of Kintyre Rathlin Island.
- (c) In vicinity of Stornoway Cape Wrath.

(3) To avoid withdrawal of Coastal Command A/C from their normal anti-U-boat operations it is desired to use Naval Air Arm A/C equipped with 680 Mark XI for the patrol in paragraph 2 it is, therefore, requested that the necessary Squadrons may be placed at my disposal to operate under 15 Group.  
(C. in C.W.A. 062235A to Admty.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Norway.

Operation "S.C." Ramose, Supreme.  
Sailed VIGRA at 0001A/6th December.  
2. Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 060003A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations "V.P." V.P.77 M.T.B. 712 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 709 sailed 0630A today 6th December.  
2. V.P.82 M.T.B. 653 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 717 sailed 0615A today 6th December.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 060638A to A.C.O.S.)  
V.P.77 and V.P.82. 2 M.T.Bs. may be lurking in Barmenvaag 059° 50' N., 005° 08' E., or in Klovo 059° 49' N., 005° 08' E. and 2 M.T.Bs. in Buse Pollen 060° 04' N., 005° 12' E. or Risoy 060° 03' N., 005° 05' E. during daylight.  
(2) The risk of them being seen and attacked by our aircraft is accepted.  
(A.C.O.S., 060958A to C.S.10)

Operations.

Northern Waters

Transfer of support group from W.A. to Rosyth. Request you will transfer one support group to C. in C. Rosyth as soon as practicable.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 060020A to C. in C. W.A.)  
A.M. 060020 not to all.  
25th E.G. is nominated for transfer to C. in C. Rosyth. ORKNEY and ST. THERESE will be detached from duties ordered in my 061049 not to all as soon as circumstances permit for 48 hour lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A., 061244A to Admty., C. in C. Rosyth)

Suspected U-boat. Investigate A.S.V. contact in 061° 07' N., 002° 45' W.  
(C. in C. Rosytn, 060811A to S.O. 31st E.G.)  
Intend maintaing Box in area about datum 061° 15' N., 002° 44' W. until further orders. Weather report 3571 7634 suitable.  
(S.O.E.G., 31 061633A to C. in C. Rosyth)  
If not in contact now establish new Gamma between 060° 00' N., 004° 00' W., and 060° 38' N., 004° 55' W.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 061812A to S.O.E.G.31)

Frigate BULLEN torpedoed. BULLEN torpedoed in position 037° Cape Wrath 7 miles.  
(HESPERUS, 060948A to C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S.)  
My 0948 BULLEN sinking torpedoed amidship no damage aft.  
(S.O.E.G. 19 061021A to C. in C. W.A.)  
ORKNEY and ST. THERESE proceed forthwith to join E.G.19 in position 037° Cape Wrath 7 miles.  
(C. in C. W.A., 061049A to S.O.E.G. 25).

/Tug...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters ~~Norway~~ - Contd.Frigate  
BULLEN  
torpedoed.  
(Contd.)Tug BANDIT escorted by STELLA CANOPUS and DAY  
are being sailed to you forthwith. Report if  
not required.

(A.C.O.S. 061110 to HESPERUS)

Your 061110A not required BULLEN sunk.

(HESPERUS, 061214A to A.C.O.S.)

My 061021A. LOCH INSH obtained firm contact at

1103A. Has shown movement up to 6 knots and depths from 120  
feet to bottomed.GOODALL obtained E/S trace showing bottomed target 40 feet high,  
LOCH INSH carried out 3 Squid Attacks, GOODALL 2 Hedgehog and 2  
depth charges resulting in wreckage and quantity of oil. Ships  
not in contact at present position of oil has been buoyed.97 survivors from BULLEN. GOODALL Whaler capsized, 3 missing  
from crew.

(S.O.E.G.19, 061412 to C. in C. W.A.)

HESPERUS proceeding Scapa forthwith with survivors.

E.T.A. 1700A/6th. I am transferring to LOCH INSH.

(S.O. E.G.19, 061445A to C. in C. W.A.)

No further good contacts in area. Intend Gamma search in

005 degs. 10' W. from 058 degs. 37' N. 058 degs. 51' N.

(2) Ships in company GOODALL, ANTIGUA, ORKNEY, SAINT THERESE.

(3) CARRON and ULSTER detached to co-operate with A/C approx.  
position 058 degs. 50' N. 004 degs. 40' W.

(S.O.E.G.19, 061734A to C. in C. W.A.)

If not in contact request you detach ULSTER and CARRON to  
arrive Scapa by 1600 Thursday 7th as they are required for  
escort duties.

(R.A.D. H.F. 062300 to S.O.E.G.19)

Have landed 100 survivors. 4 Officers 93 ratings from  
BULLEN and 3 ratings from GOODALL. E.T.D. 0100/7th E.T.A. Cape  
Wrath area 0400/7th December.

(HESPERUS, 062315A to A.C.O.S.)

## Patrols.

E.G.31 BERKELEY CASTLE 3 frigates search vicinity  
061 degs. 07' 002 degs. 45' W.E.G.19 HESPERUS 3 frigates E.G.25 ORKNEY 1 fri-  
gate ULSTER, CARRON, search vicinity 058 degs. 43'  
004 degs. 51' W.

(A.C.O.S. 061304 to Admty.)

Allied Air ActivityMerchant  
Ship  
attacked off  
Aalesund.Nr. 1 Have attacked enemy with torpedoes.  
Position course and speed of one enemy merchant  
vessel and 2 escort vessels 62 degs. 15' N. 5  
degs. 20' E. 340 degs. 6 knots.  
(A/C.T.F.T.77 060240 to Dallachy)Proposed  
Cancellation  
of Fighter  
protection  
in Western  
Approaches.In view of complete absence of hostile air  
activity it is proposed to abolish fighter pro-  
tection in Western Approaches Command as from  
0001/18th December.(2) Request concurrence of H.Q.C.C. and H.Q.F.C.  
may be obtained and Admiralty approval given.

(C. in C. W.A. 062122A to Admty.)

U.297  
?  
non-sub

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6.12.1944  
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMiningDeep  
mining  
in St. George's  
Channel.

A.M. 251331 November para. 4. PLOVER is expected to be available for service about 6th December and it is desired that in the first instance she be employed to lay deep A/S mine-fields in Q.Z.S.583 commencing from the Southern end.

(2) A further signal will be made giving details of lines of mines.

(D.D.O.D. (M), 061203A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Minesweeping  
in  
Schelde.

My 061150. One mine G.X. type badly dented dragged from approx. same position and sunk.

(2) Mines were found whilst turning outside of area at end of first lap.

(3) Search completed to minimum swept depth of 5 fathoms.

(4) 8 Dan buoys left down marking southern edge of channel swept from H.K.4 to H.K.2 buoy.

(5) Am anchored in Ostend anchorage.

(6) Request whether clearance of Middel Diep is required and if so to what limits.

(S.O.M.S.F.15, 061540A to C. in C. Nore.)

U-BoatsPossible  
U-Boats.One possible in central English Channel and another possibly in Bristol Channel Approaches.  
(D.D.I.C. 061428A to Cominch)NavigationalImproved  
navigational  
aids in  
Thames.Following received from F.O.I.C. London begins:  
From F.O.I.C. London to C. in C. Nore. Secret.  
Reference A.L.M/H 02305/43 of 25th August, 1943.  
Coasting control committee and Trinity House pilots have represented desirability under present conditions of improving navigational aids in River Thames and I agree that this is very desirable.

It is therefore submitted for consideration that following relaxations be permitted, viz. All existing navigational aids on lighthouses, jetties buoys and barge roads to dispense with overhead shades. Request early decision owing to difficulties now being experienced and to avoid delays to increasing volume of shipping. 051630 ends.

(2) This proposal is concurred with.

(C. in C. Nore, 061210A to Admt)

Goodwin  
Light  
Vessels.

Your 051202. Trinity House are being asked to provide the two light vessels.

(2) It is considered that the light vessels should be moored clear of the searched channels to reduce the risk of their being run down, and that Sandhead and Dumpton buoys should be left on

station.

(3) Proposed positions are: North Goodwin 51 degs. 19' 30" N.  
01 degs. 33' 00" E. South Goodwin 51 degs. 09' 00" N., 01 degs.

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSNavigational

Goodwin 28' 00" E.  
Light (4) Request your remarks.  
Vessels. (Director of Navigation, O62126A to A.C. Dover,  
(Contd.) Info: C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore,  
Commodore Southend.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp. Dover's 301940A November (not to all addressees).  
Trawlers KINGSCOURT and AVALANCHE are re-allocated  
to N.O.I.C. Antwerp as Mobile B.P. Vessels,  
Schelde.

- (2) On completion of removal of M/S gear V.A. Dover is requested to sail each vessel with despatch to Tyne.  
(3) F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to pay vessels off, return crews to EUROPA, and arrange conversions at yards to be nominated by Licensing Officer, Newcastle. Work will be supervised by D. of S.T.  
(3) Sailings, arrivals and payings off to be reported to Admty.  
(4) Estimated completion date to be reported. Civilian crews will then be sent.  
(D.S.V.P. O60337A to F.O.I.C. Tyne, V.A. Dover, N.O.I.C.'s Antwerp, N. Shields.)

Flushing. My 281832 November para.7. After further investigation of De Schelde Shipyard and discussion with N.O.I.C. Flushing, Fleet Constructor Officer A.N.C.X.F. reports as follows:

- (2) Damage to Shipyard mainly superficial except in new Dockyard building slips and in some workshops e.g. boiler shop where it is serious. Machinery to majority of cranes damaged. About 3 months for crane repairs.  
(3) Drydocks 245 ft. by 42 ft. by 7 ft for'd and 11 ft aft. Caisson in place but damaged. Repairs in hand. Damaged vessel in dock also being patched. Dock expected in service end December. Dock 486 ft. by 67 ft. by 18 ft. 10" (New Yard), damaged caisson sunk in dock being lifted for repairs. One electric dock pump only in order. Electric power line to New Yard destroyed. Dock expected in service end January.  
(4) Both yards are in inner harbour. Locks and sluice gates to inner harbour are much damaged and harbour is now tidal. About 12 to 14 ft. water only in repair and fitting out berths at low water. Small wrecks also certain berths.  
(5) Understand repairs to sluice gates and/or Locks will take at least 3 months. In meantime ships can pass through at high water slack.  
(6) About 3500 shipyard workers plus 500 design and office staff employed before assault on Island. Up to 50 per cent employed at times on Naval work, Cruisers, Destroyers. Submarines. 700 men employed now. Owing to very extensive damage and flooding of houses in Flushing workmen are scattered in surrounding districts. Transport is poor.  
(7) Fair stocks of repair materials. About 5000 tons plate and sections.

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HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities

Flushing (Contd.) (8) Ship 23,000 tons 630 ft. length on stocks almost ready for launching built for Rotterdam Lloyd.  
 (9) Consider 2 or 3 200 to 250 ft. ships could be taken in hand January (1 in dock) also 1 450 ft. ship in February in large dry dock. All types repair.  
 (10) Present limitations are tidal harbour and housing workmen. Shipyard directors most co-operative.  
 (11) If British ships are taken in hand, small supervisory technical staff only required.  
 (12) Progress report will be made. Fleet constructor officer based at Antwerp.  
 (Com. Belgium, 061827 to Admty., A.N.C.X.F., F.O.N.P.1731)  
 It is of utmost importance to get repair facilities of Flushing into working order as soon as possible in order to relieve the very heavy load for repairs on this country.  
 (2) Request you will report what can be done and what is needed. (Sec. to Contr. 062124A to F.O.Holland.)

Casualties and Defects

SAMNETHY. SAMNETHY still aground Tug GROWLER waiting for high water M.L.512 standing by. SANTANA too far astern has been sent to Great Yarmouth escorted by M.L.515. Slightly damaged bow above waterline. ENFORCER not yet arrived. Remaining 3 ships rejoining "prize". Am proceeding to rejoin. (WINDSOR, 060320A to C. in C. Nore.)

M.F.V.1045. My 300944A November. M.F.V.1045 floated and berthed at Queenborough. Further signal will be made when total damage has been ascertained. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness, 061627A to C. in C. Nore, Info: Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys

T.B.C/B.T.C. Convoys. T.B.C/B.T.C. convoys: pass to N.C.S.O's and authorities concerned.  
 (1) Request:  
 (A) Last T.M.C. leaving Thames 7th December be sailed to Havre as usual. Last M.T.C. to leave Havre a.m. 9th. Intend then to sail W.V.C.I. at 1900A/9th V.W.C.I. to leave Havre 1400A/10th.  
 (B) B.E.C.58 and B.E.C.59 be sailed to St. Helens repeat St. Helens. Intend to sail W.E.C.I. at 2300A/7th E.W.C.I. to leave Cherbourg 0500A/9th C.T.F.125 is requested to arrange for sailing of V.W.C.I. and E.W.C.I. accordingly.  
 (2) For the present and until completion of buoyage of Boulogne - Dieppe Channel request traffic from Nore - Downs and East Coast for Havre and East Calvados be sailed in T.B.C. convoys and routed by Jig Channel to Dieppe as in current practice for T.M.C. convoys and thence to Q.Z.S.619. This will avoid lay over at St. Helens.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 061329A to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth C.T.F.125, Com. Southend.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Routes for Hospital Ships. Pass to N.C.S.Os.  
Hospital ships between U.K. and Gibraltar:  
Following standard routes are to be brought into force for sailings on and after Dec.12th when A.M.101906 April and 091547 June, neither to all addressees, are to be cancelled.

(2) Outward. (A) By standard coastal route to D 50.04 N. 05.51 W. E 49.50 N. 06.00 W. F 47.30 N. 06.29 W. G 270 degs. Cape Finisterre 15 miles. H 38.50 N. 10.00 W. J 225 degs. Cape St. Vincent 15 miles. K 35.51 N. 06.10 W.  
(B) Ships from English Channel ports to C 180 degs Lizard Head 3 miles thence to F.  
(3) Homeward. (A) L 35.59 N. 06.10 W. thence to J and by reverse of outward route.  
(B) Ships for English Channel ports from F to B 180 degs. Lizard 5 miles.  
(C) To facilitate change of destination ships are to be given route to D. and B.  
(Plot.(TD) to 061451A to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Nore. Cdre. Southend. C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.W.It., F.O.L.E.M. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Disposal of L.C.T's. Comnavu's 041406 as result of conference with Comphibsukay it is intended to place Promontory at disposal of U.S. authorities. Promontory will be ready for two in number L.C.T's on Monday 11th Dec. for disassembly and subsequent embarkation in

Liberty ships working to a programme of two ships every five days. It has been made clear to U.S. authorities that programme is subject to delay if Promontory is required for other urgent requirements  
(A.S. Portsmouth, 061620A to Admty.)

C.O.C/O.C.C. Convoys. Pass to N.C.S.O. concerned.  
Ref. C.T.F.125, 021831A commencing with C.O.C.18 on 8th December, C.O.C. convoys and British

Escorts will terminate at Cancale. Timing as in my 111735A November. Escorts will spend the night at Cancale and return to Falmouth a.m. the following day with an O.C.C. convoy.

(2) Any shipping from Plymouth for Morlaix will be specially escorted, or included in a C.O.C. Convoy to proceed independently from Position Z, each sailing to be judged on its merits, taking into consideration the availability of Escorts, and weather conditions.

(3) C.T.F.125 is requested to sail shipping from Morlaix to Plymouth or Falmouth, specially escorted or to join an O.C.C. Convoy in position Z.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061839A to Admtys. C's in C. Portsmouth, Nore, W.A., C.T.F.125)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

A/S Patrols. WOLVERINE and KILMARTIN are to sail at 1800A Dec. 6th to join Group 1. Group 1 consists of DELPHINIUM (S.O) and HYDERABAD and is carrying out patrol "Surgcon". My 300511 November refers.  
(2) DELPHINIUM to arrange R/V direct with

WOLVERINE.

(3) When R/V has been made DELPHINIUM to return to Harbour. WOLVERINE becomes S.O. Group 1 on patrol.

(4) WOLVERINE is to detach HYDERABAD as requisite to relieve LORD NUFFIELD in Strip 6 at 1400A Dec. 7th. On relief LORD NUFFIELD to return to harbour.  
(F.O.G.M.A.061145A to Various)

NARVAL,  
ANNAMITE.

My 051418A sailed, holding Q.B.A. 137,  
Q.L.A.230.  
(Commorseafron, 061427A to F.O.G.M.A.)

L.T.786  
tow.

Your 042206Z (Request date LT 786 will be ready tow crane barge B.D.494 to U.K.). Readiness date depends on receipt towing hawser requested of Admty. by S.B.N.O. Azores, no reply this request yet received. S.B.N.O. Azores has Admty.

instructions to sail barge and tow to U.K. under trawler escort when ready.  
(Comnavzor, 061625Z to Cinclant)

Neutral  
Shipping,  
Azores.

Admty. 061740Z to Com. 10th Fleet.  
(See America and West Indies)

South Atlantic

BETONY.

Arrived H.M.S. BETONY. Colombo pass to C.E.I.E.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 060622Z to Admty. etc.)

FAL

Arrival 5th Departure 5th FAL. Embarked G.A. Kirby employed by Western Telegraph Company en route for U.K.  
(B.C. St. Vincent, 061104 to F.O.C.W.A.)

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Linrep  
No. 10. Summary of operations, November 30 to December 3.  
(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./6.)  
See Lion Copy.

Kavalla,  
Greek  
dispute. Further to my 052055, intend following course  
of action. Negotiate today Wednesday for  
agreement to temporary British naval control of  
ports by either myself or Thomas. R.H.N. Staff  
to work under British command. White ensign to  
fly over office now occupied by E.L.A.N. Thomas  
suitable as N.O.I.C. but my rank helps negotiations.  
(2) Force 58 cannot be held at Kavalla.  
F.O.L.E.M. 051033 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.  
(S.O. M/S.F.5, 060417B to S.B.N.O. Greece, (R) S.O. M/S.F.12.)  
See also 062135B for M.S.F.5 movements.

BRECON  
(for U.K.) Sail at 1700/6th. S. of A. 15 knots to  
Gibraltar.  
(2) Route. E.T.A. Gibraltar at 0900/9th.  
(3) Codeword "Gaydog" 826, Low.  
(4) BRECON is for onward routing to U.K. in  
accordance with C. in C. Med. 281617 not to all and can do  
revolutions for 15 knots only on starboard shaft. Navigational  
information for area 1 will be required on arrival at Gibraltar.  
(5) All times A.  
(V.A. Malta, 061035 to BRECON.)

Trawlers  
for  
Tunisia. GAVOTTE and FOXTROT are allocated in accordance  
with para. 1 of C. in C. Med.'s 041825 (V.A.M.  
requested to allocate two trawlers of 29 Trawler  
Group to F.O. Tunisia.)  
(V.A. Malta, 061050A to F.O. Tunisia.)

MADISON. Departing Toulon 0800/7th for bombardment area,  
E.T.A. 1200A/7th.  
(MADISON, Shoots, 061135A to Comflanfor, (R)  
FORTUNE, Comar Toulon, Comlab.)

BRECON,  
HIGHWAY. BRECON has sustained damage to starboard  
propeller shaft but revolution for 15 knots on  
starboard engine practicable.  
(2) F.O.G.M.A. requested sail her with HIGHWAY  
in company to U.K.  
(3) Destination of (A) BRECON, Nore. (B) HIGHWAY, Clyde.  
My 271528 November and A.M. 282326 November not to all refer.  
(C. in C. Med., 061237A to Admty., F.O.G.M.A.)

SAXIFRAGE,  
SABETTE,  
for  
Patras. Sail to pass boom 1600/6th Dec. escorting SABETTE  
and proceed by (Great?) (Pass?) and west channel  
through position 309 direct through position 034°  
45' N., 022° 45' E. to position 726 thence by  
route Roger 10 through position 037° 38' N.,

/020° ...

# SECRET

141A  
IN  
116A  
Med.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

No T.O.O.

FROM: A.F.H.Q.

DATE: 6.12.44.

RECD: 2045

## CIPHER

TO: The War Office  
Linrep Addressees.

FX 63322 cipher 5th December. 275393.

Cite FHGCT. Signed Wilson.

Linrep No. 210.

### Summary of operations 30th November to 3rd December.

#### 1. Ground.

A. Eighth Army. Eighth Army launched an attack Northwards between the Montane and Lamone Rivers on 2nd December. At last report an advance of 4 miles had been made. Leading elements bypassed ?Russi and were  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of the town. Minor gains were made on the East bank of the Lamone River, 6 miles Northeast of Faenza. There were no major changes, 2 Polish Corps Sector.

B. Fifth Army. Thirteenth Corps made some progress. On the right M Giornetto five miles Southwest of Brisighella was occupied and other elements advanced to within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile Southeast of Casolavalesemo. Two Corps Sector was quiet. 4 Corps elements lost some ground to a counter attack in the Gaggio area, but later restored their positions. The situation of the Army troops in the West coastal sector was unchanged.

C. A.F.H.Q. Greece. A general strike was declared in the Athens-Piraeus area at 030900.B. No public utilities services are working except water. Left Wing demonstrations held in defiance of Greek Governments orders were broken up by civil police after some shooting. A curfew has been imposed by the Government at 1900 B. One case of British troops disarming without incident a party of ELAS carrying arms contrary to Government orders has been reported from Athens area. Otherwise no British troops have been involved and no sign of anti British feeling apparent.

#### 2. Naval.

Aegean. Two small minesweepers have been mined and sunk.

Two ....

Two destroyers, who were accompanied by coastal craft have bombarded Piscopi.

Adriatic. Ref. Linrep number 206. Results of bombardment of Rab Island reported by Partisans as follows, one coast gun, two flak guns, observation post and wireless station destroyed, two coast defence guns, flak guns and houses damaged.

3. Air.

Slightly improved weather enabled M.A.A.F. strategic Air Forces to make night attacks on Linz Oil Refinery, Munich and Innsbruck marshalling yards, and to drop supplies in Yugoslavia. By day, attacks were made on Odertal, Vienna Florisdorf and Blechhammer North and South Oil Refineries. Most attacks were by Pathfinder technique and results varied from poor to fair. Klagenfurt and Villawh marshalling yards were also bombed. Wellingtons, Liberators and Halifaxes attacked roads at Podgostea, Bioca, Klopot in Yugoslavia.

Tactical medium bombers operated against bridges in the Po Valley at Mantua and in the Milne area and also on the Brenner Line and in Yugoslavia. Fighters and fighter bombers with increased effort attacked communications and close support targets, effecting 160 air cuts and destroying a number of locomotives, 217 rail cars and 67 motor transport. By night during this moon period maximum effort was maintained by A 20 light bombers and Beaufighters harassing communications. One JU87 was probably destroyed by patrolling Beaufighters.

Coastal Air Force, in addition to protective patrols and mine spotting, attacked shipping in Gulf of Genoa and Northern Adriatic successfully sinking a number of small vessels and barges. Overland offensive sweeps were made in Northwest Italy against troops and enemy concentrations, and against communication targets in Yugoslavia.

Balkan Air Force were hampered by weather but successful rocket projectile attacks and fighter and fighter bomber attacks were made on enemy positions in Southern Yugoslavia. Light and medium bombers and Beaufighters bombing in conjunction with the Navy, attacked gun batteries at Lussinpiccolo. The batteries were silenced and an ammunition dump blew up.

4. Enemy ....

# SECRET

IN  
1418.

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.)

- 3 -

4. Enemy

North of route 9 the bulk of the enemy forces are now behind the Lamone River and it is likely that the coastal flank will swing back to Anchor the line on the Southern edge of Valle Di Comacchio. Withdrawal in Eastern Appenines continues slowly. The enemy is more aggressive on Central Sector and is apparently apprehensive of resumption of the Allied drive on Bologna. A mobile division is reported to be pulling out East of route 65 but there is no confirmation at present. On the Alpine front elements of the Mountain Division holding the Central Sector have been identified as far North as the Mont Cenis Pass. It is probable therefore that the newly arrived Italian formation is being mingled with German units. Another Infantry Division is believed to move left Northeast Italy for the Hungarian front.

No T.O.O.

Received in War Registry at  
0715/8th December.  
Circulated by War Office to  
War Office Depts, Defence Map  
Room, Air Ministry, S.H.A.E.F.  
and Admiralty.

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

JEG

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

SAXIFRAGE,  
SABETTE,  
for  
Patras.  
(Contd.)

020° 13' E. and Q.B.C. 919 and 931 to Patras  
E.T.A. 1530/10th. Speed of advance 8 knots.  
Codeword "Stanford". W/T call sign 873  
priority low "Censhore".  
F.O.L.E.M. 051817 not to all refers. Shifting  
to area broadcast L.B. at 2100/8th. Times, B.  
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 061301B to SAXIFRAGE,  
B.S.S.T.O. Greece, B.N.L.O. Patras, D.S.T.O.X.)

ISLE class  
trawlers as  
danlayers,  
vice  
whalers.

Following ISLE class trawlers are allocated to  
Fleet M/S Flotilla as additional danlayers and  
are to join in due course. 5th M/S. Flot.  
SHEPPEY. 8th M/S. Flot. INCHOLM, TANGO?, MULL.  
12th M/S. Flot. ST. KILDA. 19th M/S. Flot.  
GRUINARD, MOUSA, ENSAY.  
Authorities concerned are requested to -  
(a) Arrange for trawlers to be withdrawn from  
present duty as convenient.  
(b) Remove all D/C equipment and equip each trawler with 30  
dan buoys each.  
(3) On completion these trawlers are to be sailed to join  
Flotilla to which they are allocated and relieve whalers where  
non-attached for danlaying duties.  
(4) On relief it is requested whalers be sailed to Malta to  
land M/S. gear and adjust complements prior to disposal to  
U.K.  
(C. in C. Med., 061731 to V.A.M., etc.) 15 1930A Feb/45

L.S.T.(2)  
for S.E.A.C.

Request information whether the 10 U.S.L.S.T.  
referred to in your 011132A are required to be  
six or two-davit type.  
(C. in C. Med., 061809 to Admty.)  
Reply: 101645A.

Messina  
Base.

Pending further instructions the drafting or  
Naval personnel to HAMILCAR is to cease and only  
urgent operational drafting will be carried out  
from that base. The sailing of craft to and  
from Messina is restricted to operational  
requirements.  
(C. in C. Med., 061815A to Med. Station 293B.)

PENTSTEMON,  
defect.

Speed reduced to 9 knots by defective steam gland  
in main engine. My P.C.S. at 1900A 038° 05' or  
00' N., 019° 58' E., 311°, 9 knots. Am  
proceeding through position 139 and propose  
(corrupt group) westward. E.T.A. Taranto

1730A/7th. Request dockyard assistance to repair defect on  
arrival.  
(PENTSTEMON, 061900A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Aegean  
Intelligence.

495482. Isum. number 8. Aegean. Milos.  
Force 142 reports O.C. Island ambushed and killed.

/Comment ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Aegean Intelligence. (Contd.) Comment. This presumably refers to Lt. Comd. Kuhn. Leros. C.X. reports 4 December enemy raising force strength 200 with boats at 061395 preparing for operation. (C. in C. M.E., 061915B to A.F.H.Q.)

GUARDIAN for E.F. R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail GUARDIAN as convenient p.m./ 8th to Port Said for Canal transit. (2) After transit S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to sail ship to Aden for E.F. (F.O.L.E.M., 061932B to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)

Situation Report No. 497. Situation at Piraeus is now quieter. Access at Kalameter (?Kalamata) and Volos is not certain but destroyers are being sent to investigate. At intervals control of port is in E.L.A.N. hands but latter are willing to allow S.O. M/S. Flotilla 5 who is present to take charge. Patras is reported strongly held by our troops. (C. in C. Med. 062131A.)

Military Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 516, part 4. Greece. General situation in Athens-Piraeus area continued to deteriorate. E.L.A.S. (Left Wing) made a systematic attempt to eliminate the police force in this area and captured two-thirds of the police stations. Some fighting has occurred between E.L.A.S. and Right Wing elements. British troops have intervened on a number of occasions and in a few cases have taken action to avoid bloodshed. Action is now being taken to suppress the E.L.A.S. by force using British and Greek troops. British casualties have so far been approx. 20 wounded. (A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./6 to W.O.)

Kavalla, Movements. Sailed SYLVIA, STORMCLOUD, ALBACORE E.T.A. Mudros 0700/7th Dec. WELFARE, OCTAVIA remaining Kavalla, F.O.L.E.M.'s 061320B (N.T. in W.R.) refers. Consider retention justified. (2) WELFARE, SYLVIA constant watch on L.B. OCTAVIA, STORMCLOUD constant watch on Admiral's Wave. All ships loudspeaker watch on 2333 k/cs. (S.O. M/S. Flotilla 5, 062135B to S.O. M/S.F.12, (R) S.B.N.O. Greece, F.O.L.E.M.)

GLOIRE, proposed trip to U.S.A. Following received from B.A.D. (Begins): Admiral Fenard has asked Cominch for approval to bring the French Cruiser GLOIRE to United States to collect French currency printed by U.S. Treasury and return it to France before 25th Dec. This request is at the instigation of French Government.

/Admiralty ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

GLOIRE,  
proposed  
trip to  
U.S.A.  
(Contd.)

Admiralty views on this are requested urgently since ship is already earmarked for projected operations. She must sail for U.S. by 8th Dec. latest. 061931Z. (Ends).

(2) It is presumed GLOIRE cannot be spared from "Independence". A.N.C.X.F. is requested to signal immediate remarks.

(3) C. in C. Med. is requested to say whether another French cruiser could be made available.  
(V.C.N.S., 062305A to C. in C. Med., A.N.C.X.F., Info. B.A.D.)  
Reply from A.N.C.X.F. 070140A.

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Wednesday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Far Eastern  
Theatres,  
Welfare of  
Personnel.

My message 052215.

You should regard Prime Minister's directive as equally applicable to Cs. in C. British Pacific and East Indies Fleets in any measures corresponding to those outlined in the directive which may be necessary for the maintenance of morale and well-being of naval forces in the Far Eastern

Theatres. In any measures which you may put in train to this end you will, of course, collaborate with other authorities to whom directive has been issued in zones in which they are concerned.

(2) You should know that in addition to the directive the Prime Minister has written to the Viceroy and to S.A.C.S.E.A. emphasising his desire to keep in personal touch with welfare and morale matters affecting British forces in the Far East. To this end he has appointed Lieutenant-General King to be his personal representative in India and South East Asia.

The intention is that General King will report to him personally on the matters referred to in his directive in these areas with the object of enabling the Prime Minister to ensure that obstacles are surmounted and that unremitting efforts are made at home and abroad for the well-being of the Services.

(3) You will observe that the directive has not been issued to the Governor of Ceylon. This is because he has no responsibility for defence matters in Ceylon. A copy of the directive is, however, being sent to him by the Secretary of State for the Colonies with an exhortation that he should do everything possible to collaborate with the Services in the measures which they may take under the directive.

(4) Message T.O.O.060812 is being sent to S.A.C.S.E.A. acquainting him that you have been furnished with a copy of the directive in order that C. in C. East Indies may do whatever is necessary for Naval forces.

(5) Prime Minister has also issued instructions to Departments at home with intent to further the objects set out in his directive.

(6) Admiralty are sending copy of this message and T.O.O.052215 to V.A.(Q) British Pacific Fleet, Melbourne, by Air Mail.

(Hd. of Naval Branch, Approved 1st Lord, 060001A to C. in C. B.P.F., C. in C. E.I.)

Copy of directive by Prime Minister concerning morale and welfare in the Far East is being sent by Admiralty to C. in C. British Pacific Fleet and C. in C. East Indies Fleet with instruction that they should regard its provisions as equally applicable to themselves in measures relating to morale and welfare of Naval forces in their Commands. C. in C. East Indies Fleet will collaborate with you in implementation of directive within South East Asia Command.

(2) Admiralty understand that Secretary of State for Colonies is sending a copy of Directive to Governor of Ceylon with an exhortation that he should collaborate to the utmost with all authorities concerned in this matter.

(Hd. of Naval Branch, (Approved by the First Lord), 060812A to S.A.C.S.E.A. Info: C. in C. B.P.F. C. in C. E.I.)

/GENERAL POPE ...

6.12.1944

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GENERAL  
POPE,  
URSA,  
UNDAUNTED,  
LONDON.

Anticipated that U.S.S. GENERAL POPE will be ready to sail from Bombay about 15th Dec. for Melbourne.  
(2) F.O. Bombay is requested to sail this ship accordingly escorted by URSA and UNDAUNTED. Para. 2 my 100901 Nov. refers.  
(3) Route from Bombay (details). Thereafter as ordered Cdr. S.W. Pac.Fron.

(4) S.N.O.(A) Trincomalee is requested to sail LONDON to R/V with above ships in position G 001 degs. 32' S. 081 degs 05' E. at 0600Z/18th Dec.

(5) Destroyers are to part company on crossing 005 degs. S. and proceed to Trincomalee.

(6) URSA and LONDON set watch on 4740 K/cs for 12 hours before time for R/V for intercommunication purposes.

(7) Comsouwespac is requested to detach LONDON as requisite to proceed to Fremantle.

(8) Intended that LONDON shall afford escort to ships in my 201003 Nov.

(9) F.O. Bombay and S.N.O.(A) Trincomalee are requested to confirm and repeat back date time and position of R/V in para.4.

(C. in C. E.I.060214Z to F.O. Bombay, S.N.O.A. Trincomalee, Comsouwespac)

This is C.N.O. 051910 sent by other means to U.S.S. GEN. JOHN POPE, (Info. Com. Seventh Flt. (etc.)). Upon completion discharge and when ready for sea C. in C. E.I. requested to sail U.S.S. GENERAL JOHN POPE (A.P. 110) from Bombay via Melbourne and New Zealand to Los Angeles. Subject to limitations of C. in C. E.I. and Cincpac desire carry minimum number of passengers designated by Com. Gen. U.S.A.F., C.B.I., Rear Echelon, New Delhi acceptable to C.O. Life-boat capacity 40. Before departure GENERAL POPE advise Aluslo Melbourne regarding supplies required. Aluslo Bombay advise C.N.O. number of passengers each class embarked for U:S. including patients. (C.C.O. Colombo inform C. in C. East Indies. Admiralty give to D.S.T. London. C.C.O. Bombay pass to Aluslo and D.S.T.O. Bombay). (C.N.O. 060606Z to C. in C. E.I.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Area V.P.1.

Continuing hunt for U-Boat attacked on night 3rd/4th aircraft obtained an A.S.V. contact in position 014 degs. 16' N. 085 degs. 52' E. at 1700Z/5. Scale Y 4 area V.P.2 reduced scale to X 4 (area) C.B.2 whole area becomes W.5. (C. in C. E.I. 060429A to E.I. Stn.)

ADMIRAL  
BENSON.

Anticipated that U.S.S. ADMIRAL BENSON will leave Melbourne for Bombay 17th Dec. Com. S.W. Pac.Sea.Fron.051225, not to all refers.  
(2) Ocean escort for this ship will not be provided.

(3) Route to Bombay (details).

(4) S.N.O.A. Trincomalee is requested to sail ROEBUCK and RELENTLESS to R/V with ADMIRAL BENSON in position (F) 004 degs. 10' S. 077 degs. 29' E. at 0600Z/27th and escort her to Bombay.

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ADMIRAL BENSON. (Contd.) (5) ADMIRAL BENSON and ROEBUCK set watch on 4740 K/cs for 12 hours before time for R/V for intercommunication purposes.  
(6) N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne and S.N.O.A. Trincomalee are requested to confirm and repeat back date time and position of R/V in para. (4).  
(7) Cdr. S.W. Pacific Sea Frontier is requested to confirm that S.P. in C. in C. E.F's 011214 Sept. will be supplied to ADMIRAL BENSON.  
(C. in C. E.I. 060526Z to N.O.I.C. Port Melbourne, S.N.O.A. Trincomalee)

Flag Appointments. Flag of R.A. H.C. Rawlings, C.B. D.S.O. is to be struck on Fisheries Buildings, Colombo, at 0130Z Sunday 10th December.  
(2) Flag of R.A. C. Moody, C.B. is (? to be) struck in ILLUSTRIOUS and hoisted on Fisheries Buildings, Colombo, at 0130Z Sunday 10th December, when he will take up his appointment as F.O. Air E.I. Station (short title F.O. Air E.I.)  
(3) F.O. Air E.I. will take F.O.N.A.S. I.O's present duties and will command and administer all R.N. Shore Air establishments on the E.I.S. and all A/C Carriers and escort carriers belonging to East Indies Fleet. The C. in C. will continue to operate escort carriers while employed on escort duties. E.F.G.O's 9 and 11 will be amended.  
(4) The appointment of F.O.N.A.S. I.O. and R.A.A. E.I. will lapse.  
(C. in C. E.I. 061151Z to E.I.S. 173 C.)

STRATAGEM Regret to report STRATAGEM is now 4 days overdue, lost. has failed to answer signals and must be presumed lost.  
(2) STRATAGEM was operating in water less than 20 fathoms and it is considered possible that S.P's and C.Bs. may be compromised.  
(3) STRATAGEM held the following S.Ps and C.Bs (list)  
(Capt. S/M.2, 061215Z, 070831Z to C. in C. E.I., Admty., Info: F.O.S. Capt. S.5, Capt. S.4, Capt. S.8)  
Regret to report following officers are missing in STRATAGEM. My 061215 refers.  
Lieut. Clifford Raymond Pelly, D.S.C., R.N.  
Lieut Francis William Leslie Winterbottom, R.N.  
Lieut Brian Benz R.N.  
Lieut Donald Cameron Douglas R.N.  
Sub-Lieut Cyril Ernest Prentice, R.N.V.R.  
Mr. Frederick Somerton Rayner, Wt. Engineer.  
(S.2, 061236Z to Admty. etc.)

E.I. Fleet Composition. Composition East Indies Fleet, your 022004 (Hush N.T. in W.D.) refers.  
Fleet Destroyers. Admty. intention appears to be to relieve 11th Flotilla by 24th Flotilla from March to July.  
(2) Cannot afford release whole 11th Flotilla before 24th Flotilla arrives on station.  
(3) ROTHERHAM, ROCKET, REDOUBT and RACEHORSE have just been

/refitted ...

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E.I. Fleet refitted or are under refit in South Africa and  
Composition. arrangements for adjustment of crew are in hand.  
(Contd.) It appears uneconomical to send these destroyers  
to refit in U.K. before autumn 1945.  
(4) Tentative arrangements made to refit RELENTLESS,  
RAIDER, RAPID in S. Africa February to March  
followed by ROEBUCK in order to provide S. Africa with work,  
my 030601 refers.  
(5) If decided that "R's" in para. (4) should refit in U.K.  
propose they plus PATHFINDER and PALADIN should proceed U.K. on  
arrival on Station of 6 "V's" of 26th D.F.  
(C. in C. E.I.061301Z to Admty.)

ADAMANT I do not want ADAMANT and her submarines to reach  
and S/M's the Pacific before an operating base is ready  
for Pacific. for them, since any period of inaction would  
impair their present high state of training.  
(2) Also these submarines are carrying out  
valuable work in East Indies theatre which I do  
not wish to stop before absolutely necessary.  
(3) Preliminary action with regard to the move of ADAMANT and  
submarines in January is now proceeding in compliance with your  
251111 Nov. (Hush, N.T. in W.D.)  
(4) After Dec. 27th, this preliminary action will entail a  
reduction in the operations of the submarines.  
(5) If on meeting Admiral Nimitz I find that an operational base  
will not be ready for them in time I may have to ask C. in C.  
E.I. to postpone the sailing of ADAMANT and submarines.  
(6) My aim is to operate these submarines in the Pacific as soon  
as possible in their present highly efficient state.  
(C. in C. B.P.F. 061312Z to Admty.)

MILFORD,  
LEWES.

Your 050857 (requesting MILFORD be exchanged with  
LEWES which has proved to be unsuitable), has been  
passed to Admiralty who already have the matter  
under consideration.  
(F.O.S/M. 061616A to C. in C. E.I.)  
W.R. Note. 050857 passed to Admiralty under  
T.O.O.061634/Dec.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Weather reports, Iceland. C.O.S. (W) 490, 6th Dec, 1944. O.Z. 7137. Following from Chiefs of Staff. Ref. J.S.M. 385 (231853 November.) Arrangements are being made to station a vessel in vicinity of 58° N. 20° W. to provide weather information, in addition to H.M. ship already engaged on these duties.  
(2) It might be necessary to withdraw this vessel if a serious U-Boat situation developed.  
(A.M.S.S.O. 061210Z to J.S.M. Washington.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 061330Z, Cominch 061540Z.)

Submarine O.21. Sailing date for work up of O.21 now uncertain due to defects on preliminary trials. My 271420 November. Sailing date dependent upon satisfactory trials. Further signal will be made re mails, your 241000 November. Pass to B.D.Z.  
(B.A.D. 061430Z to Admty.)

Programme D.S. O.21 delayed indefinitely by defect. A.M. 241000 November. Forecast follows when known.  
(B.A.D. 061432Z to C. in C. E.I., etc.)

Neutral shipping routes, Azores. A.M. 121834 May regarding proposed amendments for neutral shipping routes East of Azores.  
(2) Portuguese and Spaniards have raised strong objections on grounds of increased length of voyage resulting in loss of shipping time. Unless you consider it essential to press these proposals we do not intend to pursue them further.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 061740Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. F.O.G.M.A., Commorseafon.)  
Reply, Concur (071808Z.)

Atlantic Eagle and Lion Routes. N.S.H.Q.'s 041905. Subject to your concurrence propose to reply as follows: (begins)  
Eagle and Lion regret your 041905 was received after despatch of A.M. 051240.  
(2) Experience with similar routeing in other parts of Atlantic proves the method in A.M. 272126 Nov. is the most satisfactory and simple.  
(3) Concur your para. B.  
(4) Your para. 2. Proposal for a route north of TY will be made shortly, but an additional route between Lion and Eagle is not considered necessary since these routes are capable of infinite variation - (ends.)  
(D.T.D. 061742Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)  
Reply, Affirmative (071620Z.)

/GLOIRE...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

GLOIRE. Proposed passage to U.S.A.  
(B.A.D. 061931Z to Admty.)  
See Mediterranean 062305A.

U/B contacts. No report 5th.  
Para. C. 061033Z U.S.S. BOGUE group had disappearing radar contact 41.44 N. 66.42 W. Several hours later A/C sighted a two mile oil slick about seven miles north of latter position.  
Para. D. 050210Z U.S.S. MIRTH had radar contact and later sighted low lying craft 33.14 N. 63.52 W. which took evasive action and opened range at speed in excess of 14 knots. 052339Z U.S.S. SCRIBNER had doubtful radar contact 42.10 N. 69.21 W. Admiralty pass Info. to H.Q.C.C.  
(Cominch 062051Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Welfare of Admty. 060001A and 060812A.  
Personnel. See East Indies.

Force X L.S.I. of Force X are being used as sausage  
L.S.I. machines to train battalion after battalion of American troops. Records show that craft and ships gear are being used more than 10 times amount they were before "Overlord".

(2) Result very (?heavy) wear and tear and weather damage to (?craft), davit and hoisting gear. No American repair facilities in training area. Ships staff totally inadequate.

(3) Request following be sent LOTHIAN earliest practicable to enable me to form mobile squad to self (?refit) the L.S.Is. and keep them running, (requirements.)

(4) All ships 220 volts.

(5) American adverse criticism of our L.S.Is. is increasing so am determined to keep them running somehow but have only 10 shipwrights for the 7 ships.

(6) Could A.C.N.B. please help temporarily?  
(S.O. Force X 060511Z to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B.)

Digest 1050, (2) Search Liberator from Darwin attacked and  
covering 5th destroyed one sea truck off end on South Coast  
December. Flores Island late afternoon.  
(3) (?Navy Mariner) sank 1 sea truck off shore  
south coast Bohoi Island shortly before dawn.

/(6)...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 1050,  
covering 5th  
December.  
(Contd.)

(6) Enemy air offensive flared up against shipping Leyte Gulf and approaches thereto during day. After quiet night and early morning, convoy approaching Leyte attacked by torpedo bombers and fighters about 0900 hours local time. Attacks repeated during day and convoy was still under attack at 1500. Details not yet complete. Naval

Surface Units Leyte Gulf and Surigao Strait also subjected to attack involving minimum 8 dive bombers, 2 fighters during morning, but full afternoon details not yet available.

Incomplete reports indicate 5 Jap. aircraft shot down by fighter patrols, 3 by ships A.A. plus 1 more sighted over Southern (?Eaqotes) Sea by 4 Marine Hellcats on patrol. Some ships suffered damage.

(8) Assault launched early daylight from position along South Bank Palanas River: River crossed and advance continued against light enemy opposition. Co-ordinated with this offensive 15 amphibious tanks landed unopposed early daylight near Alogo behind Jap. lines, harassed enemy communications and retired ultimately without loss.

(9) Elimination of additional Japanese prepared defences in area west of Agami enabled our forces to occupy improved positions further west preparatory to operations on Eastern slopes Mount Lobi.

(13) Delayed report relates that 4 U.S. destroyers conducted sweep Camotes Sea night 29/30th November, but found nil shipping Ormoc Bay (corrupt group) 4 times by individual enemy aircraft during sortie.

(15) R/C Liberator shot down Jap. patrol bomber over Davao Gulf early daylight 4th December and later destroyed one Luggie, one barge Sarangani Bay.

(16) 2 Liberators bombed seaplane Base Tawi Tawi noon 2nd.

(17) 5 Kittyhawks, 2 Mustangs bombed coastline Lembeh Strait afternoon 1st also destroyed one barge, 3 (corrupt groups) by straffing.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 060755Z.)

ADAMANT  
and S/Ms.

C. in C. B.P.F. 061312.  
See East Indies.

Torres Strait  
aids to  
navigation.

Your 250721Z, not to all. For night navigation of Torres Strait for all classes of ships, following further aids are considered necessary:-

(1) Shore Lights on (a) Stephens Island, (b) Rennel Island, (c) Arden Islet, (d) Roberts Islet, (e) Sue Islet, (f) Bet Islet, (g) Saddle Island, (h) East Strait Island.

(2) Light Buoys (a) 4 in number between Bramble Cay and Dalrymple Island, (b) 1 in number between Harvey Rocks and East Strait Island, (c) 1 in number south of Alert Rock, (d) 1 in number north of Herald Patches, (e) 1 in number south of Nardana Patches, (f) 1 in number north of Mecca Rock, (g) 1 in number south of

/Harrison...



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Torres Strait, Harrison Rock.  
aids to  
navigation.  
(Contd.)

(3) If passage between Alert Rock and Herald Patches proves unsatisfactory, passage between Alert Rock and Marina Rock marked on both sides, may be the solution.

(4) Subject to your concurrence in these proposals request information whether the above aids can be provided and maintained from local resources.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 061519A to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack &  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/6th December.

Para. A. (1) Russian destroyers sighted 2 U-Boats on surface and attacked one at 2245Z/4th Dec. in 68° 23' N. 38° 39' E.

(2) Russian destroyer attacked U-Boat at 0530Z/5th Dec. in 69° 30' N. 33° 30' E.

Para. B. (1) Russian Catalina A/C attacked U-Boat at 1055Z/5th Dec. in 71° 50' N. 36° 00' E.

(2) A/C Y/53 obtained firm radar contact at 1715Z/4th Dec. in 64° 28' N. 23° 01' W.

(3) A/C E/311 obtained A.S.V. contact at 0630Z/6th Dec. in 61° 07' N. 02° 45' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2225Z/4th Dec. in 12° 41' N. 87° 52' E.

(D.D.I.C. 061150A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 061414A, 061445A.)

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1. C. in C. Nore requests the reinforcement of 16 Group to enable 9 sorties a night to be carried out. Failing this, the number will fall to 3 during the re-equipping of No. 524 Squadron.

2. Admiralty concur in the suggestion that all minesweeping be placed under the direct control of V.A. Dover.

3. Two mines have been swept off Calais, and one off Ostend.

Northern Waters.

4. Convoy J.W.62 has arrived safely in Kola Inlet. A concentration of at least 4 U-Boats in the approaches was attacked by air and surface escorts, of which CAMPANIA's aircraft are believed to have scored one kill, and surface escorts are still hunting two more. The White Sea section has gone forward under Russian and 9th Escort Group cover.

5. The maintenance of the Norwegian naval force in Northern Waters is reported by S.B.N.O. North Russia to be the chief difficulty, despite Russian goodwill, and he asks that a repair ship be sent to Kirkenes.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

6. The sloop DEPTFORD, from the Mediterranean Escort Forces, left Gibraltar this evening for home.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic.

7(a) Six Beaufighters and four Spitfires attacked eight barges at San Giorgio, 16 miles south of Udine, sinking three, probably sinking one and damaging the remainder.

(b) M.L. 238, supported by the destroyer ATHERSTONE, entered the harbour of Krk (45.01 N., 14.35 E.) in the Gulf of Quarnero, last night and attacked shipping. The M.L. sustained superficial damage but no casualties.

Greece.

8(a) The task of clearing the Athens area is proceeding and British troops are in control of the centre of the city. Fighting continued in the Athens-Piraeus area all day.

(b) All naval officers and men ashore at the Piraeus are concentrated at four strong points. In the western sector, serious sniping of Navy House necessitated the landing of a Marine detachment from the ORION (flag of C.S.15), to assist units of 139 Brigade.

(c) In Patras, British troops are patrolling the town and the situation is quiet.

Palestine.

9. Except for the battleship referred to by F.O.L.E.M. on November 26, C. in C. Mediterranean states that it should be possible to find the necessary forces for maintaining a patrol off the Palestine coast from station resources. The guarding of shore establishment, however, is a military and not a naval responsibility. On December 9, the Admiralty authorised the Flag Officer, Levant and Eastern Mediterranean, to tell General Paget, C. in C. Middle East, that the Navy will not be able to undertake internal security duties.

Independent sailings to U.S.A.

10. Dry cargo ships and tankers of 15 knots and over, except those carrying ammunition or passengers, and U.S. managed tankers of 14.5 knots and over, are to be sailed direct to their U.S. destinations by main ports, if their being held for a G.U.F. convoy will entail a delay of more than two days. Should the U-Boat situation outside the Mediterranean make the suspension of independent sailings necessary, they are to be sailed to Oran for inclusion in the next convoy.

GLOIRE.

11. Cominch has approved a request of Admiral Fenard to bring the French cruiser GLOIRE to the United States to collect French currency printed by the U.S. Treasury and return it to France before December 25.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Force 61.

12. The following units will form Force 61:-  
Battleship: QUEEN ELIZABETH.  
Cruisers : NEWCASTLE, NIGERIA, KENYA, PHOEBE.  
Destroyers: 5 as detailed by Commodore (D).  
The force will be under the operational command of Rear-Admiral Read, F.O. Force 61, in the NIGERIA.

Australia and New Zealand

Dutch East Indies.

13. One U.S. Liberator flew reconnaissances over the Makassar Straits and sank two small vessels and two sea trucks. Two small coastal vessels were set on fire.

Borneo.

14. Five Liberators and three Mitchells in three raids attacked oil storage tanks at Tarakan, North-east Borneo. Two small freighters were also set on fire off shore.

Philippines.  
Further landing.

15. Shortly after daybreak, an amphibious landing involving substantial U.S. Army forces was accomplished successfully near Ipic, three miles south of Ormoc. Only slight opposition was encountered. By evening, our forces held Ipic Village and a beachhead extending 3,000 yards to the south and 2,000 yards deep. There were strong enemy counter-attacks on our ships, and several of the lesser combat units and amphibious craft were damaged. The ships' A/A guns shot down 10 aircraft and the fighters 17, without loss.

16. An enemy troop convoy seen entering the Camotes Sea from the north-east at early daylight was attacked by Kittyhawk, Thunderbolt and Corsair fighter-bombers from Leyte. The convoy included 6 transports of 2,500 to 8,000 tons, 3 or 4 destroyers, and a similar number of smaller escorts. The air forces claim to have destroyed all of them between San Isidro Bay on the north-west of Leyte, and Masbate, during attacks lasting all day. This was achieved in face of a strong enemy fighter umbrella, from which 35 aircraft were shot down for the loss of 5, all the pilots of which were rescued.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.  
(Contd.)

17(a) A Navy Liberator during the forenoon sank two small craft anchored off North Western Minmoqo (?Mindoro) Island, and later sank two sea trucks and set two small coasters on fire off what is termed the North Aswhrn Passage. (b) Another search Liberator set on fire three sea trucks anchored off the north-east of Tablas Island, and attacked three more near Cayon Bay, leaving one burning and the other two damaged. (c) A patrol Mariner attacked a small coaster off Northern Marinduque Island and left it deep in the water. One medium transport was sunk at Catanuan, on the northern shore of the Mompog Passage.

Manchuria.

18. Of 108 U.S. Super-Fortresses sent to bomb targets in Manchuria, 90 attacked the aircraft plant at Mukden and of the remainder a number attacked the dock area at Dairen.

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- French Ships to give leave. Add to my 061214. L'AVENTURE, LA DECOUVERTE sailed Plymouth 0115 to Brest 15. (C. in C. Plymouth, 070117A to Admty.)
- DUQUESNE. F.S. DUQUESNE. 061901 not to all but which is being passed for information. If fuel permits, DUQUESNE should be sailed at a speed of advance of 19 knots. Night Arrival accepted.  
(2) Report intentions.  
(D.O.D.(H), 070905A to C.T.U. 125.14.7)
- BUTTERCUP. French crew will not at present be available to take over BUTTERCUP. Belgian care and maintenance party should be retained temporarily. A.M. 260127/November refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 071316A to C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
- IMPLACABLE. Your 061506. De-ammunitioning as required by A.S. which is in accordance with N.M.E.R. is to be complied with.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071447A to IMPLACABLE)
- EURYALUS. A.M. 141127 November not to all addresses. Intend sailing EURYALUS p.m. 13th December by searched channels route to Liverpool E.T.D. May Island 2100/13th S. of A. 20 knots E.T.A. daylight 15th December.  
(2) EURYALUS is to request light as required.  
(3) Mail to Liverpool after first delivery 13th December.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071532 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- DIDO. My 031925 and my 061116.  
(1) Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 2330A Saturday 9th December and proceed by standard route to Rosyth arriving Oxcars Gate at 0945A/10th Dec.  
(2) Pass over deep D.G. Range on entering harbour.  
(3) Lights are to be requested from A.C.O.S. and C. in C. Rosyth as necessary.  
(4) Admty. divert mails to Rosyth forthwith.  
(C. in C. H.F. 071923A to DIDO)
- KENT. Scapa departure in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 061500A KENT escorted by CARRON and ULSTER.  
(A.C.O.S. 072105A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Operations

North Sea

- Patrols. Weather permitting following patrols are to be detailed tonight Thursday:

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

North Sea

Patrols (Contd.) F.A.8 - 4 M.T.B. vicinity N.F.13.  
F.B.2 - 2 M.T.B. vicinity N.F.10.  
F.G.2 F.G.3 - 4 M.T.B. patrol 16.  
Report by signal units sail or not.  
(3) Units to be on patrol 2100A units to approach patrol position from south to keep clear of convoy A.T.M.6 at N.F.9 2100A.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071027A to C.F.M.U.1)  
Night dispositions 7/8th December.  
Humber Force Group 2 Harbour - PYTCHLEY.  
Harwich Force Group 3 Patrols 2 CHARLETOWN. 3 MACKAY 5 MALLARD. 6A WIDGEON 15 EKINS 16 STAYNER 18 RIOU 19 SEYMOURAND, WALPOLE group 4 Harbour EGLINTON, HAMBLEDON, LEEDS, SLAZAK, CAICOS, CURZON, RETALICK, TORRINGTON, GUILLEMOT, KITTIWAKE, SHEARWATER, SHELDRAKE, LA COMBATTANTE.  
Sheerness Force Group 5 with T.AM 11 HOLDERNESS, MIDDLETON. With A.T.M.6 VIMY, FERNIE. Patrols 1 CATTISTOCK, 4 LUDLOW, CLEMATIS on passage North. Group 6 Harbour GARTH, BLENCATHRA, COTTESMORE, CROOME, MENDIP, VERSATILE, VIVACIOUS, COSBY, RUTHERFORD, DRUMHELLER, HEATHER, MIMICO. At Antwerp BLEASDALE.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071521A to Admty.)

Antwerp and Ostend escort trawlers to be based on Sheerness. In order to save steaming time it is considered that M/S A/S Trawlers at present employed on escort duties with Antwerp and Ostend convoys should be based at Sheerness. Boiler cleaning should continue to be carried out at Harwich.  
(2) Request therefore that these trawlers may be transferred to Sheerness as convenient.  
(3) In order to avoid congestion at coaling hulk at Sheerness Com. Southend is requested to instruct tugs, other than N.C.S. Tugs requiring bunkers to proceed to Gravesend.  
(4) F.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to instruct trawlers concerned in terms of my 282244A October, 062340A November and 231735A November.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071043A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Reinforcement of 16 Group. Admiralty message 032009 and Nore 011638 during re-equipping of 524 Squadron which will take at least a month an average of only 3 sorties can be carried out each night. 9 sorties are required to provide adequate patrols. In view of extreme importance of these patrols request 16 Group may be reinforced forthwith in accordance with para.4 of Admiralty message 032009.  
(C. in C. Nore, 071601A to Admty.)

Admty. Floating Dock No.38. My 031210A postponed indefinitely. Further signal will be made.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 072031A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

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All mine-sweeping off Low Countries to be under V.A.Dover.

A.N.C.X.F's 061225 and your 031403. Admty. concurs.  
(D.M.S. 072124A to V.A. Dover)

Channel

Potato traffic Brittany to Seine.

A.N.C.X.F's (Main) 061907A not to H.Q.C.C. or 19 Group proposal as at present set out is open to the following objections so far as the Plymouth Command is concerned.

- (A) The presence of a considerable number of small craft scattered over the area will seriously interfere with anti U-Boat operations by 19 Group.
- (B) With prevailing westerly weather, and lack of navigational lights and lack of recent experience on the part of crews many of these craft, particularly sailing vessels, are likely to find themselves coming under fire from the Channel Islands.
- (C) Uncontrolled sailings would afford an opportunity for illicit communication by enemy agents with the Channel Islands.
- (D) It would be invidious to allow freedom of movement to these small craft while movements of fishing craft are restricted.
- (2) Consider that traffic should be by steam or motor craft only and that this traffic must be controlled and in convoy only. Special convoys could be arranged.
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 071528A to Admty.)

Patrols. C. in C. Plymouth's 062352A. Sailed MONTREAL and RIBBLE to comply.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 071545A)  
Day Patrols December 8th.

Search area limits given.

(2) M.T.Bs 49 degs. 47' 50 degs. 10' 5 miles each side of 01 degs. 40' W. on leaving harbour proceed at speed to H.2 buoy thence search along H channel to patrol area.

(3) HARGOOD, VANOC, SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE.  
01 degs. 30" 01 degs. 08" W. 50 degs. 03' Q.Z.S.526, 616 commence search H.10 buoy thence along Q.Z.S.526, 616 to East area limit thence usual North South courses.

(4) WARCHMAN, ANTHONY. Relieve HARGOOD, VANOC.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071610A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)  
Air patrols December 7th/8th.

My 281728, para.12. A. Night 7th/8th patrols 3 and 4 by Leigh Light Wellingtons. Day 8th patrol 3 by Liberators, 4 and 5 by Swordfish.

B. 838 Squadron, LTQ. 842 Squadron KJZ.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071724A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces)



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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Suspected U-Boats. By D/F on 5333 N K/cs at 0130Z U-Boat making WW transmission estimated probably within 75 miles of 55 degs. 00' N. 24 degs. 00' W. This U-Boat considered same as that referred to in A.M.060813A and 061446A.

(D.D.I.C. 070305A to Escorts of O.N.S.37)  
A.M.060813A, 061446A and 070305A. Further inconclusive D/F of WW message on 13317 N. K/cs at 1010Z suggests that U-Boat is still ahead of you.

(D.D.I.C. 071145A to Escorts of O.N.S.37)

Situation report Home Section 19th E.G. HESPERUS 3 Frigates operating vicinity Cape Wrath.  
1st E.G. AFFLECK, S.O. 4 Frigates and 2nd E.G. and WILD GOOSE 3 Frigates operating off South West Irish Coast.  
Force 33. Third E.G. DUCKWORTH 5 Frigates operating off Northern Ireland add to my 071153.

(C. in C. W.A. 071405A to Admty.)

Operations

Norway

Operation "S.C". Ramose, Supreme. Vigra returned at 1426A/7th December.

(2) Operation successful.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 071435A to A.C.O.S.)

Mining and shipping strike <sup>of Uthane</sup> between Bergen and Stavanger. My 011823 addressed C.S.10 para. (3). Request you will arrange with 18 Group C.C. to repeat R/C between Stavanger and Bergen at first light tomorrow Friday.  
(C. in C. H.F. 071935A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations

Northern Waters

Convoy J.W.62.

Operation "Acumen".

(1) Kola Inlet 7th December arrived escort merchant ships J.W.62 and 5 Norwegian Warships at 0130A/7.

(2) White Sea section escorted by Russian Escort at 1630A/6 in position 070 degs. 16' N. 034 degs. 24' E. and proceeded White Sea with 9th Escort group to Cape Govodetski.

(3) Admty. pass to M. of W.T.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 070944A to Admty.)

Convoy J.W.62 arrived safely early this morning. Concentration of at least 4 U-Boats in near approach to Kola of which one possible kill by CAMPANIA A/C and 2 attacks by escorts who are still hunting. 9th E.G. proceeding with White Sea Section as far as 068 degs. 10' N. then to Kola.

(C.S.1, 071132A to C. in C. H.F.)

E.T.A. 0730B.

(S.O. E.G. 9, 071601B to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

/Patrols ...

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Northern Waters - Contd.

Patrols. If not in contact now establish new Gamma between 061 degs. 04' N. 005 degs. 34' W. and 060 degs. 25' N. 005 degs. 08' W. Air patrols will be maintained until further notice.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071007A to S.O.31 E.G. (R) Admty. A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., C.S.10, No.18 Group, C.C., H.Q.C.C.)

My 061445 S.O. E.G.19 now in HESPERUS.  
(2) Sweep now being continued east of Cape Wrath.  
(3) C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to pass following messages dated 6th to Capt. D. Liverpool 0948, 10 (?21), 1214, 1412 and 1445.  
(4) Suitable.  
(S.O. E.G.19, 071317A to C. in C. W.A.)  
My 071007A air patrol withdrawn due to weather.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071445A to S.O.E.G.31)  
If not in contact at 2000A/7th shift to centre of Gamma 070 degs. 30 miles.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071831A to S.O. E.G.31)  
Your 071455 not to all.

Leave Gamma search and resume operation C.E. 1 in area 58 degs. to 59 degs. N. between 04 degs. and 06 degs. 30' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 071911A to S.O.E.G.19, as amended by his 072249)

CHARLOCK  
and STARWORT  
unfit to  
face Arctic  
winter.

Your 061942. Consider these ships should be taken in hand as soon as possible so as to return to Iceland (C) before January D.S. convoy is due. They could be sailed with convoy R.U.146 about 14th December. If approved request refitting ports be signalled. My 301252 November refers.  
(A.C.I.C. 071416A to Admty.)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Minesweeping off Calais Two red mines exploded yesterday 6th, in position 51° 02' 16" N. 02° 05' 36" E. and position 51° 02' 30" N. 02° 06' 51" E.  
(V.A. Dover, 071210A to Admty.)

Deep mining off Hartland Point. A.M. 061203 para. 2. Request you will direct PLOVER to lay a series of eight lines of deep mines.

Initial positions as follows:-

- A. 50° 42' N. 05° 05' 00" W.
- B. 50° 39' 00" N. 05° 00' 00" W.
- C. 50° 48' 30" N. 04° 58' 30" W.
- D. 50° 45' 30" N. 04° 53' 00" W.
- E. 50° 54' 30" N. 04° 52' 00" W.
- F. 50° 51' 30" N. 04° 46' 30" W.
- G. 51° 00' 30" N. 04° 45' 30" W.
- H. 50° 57' 30" N. 04° 40' 00" W.

- (2) Direction Lines A, C, E, G 170° Lines B, D, F, H 350°.
  - (3) Depth lines A, D, and G. 70 feet below chart datum. Lines B, C, E, F and H. 30 feet from bottom.
  - (4) Spacing 200 feet. Length of lines approximately 3.3 miles.
  - (5) Supply of mines Mark XVII assembly 39 arranged at Milford Haven, outfits numbered A. 14, etc.
  - (6) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven pass to PLOVER on arrival. PLOVER repeat back initial positions direction and depth of lines.
- (A.C.N.S.(H) 071303A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Mine-sweeping in Schelde. Your 070709. Area given in your 061437 has been swept 96% to minimum swept depth of 5 fathoms.

- (2) 1 mine G.R. type was dragged in sweep from position unknown.
  - (3) Mines found do not appear of recent laying.
  - (4) Returning Ostend anchorage.
  - (5) Intend to proceed 0600A tomorrow Friday and propose clearance 6 cables either side of centre line joining following position
    - (a) 051° 35' 32" N. 003° 11' 32" E.
    - (b) 051° 38' 40" N. 003° 16' 54" E.
- (S.O.M.S.F.15, 071715A to C. in C. Nore.)

Information has been received that a number of mines, believed to be "Katies", exist and are anchored at low water between L'Euwe Sluis and Breskens approximately 100 yards from beach. Request mines recovered by Y party may be investigated. N.O.I.C. Antwerp's 151(7707)A November refers.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 072027A to Com. Belgium.)

Enemy Intelligence

Danish shipping (a) German requisitioning. My (718)1917 Nov. Following additional fast passenger vessels were requisitioned late November.

Name	Tonnage	Name	Tonnage
BERGENHUS	1398	FREM	1176
PARAGUAY	4600	MAGRETHER	2465

My 061829 it is thought probable in view of increased requirements for tonnage these vessels may be used to augment military transport service operating from Oslo.

/ (b) ...

War Diary7.12.1944  
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy IntelligenceDanish  
shipping  
(Contd.)(b) Following vessels have been sunk in  
Copenhagen Harbour:LOUISIANA 6513 tons  
VIRGINIA 4159 tons

B.3.

(N.A. Stockholm 071224 to Admt.)

N.I.D. Comment.

A. PREM AND PARAGUAY are oilburners and it is  
open to question whether such ships will be used.

B. There is no confirmation of these sinkings.

Port FacilitiesRepair ship  
needed for  
Kirkenes.At conference today with Admiral Golovko and  
Norwegian Mission subject of sending more  
Norwegian ships to this area was discussed. While  
vessels both warships and for local transport are  
urgently required the bottleneck is maintenance.(2) Northern fleet has received reinforcements of  
one battleship, one cruiser, eight destroyers and three submarines  
in last six months and maintenance facilities are already over-  
taxed. Golovko though willing could promise no assistance.(3) Pending repair of Kirkenes request repair ship capable of  
maintaining corvettes and smaller craft may be sent.(4) Owing to urgent need for shipping request following, which  
should be able to maintain themselves, may be sent.

(a) HEIMDAO as depot ship.

(b) Big whale catchers.

(c) PEDNING SKOYTER.

(d) Big fishing vessels.

(5) Agreed with Colonel Dahl and Captain Hostvedt.

(6) Admiralty pass to Commander in Chief Norwegian Forces.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 071036A to Admt.)

Dieppe

My 071210 December and A.M. 051653 (not to all  
addressees) request early confirmation that future  
commitments of British account at Dieppe after 22nd  
December are:-

(a) Priority daily cross-channel service.

(b) One or possibly two hospital carriers per week.

(c) Troop leave ships (L.S.I.) to disembark and embark 1500  
personnel daily.

(d) 1000 tons of coal daily.

(2) If troop leave ships are to be handled this will mean a  
sacrifice of cargo berths in Paris Basin for future users of the  
port.(3) No transit facilities at present exist for military leave  
personnel.(4) It is also presumed that train ferry service will cease on  
22nd December. Confirmation is requested.

(5) Agreed P.E.C.

(N.O.I.C. Dieppe 071215A to F.O.B.A.A.)

/Flushing...

7.12.1944  
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPort Facilities

- Flushing Your O62124A. The most immediate necessity is the provision of coal to keep the Power Station and Yard supplied.
- (2) N.O.I.C. and Port Party has been established. Can accept and safeguard stores.
- (3) P. Party arrives Monday and will complete mine clearance in thirty days.
- (4) Harbour entrance is blocked present salvage priority low vide A.N.C.X.F. 301750A.
- (5) Lock gates are severely damaged and Admiralty should send expert to report and make proposals as to repairs. Without these repairs entrance to harbour is restricted to vessels of coaster type due to strong tidal currents in locks except at stand of tide which only lasts a very few minutes.
- (6) Repairs for work people. Request supplies asked for in Commodore Belgium's O31224 may be sent as soon as possible. Local workmen available.
- (7) Request C. in C. Nore will send six harbour launches for use on waterways to transport work people from Middlesburg to Flushing.
- (8) A full report made by Dutch Authorities is held by N.I.D. one.
- (9) F.O. Holland will signal further requirements after his visit to Flushing this weekend.
- (F.O.I.C. Holland O71630A to Admty., N.O.I.C. Flushing.)

Casualties and Defects

EMPIRE NESS. From P.S.V.O. I have personally surveyed wreck of EMPIRE NESS in position 9.2 cables 358.5 degs. Endrachtspolder light. Ship has settled about 20 feet since sinking. She lies right athwart the tide speed of tide is 4 knots. Slack water period less than 30 minutes at neaps. Diver made quick superficial survey and reports extensive damage to hull forward of bridge. Docks blown up from hatch to ships side presumably by explosion of gas bottles. 4 fathoms over deck at low water. Salvage entirely impracticable. Ship and cargo must be considered a total loss.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp, O71604A to Com. Belgium)

L.C.T.(3) 7089. During heavy rain squall L.C.T.(3) 7089 hit obstruction whilst attempting to enter Boulogne at approx. 1915 Wednesday 6th. Craft holed in engine room which flooded putting both engines out of action. After clearing obstruction, craft drifted into shallow water and anchored but owing to wind and swell kedge wire parted and craft grounded on rock broadside to beach at low water.

(2) Craft pounded heavily in surf flooded quickly making removal of personnel essential. No casualties sustained.

(3) Craft loaded with 4 tanks and 1 other tracked vehicle.

(4) Salvage Officer suspects serious bottom damage owing to pounding and was unable to board at low water to-day due to weather conditions. Anticipate craft will break up if similar weather conditions prevail.

(N.O.I.C. Boulogne, O72100A to F.O.B.A.A.)

7.12.1944  
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Southampton-Ostend troopships. In view of reduction of escorts (A.M.032358 and C. in C. Nore 042339 refer) it is intended to sail ships referred to in para. 2 of A.N.C.X.F. (Buco) 261302 escorted to C.2 A buoy thence independently to join first convenient N.A.P. convoy off Folkestone.

(2) If no passengers are carried on the return passage ships will return to Portsmouth independently and unescorted in this command.

(3) If passengers are carried N.O.I.C. Ostend is requested to signal E.T.A. C2A buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071202A to Admty.)

Major troopship movements.	A.M. Code	221931 November. Due U.K.	Amend programme as follows: Sail U.K.	Destination
	A.T.168	-	8th Dec.	-
	A.T.170	-	-	New York
	A.T.172	-	18th Dec.	Halifax
	A.T.172A	19th Dec.	22nd Dec.	-
	A.T.175	25th Dec.	31st Dec.	Halifax
	A.T.176	-	-	New York.

(D.O.D.(H), 071221A to C. in C. W.A. F.Os. in C. Greenock, Liverpool, Northern Ireland (R), Cardiff)

V.W.C. C. in C. Portsmouth despatch 041938A para. 7 and  
E.W.C. Convoys 9. Proposals contained in these paragraphs would  
to join abolish the policy of independent sailings in-  
T.B.C. augurated by your 090934B Sept. and so success-  
Convoys. fully prosecuted since that date. No such  
suggestion was contained in the proposals made by  
Admiralty and in which this command concurred, nor  
was there any previous discussion of so sweeping  
a change in cross-Channel sailing policy. Present submarine  
situation does not appear of such serious nature as to warrant  
complete abandonment independent sailings of all ships except  
L.S.I., that can make over 7½ knots. With every effort being  
made reduce tonnage in use in build-up the delays caused by  
following policy of referred despatch will undoubtedly adversely  
effect further reduction due additional time required for turn  
round. Prior complying request your decision.  
(C.T.F.125,071755 to A.N.C.X.F.)

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War Diary.

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

DEPTFORD. Intend to sail DEPTFORD for U.K. 1700A/7th Dec.  
(2) Route (a) 35.59 N. 06.10 W. (b) 36.55 N.  
09.05 W. (c) 39.00 N. 09.45 W. (d) 44.00 N.  
09.54 W.  
(3) S. of A. 13 knots. (4) Codeword "Corner" 587.  
(5) Shifts to Home Station W/T Organisation 1230A/9th Dec.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 071124A to Admty.).  
Sailed DEPTFORD. My 071124 refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 071920).

South Atlantic

BETONY. Sailed (?BETONY) coastal to East London for  
refit.  
(2) S. of A. 11 knots. (3) E.T.A. 0700B/8th.  
(4) Continuous W/T watch on S.L.  
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 070549A, 071600B to Admty. etc.).

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

GLOIRE (proposed trip to U.S.A.) A.M. 062305. Concur in proposed employment of GLOIRE. Understand from French authorities proposed programme will probably allow her to take part in "Independence". (A.N.C.X.F. (Main) 070140A to Admty.)

GLOIRE to visit U.S.A. A.N.C.X.F. concurs in proposed use of GLOIRE. Admiralty has no objection. Your 061931 refers. (V.C.N.S. 070840A to B.A.D. Info. A.N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med.) Subject to S.C.A.E.F. concurrence, Cominch as Executive agent in agreement with B.A.D. authorizes sailing of French cruiser GLOIRE to New York, Boston, and return to a French port for purpose transporting French currency to France. Since arrival ship in E.T.O. prior 25th December is desired by French, Admty. is requested sail GLOIRE for New York earliest practicable after receipt S.C.A.E.F. concurrence. (Cominch 071930Z to S.C.A.E.F., Admty.)

Sevastopol intelligence. Admiralty 181443 October, 3 Roumanian destroyers and 3 Roumanian submarine chasers observed in Sevastopol all wearing Soviet ensign and appear to have been absorbed into Black Sea Fleet. (2) Soviet ships present are SEVASTOPOL, VOROSHILOV, MOLOTOV, KRASNY, KRYM, and 2 modern destroyers. (N.L.O. Black Sea 070940 to Admty. for D.N.I. (R) Admiral Archer.)

Independent sailings to U.S.A. (1) Dry cargo ships and tankers of 15 knots and over, except those carrying ammunition or passengers, are to be sailed direct to U.S. destination by main ports, if being held for a G.U.F. convoy will entail a delay of more than 2 days. (2) The above ships are to be routed by route "Prune" (my 070917, not to all) destination New York, unless otherwise ordered. Should the U-Boat situation outside the Mediterranean make the suspension of independent sailings necessary, F.O.G.M.A. is to signal A.I.G. 142, whereupon ships are to be sailed to Oran for inclusion in next G.U? convoy. (4) Masters of these ships are to be instructed to keep strict watch on Zone and area B.A.M.S. routines, in addition to 500 k/cs coastal station, in case of diversion. (5) F.O.G.M.A. is to direct such ships when at sea in accordance with my 041739 sub-para. 2, not to all. (C. in C. Med. 070947A to Commorseafron, F.O.G.M.A., Commob Oran, N.Os. i/c Naples, Bone, Com. Algeria, F.O. Tunisia, V.A. Malta, S.N.O. East Sicily, F.O.W.It., F.O.T.A.L.I., R.A. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Port Said, Info, Admty. F.O.L.E.M.) U.S. managed tankers of 14.5 knots and over added. (C. in C. Med. 132043A.)

F.O.L.E.M. visit to Greece. I intend to sail for Salonika in AURORA p.m. Sunday 10th, after meeting with local authorities leaving Salonika noon Monday in AJAX for Piraeus. Subsequently sailing for Alex. Thursday or Friday 15th. I shall hope to meet British and Greek Authorities ashore in Athens if operations permit. Request your views. (F.O.L.E.M. 071053B to C.S. 15, etc.) W.D. Note, Amended by 091229 q.v. /Palestine...



War Diary.7.12.1944.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Palestine patrols. With the exception of the battleship referred to in para. 2 of F.O.L.E.M.'s 261114 November it should be possible to find the necessary forces for maintaining a patrol off the Palestine coast from station resources.

(2) Guarding of shore establishments such as those referred to by F.O.L.E.M. in his para. 4 is a military and not a naval responsibility. Request this be made clear to military authorities in London.

(3) It is observed that in his appreciation of the internal security situation in the Middle East dated 20th Sept., General Paget stated (i) The Chiefs of Staff had accepted responsibility for there being sufficient troops in Palestine.

(ii) He was short of troops.

(iii) He wished the Chiefs of Staff to give a ruling on liability of Royal Navy to assist in internal security duties. Para. 2 above refers.

(C. in C. Med. 071342 to Admty. (R) F.O.L.E.M.)  
Reply 091156A.

FLEETWOOD. R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail FLEETWOOD as convenient p.m. 8th to area limit for onward routing to Malta to disembark Capt. (D) 5. After disembarkation V.A.M. is requested to sail ship to Gibraltar for onward routing.  
C. in C. Med. 271237 not to all refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 071425B to R.A. Alex.)

K.M.F. convoys not to be escorted in Mediterranean. Proposals in your 301111 approved.  
(2) Request confirmation that M.K.F. convoys will assemble at Gibraltar.  
(3) The question of the escort of the K.M.F./M.K.F. convoys on 20 day cycle is now under consideration and a further signal will be made.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 071504A to C. in C. Med.)  
Reply 081317A.

ROYALIST refit (escort carrier flagship.) Request very early confirmation or otherwise of provisional programme dates given in Admty. 212150 Nov. observing that if ROYALIST is to adhere to provisional programme dockyard can only guarantee to complete 70% of her tropicalisation.  
(2) If programme dates can be deferred by 14 days without prejudice to operational requirements tropicalisation could be completed.  
(Com. E.C. 071715B to Admty. Info. C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M.)

Greece. Military Situation report. Cositintrep No. 517, part 4. Greece. Athens/Piraeus area. On 6 Dec. British troops moving to relieve elements in suburban areas were subjected to unprovoked attack by E.L.A.S. troops with rifles, grenades, mortars in Acropolis and Stadiimsa areas. E.A.M./K.K.E. (Left Wing) H.Qs. occupied by British troops

/and...

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece, and 30/40 prisoners and many weapons taken.  
Military Street fighting continued throughout the day but  
Situation is gradually being localised. The task of  
report. clearing the Athens area is proceeding according  
(Contd.) to plan and British troops are in control of the  
centre of the city. In East Athens approx. 100  
E.L.A.S. including Russians and Bulgars were  
captured by the Greek Brigade.  
Peloponnese. A general strike was declared on 4 Dec. in Patras.  
British troops are patrolling the town and the situation is quiet.  
(A.F.H.Q. 071853A to W.O.)

EMILE BERTIN. French cruiser EMILE BERTIN is to sail at 1200B/  
9th and proceed by (corrupt group) West Channel  
through position 309 thence direct to position A  
035° 08' N. 017° 45' E. to arrive 1715B/10th.  
(2) S.O.A. 23 knots, codeword "Elmcroft" 474.  
(3) V.A.M. is requested to onward route ships from position A to  
arrive Oran 0900A/12th. EMILE BERTIN 071545 (not to all) refers.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 072031B to EMILE BERTIN, V.A.M.)

Situation All Naval Officers and men ashore at Piraeus  
Report No. concentrated at 4 strong points. E.L.A.S. made  
498. determined attacks on Navy House between 1200 and  
1800 on 6th December during which British  
casualties were 1 killed and 1 wounded. G.S.  
SAKTOURIS rendered effective close support.  
A.Rs. and Infantry are slowly clearing E.L.A.S. from Naval  
College. COMBRAE opened fire at and dispersed party attempting  
to dig in. H.M.Ss. are standing by at all docks and ports of  
importance.  
(C. in C. Med. 072107.)

U.S. Escorts will be arranged as necessary, ref. A.M.  
Personnel. 070040 (lift of 5000 U.S. personnel in two ships.)  
(C. in C. Med. 072207 to Admty.)

Air Sitreps. E.A.F. 4987 Cipher 7 Dec.  
A.F.H.Q. have agreed that the special operations  
Sitrep will in future be confined to 3 paras.  
Para. 1 special air operations. Para. 2. "J.A.N.L."  
operations in Jugoslavia. Para. 3. Special sea operations.  
(Balkan Air Force No T.O.O/7th to Agwar etc.)

# SECRET

IN *Med*  
169A.

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.)

071845/December

From Allied Control Commission Bulgaria

Date 8.12.44.

Recd 0402

One Time Pad

Addressed Air Ministry, (War Office Pass)

*Bulgaria, relations with Russian Command.*

IMMEDIATE

275810. A.158, cipher 7 December. Secret.

Personal for Air Vice Marshal Colyer from Air Commodore Murray.

You will have seen official signals from here to W.O. describing the present situation which is still difficult. We have been handed a map showing bounds around greater Sofia outside which we may not go without Russian permission and a Russian escort and this puts the (?airfield) out of bounds. No repeat no single aircraft is allowed to come in or go out without permission from Moscow which is being made difficult and we have had no contact (or mail or supplies) with Italy other than W/T for nearly three weeks. Permission for one aircraft to come in yesterday was cancelled on a flimsy excuse and we have to apply for it all over again by letter which will have to be referred back to Moscow. See (?proposal) 30 Mission signal Air.9.(?64.) dated Dec. 6th copy to Air Ministry. It seems clear that they are trying to make us uncomfortable. Our car has been held up by Russians with arms acting on orders from Allied Control Commission and refused permission to proceed because we were not repeat not in possession of special passes about which I had no repeat no warning and this consider was taken entirely by Russian elements of Commission without knowledge American or British sections. This has been represented. On one occasion I was held up with other British and American cars at side road along which I regularly pass for two hours surrounded by Russians (?barring) (?progress) while Bulgarian cars passed unmolested. Reference my signal M242 dated Dec. 4th addressed W.O. the two R.A.F. Officers who were arrested although now released from arrest have not yet been allowed to leave Sofia for Bucharest. A strong letter protesting at this arrest has been despatched to Russian Commander. My operational liaison between Russian Commander and MAAF has been satisfactory and discussion most friendly but Russian operational control has now moved further north out of Bulgaria and away from my sphere. I saw General Biryusov on Dec. 3rd on behalf of MAAF in connection with continuance of liaison further north with all Russian Armies which have now come within MAAF radius of action. Biryusov appeared friendly and anxious to further the matter and has referred to Moscow for approval. Am in close touch with Air Marshal Slessor in this connection and arrangement has already been made to effect immediately continued liaison further north if and when Moscow approval is given. My Naval colleague request you convey appropriate contents this signal to A.C.N.S.(F) Admiralty.

071845

Note by C.6.Tels - Message delayed owing to mutilation.  
Received in War Reg. 0805/10 December  
Circulated by Air Ministry to Air Ministry  
Departments, War Cabinet Officer, Foreign  
Office and Admiralty.

/Distribution overleaf

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

A12  
EMB

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Force ~~C-1~~<sup>61</sup>. The following units will form Force 61. QUEEN ELIZABETH, NEWCASTLE, NIGERIA, KENYA, PHOEBE, 5 destroyers as detailed by Commodore (D).  
(2) Force will be under operational command of Rear Admiral Read, F.O. Force 61, in NIGERIA.  
(3) Com. (D) report names of destroyers allocated.  
(4) F.O. Force 61 report suitable date for force to be constituted.  
(5) Of this force, the cruisers only will be administered by F.O. Force 61, administration of other units remains unchanged.  
(C. in C.E.I., 070437Z to F.O: Force 61, Com. (D).

U-Boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions.              (C. in C.E.I., 070458Z).

PROMETHEUS                Suspicious craft probably submarine sighted on  
? U-Boat.                    surface 090° 168 from P.  
                                  (PROMETHEUS, 070700Z).

"Appian"                    "Appian!" Request all Authorities be asked to  
operations.                    repeat all sailing signals in connection with  
                                  "Appian" to C. in C.E.I. and S.O.R.N.  
                                  Establishments (India).  
(2) The increase in signalling is appreciated but in the initial stages (?this) information would be of great value.  
(3) It would also be most helpful if a signalled monthly forecast of sailings from U.K. could be made.  
(C. in C.E.I., 071052Z to Admty.).

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7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

GLOIRE. Admty., 070840A to B.A.D.  
Cominch, 071930Z to S.C.A.E.F., Admty.  
See Mediterranean.

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q., 071347Z, Cominch 071540).

S.C.160. Average speed 7.2 knots. Off Oversay at  
0930Z/16 November. All arrived.  
(D.T.D., 071546A to N.S.H.Q. Connav).

Atlantic Eagle and Lion Routes. Affirmative your des. 061742.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 071620Z to Admty.).

RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK. RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK should be sailed independently  
to Freetown via Horta and if necessary Dakar for  
coal bunkers. Endeavour should be made to carry  
sufficient bunkers to give 16 days endurance for  
voyage Bermuda to Horta.

A.M. 202050/Nov. not to all refers.  
(D.T.D., 071641A to S.B.N.O.W.A.). Cancelled by 081849A q.v.

Neutral shipping routes, Azores. Your dis. 061740Z. Concur.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R, 071808Z to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest. (2) P.T.-Boats operating Camotes Sea early hours  
No.1051. sank 6 barges eastbound off northwest tip Pacijan  
Dec. 6th. Island. 3 barges carrying personnel others  
supplies (corrupt groups) afire, another barge off  
Pontan Island contents undetermined.

(3) Pressure maintained on enemy along entire line south of  
Limon during day and some advances made abreast Highway,  
opposition strong some sectors but weak in others. On West  
Coast Leyte troops advancing from Palabas River reached point  
on beach 300 yards from Halove and held line running north-east  
to point 2100 yards northeast of Palogo enemy resistance stiff  
on right flank in initial stages. West of Dagami elimination  
of enemy pockets in prepared defences continues on eastern sloops  
of Mount Veu.

/(4)...

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest (4) 2 enemy torpedo bombers attacked damaged merchant ship under tow east of Leyte (during No.1051, Dec.6th. the) afternoon and sank same but both bombers (Contd.) shot down. Nil other details. Air activity during day but reports incomplete.
- (6) Another small Jap airborne Commando raid attempted after dark utilising paratroops from estimated 15 transport planes or medium bombers mainly in San Iablo and Buri airfields area. Elimination proceeding.
- (7) Probable Japanese transportation convoy to Leyte reported midmorning southbound through Ormoc passage approaching northwestern Pibuyan Sea composition probably 5 merchant ships 7 escorts including some destroyers with constant air umbrella of about 7 fighters. Convoy shadowed afternoon and night through Samar Sea and attacked by aircraft with some success but results not observed.
- (8) Forenoon R/C. Liberator sighted 4 sea trucks anchored off Ihlypan on north coast Mindoro Island attacked and set on fire 1 sea truck at anchor off northwestern Mindoro Island also shot down one Jap floatplane over Central Visayan Sea.
- (9) R/C. planes Mindoro Manila area previous day had field day, destroyed 1 medium freighter which blew up off Southern Mindoro Island and set one sea truck burning fiercely same vicinity, attacked 1 sea truck in Subic Bay leaving same afire, started fires on 1 sea truck northbound approx. 150 miles west of Manila Bay, in which vicinity observed convoy of 5 sea trucks also headed north. Only 15 ships seen in Manila Bay 5th Dec. mainly freighters but possibly including one or more destroyers.
- (11) Search Liberator and (?sank) 1 large sea truck off Davao morning 5th also destroyed another sea truck and 1 small coaster Talaud Islands.
- (12) Two Beaufighters strafed installations Saraegani Island forenoon 3rd December while 6 Bostons attacked Barracks at Davao and also bombed Manado.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 070725),

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

- S/M. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/7th Dec.  
and sighting Para.(A). (1) H.M. ship torpedoed at 0848Z/6th  
summary. Dec. in approx. 58° 42' N. 04° 50' W.  
(2) LOCH INCH and GOODALL attacked contact at  
1041Z/6th Dec. in approx. 58° 44' N. 04° 37' W.
- (3) A/C Y/201 attacked possible Schnorkel with depth charges at 1522Z/6th Dec. in 58° 44' N. 04° 29' W. ~~U 297 sunk~~
- Para.(B) (1) A/C. obtained A.S.V. contact at 1700Z/5th Dec. in 14° 16' N. 85° 52' W.
- Para.(C) (1) A/C. reported possible U-Boat at 2000Z/6th Dec. in 63° 33' N. 23° 00' W. (Report cancelled 081142A).

/(2)...

7.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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

(2) A/C. L/202 obtained A.S.V. contact at 1325Z/6  
Dec. in 54° 46' N. 09° 10' W.  
Para.(D) (1) A/C. B/502 carried out blind attack  
on contact at 0454Z/6th Dec. in 57° 50' N. 11°  
06' E.  
(2) A/C. Q/105 obtained radar contact at 0922Z/6  
Dec. in 49° 35' N. 03° 38' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 071109A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 071420A, 071425A).



8.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- North Sea. 1(a) Enemy aircraft carried out an ineffective bombing attack on the Antwerp Convoy and also laid mines in the Schelde and Ostend approaches. (b) The Liberty ship SAMSIP was mined last night off Ostend. She caught fire and drifted ashore ten miles to the eastward. (c) Four mines were swept in the Schelde and approaches.
- Channel. (2) SPRAGGE carried out an attack on a suspected U-Boat some 25 miles north of Cherbourg, but the results were uncertain.
- West Coast France. (3) Another magnetic mine has been detonated in Port de Commerce, Brest.
- Western Approaches. 4(a) PLOVER is laying an anti-U-Boat deep minefield off Hartland Point. (b) S.S. GLEN MAROON, 745 tons, was struck by a naval aircraft during exercises between Morecambe Bay and the Isle of Man, and both craft are total losses.
- Norway. (5) M.T.Bs. 653 and 717 returned to Lerwick from a "V.P." strike during which they obtained 4 torpedo hits on a large tanker, last seen with her stern vertical.
- Northern Waters. (6) The whaler SEALYHAM sighted a U-Boat off Skogi, Iceland, but lost touch before she could carry out an attack. Subsequent search was unproductive.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Enemy Units. (7) A summary of the enemy naval units now active in (a) Western Mediterranean, (b) Adriatic and (c) Aegean is contained in C. in C. Mediterranean's 081515A.
- Greece. 8(a) At the Piraeus, the road to Athens is blocked and the wireless station has been put out of action. Clearance of the peninsula near

/the...

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Greece.  
(Contd.)

the Naval College continues. The destroyer EASTON and three coastal craft engaged ~~an~~ E.L.A.S. stronghold at Lofos ~~at 2200Z~~. The local E.L.A.S. Commander afterwards tested for surrender, but would not accept the terms of laying down arms. No further attack has been made on Navy House. There is no sign of rebel resistance slackening and unprovoked attacks on British troops have increased.

(b) MUSKETEER at 2202B reported all quiet at Volo, where discharge continues. E.L.A.N. is co-operating, but E.L.A.S. is in complete control and the British garrison completely outnumbered. The Greek N.O.I.C. who is threatened, has retired to the Greek destroyer NIKI on the anchorage. It is considered impracticable to start seizing caiques without a secure base to which to take them.

(c) At Syros, E.L.A.S. handed over arms, including 62 rifles, to the Military Governor.

East Indies

C. in C.  
B.P.F.

(9) Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser and the members of his immediate staff left Ceylon at 0700Z today for Australia.

China

Hong Kong  
Raid.

(10) Mustangs which attacked shipping in Hong Kong Harbour sunk a destroyer and a transport vessel. One merchant ship was set on fire and two others damaged.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

- Burma. (11) Six Liberators laid 29 mines in the Pakcham River at Victoria Point.
- Borneo. (12) Two Liberators bombed Miri refinery and Labuan docks.
- Philippines. 13(a). A Navy Mariner aircraft attacked five small coastal freighters off the south-west coast of Mindoro Island before dawn, destroying one and damaging three.  
(b) A patrol aircraft attacked six sea trucks and three luggers anchored off Tagbilaran on the south-west coast of Bohol Island. One of the larger ships was sunk.  
(c) Two Liberators on patrol over Manila Bay bombed a warship, reported as probably a light cruiser, at Cavite, scoring near misses.
- EMPIRE ARQUEBUS. (14) Owing to her dirty condition, the Flag Officer, Force X, S.W. Pacific Area, is relieving the C.O. of H.M.S. EMPIRE ARQUEBUS, L.S.I.(L) of his command ~~the~~ the executive officer and supply officer of their duties forthwith.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Office of Admiralty letter M.010982/44 of 14th November, 1944.  
N.O.I.C. Appointment of N.O.I.C. Gareloch ceased as from  
Gareloch 5th December 1944.  
lapses. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 081429A to Admty.)

Movements.

PRINCESS Arrangements have been made for PRINCESS BEATRIX  
BEATRIX. to be taken in hand for refit and preparation for  
Far Eastern Service by Messrs. Harland and Wolff,  
North Woolwich, on completion of LARGS.  
(2) R.A.L.S.C.U. is to arrange for vessel to be  
sailed to arrive London 22nd December. Admiralty and F.O.I.C.  
London are to be kept informed.  
(D.O.D. 080317A to R.L.A.S.C.U., F.O.I.C. London.)

COLOSSUS. F.O.I.C. Tyne and C. in C. Rosyth are requested  
to sail COLOSSUS when ready (a) about 14th Dec.  
to Rosyth, (b) about 26th Dec. to the Clyde for  
trials and work up under F.O.C.T.  
(D.O.D.(H) 080329A to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C.  
Tyne.)

DUQUESNE, Arrived French cruiser DUQUESNE, french cruiser  
GLOIRE. GLOIRE, French ship HOVA, French ship SOMALI.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 080944A to C.T.F. 125.)  
A.M. 081015, route GLOIRE G. 48.30 N. 05.30 W.  
H. 45.30 N. 09.00 W. J. 41.30 N. 24.30 W.  
K. 40.30 N. 40.15 W. L. 39.15 N. 59.40 W. M. 38.00 N. 70.00 W.  
(2) Fuel permitting proceed with moderate despatch between  
positions G and H.  
(Admty. 081003A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
On completion of oiling sail GLOIRE for New York in  
accordance with Cominch 071930 which has been passed to you.  
Route as in A.M. 081003.  
(D.O.D.(H) 081015A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

BIRMINGHAM. Request you will sail BIRMINGHAM for Scapa on  
29th December.  
(V.C.N.S. 081105A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

DIDO. My 031925. For A.M. Monday 11th December read  
a.m. Sunday 10th December. Leave to start on  
Monday as arranged.  
(C. in C. H.F. 061116A to DIDO.)

RESOLUTION. Estimate RESOLUTION escorted by TANATSIDE,  
ALBRIGHTON and F.S. TONKINOIS will pass Hartland  
Point at about 1800A/8th proceeding via Swept  
Channel to Plymouth at 11 knots.  
E.G. 14, E.G. 21 MONTREAL and RIBBLE are to adjust position on  
their patrol lines so as to give max. cover while this unit  
passes.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 081252A to E.Gs. 14, 21, MONTREAL.)

/TORBAY...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

TORBAY, SCYTHIAN. TORBAY and SCYTHIAN will be ready to sail 12th December for East Indies. Request they may be sailed in suitable convoy to Gibraltar. (F.O. S/M 081607A to C. in C. W.A.)

KENT. Arrived Clyde KENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 081648A to C. in C. H.F.)

MAURITIUS. Intend sailing MAURITIUS p.m. 10th December by searched channel route to Scapa. E.T.D. Burnt-island 2355/10th. E.T.A. 0815/11th.  
(2) Request following lights be arranged Scapa Group II 0800 to 0900 on 11th December.  
(3) Mail to Scapa after last delivery 10th December. (C. in C. Rosyth 081810A to A.C.O.S.)

DIADEM. Scapa arrival at 2050 DIADEM. (A.C.O.S. 082159A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Naval. Cositintrep No. 247 part 2 Naval. Unloading figures for 6th December.

	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
British				
E. Calvados	-	-	-	-
Dieppe	15	20	4,364	-
Boulogne	-	-	2,114	-
Calais	-	34	-	-
Antwerp	-	238	15,481	8,400
Ostend	2,020	-	2,337	400
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Total	2,035	292	24,296	8,800
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U.S.				
Cherbourg	49	-	10,785	14,372
Brittany Ports	-	-	5,047	-
Le Havre	1,681	47	5,133	-
Rouen	2,372	1,066	845	2,114
Antwerp	-	-	13,086	-
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Total	4,102	1,113	34,896	16,486
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Combined total	6,137	1,405	59,192	25,286

(A.N.C.X.F. 080009A to Admty.)

/Cositintrep...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Reports.

Naval. (Contd.)	Cositintrep No. 248 part 2 Naval. (1) Liberty ship SAMSIP mined near N.F. 10 buoy on December 7th. Ship caught fire and drifted aground approx. 10 miles N.N.E. of Ostend. Enemy aircraft attacked convoy in Schelde Approaches at about 1800 December 8th no details yet received. Unloading figures for 7th December.				
	British	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol
	E. Calvados	-	-	-	-
	Dieppe	-	-	5,174	-
	Boulogne	9	113	1,949	-
	Calais	-	-	-	-
	Ostend	3,462	345	2,601	5,624
	Antwerp	-	374	12,486	5,100
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Total	3,471	832	22,210	10,724	
U.S.					
	Cherbourg	-	-	8,396	9,608
	Brittany Ports	-	-	3,624	-
	Rouen	-	-	2,533	-
	Havre	8,083	26	5,323	-
	Antwerp	-	-	9,099	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	8,083	26	28,975	9,608	
Combined total	11,554	858	51,185	20,332	
	(A.N.C.X.F. 082205A to Admty.)				

Military. Operations. In Southern sector indications 19th Army making general withdrawal out of Alsace. Heavy movement observed in rear areas. Troops and horsedrawn vehicles observed moving north from Mulhouse. Heavy traffic reported moving east from Colmar and 500 trucks crossing Rhine at Breisach. In Holland flooding extended south to include area E.7170 - 7069 and flooding passing through Delinie Dyke south of Kesteren spread 3000 yards westwards. (S.H.A.E.F. 081645 to War Office.)

Operations.

North Sea.

Ship mined in Schelde. FERNIE's 072220A and my 072313. Ship mined according to survivors in position 047° N.F. 10 Buoy 2.5 miles. Ship's name SAMSIP not SAMHOP. 33 survivors out of 79 crew landed Ostend. Ship on fire. Tug standing by. (S.O. Force T 080030A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Patrols...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea. - Contd.

Patrols. Dover and Nore patrol tonight December 8/9th.  
(1) RIOU N.F. 4 to N.F. 7 buoy, STAYNER N.F. 7 to N.F. 10 buoy, TORRINGTON N.F. 1 to N.F. 3 buoy SEYMOUR and WALPOLE 3 miles 150° and 330° from 051° 36½' N. 003° 12' E.  
(2) L.F. Unit F.B. 2 at N.F. 10 at 2100 F.A. 8 at N.F. 13 at 2100 F.G.1 Middle Steinbank buoy, F.G. 2 and F.G. 3 with STAYNER, F.K. 2, F.K. 3 TORRINGTON F.L. 2, F.L. 3 RIOU. (V.A. Dover 081306A to Dover Patrols.)

Air attack on Antwerp Convoy. Aircraft circling convoy, presumably enemy, probably minelaying, my position N.F. 15. (BLEASDALE 081805A to Antwerp.) My 081805A enemy bombing. (BLEASDALE 081811 to Antwerp.) Seven enemy aircraft bombing codeword "Lunch" N.F. 17. (BLEASDALE 081811 to Antwerp.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols. Weather unsuitable for patrol your 071610, para. II (N.O.I.C. Portland 081157A to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 071610A. M.T.Bs. not sailing extend patrols west to H Channel. (C. in C. Portsmouth 081206A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Night patrol December 8/9th.

No M.T.B. Patrol.

- (2) Remainder anti Snort patrols areas limits given.
  - (3) Area X. Long. 01° 47' W. 50° 11' N. Q.Z.S. 636, 637 line joining L.2, L.1 49° 48' 01° 47' W.
  - (4) Divide X into three sections by parallels 49° 53' 50° 01'
  - (5) SPRAGGE. Take X north.
  - (6) L'ESCARMOUCHE X centre.
  - (7) WATCHMAN X south.
  - (8) Above ships start N.W. corner of own section 1730 finish 0830 S.W. corner.
  - (9) ANTHONY some time start S.W. corner finish N.W. corner of Area Y.
  - (10) Area Y lines joining L.2 14E 58E Buoys 49° 30' 00° 30' W. 49° 30' 01° 02' W. and L.2 Buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth 081256A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)  
Air patrols. My 281728 para. 12.
- A. Night 8/9th patrols 3 and 4 Leigh Light Wellingtons.  
Day 9th. Patrols 3 and 4 Liberators 5 and 6 Swordfish.  
B. 838 Squadron T.B.M. 842 Squadron L.H.G. (C. in C. Portsmouth 081657 to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)  
Day patrols 9th. Search inside limits shows:  
(2) SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE 01° 34' 01° 46' W. 49° 46' 50° 05'.  
(3) WATCHMAN, HARGOOD 01° 10' 01° 34' W. Q.Z.S. 626 50° 00'.  
(4) M.T.Bs. if weather suitable 01° 34' 01° 46' 50° 05' 50° 25'. (C. in C. Portsmouth 081723A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

/Request...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Request you will sail 4 Oropesa trawlers to Portland as convenient.

- (2) Accounts to be transferred to BOSCAWEN.
- (3) A.M. 161638 November and C. in C. Nore's 171154 not to all addressees refer.
- (D.M.S. 081817A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Suspected  
U-Boats.

Have firm contact on bottom in position by Q.H. 050° 07' N. 001° 38.5' W. am attacking with depth charges.

(SPRAGGE 081832A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Have obtained a bearing by H/F D/F. Bearing is believed to be of enemy submarine transmitting a Naval enigma signal second class (German) bearing 070° distance near (considered ground wave.) Distance not estimated frequency 3800. Request confirmation intend investigating.

(BEACON HILL 081908Z to Portsmouth W/T.)

Contact is possible U-Boat. Slight movement to left in second of three attacks but this may be tide. Extent of target not more than 8° slight Doppler at time contact lost, each attack at 500 yards L'ESCARMOUCHE now joined. No wreckage or oil in disturbed water.

(SPRAGGE 081925A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Contact lost, operation "Scabbard" negative depth charges carried out. Now pursuing Box search with L'ESCARMOUCHE, WATCHMAN joining shortly.

(SPRAGGE 082050A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations.

West Coast France.

Minesweeping  
at Brest.

Report of sweeping today in Brest.

Swept LL/SA in the Rade Abri negative. Swept static LL/SA in the Port de Commerce. Detonated one red magnetic mine. Static LL/SA sweep of Port de Commerce completed.

(Com. Yopei Squadrons 081620A to C.T.F. 125.)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.

E.G. 14 and E.G. 21 proceed to take up the following patrols.

(1) E.G. 14 relieve E.G. 10 patrolling between Trevoise Head and Lundy Island.

(2) E.G. 21 carry out zig-zag search between 50.07 N. 06.17 W. and 50.38 N. 05.30 W.

(3) E.G. 10 on relief proceed to Londonderry for lay over, reporting E.T.A. direct.

(C. in C. Plymouth 080959A to S.O.E.Gs. 14, 21, 10.)

/Increasingly...



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Increasingly violent weather renders asdic inoperable. My P.C.S. are 050° 27' N. 009° 42' W. 010° 8 knots. Making good 3 knots towards coastal water.  
A. Very Bad. B. No. (3) Unsuitable. (4)  
Weather report 3468 0478  
(S.O.E.G. 1 081830A to C. in C. W.A.)

Weather reporting ship.

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CAMELLIA December 13th to relieve CELANDINE as weather reporting ship.  
(2) E.T.A. of CAMELLIA in 53° N. 20° W. to be reported.  
(3) Detailed instructions as in my 101213 Sept.  
(4) Meteorological party and instruments to be turned over from PENNYWORT to CAMELLIA.  
(5) CELANDINE is to proceed to Liverpool on relief.  
(C. in C. W.A. 081048A to F.O.I.C. Greenock, CAMELLIA.)

Operations.

Norway.

Operation "S.C."

Ramose Satire sailed HITRA at 0100A December 8th.  
(2) Air escort not especially required on return journey.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 080105A to A.C.O.S.)

Operation "Urbane"  
Naval Air Arm strike off Haugesund.

B.2 report states convoy 4 merchant ships 2500/5000 G.R.T. escort unknown passed Fejefjord at 1000A/8th course south. Comment. Convoy will probably put into Bergen.  
(D.D.I.C. 081315A to C.S. 10.)

Operation "V.P."

"V.P." 82, M.T.B. 653 and M.T.B. 717 returned by 2000A today 8th December.  
(2) Attacked large southbound tanker type vessel. Four torpedo hits seen. Vessel last seen with stern vertical. Attack was apparently undetected.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 082011A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Northern Waters.

Unlocated U-Boat off Cape Cherni.

While approaching from E. 4 U-Boats transmissions were heard, one B signal between 1630B and 0200B. All signals were in general westerly direction. Rough fix obtained on 2 occasions in position 068° 47' N. 039° 32' E. 069° 27' 035° 50'. These positions swept through but without results.  
(S.O.E.G.9 080331B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

*Northern Waters* Norway - Contd.

E.G. 9. Kola Inlet 8th December arrived 9th E.G.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 080728A to Admty.)

R.A. 62. From N.C.S.O.  
(1) Intend sailing for Loch Ewe R.A. 62 at 70800A/  
10th. (2) Speed 9 1/2 knots.  
(3) Routed K.X. M.U. then route "Blue" J, K, L,  
M, C, B, A as in C. in C. H.F. 182216A Nov. and AA, BB to Ewe  
Buoy.  
(4) Reference positions same as ocean route.  
(6) Recoding table S.P. 2406 (779) S.P. ?(2277) (33) and (34)  
(7) British ships MOUNSEY, FORT CREVECOEUR, FORT YUKON, FORT  
ROMAINE, RATHLIN, LAURELWOOD (T), LUCULUS (T), SAN VENANCIO (T),  
DOLABELLA (T).  
(8) American ships NICHOLAS BIDDLE, WILLIAM PEPPER, WINIFRED L.  
SMITH, BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER, ABNER NASH, JAMES M. GILLIS, JOYCE  
KILMAR, DONALD W. BAIN, HENRY ADAMS, ANDREW W. PRESTON, WILLIAM  
WHEELWRIGHT, STAGE DOOR CANTEEN, PARK BENJAMIN, HAROLD L.  
WINSLOW, KEITH PALMER, JOHN SAMUEL WILLIAMS, ALSTUNOY, ALFARO,  
ELEAZOR LORD, COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON, LAWRENCE J. BRENGLE.  
(9) Norwegian ship MARATHON (T).  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 081227Z to Admty.)

U-Boat Submarine N. by W. Skagi 6 miles.  
off Iceland (SEALYHAM 081300 to A.C.I.C.)  
Have lost touch with enemy.  
(SEALYHAM 081344 to A.C.I.C.)  
Submarine sighted on surface by auxiliary vessel  
at 1601A today in position 64.09 N. 22.52 W. Contact was lost  
and no attack made, hunt by other craft did not regain contact.  
(A.C.I.C. 082320A to Admty.)

Situation Situation report 2103A/8th December.  
in Icelandic U.S.S. SAUCY vicinity of 063° 05' N. 031° 25' W.  
Waters. Force A EARRAID, SEALYHAM, SOUTHERN SHORE searching  
vicinity of Skagi.  
R.U. 145 CAPE ARGONA, NORTHERN REWARD, HOME  
GUARD, THIRLMERE sail Reykjavik 2200A via route F  
to 062° 50' 022° 30' thence 121° 10.  
OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, CHARLOCK additional to 063° 00' N.  
thence return Reykjavik.  
(A.C.I.C. 081304A to Admty.)

BULLEN's Your 061412. Report (A) type and quantity of  
U-Boat. wreckage and whether any was recovered.  
U. 297 (B) Apparent type of oil, volume and duration of  
flow, and whether sample was collected.  
(2) As soon as weather is suitable return to  
position of above contact and endeavour to classify by asdic and  
echo sounder.  
(3) Report whether surface craft were able in any way to confirm  
Sono buoy contact by William 23 at 061600 or possible Schnörkel  
sighting by William 20 at 061725.  
(C. in C. W.A. 081450A to S.O.E.G. 19.)

/Your...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Waters.

BULLEN's  
U-Boat.  
(Contd.)

Your 081450A. A. Small pieces of wood up to 3 feet long newly broken sighted but not recovered. B. Definitely thin and believed Diesel, and GOODALL reports sample taken adhered to glass and scarcely visible. Patches up to 100 yards wide intermittent but up to 2000 yards long.

(2) By Asdic probably 200 feet long. GOODALL and LOCH INSH agree 42 feet high by echo-sounding, width uncertain. Intend checking again tomorrow 9th.

C. Surface craft could not confirm.  
(S.O.E.G. 19 081828A to C. in C. W.A.)

Desired  
Orkney S/M  
sanctuary.

In order to permit of submarine exercises taking place east of Orkneys, request sanctuary be established within area enclosed by circle of five miles radius from position 200° Copinsay light 8 miles.

(2) Sanctuary will be requested only when required and be known as East Orkneys Sanctuary.  
(A.C.O.S. 081542A to Admty.)

Patrols.

THETFORD MINES, LA HULLOISE from escort F.D. 29 at 28 Buoy about 23 B.T.A. patrol area between 35 and 28 Buoy.

(C. in C. Rosyth 081625A to Admty.)

If not in contact by 0400/9th establish New Gamma between 061° 15' N. 003° 00' W. and 061° 53' N. 003° 30' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth 081819A to S.O.E.G. 31.)

Intend 6th E.G. shall relieve 31st E.G. on 11th December.

(C. in C. W.A. 082315A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Air patrol withdrawn and will be resumed again at 0900A/9th.

(C. in C. Rosyth 082325A to S.O.E.G. 31.)

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMiningMinesweeping  
in Schelde  
and  
approaches.

Further to your 071715.

It is required to clear a further 5 cables  
south of the line joining the following to pos-  
itions:-(a) 51° 29' 09" 03° 01' 30" E. (b) 51° 34' 15" N.  
03° 13' 09" E.

Acknowledge.

(C. in C.Nore, 080952A to M/S. 15).

One mine detonated in sweep, in position 200°, 1.8 miles  
H.K.2 buoy. May have been dragged.

Further signal follows.

(S.O.M/S.15, 081635A to C. in C.Nore).

(1) 5 fleet sweepers and one danlayer anchored Ostend  
anchorage.(2) Have given one actuation to whole area today given in para.3  
of your 041540. 2 mines detonated as in my 081311 and 081544.(3) A line of 6 dans has been left south centre line between  
N.F.5 and 7 and a line of 7 dans north of centre line between  
N.F.5 and 8.(4) Propose sailing at 0815 tomorrow Saturday to give area  
further actuation.

(HOUND, 081758A to C. in C.Nore).

My 071715 para.5 complied within 3 laps from eastern edge.  
Swept depth 5 fathoms (my 081910 part 1). One mine G.R.  
type exploded on recovering sweep at end of 2nd lap.(2) Your 080952 complied within one lap commencing at northern  
end. One mine detonated as reported in my 081635.

(S.O.M/S 15, 081845A to C. in C.Nore).

My 071715 para.5 complied within 3 laps from eastern edge  
swept depth 6 fathoms. One mine G.R.type exploded on  
recovering sweep at end of 2nd lap.(2) Your 080952 complied with in one lap commencing at northern  
end. One mine detonated as reported in my 081635.(3) Mines found during recent operations appear old small and  
dragged very easily. Usually found on shortening in sweeps and  
positions are therefore uncertain.

(4) Your 091842A November not held.

(5) Anchored Ostend anchorage.

(S.O.M/S.F.15, 081910A to C. in C.Nore).

Operation "Calendar".

(1) Sweeping today Friday December 8th S.A.- L.L.

(A) N.F.13 to N.F.18. (B) N.F.17 to Terneuzen. (C) Terneuzen  
to B.A. T. (D) Special sweeping referred to in C. in C. Nore's  
261609. (E) Galgeput 12 actuations. (F) L.A. A sweeping in  
Terneuzen canal. (G) L.A. A sweeping at Antwerp.

(2) Nil. (3) Surveying work in continuing. (4) Nil.

(5) B.Y.M.S.2034 M.M.S.175 173 69 26 16 M.F.Vs. 10<sup>27</sup> 10<sup>74</sup>.

(Capt. M/S.F.A. 081951A to C. in C.Nore).

Your 081910A.

It is required to clear 8 cables either side of the centre  
line joining H.K.1 and H.K.2 buoys tomorrow Saturday.

(2) G.Z.S.584 is to be used. Acknowledge.

(C. in C.Nore, 082322A to M.S.15).

Deep  
mining  
off Hart-  
land  
Point.A.M. 071303. Operation is to be referred to as  
operation H.Y. lines A.B. etc. in paras. 1 and 2  
of above A.M. are to be referred to as lines  
A.1, A.2 and so on.

/(2)...

8.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Deep mining off Hartland Point (Contd.)

- (2) It is requested that the procedure laid down in C. in C.W.A's. W.A. 0065/9 dated 1st October 1944 may be followed so far as applicable, in conformity with A.M. 071303A addressees of signals being amended accordingly any necessary warning in accordance with para. 14 of above memorandum will be issued by C. in C. Plymouth.
- (3) Escort will be detailed by C. in C. Plymouth to arrive Milford Haven a.m. 11th.
- (4) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to order PLOVER with escort to carry out operation H.Y. A.1 on 11th December or on first subsequent suitable day. Lays A.2 to A.8 to follow as soon as practicable.
- (5) To avoid observation from the shore the lays are to be carried out at night.
- (6) Attention of PLOVER is drawn to Q.Z.X.387 and 1465.
- (7) Skimming sweep over the lays is not intended.
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 081859A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, PLOVER).

Enemy Intelligence.

Results of Allied mining.

- Mining results Oslo Fjord Nov. 27th to Dec. 2nd.
- (1) Oslo Fjord reported mined Nov. 27th.
- (2) Horten inner harbour and ship yard closed up to Dec. 2nd except for a few vessels able to hug shore.
- (3) Tug VICTOR keeps Frederikshavn mined in 4 Horten Inner Harbour, Nov. 29th.
- (4) Mine swept off Horten railway station Dec. 3rd.
- (5) Nov. 27th mines fell ashore in following places near Moss.
- (a) Railway line north Moss. (b) Thornelokka. (c) Top of church yard.
- (6) SVEIN II about 100 tons mined and damaged off Gulholmen Nov. 16th.
- (7) B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 081034 to Adnty.).

Locomotives and war material from Germany to Norway.

- (1) Locomotives.
- (a) My 061251.
- (b) Reported from Moss that train ferry DEUTCHSLAND which discharged 6 locomotives at Velebryevoa afterwards loaded 2 damaged locomotives and left for Heroya November 29th where she loaded number of motor vehicles. Naval floating crane lay in Moss December 4th to assist with unloading of altogether 12 large locomotives. It is believed total 46 locomotives in all are to be delivered. Comment. Additional locomotives are required to expedite military withdrawal by rail from North Norway.
- (2) War Material. Germans constantly reported to be shipping supplies of ammunition to Oslo area of which following recent details are of interest.
- (a) During first few days December about 750 tons ammunition carried in small vessels were discharged at Moss.
- (b) November 30th German TSAHLECK arrived Oslo and discharged 268 torpedoes which were later sent by rail to Hell Trondjhem.

/(c)...

8.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Locomotives  
and war  
material  
from Germany  
to Norway.  
(Contd.)

(c) ELFRIEDE CHARLOTTE BECKER arrived Oslo  
Nov. 30th and discharged 156 tons ammunition  
35 1400 kilogramme bombs and 15th 1700 kilo-  
gramme bombs destined for Lyngen Fjord.  
(d) PERSEUS discharged 450 tons ammunition at  
Vippetangen Oslo on November 30th.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 081717 to Admty.).  
N.I.D.Comment: Considered a good report.

U-Boats

Suspected  
U-Boats.

No fresh report on Bristol Channel, north  
Cornish Coast or South Ireland, but one or two  
are likely to be in this area on or approaching  
costal convoy routes.

Report by HARGOOD 30 miles N.E. of Cape Barfleur  
may have been non-submarine. But one U-Boat is considered to  
be in the general area.  
(Admty., 081402A to Cominch).

Port Facilities.

Dieppe.

At Port Executive Council Meeting 7th December,  
letter from Chief Representative M.O.W.T. N.W.E.  
to M.O.W.T. Representative North East France was  
read, which appeared to confirm that United States  
Army were taking over Port of Dieppe on 1st January.

(2) Lieut. Ritt, First Lieut. T.C. representing United States Army  
present said he could not confirm this but had been instructed  
to obtain all possible information about the port. Information  
asked for was given.

(3) He also said, in event of port being taken over, British  
Naval Party might be required to work port.

(4) In view of imminent reduction this port party, request  
early information future of Dieppe and confirmation port party  
will not be required after 22nd December.

(5) In any circumstances, reduction proposed for 15th December  
can proceed.

(N.O.I.C.Dieppe, 081005 to F.O.B.A.A.).

Ostend.

Information regarding ships and cargoes is  
seriously delayed owing to lack of direct closed  
lines to G.H.Q. Portsmouth, thus impairing  
efficient anchorage at the port.

(2) Boarding in anchorage before berthing often impossible  
owing to weather conditions and number of ships to board,

(3) installations of closed direct lines before commencement of  
new January programmes in imperative.

(4) Agreed P.E.C.

(N.O.I.C.Ostend, 081340 to D. of S.T.).

Flushing.

It is of very great importance to Admiralty and  
M. of W.T. that ship repairing resources at  
Flushing should be brought into full use at  
earliest moment and that local repair labour

/force...

8.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities.

Flushing. force should be collected and kept there. These  
(Contd.) repair resources are urgently needed to help to  
redress the very serious repair situation here  
caused by the maintenance of the operation on the  
continent.

(2) Request you will inform S.H.A.E.F.  
(1st S.L., 081943A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Casualties and Defects

SS. GLEN MAROON was struck by naval aircraft  
during night exercises in position 54.05 N. 03.53  
W. and was set on fire and subsequently sank at  
2000A/7th. Ten survivors were picked up by  
CLARE and landed at Douglas I.O.M. Latest report indicates that  
crew of aircraft and 3 members of ships crew are missing.  
Search still in progress.  
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 081326A to Admty.).

SAMNETHY. Sounding taken by Asst. Hydrographic show  
sufficient water to float SS. SAMNETHY approx.  
50 yards off stern at present draft. More water experienced  
round vessel p.m. today due to prevailing wind. No apparent  
movement of vessel. Ground tackle laid out. It is hoped that  
if wind maintains present direction more water will result  
on subsequent tides. Tugs remaining throughout dark hours.  
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 081801A to C. in C.Nore).

Shipping and Convoys.

Bristol Channel additional  
convoy assembly  
area required.

Milford Haven Convoy Anchorage is at present  
unable to accommodate more than 21 ships at a  
time.  
(2) The full programme of Ocean Convoy Sailings  
and the large number of ships sailing in these  
convoys from Bristol Channel indicates that an  
additional assembly area is required.

(3) Propose the following:-

(a) O.N.Convoys. Swansea ships with additional  
ships from Avonmouth and Newport up to a total  
of 21 to assemble at Milford Haven. Cardiff and Barry ships  
assemble at Barry Roads, and sail to make R/V off Milford  
Haven Buoy.

(b) U.C.A. Convoys to assemble and sail from Barry Roads  
Swansea ships and any ships from Milford Haven joining at  
Scarweather and Milford Haven buoy respectively.

(c) O.S./K.M.S. and U.C.B. convoys to be assembled at Milford  
Haven as at present.

Under the above conditions it would appear necessary to  
provide N.C.S.O. Cardiff with an Ocean Routeing Staff.

(4) It is understood that the present shipping congestion in  
South Wales area is very largely brought about the the  
necessity to ballast Liberty Ships returning from France. This  
point has been raised with the suggestion that if possible  
some arrangement may be made so that ships can receive ballast  
at a South Coast Port and then be included in the English  
Channel Section of O.N. Convoys .  
(F.O.I.C. Milford, 081029A to C. in C.W.A.).

/Return...

8.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Return to  
U.S. of all  
repairable  
L.C.Ts.

Your 041406, local arrangements now completed Plymouth and Portsmouth prepared to accept two Liberty ships each for loading L.C.T. starting 10th December Plymouth. 13 December Portsmouth and two each above ports every five days thereafter. Request this command be advised names of first four vessels and E.T.A. Plymouth and Portsmouth, also assurance this schedule can be continued. (Comphibsukay, 081135A to Comnaveu).

New  
cross-  
channel  
service.

A.M. 051653A.  
Propose that N.D.B.S. from Newhaven to Dieppe should also be discontinued on inauguration of new daily cross-channel service. Request your remarks.  
N.O.I.C. Newhaven's Letter No. 0151/768 of 30th November 1944 (not to Admiralty) refers.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 081330A to A.N.C.X.F.).

Withdrawal  
of escorts  
from W.D.C.  
convoys.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. and authorities concerned. It is intended to withdraw trawler escort on W.D.C. convoys on 10th December.  
(2) Traffic mentioned in para.4 of C. in C. Portsmouth's 061329 can sail independently and unescorted in this command.  
N.O.I.C.Arrow, pass to R.N.O. Ouistreham.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 081649A to C. in C.Nore etc.).

Southampton -  
Ostend  
troopships.

Your 071202.  
Ships should R/V. off Folkestone at time of departure indicated in my 031408.  
(2) Odd numbered convoys consist of CANTERBURY escorted by STOCKHAM until relieved by VESPER. Even numbered convoys PRINCESS MAUD escorted by

VANQUISHER.

(3) My 072016 is being passed to C. in C.Portsmouth and F.O.I.C. Southampton for information.  
(4) Communications are being dealt with separately.  
(A.C. Dover, 081829A to C. in C.Portsmouth).

T.B.C. /  
B.T.C.  
convoys.

My 041938A para.6 for 1000 read 1900.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth, 082146A to Admty.,A.N.C.X.F.).



8.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Patrols. ENCHANTRESS is to sail at 1800A today Friday to join and take over S.O. Group 1.  
(2) Group 1 composed of WOLVERINE S.O. and KILMARTIN is to carry out patrol "Bacon" to the West of the Strait as in my 051130 Nov. (being passed to ENCHANTRESS).  
(3) WOLVERINE is to arrange R/V. with ENCHANTRESS.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 080939A to ENCHANTRESS, WOLVERINE).

TUMULT. Intend to sail TUMULT at 1600A/Dec. 8th to Portsmouth.  
(2) Route.  
(3) S. of A. 21 knots.  
(4) Shifts to Home Station Organisation at 1845A/9th Dec.  
(5) Codeword "Masonry" 698.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 080949A to C. in C.Portsmouth).  
Sailed TUMULT as in my 080949 Q.Z.H. (C) 624 X 1468 (L) 62 (Y) 524. S.650.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 082121).

South Atlantic

Zigzagging. Admty. Message 061036A to F.O.C.West Africa only. Yes. Request zig zag be suspended in area three.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 081055Z to Admty., Info. F.O.G.M.A., C. in C.S.A.).

WILLIAM SCORESBY. My 021308 WILLIAM SCORESBY arrived Deception 5th and Port Lockroy 7th.  
(N.O.I.C.Falklands, 081256Z to Admty.).

AMEER. Simonstown departure 1810Z/8th Dec. AMEER for Trincomalee. S. of A. 15 knots, E.T.A. 0600Z/21 Dec. (Route).  
(3) Shifting to W/T organisation (V) at 1900Z/12th Dec.  
(4) AMEER will signal H.X. to N.O.I.C.Mauritius and N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll. C. in C.E.I. 060641 refers.  
(C. in C.S.A., 082013B to Admty. etc.).

8.12.1944  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Supplies  
for French  
Navy.

It is confirmed that questions raised in your 021238 will be cleared by Admiralty with Cominch. Further signal will be made to B.A.D. setting out Admiralty's views.  
(P.A.S.(L), Approved V.C.N.S. 080033A to C. in C. Med.)

PRIMULA.

Request you sail PRIMULA as convenient 9th to area limit for onward routeing. V.A.M. to Gibraltar C. in C. Med. 041243 not to you refer.  
(F.O.L.E.M.080356B to R.A. Alexandria)

ANTWERP.

Your 051215 November to Admiralty only. It is not intended to refit H.M.S. ANTWERP. Ship should be sailed to U.K. where she will be returned to M.W.T.  
(Hd. of M. Approved V.C.N.S. 080616A to C. in C. Med.)

L.C.T.  
mined,  
5/12.

Regret to report loss by mine of L.C.T.(3) 328. A.Bs.W. Brookman and F.C. Gowler missing believed killed. Survivors 2 officers and 10 ratings. All slightly injured. Next of kin not informed, ratings' official numbers not known. Written report follows.

(L.C.T.(3) 328, 080920B to S.O.L.C.Flottilla 96,  
(R) Director of Landing Craft)

C.A.F.O.2120/44 and M.S.O.436 A, B and C not held.

- (1) (Ship) L.C.T.(3) 328.
- (2) Time Dec.5th 1944, 1000B.
- (3) Position, by light buoy at entrance Missolonghi Channel next to EMPIRE (DA?)CE.
- (4) Cause, (?mine).
- (5) Condition, sunk.
- (6) Survivors, Naval, 10 ratings, 2 Officers all slightly injured; Military, British other ranks 2, Indian other ranks 757.
- (7) Casualties, Naval, 2 ratings A.B. William Brookman, O.N. not known, A.B. F.G. Gowler, O.N. not known.
- (8) Remarks. Delayed due to return of (?survivors) to Port. Written report by C.O. and B.N.L.O. follows.  
(B.N.L.O.Patros, 080930B to Admty.)

Linrep  
No.211.

Summary of Operations, December 4 to 6.  
(A.F.H.Q. 080945A to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Cable  
Repairs,  
PACIFIC,  
BULLFINCH.

Owing to extensive repairs involved it has been decided to postpone work on Malta-Athens Cable route and concentrate on repair of Alexandria - Athens.

(2) PACIFIC is to carry out programme in my 031150 not to all. On completion she is to restore Alexandria - Heraklion.

(3) F.O.L.E.M.061547 (N.T. in W.R.) to C. in C. Med. Approved for BULLFINCH to undertake restoration of Athens-Syra-Heraklion

/chain ...

# SECRET

IN <sup>med</sup>

1914.

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.)

080945A/December

From A.F.H.Q.

Date 9.12.44.

Rec'd 0125.

CIPHER

To: The War Office, Linrep Addressees.

276108.

F.X.65087 cipher 8 Dec. Secret.

Cite FHGCT. Signed Wilson.

Linrep number 211.

Summary of operations 4 December to 6 December.

1. Ground.

Eighth Army. On the right elements captured Ravenna reached the outskirts of Mozzano and now hold the line of the Lamone River from Mozzano to a point six miles northeast of Faenza. On the left flank of Five Corps elements crossed the Lamone River in the area three miles southwest of Faenza and have advanced two miles to the west. Farther south elements of 2 Polish Corps have advanced two miles north and west of Brisighella.

B. Fifth Army. 13 Corps occupied Le Strada and advanced one mile to the north. Further gains have been made east of Casola Valseno and north of Fontanelice. There was no change on the remainder of the Army Front.

C. A.F.H.Q. Greece. The general situation in the Athens-Piraeus area deteriorated on 5 December and fighting broke out between left wing elements and the Greek Police. British troops intervened on a number of occasions and suffered some casualties. The task of clearing the Athens Area is proceeding and British troops are now in control of the centre of the city.

2. Naval.

A. On 5 December British and Greek warships moved out from the harbour at Piraeus and stood by to bombard on call from the Army. Destroyers have been sent to Velos and Kalamata.

B. Mudros. Clearance of Mudros Bay from mines has been completed and a start made in sweeping approaches to Dardanelles.

C. Rhodes. Harbour has been bombarded at night by 3 destroyers and a cruiser. There was heavy rain and Radar was used for fixing. Bombardment was designed to destroy enemy vessels and so prevent sorties to other islands. 154 rounds six inch 399 rounds 4.7 inch were fired. Reaction by enemy was slow first star shells bursting four minutes after our ships ceased fire. This was attributed to "Rain and supper time".

D/....

D. Crete. Port of Heraklion where a destroyer has arrived is only slightly damaged and is under control of reconnaissance party. Relief stores are being landed.

E. Adriatic. Lussinpiccolo has been bombarded by four destroyers and 2 LCG accompanied by 2 M.T.Bs. The shoot was carried out simultaneously with air attack and at very close range. An M.T.B. entered Cigale Cove destroyed 3 enemy explosive craft and damaged a fourth. She was slightly damaged and sustained 3 casualties. One destroyer was also slightly damaged by machine gun fire.

F. General. Since first September minesweepers have accounted for over 2,000 mines in Mediterranean.

3. Air. Weather again interfered with operations by M.A.A.F. commands.

Strategic R.A.F. medium and heavy bombers dropped supplies in Yugoslavia on one night and on one day. Day U.S.A.A.F. heavy bombers attacked 8 marshalling yards with small forces in the Vienna-Bratislava-Sopron area. Due to proximity of Russian forces crews were briefed to bomb visually and weather seriously curtailed the effort. Results varied from poor to good. P388 Lightnings attacked a rail bridge at Zenica Yugoslavia and strafed rail and road movement between Szombathely and Sopron Hungary destroying 10 locomotives and 6 motor transport.

Whenever weather permitted tactical Air Force supported the Eighth Army advance. Mediums bombed troops in Faenza area with excellent concentration. Fighters and fighter bombers attacked close support targets and communications in Po Valley and on Brenner route.

Coastal Air Force in offensive operations attacked road and rail movement in the Cuneo-Brescia area N.W. Italy and on the coast of north Yugoslavia. Mine spotting and air sea rescue were also carried out.

Balkan Air Force medium and light bombers and rocket firing aircraft attacked the Fortress at Gracac Yugoslavia. Fighters and fighter bombers attacked transport and troops in the Podgorica Biocce ? and Zenica areas of Yugoslavia.

4. Enemy. Enemy withdrawal on Adriatic Front continues only under strong pressure and present intention is apparently to hold Lamone River Lino as long as possible. Despite weak state of at least 2 formations no fresh forces have yet been identified on this front. On the Central Sector the relief of the Division controlling Route 65 by a division from the Bologna reserve is reported to be in progress. Behind the main front divisional moves are certainly taking place but extent or direction cannot yet be determined.

Advance copy to Ops., O.I.C.

080945A.

Received in War Registry at 1750/14th Dec.  
Circulated by W.O. to W.O. Departments,  
A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry), Defence Map Room,  
S.H.A.E.F. and War Registry (Admiralty).

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (3)  
D.F.S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)  
U.W.R.  
Ops (2)  
Plot.  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (3)

D.N.I. (4)  
M(2)  
D.I.D.  
C.C.I.S  
W.D.  
Ad.Blaks.

8.12.1944  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Cable chain. Gate north of Standia Island previously  
Repairs, proposed is not now necessary, cable is to be put  
PACIFIC, through offshore at Heraklion and no cable  
BULLFINCH. terminal equipment is to be provided in Crete for  
(Contd.) the present.  
(C. in C. Med. 081124A to V.A.M. etc.)

TERPSICHOE, TERPSICHOE take TUSCAN and TYRIAN under your orders  
TUSCAN, and sail at 0700/9th. S. of A. 20 knots, to Gib-  
TYRIAN. raltar for onward routeing to U.K.  
(2) Route Q.B.B. 123(C) position 278 Q.B.B.338  
and from position 19 direct to Q.B.A.64, E.T.A.  
at 19 0345/10th, Gibraltar at daylight 11th.  
(3) Codeword "re-action" 787, low.  
(4) Ships will require navigational information for waters outside  
the Mediterranean on arrival.  
(V.A.M. 081235 to TERPSICHOE)

M.K.F. Intend M.K.F. convoys assemble at Gibraltar.  
Convoys, (2) Ships arriving early will be staged at  
assembly. Algiers owing to water situation at Gibraltar.  
Admiralty Message 071514 (presume 071504 intended)  
not to all refers.  
(C. in C. Med, 081317A to Admty.)

Piraeus, In view of Piraeus situation intend C.O.P.P.10  
C.O.P.P. party Party with their stores take passage to Alexandria  
to withdraw. in TETCOTT sailing to-day. C. in C. Med.  
(?122) 252 Nov. to F.O.L.E.M. and me only refers.  
Admty. pass to C.O.P.P. Depot.  
(C.S.15, 081351B to F.O.L.E.M.)  
/ Passing action being taken by W.R. to C.C.O.  
C.O.P.P. Depot.

Enemy Following enemy naval units now active.  
Units. (A) Western Mediterranean: one destroyer 2 T.B's  
4 escort vessels 5 M.T.B's 15/20 heavily armed F  
lighters (?10) R-Boats.  
(B) Adriatic: 1 destroyer 3 T.B's 30/35 M.T.B's 5  
R-Boats.  
(C) Aegean: 4 armed wooden drifters, 1 armed trawler, 18 armed  
launches.  
(2) In addition, flotilla of small assault craft comprising ex-  
plosive M/B's, Midget submarines and human torpedoes are known  
to be active in areas (A) and (B).  
(C. in C. Med. 081515A to Med. Station 296B)

48th E.G. KING GEORGE II is allocated to the 48th E.G.  
(C. in C. Med, 081526 to F.O.L.E.M.)

/Black ...

8.12.1944  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea Convoy. Reference proposed Black Sea convoy. For political reasons Ambassador would like not less than one week's notice of (?intended) passage of 1st Allied Merchant ship through Straits. (B.N.A. Ankara, 081801C to F.O.L.E.M.)

ARETHUSA. Intend ARETHUSA to complete working up at Alex. E.T.A. 18th Dec. ARETHUSA will join C.S.15. A.M.232317 Nov. not to all refers. (C. in C. Med. 081808A to F.O.L.E.M.)

UGANDA. Intend UGANDA to complete work up at Alexandria. E.T.A. 30th Dec. Further signal will be made as to final destination of ship. A.M. 041547 Dec. not to all refers. (C. in C. Med. 081818A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Escort Carrier Refits. HUNTER arrived Malta 6th Dec. ATTACKER taken in hand at Taranto 7th Dec. STALKER taken in hand at Gibraltar 3rd Dec. (3) My 291530 Oct was based on ships arriving at refitting ports at end November. Request information if any extension of refit period is possible, ref. Admty. 241134 Oct. to C. in C. Med. refers. Failing this yards concerned are to report as early as practicable what items cannot be completed in the time available. (C. in C. Med. 081931A to Admty.(R) A.S. Malta etc.)

Athens Report. Cositintrep No.518 part 4. Greece. Athens Piraeus Area. Fighting continued throughout 7th December. Further areas in the central sector of the city were cleared by 23 Brigade and 2 Para.Brigade. In the western sector serious sniping of Navy House necessitated the landing of a marine detachment from ORION to assist units of 139 Brigade which is clearing this area with tank support. Progress of Greek Mountain Brigade in eastern sector was delayed by rebel flank attack which was successfully held. Salonika. A general strike was declared on 6th December. Demonstrations held on morning 7th December passed off without incident. (A.F.H.Q. No.T.O.O/8.)

Volo situation. All quiet at Volo and discharge continues. E.L.A.N. co-operating but E.L.A.S. in complete control and British garrison completely outnumbered. Greek N.O.I.C. who is threatened has retired to G.S.NIKI in anchorage. Consider it impracticable to start seizing caiques without secure base to which to take them, preferably an island. If this is required, propose (corrupt group) British commandos in Skiathos should disarm 15 E.L.A.S. and Greek N.O.I.C. or his representative establish secure base there. M.L.458 visited Skiathos to-day. (MUSKETEER, 082202B to S.B.N.O. Greece, info: F.O.L.E.M. C.S.15)

/Situation ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd

Situation Report No.499. (1) At Piraeus, road to Athens is blocked and wireless station has been put out of action. No further attack has been made on Navy House and clearance of peninsula near Naval College continues. EASTON and 3 Coastal craft engaged E.L.A.S. stronghold at Lofos Kastela.

No reports on situation at other Greek ports has yet been received.

(2) On 5th Dec. raiding force carried out a successful ambush at Melos and enemy garrison commander, who has been largely responsible for determined resistance on this island, was among officers killed.

(C. in C. Med. 082222A to Admt. etc.)

Air Cositintrep 516. Part 3. M.X. 40336 cipher 8th December, 276040. Cite, F.H.G.C.T. F.H.G.B.I. Signed Wilson. Coastal Air Force (?Day 7) Six Beaufighters with four Spitfires attacked eight barges at San Giorgio sinking three probably sinking one other and damaged remainder. One Beaufighter is missing.

(H.Q. M.A.A.F. T.O.O. Nil/8.)

Release of Landing Craft. Fan 464. 8th Dec. Ref. No. WARX. 74477. U.S. 2431 from Agwar from C.C.S. Action to A.F.H.Q. to Wilson S.H.A.E.F. for Eisenhower. Info to: U.K. Base for B.C.S. From C.C.S. Medcos 210 is the reference. (N.T. in W.R.).

In addition to the assault ships and craft, the release of which has already been ordered by the C. in C. U.S. Fleet, you will release the following:

- (a) All U.S. L.S.T. above 20.
- (b) The 40 L.C.I. and 15 L.C.T. referred to in para.5. of Medcos. 210.

Decision as to the release of the remaining U.S. assault ships and craft from the Mediterranean will be made at a later date.

(A.F.H.Q. Italy No T.O.O./8th to Agwar)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No fresh information, scales in all areas  
dispositions. remain unchanged.  
(C. in C.E.I., 080407).

Diversion F.O.N.I.C. (555) pass to N.C.S.Os. and S.T.Os.  
of The control of all merchant shipping movements  
merchant on the East Indies Station is vested in the  
shipping. C. in C.East Indies.  
(2) Diversion on account of the presence of  
enemy ships. This will normally be undertaken  
by C. in C.East Indies until authority to divert

is delegated to N.O.I.C. East Africa (?) N.O.I.C. Aden and  
N.O.I.C. Trincomalee as follows:

(a) To N.O.I.C. East Africa for convoys and shipping on the  
East Coast of Africa.

(b) To N.O.I.C. Aden (?) for convoy and shipping in the Gulfs  
of Aden and Oman when west of the approach positions and on  
the coastal route between these two areas.

(c) To N.O.I.C. Trincomalee for convoys when within 60 miles  
of Trincomalee.

(d) The dividing line between N.O.I.C. East Africa and N.O.I.C.  
Aden area is normally to be taken as latitude 10° N. but it is  
not intended to establish a Chop line.

(e) Diversions will usually be effected by issuing A.F. messages  
or by signalling revised route used for destination.

(3) Diversions for mercantile or trade reasons. To avoid *uneconomical*  
~~unnecessary~~ diversions through lack of knowledge of precise  
cargo ~~on board~~ <sup>storage</sup>. Signals of diversions are to be made to  
C. in C.East Indies and are to be repeated to the following  
authorities. *requesting (W.R. corrections, 15/12/44)*

(f) For a ship loading in the U.K. to Admiralty.

(g) For a ship loading in U.S.A. East Coast and Gulf Port to  
B.M.W.T. New York.

(h) For a ship loading other ports abroad to M.W.T. or S.T.O.  
in the area in which loading took place.

Signals requesting diversion must bear suitable priority and  
must contain:

(j) The authorities on behalf of whom the request is made.

(k) The reasons for diversion. If cargo found suitable what  
cargo and whether whole or part.

C. in C.East Indies will order diversion after waiting long  
enough for the authorities in (f) (g) or (h) above to intervene  
if necessary.

(4) The Indian Shipping Diversion Committee will be assumed to  
have full knowledge of cargo storage and need not follow the  
procedure laid down in para.3.

(5) East Indies Station 624 C. of 8th Feb. is cancelled.  
(C. in C.E.I. to various).

080449

C. in C. Admiral Fraser and immediate staff left Ceylon  
B.P.F. 0700Z/8th Dec. for Australia.  
(2) N.O.I.C. Sydney pass to Masters of Fleet.  
(C. in C.E.I., 080925Z to Admty. etc.).

East Africa Ref. A.M. 281459? Oct. Flag of Rear Adm. R.  
Commands. Shelley C.B. both as Flag Officer, East Africa

/and...



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

East  
Africa  
Commands  
(Contd.)

Admiral Superintendent Kilindini will be struck  
ay sunset on 9th Dec.  
(2) Cdre. Sir ?Percy Boyle Smyth will assume  
command as Commodore, East Africa, at that time.  
(3) Acting Commander Lambert will assume the  
office of Superintendent of H.M. Dockyard  
Kilindini temporarily until suitable officer  
is appointed. Request Commander Lambert may be granted the  
acting rank of Captain whilst holding this appointment. C. in C.  
E.Fs. 140815 November, personal for N.A. 2 S.L. refers.  
(F.O.E.A., 081334Z to Admty.).

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

T.F. 63. My 011707Z\*. Delete SOLAR include Comcortdiv 30 in KNOXVILLE and BRUNSWICK in Task Force. Cotclant prepare these vessels for extended escort duty and direct them report to C.T.F. 63 for duty at Hampton Roads on 9th December. (Cinclant, 080446Z to C.T.F. 63, Cotclant.)  
\* Task Force 63 reconstituted.

T.G. 21.7. My 011757Z. Delete FORSTER. (Cinclant, 080447 to C.T.G. 21.7.)

POUNDMAKER, STELLARTON. The following allocation from new construction to the mid-ocean force are effective to date 8th December: for duties with C.8, POUNDMAKER; for duties with C.3, STELLARTON.  
(2) Pay accounts to be held in AVALON. F.O.N.F. pass to STELLARTON.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 081238 to N.S.H.Q.)

Atlantic, Lion and Eagle Routes. Eagle and Lion. Regret your 041905 was received after despatch of A.M. 051240.  
(2) Experience with similar routeing in other parts of Atlantic proves method in A.M. 272126 November is the most satisfactory and simple.  
(3) Concur your para. B.  
(4) Your para. 2, proposal for a route north of TY will be made shortly, but an additional route between Lion and Eagle is not considered necessary since these routes are capable of infinite variation.  
(D.T.D., 081417A to N.S.H.Q.)

SERENE. Departure Halifax 1330Z/8th Dec., SERENE independently at 12 knots to Horta, my 071433 refers. W/T as in para. 2 my 091647 Oct. Chop 1300Z/11. E.T.A. Horta 1300Z/14.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 081419Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
Departure a.m./18th\*SERENE to Horta for onward routeing.  
(C.O.P. Halifax, 082317Z to Admty., etc.)  
\* As received (? 8th intended).

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 081427Z, Cominch, 081550Z.)

TRACKER, TROUNCER. Ref. my 051701, Cominch has requested that because of the urgent necessity for additional aircraft to be shipped to S.W. Pacific area, TRACKER and TROUNCER may be employed in the Pacific in addition to RAJAH. He states that the U.S. Army shipments to the European and Mediterranean theatres for which TRACKER and TROUNCER were required, can currently be met by tanker and cargo ship loading. He would appreciate an early reply so that he can arrange an expeditious onward passage for these 2 ships to west coast loading ports.

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

TRACKER,  
TROUNCER.  
(Contd.)

(2) He further states that C. in C. Pac's requirements for planned operations in early 1945 necessitates a further eight C.V.E. for ferrying purposes, and he is compelled again to ask the Admiralty to consider making available further C.V.E. up to eight to meet the requirement. (B.A.D., 081749 to Admt.)  
Reply: 141421A.

RIDING  
MOUNTAIN  
PARK.

A.M. 071641 (RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK should be sailed independently) is cancelled. (D.T.D., 081849A to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

H.X. 320.

Average speed 8.24 knots. Convoy split in position 51° 19' N., 09° 02' W. at 1700Z/29th November. All arrived. (D.T.D., 081917A to Connv.)

PETERBOROUGH,  
BEAUHARNOIS.

My 081744 not to S.O. C.4. Due extensive hull leaks PETERBOROUGH, BEAUHARNOIS being sailed with C.6 in lieu. (2) Request BEAUHARNOIS be held U.K. to join C.4. (F.O.N.F., 082032Z to C. in C. W.A.)

U/B  
sighting  
summary.

Admiralty give Info. H.Q.C.C. B.A.D., N.M.C.J.S. have Info. by hand. No report 7th. (C) 1400Z/8 H.M.T. SEALYHAM reported U-Boat submerged area 64.06 N., 22.46 W. (D) About 1400/8 A/C sighted U-Boat on surface which crash dived approx. 34.05 N., 77.40 W. (Cominch, 082110Z to Admt. for O.I.C.)

H.X. 324,  
U/B.

Tomorrow you may encounter one U-Boat which is estimated westbound vicinity 043° 30' N., 053° 45' W. at 1200Z/9. (N.S.H.Q., 082240 to Ships escorting Convoy H.X. 324.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest 1052,  
covering  
7th December.

R/C Navy Liberator sank 2 small craft anchored off North Western Minmoqo Island forenoon, later sank 2 sea trucks set two small coasters afire off North Aswhrn Passage.

/(2) Another ...

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8.12.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest 1052,  
covering  
7th December.  
(Contd.)

- (2) Another search Liberator set a fire with incendiaries 3 sea trucks anchored off north-east Tablas Island mid-morning and attacked 3 more sea trucks near Cayon Bay leaving one burning damaging other two.
- (3) Early hour patrol Mariner sighted 1 sea truck eastbound off south coast Sibuyan Island, attacked small coaster heading north off Northern Marinduque Is. leaving same deep in water and sank one medium transport at Catanuan on northern shores Mompog Passage.
- (4) Troop transportation convoy seen entering Camotes Sea from north-east early daylight and air strikes initiated involving Kittyhawk, Thunderbolt, Corsair fighter-bombers from Leyte Bases. Sightings describe convoy as including 6 freighter transports varying from 2,500 to 8,000, 3 or 4 destroyers with like number smaller escorts. Air force claims destruction of entire 13 ships between San Isidro Bay on north-western Leyte and Masbate during daylong attacks despite strong enemy fighter umbrella whereof 35 shot down: our losses 5 planes but pilots rescued.
- (5) Shortly after daybreak or almost concurrently with above action, amphibious landing involving substantial United States Army forces successfully accomplished near Ipic 3 miles south of Ormoc supported by cruiser/destroyer force. Landing encountered slight opposition only and by evening our forces held Ipic Village and beachhead extending 3,000 yards south thereof (?and) 2,000 yards deep. Enemy conducted strongly pressed aerial attacks against our ships damaging several lesser combat units and amphibious craft in varying degrees of severity; ships A/A shot down 10 Jap planes and fighter cover accounted for 17 without loss.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 080757Z.)

EMPIREARQUEBUS,  
condition,  
officers  
relieved.

Your 070230 not to Admty. Have just inspected EMPIRE ARQUEBUS and fully concur with your boards findings.

- (2) Am relieving C.O. of his command and executive officer and supply officer of their duties forthwith and informing Admty. accordingly.
- R.A.Q.I.C. HOLLANDIA pass to C.T.F.76, C. in C. S.W.P.A., Comseventhfleet, C.T.F. 77.

(F.O. Force X, C.T.G. 76.9, 080916 to C.T.F.76, Info. Admty., etc.)

- EMPIRE ARQUEBUS has just rejoined me after 10 weeks absence. I inspected her and found her filthy. She literally stank, especially troop spaces, holds, and commissariat.
- (2) Americans have just refused to allow troops to embark in her owing to her disgusting state, my 080916Z refers.
- (3) Have made following temporary appointments -
- (A) Lieut. Cdr. R.H.C.F. Frampton of GLENEARN to EMPIRE ARQUEBUS in command vice Hull.
- (B) Tempy. Lieut. G.T. Lee, R.N.R. of my staff to EMPIRE ARQUEBUS as Executive Officer vice Jones.
- (C) Tempy. Lieut. (S) C.D. Pilkington, R.N.V.R. of my staff to EMPIRE ARQUEBUS vice Pinches.
- (4) Request covering approval for 3 (A) above and permanent reliefs (corrupt group) to EMPIRE ARQUEBUS for 3 (A), (B) and (C) above.

/(5) ...

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

EMPIRE  
ARQUEBUS,  
condition,  
officers  
relieved.  
(Contd.)

(5) Request acting rank of Cdr. be granted to Lieut. Cdr. Frampton and of Lieut. Cdr. to Tempy. Lieut. Lee and Tempy. Lieut. (S) Pilkington requested while holding present appointment. Fully appreciate Lee's juniority but am satisfied he is the best man to get ship clean in shortest time.  
(6) Have ordered disciplinary action to be taken against Lieut. Cdr. Jones and Lieut. Cdr. (S) Pinches and 2 other officers.  
(S.O. Force X, 080925 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/8th Dec.  
(B) At 2202A/6th Dec. HARGOOD attacked contact in 50° 04' N., 00° 49' W.  
(C) At 0700A/7th Dec. Br. SS. PROMETHEUS sighted suspicious craft in lat. 07° 50' N., long. 75° 50' E.  
Ref. A.M. 071109A, para. C. (1) report cancelled.  
(D.D.I.C., 081142A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 081400A, 081401A.)

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Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

North Sea.

1(a) The mines laid yesterday in Ostend and Schelde approaches have not yet been located, but traffic is proceeding normally. C. in C. Nore is pressing for a special effort from 2nd T.A.F. to prevent a repetition of such minelaying.  
(b) Antwerp port minesweep with portable pulsers has now been completed. Four million square yards have been covered and 10 mines detonated.

Norway.

*(Operation "Urbane")*

2. C.S.10 in IMPLACABLE, with PREMIER, TRUMPETER, DIADEM, and 8 destroyers carried out a mining and shipping strike in Salhusstrommen and off Haugesund. Ten mines were effectively laid and two 800 ton merchantmen and one self-propelled barge were set on fire.

Northern Waters.

3. An aircraft of 18 Group has attacked an enemy vessel off Indre Sulen and registered cannon and machine gun hits on her.

Foreign StationsMediterranean

Greece.

4(a) The destroyer EASTON and two coastal craft again bombarded the E.L.A.S. stronghold at Lofos Castello. E.L.A.S. outflanked the Army line one mile east of the Naval H.Q., which was menaced by machine gunfire. The corvette LA MALOUINE and two coastal craft restored the situation by close support fire. The Greek destroyer NAVARINON engaged targets north of Port Hernakles. In the western sector (Piraeus), E.L.A.S. blew a railway bridge 600 yards from the docks.

(b) At 2300, the S.B.N.O. Greece reported the situation at Kavalla as serious, and ordered the CALEDON, A/A ship, to proceed there with all despatch.

(c) The general strike at Salonika was called off this morning.

(d) The French Ministry of Marine desire that French ships should not take part in the present operations against Greek factions, except only if required for the defence or evacuation of French nationals.

/Yugoslavia ...

*7 Herakles  
37 57 N  
23 36 E*

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Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTMediterranean - Contd.

- Yugoslavia. 5. The local Partisan leader has requested the A/A ships DELHI and COLOMBO to leave Yugoslavian waters. The matter has been referred to Marshal Tito.
- North Adriatic. 6. Six Beaufighters of the Coastal Air Force destroyed two barges and one dredger in the North Adriatic and damaged several barges. One Beaufighter is missing.
- Dodecanese. 7. Eight Baltimores bombed the harbour at Mandracchio, on the north-west coast of Nisiro Island, 50 miles N.W. of Rhodes. The attack was made through clouds, but bombs are reported to have fallen in the target area.
- Shipping for Black Sea. 8. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have informed the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, that they intend shortly to authorise sailings to Black Sea ports for discharge, and have requested him to make arrangements for routing and report the date on which this traffic can begin. The C. in C. Mediterranean, who is dealing with this matter on behalf of the Supreme Commander, sends today a broad outline of his intentions.
- Destroyers. 9. The destroyers TERPSICHORE, TUSCAN and TYRIAN left Malta this morning for home.
- Trawlers. 10. Instructions were issued today concerning the disposal of 16 A/S and M/S trawlers which are to be released shortly and sailed to the United Kingdom.

East Indies

- East Africa Commands. 11. Rear-Admiral R. Shelley, C.B., hauled down his flag at sunset as Flag Officer, East Africa, and Admiral Superintendent, Kilindini. Commodore Sir Percy Boyle Smyth assumed command as Commodore, East Africa.
- BATTLER, ACHILLES. 12. The BATTLER, ferry carrier, and ACHILLES, cruiser, left Colombo today for Australia.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

- CEYLON. 13. After refit at Durban, the cruiser CEYLON left there today for Trincomalee, where she is due on the 19th.
- LYMAN STEWART, "S" Report. 14. The American SS. LYMAN STEWART, 7176 tons, which left Colombo on December 2 for the U.S.A., made an "S" report at 1545 from 13.16 N., 50.19 E., (entrance to the Gulf of Aden).
- SPARK, R. of P. 15. On her first Far East patrol, the submarine SPARK sank one 150 ton schooner on November 20 and one junk on November 28 in Maungwagam Bay, Tavoy, Burma, taking five Burmese prisoners.

America and West Indies

- Atlantic - Mediterranean Convoys. 16. Provided there is no material change in the U-Boat situation, Cominch and the U.S. Chiefs of Naval Operations propose to sail U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys at five day intervals, beginning with U.G.S. 66 from Hampton Roads on January 3 and G.U.S. 64 from Oran on January 7. A decision will be made on December 27.

Australia and New Zealand

- Command. 17. Commodore First Class H.B. Farncomb, D.S.O., M.V.O., R.A.N., hoisted his pendant in the cruiser AUSTRALIA as Commander, Task Group 74.1.
- Philippines. 18. A Navy Liberator strafed and damaged three sea trucks and two luggers anchored at the southern end of Mompog Passage this afternoon.
- Borneo. 19. Three Liberators raided the Balikpapan area this morning, and exploded several oil tanks among other damage. Two sea trucks were attacked one being sunk and the other left on fire.

/U-Boat ...



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Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

U-Boat.

u 862

20. The Greek ship ILISSOS, 4724 tons, was  
gunned by a submarine at 0220 in 37.11 S.,  
139.35 E., about 150 miles south of Adelaide,  
but sustained no damaged. G.H.Q.S.W.Pacific  
area consider the submarine possibly German.

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9.12.1944  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- ALGONQUIN Your 051736 not to Com. (D) ALGONQUIN can be released first week in February, 1945.  
(C. in C. H.F. 091148 to Admty)
- GLOIRE. (1) Sailed F.S.GLOIRE for New York 0222A/9th speed of advance 22 knots until South of 045 degs. 30' N. then 18 knots E.T.A. p.m. 16th December. Route as in A.M. 081003 codeword "Liege".  
GLOIRE reports that only a very limited time will be available for turn-round in U.S. if the date of arrival in European theatre of operations given in C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 071930Z not to all addressees is to be kept.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091202A to Admty. C.E.S.F., C. in C. U.S. Fleet)
- RESOLUTION. Your 051058A and 051526A codeword "Chandelier" arrived escorted by TANATSIDE and ALBRIGHTON.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091221 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
- BIRMINGHAM. In view of BIRMINGHAM's 082207 which is being passed to C. in C. Home Fleet. Cancel A.M. 081105 not to A.S. Portsmouth.  
(2) Request you will (a) make arrangements for essential work only to be put in hand (b) on completion sail BIRMINGHAM for Scapa, reporting anticipated date of sailing.  
(3) A.M. 080233 November not to all also refers.  
(V.C.N.S. 091247A to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- COLOSSUS. Provisional trials programme (1) Berth east of bridge will be arranged on arrival.  
(2) Owing to defective lighter it will not be possible to supply petrol at Rosyth.  
(3) Berth at number 14 Buoy available from 17th December.  
(4) R.A.N.A.S. (North) is requested to make all arrangements for embarkation of A/C for loading trials.  
(5) F.O.C.T. is requested to provide heavy dead load.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091305 to COLOSSUS, RAN.A.S.(N) F.O.C.T.)

Operations

Situation Reports

- Naval. Cositintrep No.249 Part II Naval.  
(1) General. Enemy A/C laid mines in the approaches to Ostend and the Schelde between 1740 and 1840 on the 8th December. No mines have been located yet, and traffic to Ostend and Antwerp is proceeding.

/(2) ...

9.12.1944  
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report

Naval  
(Contd.)

(2) Unloading figures for 8th December:

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol</u>
Canoe	-	-	291	-
Dieppe	56	-	3484	-
Boulogne	34	122	2520	-
Calais	6	5	-	-
Ostend	1973	408	4380	1206
Antwerp	-	197	10436	10712
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2069</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>21111</b>	<b>11918</b>

(3) U.S.

Cherbourg	-	-	8052	1400
Brittany	-	-	4013	-
Ports.				
Le Havre	4599	368	5413	850
Rouen	1599	496	4875	-
Antwerp	-	-	10420	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6198</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>32773</b>	<b>2250</b>

Combined

<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8267</b>	<b>1596</b>	<b>53884</b>	<b>14168</b>
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(A.N.C.X.F. 092315A to Admty.)

Operations

North Sea

Enemy air  
activity  
off Low  
Countries.

Reports received indicate the following:

(1) 35 enemy aircraft operated off Coast between N.F.6 and Walcheren between 1744 and 1834 yesterday Friday. Minelaying reported N.F.15 Buoy.

(2) Approx. 15 enemy aircraft passed over anchorage at Ostend. Indications of minelaying in outer anchorage and in vicinity of Q.Z.S. 649 (C. in C. Nore, 091050A to Admty.)

Request you will impress upon 2nd T.A.F. the extreme importance of preventing A/C minelaying in the Channels to Ostend and Antwerp.

(2) The shallow water in this area renders mines particularly dangerous and makes it impossible to divert traffic consisting of deep draught ships as are now being used. M/S cannot deal effectively with certain types of mines and is moreover liable to be interrupted by weather conditions.

(3) With no possible diversion of route an accumulation of wrecks will make the continuance of the use of this route very difficult or well nigh impossible.

(C. in C. Nore, 091540 to A.N.C.X.F.)

As enemy has started aircraft minelaying at night in Schelde area consider statement of policy regarding ships opening fire at unseen targets is required to avoid possible misunderstandings.

9.12.1944

SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea

Enemy air activity off Low countries. (Contd.)

(2) It has been proved in Thames Estuary that gunfire serves to keep aircraft high with resulting loss of accuracy in minelaying. Patrols convoy escorts and fleet minesweepers have, therefore, been instructed to open fire as laid down in S.P. 02312(4) Para. 27 (A) (I) namely controlled blind fire up to 6,000 yards range standard barrage and close range weapon fire at unseen and unidentified aircraft if position and method of approach of aircraft indicate hostile intent.  
(C. in C. Nore, 091527A to Admty. A.N.C.X.F., 2nd T.A.F. H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Downs patrols.

Ships in Downs are being delayed owing to patrols envisaged not being maintained, due to lack of drifters.  
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 091607A to Admty., Info. A.C. Dover, C. in C. Nore.)

Anchorage established off Flushing.

Anchorage established within the following position A. 051 degs. 24' 50" N. 003 degs. 32' 53" E.  
B Charted position of number 2 Black can buoy.  
C 051 degs. 23' 34" N. 003 degs. 35' 20" E.  
D 051 degs. 24' 38" N. 003 degs. 32' 42" E.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 091920A to Com. Belgium)

OperationsChannel

Suspected U-Boat.

Your 090237A.  
(A) No whistle effect. Doubtful H.E. between second and third attack.  
(B) No confirmed movements except in second attack when movements to left in final approach detected position of enemy recorder trace has U-Boat characteristics throughout depth indication on or close to bottom between 200 and 220 feet. Echo sounder traces no indications.  
(SPRAGGE, 090335A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
I ceased search at 1300, all group now in day patrol stations.  
(SPRAGGE, 091313 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Patrols.

Night Patrol 9th/10th. No M.T.B. Patrol.  
(2) My 091221 Sweep along line joining H.5 J Buoy 3.  
(3) If no contact arrive J buoy execute Anti-Snort Patrols area limits given.  
(4) Area X. as in My 081256 but with North limit parallel of 50 degs. 17'.  
(5) Divide X 4 Sections by parallels 49 degs 43' 50 degs. 00' 50 degs. 08' 50 degs. 17'.  
(6) Take Sections North to South in order L'ESCARMOUCHE, SPRAGGE,

/ANTHONY ...

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Operations

Channel

Patrols. ANTHONY, WATCHMAN.  
(Contd.) (7) Ships start N.E. corner of Section finish S.W. Corner.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091245A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Air Patrols. My 281728 para.12.  
(A) Night 9th/10th: Patrol 3 and 4 Leigh Light Wellingtons,  
Day 10th: Patrols 3 Liberators, 4 and 5 Swordfish.  
(B) 838 Squadron - RKH. 842 Squadron - RLJ.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091620A to Admty. Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces.)

Potato traffic, Brittany to Seine. A.N.C.X.F. (Main)'s 061907 and C. in C. Plymouth's 071528. Subject to concurrence of C.T.F.125 there is no objection to these craft sailing independently in the Portsmouth Command provided that they keep within five miles of the coast. They should burn navigation lights.  
(2) Agree with C. in C. Plymouth that traffic should be restricted to steam or motor craft if practicable.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091324A to Admty.)

Examination of Sunken U-Boat. Admiralty's 031609A and my 061102A. Regret continuous strong westerly winds have so far prevented diving operations. Am investigating position daily with escorting M.L's.  
(TEDWORTH, 091734A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrols. My 081830A. Weather has moderated, have resumed patrol. (2) (A) Bad. (B) Yes.  
(3) Unsuitable.  
(4) 4181 1075.  
(S.O.E.G.1. 090801A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 051829 not to all.  
On completion of training to-day 9th F.O.I.C.N.I., is requested to sail RUPERT, REDMILL, FITZROY at best speed to fuel at Milford Haven thence to operate under orders of C. in C. Plymouth.  
(2) On relief by above ships C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 14th E.G. at best speed to fuel at Merville and join Force 33.  
My 081902 refers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 091121A to F.O.I.C.N.I., C. in C. Plymouth)

/Patrol ...

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Patrols (Contd.) Patrol area between Parallels of 55 degs. and 56 degs. and Meridians of 06 degs. and 08 degs. 30'. (C. in C. W.A. 091124A to S.O. E.G.3.) 19th E.G. HESPERUS operating in Cape Wrath area with 3 Frigates. Force 33, Third E.G. DUCKWORTH 5 Frigates patrolling off Northern Ireland. First E.G. AFFLECK S.O. 4 Frigates operating off South Irish Coast with Second E.G. WILDGOOSE 3 Frigates. P.S. PIORUN, IMPULSIVE vicinity 051 degs. 00' 013 degs. 30' awaiting A.T.172. (C. in C. W.A. 091354A to Admt.) If not in contact leave patrol at 0900/11th and proceed to Liverpool for Layover. (C. in C. W.A. 091426A to S.O. E.G.2)

Discontinuance of Fighter Protection in Western Approaches. A/687 9th December, Secret. Your 062122A. Concur and recommend that fighter protection in Western Approaches Command be discontinued. (H.Q.C.C. 091610 to Admt.) Following message has been received from C. in C. W.A. Begins: In view of complete absence of hostile air activity it is proposed to abolish fighter protection in Western Approaches Command as from 0001/18th Dec. (2) Request concurrence of H.Q.C.C. and H.Q.F.C. may be obtained and Admiralty approval given. 062122A. Ends. (2) H.Q.C.C. have concurred. Request your remarks. (D.O.D.(H), 092320A to H.Q.F.C.)

OperationsNorway

Operation "S.C". Ramose, Satire, Hitra returned at 1130A/9th December. (2) Operation successful. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 091140A to A.C.O.S.)

Naval Air Arm strike off Haugesund. Result of operation "Urbane". 7th December. 12 Avengers from PREMIER escorted by Wildcats from TRUMPETER laid mines in Salhuss Trommen 059 degs. 22' 07" N. 005 degs. 18' 02" E. 10 mines estimated to be laid effectively. One Wildcat force landed in position 059 degs. 18' N. 003 degs. 20' E. Of URBANE Pilot seen in Dinghy but A.S.R. have not recovered him. (2) 8th December. R/C Force of 12 Fireflies and 9 Wildcats from IMPLACABLE set on fire 2 merchant ships of 800 tons in position 059 degs. 42.8' N. 005 degs. 24' E. and set on fire one self-propelled barge 120 feet long damaging another at Lostvaag. 059 degs. 45.8 N. 005 degs. 31' E. (C.S. 091141A to C. in C. H.F.)

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Operations

Northern Waters

Norwegian  
M.F.Vs. for  
Northern  
Norway.

If Norwegian motor fishing vessels are not coming in J.W. convoy, suggest they go to Baasfiord direct instead of Murmansk. A.M. (?1634) refers. (2) Agreed Norwegian Mission. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 090857A to Admty.)

Patrol.

If not in contact now establish new Gamma (B) 061 degs. 00' N. 002 degs. 00' W. and 061 degs. 38' N. 002 degs. 21' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 091001 to S.O. E.G.31)

Shift Gamma by 0400A/10th to positions 061 degs. 10' N. 001 degs. 07' W. and 061 degs. 50' N. 001 degs. 07' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 092053A to S.O.E.G.31)

6th  
E.G.

My 082315 not to all.

On completion of training to-day 9th request you will sail 6th E.G. to fuel at Bangor thence at best speed to Scapa for orders from C. in C. Rosyth.

(C. in C. W.A. 091119A to T.C.Larne.)

CHARLOCK  
and  
STARWORT  
(unfit for  
Northern  
Winter).

Approved for CHARLOCK and STARWORT to sail with R.U.146.

(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to transfer one Northern trawler temporarily to A.C.I.C. in lieu of CHARLOCK who will remain with Western Approaches as it is not intended that she shall be artiscised. STARWORT will be taken in hand for defects on arrival.

(3) A.C.I.C.071416 refers.

(D.O.D.(H), 091538A to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

Convoy  
J.W.63.

Subject to your concurrence, it is not intended to include rescue ship in J.W. 63 and subsequent J.W. convoys during winter months owing to danger from icing.

(D.O.D.(H), 091904A to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity

Attack on  
enemy off  
Indre Suten.

Nr.1. P.C.S. of enemy 61.16 N., 4.56 E., 180°, 8 knots. Have attacked enemy with cannon or machine gun fire. Results of attack. Hits observed.

(A/C JZF 77 091420A to 18 Group)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy  
R/C on East  
Coast.

Bawdsey C.H.L. reports one enemy A/C between 53E and 53F at 090202A crossed channel thence 53 D and South Falls thence N.F.3 height 1,000 feet.

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Enemy R/C on East Coast. (2) GUILLEMOT on patrol 18 reports: "Some unidentified A/C passed over at this time at 5000 to 6000 feet. No suspected minelaying". (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 091145A to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining

Antwerp portable pulser sweeps completed. (1) Work of portable pulsers in Antwerp is now complete area covered is approx. 4,000,000 square yards mines detonated 10. (2) Confirm future programme as in my 051742. (Com. Belgium, 091230A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping in Schelde approaches. Your 082322. Width of 8 cables on Southern side only of centre line has been swept to depth of 5 fathoms, result negative.

(2) Proceeding Small Downs E.T.A. 2100  
(3) Intend to proceed at 0600A to complete clearance.

(S.O. M.S.F. 15, 091515A to C. in C. Nore.)

5 Fleet Sweepers and one Danlayer anchored Ostend. (2) Have given one further actuation to whole area given in para. 3 of your 041540, with negative result. (3) Same Dan Buoys given in para. 3 of my 081758 have been left. intend sailing at 0815 tomorrow Sunday to give area further actuation.

(HOUND, 091921A to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 091515 para. 3 return to Harwich at daylight tomorrow Sunday reporting E.T.A. use Q.Z.S.468. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 092050A to M.S.15)

Enemy Intelligence

German Military Transports. (1) My 061829 para. (2). Following are details of DONAU's movements prior to her sailings from Aarhus November 26th, just reported.

November 22nd DONAU arrived Heroya Porsgrunn and loaded troops and war material.

(B) She was reported to have arrived Aarhus Nov. 24th with troops and material.

(2) My 071821. MOLTKEFELS arrived Aarhus from Norway 0700 Dec. 5th, with following troops, SS. Infantry Staff, S.S. Infantry Battalion, Field Post number 46672, one battery Mountain Artillery, one company Engineers.

Troops all reported wearing arm bands marked 'Reinhardt Heydrich' B.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 091151 to Admty.)

Movement of troops from Norway. (1) Trains. (A) See my telegram 061703 para. (2) (A). In addition to these four trains from M.2 trains daily (called K trains) are now running from Trondjhem. Some troops are disembarked at various Sorlandet stations and marched to Arendal for embarkation.

(B) Norwegian railway authorities fear total breakdown in organization and believe Germans will be forced to take over

/railways ...



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Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

Movement of troops from Norway. (Contd.) railways with a view to attaining military requirements of 10 trains daily from North. (2) Troops from Stavanger to Arendal. (A) See my R.S. 3416 para. (B) a Divisional H.Q. (presumably 274) was scheduled to leave Stavanger for Arendal by train on December 7th and December 8th.

(B) One 10,000 ton transport was reported loading in Arendal up to December 5th. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 091301 to Admty.)  
N.I.D. Comment: Probably a good report.

Mining results. See my 081034. (1) Frederiksted. (A) Channel from Frederiksted was closed from Nov. 28th for eight days. (B) Fast transports JUPITER and BRETAGNE are using Kjkopage.

(2) Oslo. Vessels entering Oslo assemble at Drobak steam quay and follow minesweepers. Channel between south-side of Jeloy and Revlingen is open. Channel between Revlingen and mainland is closed. B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 091314 to Admty.)  
O.I.C. Comment: Para. (1) Kjokey probably intended (3½ miles S. of Frederiksted).  
Para. (2) Revlingen 59° 24' N., 10° 38.5' E. This area and Frederiksted area was mined by Allied A/C during night of 27th/28th November.

North Norway Transport Situation. (1) Vulnerable ferry points. (A) In consequence of recent congestion following additional ferries now provided - 1 Skarberget - Korsnes. 1 to 3 Medium II Forsca-Saetran. 1 to 2 Medium III Bonasjoen - Rosvik. 1 to 5.

(B) Quay at Korsnes was completely over-loaded Mid-Nov. several lorries, buses and quantity war material being lost.  
(C) Bjerkvik Ferry Quay had not been completed by Nov. 20th.  
(2) Coal. (A) Situation in Trondjhem again reported critical. On Dec. 5th 19,000 tons coal reported in Trondjhem some which was still unloaded. Railway requirements estimated at 500 tons per diem for following locomotives in area. 38 passenger trains. 28 goods. 12 Shunting. In consequence this situation. Sea route Mosjoen to Trondjhem is now supplementing inadequate rail communication. All B.2.  
(B) Shortage coal reported Hamburg, Kiel and Lubeck. D.3.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 091712 to Admty.)  
N.I.D. Comment: Para. 2(A) There is no evidence of any considerable use of sea route from Mosjoen to Trondjhem.

U-Boats

Suspected U-Boats. One in central English Channel from attack by SPRAGGE at 1732Z/8th Dec. One or two on or approaching convoy routes Bristol Channel and North Cornish coast. (D.D.I.C., 091437A to Cominch.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities

Floating  
Dock avail-  
able for  
Lowestoft.

Your 281703A November. A.F.D. (B.A.) 2 is still available for coastal forces if required. Can this dock be utilised at Lowestoft or other area in your command. 20 feet depth of water is required for docking 'D' Fairmile craft. (D.C.F.M. 091730A to C. in C. Nore.)

Dieppe.

N.O.I.C. Dieppe's 071215. The position as we see it is as follows:  
(a) is confirmed.  
(b) we understand this requirement will shortly

cease.

(c) This requirement is not for leave personnel but for troops in transit for the overland route to Marseilles. It is unlikely to commence before mid-January at the earliest and would start at a lower scale requiring one cross-channel ship sailing per day rising to two. (d) is confirmed.

(2) Agreed War Office.

(D. of S.T. 092144A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Casualties and Defects

M.F.V. S.2.

Regret to report M.F.V. S.2 foundered in bad weather at 0340 on 8th December in position 125 degs. Teignmouth.

Light 6 point 25 miles.

Crew were picked up by escort.

Board of inquiry is sitting and salvage operations will be started (MOUNT STEWART, 091020A to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

FRANCIS  
ASBURY.

Salvage Officer has surveyed FRANCIS ASBURY sunk in position 036 $\frac{1}{2}$  degs. Ostend East Mole 8.8 miles. Ship is broken abaft mid-ships. After section lies at angle of about 60 degs. from forward section still attached to after section and slowly submerging. Several vehicles still on forward deck.

Ship can be considered total loss. Possibility of saving cargo will be investigated when weather conditions permit.

Position is in mined area. Admiralty 021627 refers.

(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 092104A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys

Additional  
Convoy  
assembly area  
needed in  
Bristol  
Channel.

Request your remarks on F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 081029A.

(2) Proposed increase of staff considered necessary and estimate of small craft required should be included in your reply.

(C. in C. W.A. 091108A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

/ C.E....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

C.E. orders for Monsters escorts.

C.E. orders were issued to FAULKNER when she was originally allocated to 14th E.G.  
(2) Suggest it is desirable for ships escorting monsters and for other ships of Plymouth Command which might be in a position to co-operate with Western Approaches escorts carrying out operation,

C.E. to hold these orders.

(3) If you concur propose to issue copies of these orders to Cpt.D. Plymouth for destroyers and to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven for Plymouth escorts based at Milford Haven. Request requirements, if any, may be signalled.

(C. in C. W.A. 091246A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Major troopship movements.

Following is summary 68 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period to 8th January.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
<u>(A) In -</u>				
1	A.T.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	12/12
2	C.U.49	As already notified		12/12
3	A.T.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	16/12
4	A.T.173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	16/12
5	S.D.60	REINA DEL PACIFICO	Clyde	18/12
6	M.K.F.36A	ORMONDE	Possible Liverpool	18/12
7	H.X.324	MATAROA	-do-	18/12
8	A.T.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	19/12
9	C.U.50	Ships not yet allocated to ports		20/12
10	A.T.174	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	22/12
11	A.T.175	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	25/12
12	A.T.176	AQUITANIA	Clyde	28/12
13	C.U.51	Ships not yet allocated to ports		28/12
14	A.T.177	PASTEUR	Liverpool	30/12
15	M.K.F.37	Ships not yet allocated to ports		7/1
16	A.T.179	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	7/1
<u>(B) Out -</u>				
17	T.A.171	PASTEUR	Liverpool	12/12
18	T.A.170	ILE DE FRANCE	Clyde	13/12
19	K.M.F.37	Composition as notified		16/12
20	U.C.49A	U.S. Ships ex C.U.49		16/12
21	T.A.172	NIEUW AMSTERDAM	Clyde	18/12
22	K.M.S.73	DILWARA	Clyde	18/12
23	T.A.170B	U.S. MOUNT VERNON	Liverpool	19/12
24	-	ANDES	Liverpool	21/12
25	T.A.173	QUEEN MARY	Clyde	21/12
26	T.A.172A	U.S. WAKEFIELD	Liverpool	22/12
27	U.X. 50A	U.S. Ships ex C.U.50 plus ATHLONE CASTLE	ex Liverpool	24/12

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Major troop-  
 ship movements.  
 (Contd.)

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Due</u>
28	T.A.174	QUEEN ELIZABETH	Clyde	28/12
29	K.M.S.76	DUNERA	Clyde	2/1
30	T.A.175	MAURETANIA	Liverpool	31/12
31	U.C.51	Possible - RANGITATA HIGHLAND BRIGADE HIGHLAND PRINCESS	Liverpool  Clyde  Liverpool	1/1
32	T.A.176	AQUITANIA	Clyde	3/1
33	K.M.F.38	Composition will be notified shortly		5/1
34	T.A.177	PASTEUR	Liverpool	5/1

(2) The above is for your information and guidance and is liable to alteration during period to 16th December when further signal will be made.

(D. of S.T. 091902A to P.S.T.O's Clyde, and N.W. ports.)

V.W.C./  
 E.W.C. convoys  
 T.B.C.  
 convoys.

C.T.F.125's 071755. No change of policy was intended in Portsmouth's 041938 which substituted W.V.C/V.W.C. and W.E.C/E.W.C. convoys for the Cross West Channel stage of the T.M.C/M.T.C. and B.E.C/E.B.C. convoys which were previously in operation.

(2) It is agreed that the present low scale of U-Boat attack justifies the abandonment of convoys for empty M.T. ships and coasters returning from France. V.W.C. and E.W.C. convoys could therefore be suspended.

(3) Ships from Havre should in that case be routed.  
 (A) For Newhaven and Thames - by Q.Z.S. 619 and 575 for Newhaven 648 for Thames.

(B) For Isle of Wight and Ports West thereof to Saint Helens by route Z.K.

(4) Similarly ships from Cherbourg should be routed  
 (A) for Isle of Wight and Ports East thereof - to Saint Helens by Channel H and Q.Z.S. 552.

(B) For Weymouth and West thereof by Channel H and Q.Z.S.623, 628 to Weymouth for onward routeing in T.B.C. convoys.

(5) It is considered that L.S.I's returning from France should continue to be escorted and that L.S.T's, L.C.T's and tugs with tows should continue to sail in their respective groups as hitherto.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091935A to A.N.C.X.F.)

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KIOWA Delayed due to weather. My 090800 position 36.43 N. 32.58 W. Ref. N.O.B. Bermuda's 030408. At 14 knots KIOWA E.T.A. point Oboe 1400Z/10th. (U.S.S. KIOWA 090828 to Comnavzor)

LOCH OSKAIG Intend to sail LOCH OSKAIG at 1800A Dec. 10th to U.K.  
(2) Route (K) 35.59 N. 06.10 W. (L) 36.55 N. 09.05 W. (M) 38.40 N. 09.45 W. (N) 43.30 N. 09.45 W.  
thence as ordered by Admty.  
(3) S.O.A. 9 knots.  
(4) Codeword "Rounders" 947.  
(5) Shifts to Home Station W/T organisation at 0900A Dec. 13. (F.O.G.M.A. 090954A to Admty.)

NESS Sailed NESS, my 081057 refers, (intend to sail NESS to U.K.) OZH (C) 624 L.67, S.650, X.1468, Y.524. (F.O.G.M.A. 091706A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

A.F.D.24 Following provisional escort arrangements for A.F.D. 24 sailed (? sailing) Freetown 23 Dec.  
(A) Freetown to 20 degs. N. to 30 N. approx. E.G. 55 (5 ships) (B) 20° N. to 30° N. approx. E.G.59  
(5 ships) (C) 30° N. Gibraltar E.G.55. On relief at (B) E.G.55 proceed Casablanca to fuel.  
(2) E.G.59 Freetown be ready to sail by 29 Dec., LOBELIA joining from Casablanca if necessary.  
(3) On completion (B) CDT. IROGOU proceed Gibraltar for onward passage to U.K. for refit, remainder E.G.59 to Dakar fuelling at Casablanca if required. Actual times of changing escort will depend on speed made good estimated between 80 and 100 miles per day. Request concurrence or remarks of F.O.G.M.A. (F.O.C.W.A. 091145Z, to Comar Dakar, F.O.G.M.A.)

CEYLON Sailed CEYLON to Trincomalee routed through (M) 025° 32' S. 049° 59' E. (N) 020° 01' 060° 01' (O) 008° 01' 073° 20' (P) 005° 50' N. 081° 48' (? thence) 30 miles off Coast of Ceylon.  
(2) S.O.A. 15 knots for 12 hours, then 17 knots.  
(3) E.T.A. Trincomalee 0700Z/19th.  
(4) Continuous W/T watch on S.L. shifting to V at 1200Z 11th. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 091411Z, to Admty., etc.)

/Destroyer...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Destroyer  
Refits,  
Simonstown

Your O30601. With revised programme for cruisers in your O30602, Simonstown can only take one destroyer at a time until late May and with same limitation of electrical work in both concurrent ships.

(2) This is based on assumption that the escort carriers will be self refits as in your O50340 Sept. Otherwise it will be necessary to divert NIGERIA to Durban.  
(C. in C. S.A. O91632B to C. in C. E.I.)

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Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Armament Store Carriers. Armament Store Carriers are urgently required for operations in Far East and French Naval Authorities have agreed to allocation of either BARFLEUR or QUERCY for this service. Request you arrange with French Naval Authorities and with S.A.S.O. Med. for joint inspection by appropriate S.T.O. and N.A.S.O.  
(2) Outline details of type of ship required.  
(D. of S.T., 091031A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

DROTTNINGHOLM, It would be preferred that movement in A.M. exchange of 062135 should not take place until arrangements, personnel. at present in progress, for resumption of normal traffic through Dardanelles to Black Sea ports are completed. For this reason proposed sailing of a Russian\* vessel to Greece has already been delayed.  
(C. in C. Med., 091103A to Admty.)  
Reply: Admty., 121143A.  
\* Query whether Turkish intended.  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 111835C.)

Release of Trawlers. The following instructions apply to A/S and M/S Trawlers which on release shortly from Mediterranean will be sailed to U.K. C. in C. Med.'s 041822 and 041825 neither to all refer.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Re-allocated</u>	<u>To be sailed for</u>	<u>Accounts to</u>
MAN O WAR	Western Approaches	Liverpool	EAGLET
KING SOL	Western Approaches	Liverpool	EAGLET
REIGHTON WYKE	A.C.O.S.	Milford Haven for onward routeing for Scapa.	PROSERPINE
VIENDA	A.C.O.S.	Milford Haven for onward routeing for Scapa.	PROSERPINE
AMBER	Plymouth	Plymouth	PARIS
BERYL	Plymouth	Plymouth	PARIS
MOONSTONE	Plymouth	Plymouth	PARIS
KINGSTON CORAL	(a) The best as nominated by C. in C. Meditn. to Plymouth.	Plymouth	PARIS
KINGSTON CRYSTAL			
KINGSTON CYANITE			
		(b) Future of remaining two undecided.	Falmouth for onward routeing.

/STELLA CARINA ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Release of  
Trawlers.  
(Contd.)

Name	Re-allocated	To be sailed for	Accounts to
STELLA CARINA	Future undecided	Falmouth for onward routing	FORTITUDE
NEGRO	Future undecided	Falmouth for onward routing	FORTITUDE
ACHROITE	Future undecided	Falmouth for onward routing	FORTITUDE
ARNOLD BENNETT	Future undecided	Falmouth for onward routing	FORTITUDE
GOTH	Future undecided	Falmouth for onward routing	FORTITUDE
ELBURY	Future undecided	Falmouth for onward routing	FORTITUDE

(D.O.D.(H) 091122A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

**Palestine.** Your 071342 paras. 2 and 3. No action is contemplated in Palestine at present, and it is not therefore an appropriate moment to raise this matter with the Chiefs of Staff. If, however, you consider it will remove possible future misunderstanding you should direct F.O.L.E.M. to tell General Paget that the Navy will not be able to undertake internal security duties.  
(1st S.L. 091156A to C. in C. Med.)  
See also C. in C. Med. 101227A to F.O.L.E.M.)

**F.O.L.E.M. to visit Greece.** Amend my 071053 not to all. Intend to sail in SIRIUS 10th Dec. visiting Khios Salonika, Piraeus, returning Alexandria about 16th Dec.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 091229 to S.B.N.O. Greece, F.O. 15th C.S., Info. C. in C. Med. Admty.)

F.O.L.E.M. will be afloat in Aegean from 10th Dec. for about a week. During this time he will use the title F.O.L.E.M. (Afloat) S.H.A. 265. (Arrangements for signals.)  
(F.O.L.E.M. 091321 to Eastern Med.)

**South Aegean Summary.** 496163. G1/68248 cypher 9th December. Up to 0900 hours Dec. 9th.  
(1) Shipping. No photographic R/C due to weather, Kos. Ground source reports unit of 100 men preparing raid Niseros (or Niseras) or other British held Islands in area. No photographic R/C Kos since 29th November when one Magda present.  
(C. in C. M.E. 091240C to W.O.)

/Shipping...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Shipping Combined Chiefs of Staff in F.A.N. 456 have  
for Black Sea. informed S.A.C. Med. that they intend shortly to  
authorize sailings to Black Sea ports for dis-  
charge and have requested him to make arrange-  
ments for routeing, take any necessary action and  
report date on which this traffic can commence.

(2) C. in C. Med. is dealing with this matter on behalf of S.A.C.  
Med.

(3) Understand that in first instance shipping will be entirely  
U.S. Other shipping will however also be required to enter Black  
Sea at an early date. It is important therefore to arrange now  
to deal with Allied as opposed to purely U.S. shipping.

(4) Without any knowledge as to amount of traffic to be expected  
C. in C. Med. is unable to formulate a precise plan but broad  
outline of intentions is as follows:-

(a) Passage to Dardanelles - ships to be routed either direct or  
to Piraeus for calling forward.

(b) Entry into Dardanelles - ships to Approach Dardanelles by  
searched channel now being swept and to proceed direct to Chanak  
to embark pilot. If Turkish authorities cannot be persuaded to  
permit ships to proceed without pilot from terminal point of  
searched channel (040° 01' 30" N. (7026°) 11' 00" E.) to Chanak,  
Mudros to be opened as a waiting anchorage. Individual ships re-  
embark then be called forward as and when pilot becomes available  
and would not be kept waiting off Cape Helles.

C. in C. Med. would however be very loathe to accept this alter-  
native which involves setting up a complex port and communication  
organisation, the personnel, craft and stores for which may not be  
available and which in any case could ill be afforded.

(c) Passage from Greece to Istanbul - ships to proceed as directed  
by Turkish pilot.

(d) Onward passage from Istanbul to Black Sea ports - ships to  
proceed in accordance with routeing instructions issued by control  
in conjunction with Turkish and Russian authorities.

(e) Control. To be exercised by C.S.A. Istanbul who should be of  
Captain's rank and will require staff consisting of boarding  
routeing and secretarial officers. To represent U.S. interests a  
Navpp organisation to be set up in parallel. A B.N.L.O. Chanak  
will also be required to work Turkish pilotage service. C.S.A.  
and Navpp in close co-operation to work in conjunction (?through)  
Turkish and Russian authorities. These latter to be responsible  
for control at port of discharge but to be assisted by Allied  
representatives.

(f) Return passage. Similar procedure to be adopted.

(5) Before above plans can be produced in detailed form following  
necessary action is requested.

(a) By Admiralty - (i) Indicate amount of traffic to be expected.  
(ii) Appoint necessary officers and send them to Istanbul forthwith  
complete with necessary equipment. (iii) Arrange Navpp organisation  
to be set up. (iv) Arrange for M.W.T. and W.S.A. representatives  
to be appointed and sent. (v) Arrange consular code and cypher  
staffs to be augmented. (vi) Obtain Russian agreement to  
proposed plan. (vii) Arrange Russia N.C.S.O. organisation to be

/set...

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Shipping for Black Sea. (Contd.) set up Istanbul. (viii) Arrange with Russians for Allied representatives to be stationed in Black Sea ports - see para. (4) above. By B.N.A. Ankara.

(1) Obtain Turkish agreement to proposed plan.  
(2) Confirm that shipping may proceed direct Chanak. (3) Report maximum rate of acceptance at Chanak for which he expects pilotage could be made available.  
(4) Arrange for all lights in approaches to Dardanelles to be exhibited.  
(6) Sweep of approach channel will (?probably) be completed by 1st January. The date upon which traffic to Black Sea can commence is dependent upon the action in para. 5 above being implemented.  
(7) Admiralty pass to Admiral Archer.  
(C. in C. Med., 091343 to Admty., etc.) *reply 062157A from A<sup>3</sup>*  
Reply from B.N.A. Ankara, 131841C.

EMILE BERTIN. Onward route from position 35° 08' N., 17° 45' E. at 1615/10th to position 227 basic westbound route Q.B.B. 338 and from position 19 to 89, 93 and Q.B.B. 41 to Oran.  
(2) E.T.A. 19 at 1645/11, Oran 0900/12.  
(3) Increase speed to 24 knots (sic). (4) Codeword "Elmcroft" 474. (5) F.O.L.E.M.'s 072031 not to all refers. (6) All times A. (7) Comlab pass to Marine Paris.  
(V.A. Malta, 091519A to EMILE BERTIN.)

Ships for Kavalla. Intend sailing CHERRYLEAF escorted by MUTINE at 0700B/10th Dec. to Kavalla, E.T.A. 1700B.  
(2) On completion of fuelling request you sail both ships to Salonika.  
(3) Route by swept channel to 040° 30' 024° 30' thence to 040° 09' 024° 30' thence to 039° 58' 024° 23.6' thence to 039° 50' 023° 43' thence to 039° 52.2' 023° 20.5' thence by Q.B.C. 939.  
(4) MUTINE to report E.T.A.  
(5) MUTINE constant watch (A) Off-shore to Kavalla 4205 k/cs. Loudspeaker 2333 k/cs. (B) Kavalla to Salonika L.V. broadcast.  
(S.O. M/S. Flotilla 12, 091801B to S.O. M/S.F.5.)

Situation Report No. 500. (1) After yesterday's bombardment of Lofos Castello local E.L.A.S. Commander treated for surrender but would not accept terms of laying down arms. Subsequently EASTON and 2 Coastal Craft again bombarded this E.L.A.S. stronghold. E.L.A.S. outflanked Army line 1 mile east of Naval H.Q. which was menaced by machine gunfire. LA MALOUINE and 2 Coastal Craft restored situation by close support fire. Greek ship NAVARINON engaged targets north of port Hermakles.  
(2) The local Partisan leader Cer(ol?) has requested DELHI and COLOMBO to leave Yugoslavian waters. Matter has been referred to Marshal Tito.

/(3) ...

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Situation Report No. 500. (Contd.) (3) M.L. 238 supported by ATHERSTONE entered harbour at Krk night of 6th Dec. and attacked shipping. M.L. sustained superficial damage only and had no casualties. (C. in C. Med., 092111A.)

French ships and Greek situation. Admiral Abuynau has represented to me that it is the wish of French Ministry of Marine that French ships should not take part in the present operations against Greek factions except only if required for the defence or evacuation of French nationals.

(2) Intend to comply.

(3) French ships will be employed in the Dodecanese and Crete in addition to their present role as escort to and from North Aegean ports but will remain based in Levant. (F.O.L.E.M., 092141B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. Greece.)

CALEDON ordered to Kavalla. Situation Kavalla reported serious. Proceed with all despatch to Kavalla taking due care for mining and navigation risks. Report E.T.A. to authorities concerned. Swept channel to Kavalla Q.B.C.946 1 mile either side of line from 040° 30' N., 024° 30' E. to Kavalla breakwater, flashing green light, thence into harbour. (S.B.N.O. Greece, 092301 to CALLEDON.)

Situation Reports. Cositintrep No. 519. Part 2. The W/T station at Piraeus has been put out of action and road to Athens is blocked. A destroyer and three Coastal Craft engaged E.L.A.S. stronghold at Lofos Kastela. Clearance of peninsula near Naval College continues and no further attack has been made on Navy House. Situation at other Greek ports remains obscure.

(2) At Melos on 5th December raiding forces carried out successful ambush among enemy officers killed was Garrison Commander who has been largely responsible for determined resistance made by Germans on this Island.

(C. in C. Med. (Wilson), No T.O.O./9 to W.O.)

Cositintrep No. 519. Part 4.

Athens - Piraeus area. There was little change in the situation during 8th Dec. Street fighting continued and there is no sign of rebel resistance slackening. There has been an increase of unprovoked attack on British troops. In the western sector (Piraeus) high ground held by the rebels was subjected to Naval bombardment and attack by fighters. There was little change in the east and central sectors.

(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./9 to W.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B dis-  
positions

No fresh information, scales unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I., 090359Z)

Enemy  
Intelligence

Following received from secret source graded A.O.  
8 transports, 2 escort vessels left Cap St.  
Jacques p.m. 8th Dec. leaving 7 ships still  
moored off Cap St. Jacques. Ships at present only  
leaving in small numbers.  
(C. in C. E.I. 091031Z to Admty., etc.)

SPARK,  
R. of P.

H.M.S/M SPARK first Far East patrol (?20) Nov. in  
Maungmagam Bay, Tavoy sank one 150 tons schooner  
(corrupt group) and on 28th Nov. sank one junk. 5  
Burmese prisoners taken.  
(C. in C. E.I., 091041Z, to Admty.)

N.S.U.

(1) S.A.C.S.E.A. has asked that remaining sections  
of N.S.U. if still available should be earmarked  
for S.E.A.C.  
(2) No operational requirements for these  
additional units can be foreseen until Sept. 1945 at the earliest.  
(3) A.M. 201301 Oct. refers.  
(4) Admty. pass to War Office and Ministry of Supply.  
(C. in C. E.I. 091215Z, to Admty.)

"S" Report

SSSS Latitude 13.16 N., longitude 50.19 E.,  
torpedo track crossed bow. 050241 \*  
(LYMAN STEWART, 091545)  
\* Later corrected to read. 05024.

LEWES

Your 050857 to F.O. S/M. Future employment of  
LEWES is now under consideration. Meanwhile she  
should not be sailed for U.K.  
(D.O.D.(F) 091841A to C. in C. E.I.)

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U.G.S./  
G.U.S.  
Convoys. Providing there is no material change in U-boat situation it is my present intention to sail U.G.S./G.U.S. convoys at five day intervals beginning with U.G.S.66 from Hampton Roads 3rd Jan. and G.U.S.64 from Oran 7th Jan. Decision will be made 27th December. [See 271945Z]

(Cominch and C.N.O., 091308Z to Cinclant, Comeastseafon, C. in C. Med.)

U-boat                      Estimates.  
dispositions              (N.S.H.Q. 091328Z, Cominch, 091536Z.)

T.G.21.8                      Capt. Poole in MCDUGAL. Comcortdiv. 3 in JACOB  
C.U.51,                      JONES, Cortdiv 3, MARTIN H. RAY, ROY O'HALE, DALE W.  
U.C.51.                      PETERSON constitutes Task Group 21.8. This  
   group will escort C.U.51 departing New York 17th  
   December for U.K. and Continent.  
   C.T.G.21.8 in MCDUGAL with BLAIR, R.E. PEARY,  
D.W. PETERSON, M.H. RAY, ROY O'HALE, RUSDRN? escorting U.C.51A.  
Cmdr. Musgrave in JACOB JONES with HAMMANN, STURTEVANT BROUGH  
hereby designated to 21.8.7 return escorting U.C. 51B when  
directed by Admty. Comdeslant direct Comcortdiv III with four  
ships Cortdiv III proceed Boston and escort Boston Section to  
R/V designated by P.D. New York.  
(Cinclant, 091439Z to C.T.G.21.8.)

Tug                              (1) In view of paragraph 3 of my 041952 there seems  
Breakdowns.                  every probability that assistance will be  
   required from Azores if, as I anticipate, the  
   convoy gets into difficulty.  
   (2) These coal-burning tugs are not yet equipped  
for towing.                  Your 292050 Nov. refers, and as reported in B.A.D.  
221517 Oct. and my 272236 Nov. have hitherto proved mechanically un-  
reliable.  
(3) Request confirmation that convoy should be re-sailed when  
ready, estimated December 13th, and that assistance mentioned in  
para. one will be available.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 091709Z to Admty.)      Reply 101854A.

Cable                              It is intended to allocate H.M.C.S. CAPE DE LA  
Repairs                          MADELEINE to C.7 Group as this group will not  
   return to St. Johns Newfoundland until about 11th  
   January. CAP DE LA MADELEINE after arriving  
   from W.U.P.S. about 13th December will be available  
for escorting Cable Ship, your 071911+ refers.  
(2) Anticipate H.M.C.S. KIRKLAND LAKE will be available about  
26th December as relief escort for Cable repairs.  
(3) It is not considered feasible at this season of the year to  
undertake cable repairs in mid-Atlantic and  
(a) in view of the fact that owing to heavy weather LORD KELVIN  
abandoned the same job last October your 081459\* refers, and  
(b) the growing concentration of U-boats in the Canadian area will  
necessitate the use of all operational ships in defence of trade.  
It is considered that if no satisfactory progress can be made  
within one month the work should be postponed until Spring.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 091818Z to F.O.N.F.)  
+ Requesting escort for Cable Ship.  
\* Requesting position where LORD KELVIN unsuccessfully attempted  
repair last October.

/KIOWA...

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HOME COMMANDS

America and West Indies

KIOWA,  
JOHN BANVARD

If ready sail BANVARD, KIOWA tow, in accordance my 0520122Z\* Request that S.B.N.O. Azores provide escort to R/V and Comnavu pass you convoy Sailing Dispatch.  
(Cinclant 091923Z to Commavzor.)  
\* Suggest KIOWA towing SS. JOHN BANVARD be sailed from Azores.

Submarine  
attack  
Summary.

Para. C. 090302Z U.S.S. BOGUE group attacked sound contact with D/C patterns 42.47 North 66.19 West.  
(Cominch, 092045Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
No.1053,  
Dec. 8th.

(3) Navy Mariner attacked 5 small Coastal Freighters off Southwestern Coast Mindoro Island before dawn destroying one damaging 3.  
(6) Patrol plane attacked 6 sea-trucks, 3 luggers anchored off Tagbilaran on Southwest Coast Bohol Island: One of larger ships sunk.

7th December.

(15) 4 planes strafed auxiliary sailing ship in Tiworo Strait setting same on fire.  
(17) 7th Dec. 5 Liberators 3 Mitchells in 3 raids struck oil storage tanks Tarakan in Northeast Borneo also 2 small Freighters off shore set on fire by strafing.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 090847Z.)

Storage  
Space,  
Australia.

Admty. 212003 Nov. to A.C.N.B. Understand from D.R.E.'s representative Commander Neill that it has been agreed at Admiralty that approx. 450,000 square feet of stowage space? is required for radio stores. (Details).

(2) If this storage space is to be regarded as additional to our present plan it will entail a large increase in the construction bill now before Australian Government.

(3) Request early clarification of Admty. requirements.  
(V.A.(Q) B.P.F. 091106Z to Admty.)

Command.

Commodore First Class H.B. Farncomb D.S.O., M.V.O. Royal Australian Navy hoisted his pendant in H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA as Commander Task Group 74.1 on 9th December 1944.  
(A.C.N.B. 111242Z to Admty.)

/Request...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Request  
for target  
ship.

From Admiralty.  
Your 281106 Nov.  
(2) Regret no special target ship for air  
torpedo training is at present available for  
allocation to B.P.F.  
(V.C.N.S. 091305A to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-boat  
Dispositions

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 091401A, 091413A.)

10.12.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. Admiralty has called for an 8-inch cruiser from the Home Fleet to proceed at speed to Plymouth to embark 60 officers and 700 other ranks for the Mediterranean, onward passage to be made at high speed.

North Sea.

2. ORKNEY, frigate, reports a U-Boat transmission off Peterhead.

Channel.

3. One magnetic mine has been swept off C. d'Antifer.

West Coast  
France.

4. The French 23rd M.T.B. Flotilla is to be based in Rochefort and made available for operations against German small boat traffic between Royan and la Rochelle.

Western  
Approaches.

5. The American SS. DAN BEARD has been torpedoed off Strumble Head, Wales. Survivors have landed near Fishguard. The ship is still afloat, a tug has been sent to her, and all A/S craft, local and general, have been sent to hunt the vicinity by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and C. in C. Western Approaches.

Norway.

6. An aircraft of 18 Group has scored hits with cannon fire and R.P. on an enemy merchantman off Flekkefjord.

Northern  
Waters.

7(a) Convoy R.A.62, 29 ships, has sailed from Murmansk for the U.K.  
(b) With reference to Situation Report, Home Commands, of December 6th, HESPERUS now reports that the evidence is almost conclusive that 19th Escort Group's target was not a U-Boat.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Riviera.

8. At 0140 this morning, two enemy M.T.Bs. were engaged by U.S. destroyers on patrol off the Gulf of Genoa. One M.T.B. was badly damaged and her crew taken prisoner. The other was chased by the LUDLOW and withdrew.

/Adriatic ...



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Adriatic.

9. A Wellington on shipping reconnaissance in the Gulf of Venice bombed 2 barges and a Siebel ferry off Caorle with unobserved results. Four Beaufighters attacked a group of barges near San Dona di Piave, 18 miles N.E. of Venice, sinking four and leaving three burning. Hits were also scored on a tug and a warehouse was set on fire.

Greece.

10. Although the situation in the Athens - Piraeus area was reported today as well under control, Allied Naval H.Q., Piraeus, was under accurate mortar fire. E.L.A.S. resumed offensive action against British troops before dawn and made determined attacks during the day in all sectors, using mortars and in some cases 75-m.m. guns. All were repulsed and further progress made in clearing the eastern and central sectors. Close support fire continues from British and Greek warships. The R.A.F. bombed rebel positions in the eastern sector. Strong resistance in the confined dock area slowed up clearance in the western sector.

PRINCE  
DAVID  
mined.

11. H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID, L.S.I.(M) was damaged by a mine off the Piraeus in position Cape Turlo 150° 2.9 miles, and was anchored in Salamis Strait. There were no casualties.

East IndiesNaval Air  
Commands.

12(a) Rear-Admiral H.C. Rawlings, C.B., D.S.O., relinquished today the post of Flag Officer, Naval Air Stations, Indian Ocean.  
(b) Rear-Admiral Clement Moody, C.B., struck his flag in the ILLUSTRIOUS as Rear-Admiral (Air) East Indies and hoisted it on shore at Colombo on taking up his appointment as Flag Officer (Air) East Indies Station (short title F.O.Air E.I.). He will take over the duties of F.O.N.A.S.I.O., and will command and administer all R.N. shore air establishments on the East Indies Station and all aircraft carriers and escort carriers of the East Indies Fleet. The C. in C. will continue to operate escort carriers while employed on escort duties.

/U-Boat ...

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Sunday.

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies - Contd.

- U-Boat. 13. H.M.I.S. PATNA, of the Arakan Group of A/S M/S Vessels, reported a good submarine contact at 1300FG in 20.49 N., 88.11 E., and attacked, but the contact was lost at 1600FG.
- STRONGBOW. 14. The submarine STRONGBOW, which returned to Trincomalee today, sank by gunfire a tug and a large lighter on November 28 off the west coast of Sumatra.

America and West Indies

- Minelayers for Pacific. 15. The minelayers AGAMEMNON and MENESTHEUS, which left the Clyde on November 19 for the Pacific, left Balboa at 2200 G.M.T. for Vancouver.

Australia and New Zealand

- British Pacific Fleet. 16. The battleship HOWE, escorted by the destroyers QUILLIAM, QUADRANT, QUIBERON and QUALITY, arrived at Fremantle today. They left on the 11th for Sydney, N.S.W.
- Philippines, Ormoc Captured. 17(a) The Japanese base of Ormoc, in Leyte, was entered by Allied forces in the early afternoon against moderate enemy resistance.  
(b) In the early evening, eight Japanese medium bombers ineffectively attacked our surface units in Leyte Gulf. One bomber was destroyed. At dusk, four aircraft attacked two pairs of P.T. Boats in Surigao Strait; two damaged aircraft which used suicide dive tactics and hit one boat caused damage and casualties. A destroyer was also damaged by a suicide dive-bomber in Surigao Strait. The U.S. cargo ship WILLIAM S. LADD was sunk south of Leyte by enemy action.
- Borneo. 18. Two Liberators hit the waterfront at Miri, and two others bombed Brunei Bay and docks at Labuan.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BACHAQUERO. Intend to sail BACHAQUERO escorted by MACBETH and OKSOY at 1700A today Sunday by standard route to Lerwick. E.T.A. 0800A 11th.  
N.O.I.C. Lerwick is requested to sail ships for Scapa after embarkation of M.F.U.(S) 2 in BACHAQUERO. (A.C.O.S., 101032 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

IMPLACABLE. Pass Switha at 0015 Monday 11th December. Join IMPLACABLE off Hoy at 0030/11th and escort her as far as May Island. When released VIGILANT proceed Chatham for boiler cleaning and ZODIAC to Dundee for exercises with Capt. (S) 9. Report E.T.A. destinations direct. Admiralty divert mail for VIGILANT. (R.A.D.H.F., 101512A to VIGILANT, ZODIAC.).

MAURITIUS. My 081810 sailed.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 102225A to A.C.O.S.).

BERWICK. Request you will sail an eight inch cruiser with all convenient despatch for Plymouth where she will be required to embark about 60 officers and 700 men for passage to Mediterranean.  
(2) High speed will be required on passage.  
(V.C.N.S., 102253A to C. in C. Home Fleet).  
(1) Leave Scapa passing Hoxa at 0400 Monday 11th December and proceed by standard route to Plymouth arrive Plymouth gate at 1500A/12th December speed made good 22 knots.  
(2) Shift to broadcast C.N. at 0600A/12th December.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange lights according to plot.  
(C. in C. Home Fleet, 102357A to BERWICK).

Operations

Situation Report.

Naval. Cositintrep No.250. Part II Naval.  
(1) Unloading figures for 9th December.  
British:-

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Canoe	-	-	223	-
Dieppe	30	15	4490	-
Boulogne	-	-	2556	-
Calais	-	20	-	-
Ostend	271	118	5026	3874
Antwerp	-	724	7219	4022
Total	301	877	19514	7896

/U.S....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report.

Naval (Contd.)	United States:-			
	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Cherbourg	-	-	8815	8737
Brittany Ports	-	-	3583	-
Le Havre	1999	167	6078	1528
Rouen	397	181	4942	1364
Antwerp	-	-	13557	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2396</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>36975</b>	<b>11629</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>2697</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>56489</b>	<b>19525</b>

(A.N.C.X.F., 102231A to Admty.).

Operations

North Sea.

Enemy air activity off Low Countries. Your 091540. The extreme importance of preventing aircraft minelaying in the channel to Ostend and Antwerp is well understood by air authorities by whom it has been given consideration over a long period. Its importance was again stressed at the weekly air Commanders conference held at S.H.A.E.F. on 5th December.

(A.N.C.X.F., 101251A to C. in C.Nore).

A 117 10th. It is urgently requested that the instructions to ships given in your 091527A may be withheld until further investigation of the question.

(2nd T.A.F., 101655A to C. in C.Nore)

A 52 10 Dec. 1944.

Ref. Nore 091527A para.1 consider proposed rules for engagement should apply (A) only within boundaries of Schelde I.A.Z. as shown on S.D.533;(B) up to heights 1200 feet only; (C) By night only para.2 if above limitation exceeded.

Neugrip S.D.533 should be amended accordingly para.3 request you confirm.

(H.Q.F.C., 101815A to C. in C.Nore).

Suspected U-Boat off Peterhead.

Enemy submarine transmission on 6790 kc/s at 1450Z bearing 141° 3rd class enigma message of 29 groups. My position 057° 21' N. 001° 38' W. (S.O.E.G.25, 101523A to Admty.).

Operations

Channel.

Patrols.

R/V. by 1700 at 50° 09' 01" 50' W. ships spread north south 2 miles apart. Zig-zag search steady 8 knots, centre line 090° from position given.

(C. in C.Portsmouth, 101226A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).

/Patrol...

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Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel.

- Patrols (Contd.) Patrol night 10th/11th. No M.T.B. Patrol.  
 (2) My 101226 on reaching Q.Z.S. 636 anti Snort patrol areas, limits given.  
 (3) Area X, 50° 17' Q.Z.S. 636, 637 line joining L.2, L.1 49° 48' 01° 47' W. longitude 01° 47'.  
 (4) Divide X.4 sections by parallels 49° 53' 50° 00' 50° 08'.  
 (5) Take sections from north in sequence ANTHONY, WATCHMAN, HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE.  
 (6) Ships start south east corner of section, finish north west corner at 0830.  
 (C. in C.Portsmouth, 101246A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).  
 As amended by his 101534.  
 Air Patrols. My 281728, para.12.  
 (a) Night 10th/11th Patrol 3 Leigh Light Wellingtons. Day 11th Patrol 3 Liberator 4 and 5 Swordfish.  
 (b) 838 Squadron R.O.G.842 Squadron K.T.Z.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101620A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).  
 Patrols 11th. Search areas limits given.  
 (2) M.T.Bs. 01° 30' 01° 50' W. 50° 10' 50° 28'.  
 (3) WATCHMAN, ANTHONY 01° 30' 01° 50' W. 050° 10' 49° 55' or if no M.T.Bs. 4 miles each side H channel 49° 55' 50° 15'.  
 (4) HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE 01° 12' 01° 44' W. 49° 47' 49° 55'.  
 (C. in C.Portsmouth, 101803A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces).  
 26th E.G. Take up new patrols forthwith as follows:-  
 BEACON HILL, JONQUIERE, NEW GLASGOW carry out zig-zag search between 180° Lizard 8 miles and 180° Start Point 8 miles.  
 MONTREAL and RIBBLE proceed to patrol area, sides 090° 30 miles, 180° 20 miles from position 50.45 N. 05.35 W.  
 (C. in C.Plymouth, 102346A to S.O.E.G.26).

Operations.West Coast France

French 23rd M.T.B. F. for service in Bay of Biscay. The Commanding General Western French Forces, has made a strong request for a force of 6 M.T.Bs. to be based at Rochefort for operations against German small boat traffic between La Rochelle and Royan. Comnavforfrance has investigated the feasibility of such a procedure and recommends concurrence. (2) The following action is therefore proposed: (a) That the French 23rd M.T.B.F. be made available for this duty. (b) That after being brought to as high a state of operational effectiveness as possible, the Flotilla be equipped with its outfit of spare parts and sailed to Brest where they will be turned over to operational control of the French. (3) French Naval Authorities are prepared to provide material maintenance and logistical support for the Flotilla assisted possibly by the C.G. Western French Forces. (A.N.C.X.F., 101933A to Admty.).

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrols; RUPERT, REDMILL and FITZROY proceed to relieve /14th...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Western Approaches.

Patrols  
(Contd.)

14th E.G. patrolling between Hartland Point and Lundy Island. On relief E.G.14 is to proceed to Merville in accordance with C. in C. Western Approaches 091121A. E.G.14 report E.T.A. direct. (C. in C. Plymouth, 100604A to E.G.14 etc.).

Your 100615A. Support Group which had been instructed to operate in vicinity of your route will be ordered to act under your orders between 9° W. and 11 W.

(C. in C. Western Approaches, 101057A to C.T.G.21.5).  
My 091121 para.2.

Immediately on completion of fuelling Com. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 14th E.G. to carry out operation "C.E.2" in area between parallels 55° and 56° and Meridians 06° and 08° 30'.

(2) When 14th E.G. has sailed 3rd E.G. is to leave patrol and proceed to Lough Foyle for fuel and short lay over.

(3) Both groups will support O.N.S.38 on 14th December.

(C. in C. Western Approaches, 101235A to Com. D.W.A., S.O.E.Gs. 3, 14.).

S.S. DAN  
BEARD  
torpedoed;  
U-Boat  
hunt.

Proceed forthwith at best speed to position 270° Strumble Head 5 and act under orders of C. in C. Western Approaches.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101921A to S.O.E.G.21).

Steer for Tuskar Rock at best speed.

(C. in C. Western Approaches, 101931A to E.G.2).

Ship reported torpedoed about 1530 today 10th in 270° Strumble Head 5 miles.

(2) Search area between parallels 51° 35' and 52° 10' and meridians 05° and 06°.

(3) 2nd E.G. will relieve you tomorrow morning.

(C. in C. Western Approaches, 101952A to S.O.E.G.21).

Survivors from American ship DAN BEARD who landed near Fishguard about 1745A 10th reported that ship had been hit by two torpedoes about 1530A five miles west of Strumble Head. Most of ship remains afloat and tug is being sent.

(2) Local A/S craft were immediately ordered to sea by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and further action taken as in my 101921, 101931A and 101952A.

(C. in C. Western Approaches, 102252A to Admty.).

Your 101952 FITZROY and REDMILL proceeding south of the Small.

(B) Position 051° 35' N. 006° 00' W. E.T.A. 0300A 11th, thence sweeping northwards.

RUPERT has been ordered to join FITZROY in this position. SWALE, RED DEER and BYRON are proceeding via Q.Z.S. 300 to position:

052° 10' N. 006° 00' W. E.T.A. 0530A/11th sweeping to eastwards.

CONN who has one defective engine is proceeding at 15 knots to position:

052° 10' N. 005° 30' W. to join DEANE. E.T.A. 0600A/11th.

(S.O.E.G.21, 102359A to C. in C.W.A.).

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway.

Operation "V.P." Intend carry out V.P.74.  
 (1) 0415A/11th December.  
 (2) Not later than 2100A/11th December.  
 (3) Not later than 0900A/15th December.  
 (4) 238° (towards) Noss Head not more than 20 knots.  
 (5) Not later than p.m. 15th December.  
 (6) No. (7) No. (8) 058° Noss Head cabin. (9) No.  
 (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 101551A to A.C.O.S.).  
 My 101551A.  
 (1) 058° from Noss Head not more than 20 knots.  
 (2) 061° 45' N. 004° 43' E.  
 (3) Blank.  
 (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 101552A to A.C.O.S.).  
 Intend to carry out V.P.77.  
 (1) 0400A/11th December. (2) Not later than 2100A/11th Dec.  
 (3) Not later than 0900A/15th December. (4) 278° toward Noss  
 Head not more than 20 knots. (5) Not later than p.m. 15th  
 December. (6) No. (7) No. (8) 098° Noss Head Cabin.  
 (9) No.  
 (N.O.I.C.Lerwick, 101557A to A.C.O.S.).

Operations

Northern Waters.

Convoy J.W.63. Request you will plan to sail J.W.63 of about  
 38 ships from Loch Ewe on 30th December.  
 (V.C.N.S., 100048A to C. in C.H.F.).

Patrols. If not in contact by 1800 today 10th, establish  
 new Gamma on 000° 20' E. between 061° 20' N. and  
 062° 00' N. Air patrols will operate in this  
 area.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 101221A to S.O.E.G.31).  
 Situation 2000A tonight Sunday Section 2.  
 E.G.31 BERKELEY CASTLE S.O. patrolling between 061° 01' N. 001°  
 07' W. and 061° 50' N. 001° 07' W.  
 E.G.19 HESPERUS S.O. patrolling Cape Wrath area.  
 1 Fleet Unit VIGILANT, ZODIAC leaving Scapa 2300A to Rosyth 18.  
 (A.C.O.S., 101239A to Admty.).  
 Scapa departure .  
 S.O.E.G.6 in NEW WATERFORD, ANNAN and LOCH MORLICH.  
 (A.C.O.S., 101847 to C. in C. Rosyth).  
 If not in contact at 2359A/10th leave patrol and proceed to  
 Clyde for lay over passing through position 060° 00' N. 004° 00'  
 W.  
 (C. in C.Rosyth, 101845A to S.O.E.G.31).

Convoy R.A.62. From N.C.S.O.  
 (1) R.A.62. (2) Toros Island 0802A/10th Dec.  
 (4) 9½ knots. (5) My 081227A para.3 and 4.  
 (?7) 10 columns 4 4 3 2 (22) 1 2 3 4 4.  
 (13) (A) Cmdre. E. Ullring R.N.N. in S.S. CREVECOEUR. (B) Vice  
 Cmdre. of Convoy Master FORT YUKON. (C) Rear Cmdre. Master  
 DOLABELLA. (14) S.P. 2406 (779) S.P.2272 (33) and (34).

/(15)...

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10.12.1944.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters.Convoy  
R.A.62  
(contd.)(15) J.K. (16) LUCULLUS, LAURELWOOD.  
Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 101347A to Admty.).E.G.19's.  
target off  
Cape Wrath  
now  
considered  
non -  
submarine.Regret to report that further investigation by  
HESPERUS of contact in position 058° 45' 40"  
004° 46' 10" shows almost conclusively that target  
is non - submarine. My 061412A and 081828A.  
(2) Wreckage recovered and oil sample taken.  
(3) Dimensions unchanged except that width is  
probably excessive.  
(4) Suitable.  
(S.O.E.G.19, 101458A to C. in C.W.A.).Suspected  
U-Boats.Obtained H/F D/F bearing 29 group naval enigma  
on 6790 kc/s bearing 070° 15 to 20 miles at  
1453Z. My position 058° 37' N. 005° 52' W.  
(S.O. Force 32, 101621A to C. in C.W.A.).LOCH MORLICH obtained an H/F D/F bearing on a German  
submarine transmitting a W.W. message 2nd Class bearing 266°  
considered near.Frequency 5075 at 1937Z position 058° 46' N. 003° 38' W.  
(S.O.E.G.6, 102055A to Admty.).



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10.12.1944.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSAllied Air Activity

Attack  
on enemy  
merchant  
ship off  
Flekkefjord.

Have attacked 1 merchant vessel with cannon fire and R.P. position 58° 16' N., 6° 40' E., result hit observed. Weather report visibility 3 miles towards surface.  
(A/C TXR34, 101535A to 18 Group.)

Mining

French  
coastwise  
minesweeping.

40th M/S. Flotilla continued operation "Link" and swept one magnetic in position 049° 44'04" N., 000° 22'04" W. Negative result from other operations.  
(Capt. M/S. N.F., 100905A to C.T.F. 125.)

Disposal  
of German  
M/S. gear.

STAR OF FREEDOM is required for the transportation of captured German M/S. gear from the Continent to U.K.  
(2) It is intended to re-allocate this vessel to A.N.C.X.F. for the above duties when AMBITIOUS is withdrawn about Dec. 19th.  
(D.M.S., 101301A to C.T.F. 125, Capt. M/S.N.F.)

German  
type G.C.,  
or Oyster  
mines.

Reference A.G.M. 001A, para. 2.  
Cancel and substitute.  
(2) Magnetic Oyster mines may be laid by aircraft or surface vessels. Acoustic Oysters have hitherto been laid by aircraft only, and in their present form are unsuitable for laying by surface craft.  
(D.T.M., 101303A General Message Home and Abroad.)

Port Facilities

A.F.D.  
(B.A.) 2  
at  
Lowestoft.

Admiralty message 091730A December.  
Request confirmation that depth of 20 ft. is required for docking D class Fairmiles.  
(2) From experience with A.F.D. 38 D class require blocks to be 3 ft. 10 inches above pontoon deck in order to drop rudders and a depth over the blocks of six feet for docking in smooth water.  
(3) Consider therefore that A.F.D. B.A.2 with a pontoon depth of eight feet would draw 18 feet while docking D class and could be safely operated in 19 feet of water.  
(4) Nineteen feet is the maximum depth at low water which could be obtained at Lowestoft by dredging. My 241732A November not to N.O.I.C. Lowestoft refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 101159A to C. in C. Nore.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

SS. EDDIE. SS. EDDIE (Hull to Middlesborough, loaded with steel) in distress off Flamborough Head in N.W. gale. Cargo shifted. Heavy list. SS. WESTWOOD standing by. PUFFIN ordered to investigate. Bridlington lifeboat proceeding to casualty. (F.O. Humber, 100015A to C. in C. Nore.)

Dredger N.C.S.O. Clyde's 281750 November and 011522A.  
CHURCHILL. Tug NANCY MORAN arrived Milford Haven 1151/10. Master reports tow CHURCHILL foundered in position 10½ miles W.N.W. Smalls. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 101253A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys

Additional Convoy assembly area needed in Bristol Channel. W.A. 091108A.  
(1) O.N. and U.C.A. convoys can assemble and sail from Barry Roads without difficulty, except that of communication by boat in very bad weather.  
(2) It is considered that the ballasting of Liberty ships can still be handled.  
(3) An additional drifter would be required at Barry and one at Swansea for N.C.S.  
(4) Three duty staff officers would be required at Cardiff to replace N.C.S.O. officers taken off night duty.  
(5) Four additional W.R.N.S. officers for N.C.S.  
(6) N.C.S. at Barry to be under N.C.S.O. Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 101010A to C. in C. W.A.)

Disposal of L.S.Ts. (1) Cominch now directs that a total of only 25 U.S.L.S.Ts. are to be transferred to Royal Navy from 12th Fleet. Therefore U.S.L.S.Ts. No. 1, 16, 72, 377, 378, 379, 522 and 980 nominated by my 021437A and U.S.L.S.Ts. 73 and 309 nominated by my 191211A of November will not be transferred.  
(2) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to return U.S.L.S.Ts. 73 and 309 to Falmouth.  
(3) Admiralty is requested to effect early sailing of U.S.L.S.Ts. loaded with C.D.L. tanks as follows:-  
(A) U.S.L.S.T. 1 to call at Plymouth to lift 2 L.C.S.(S) thence to Barrow thence to Base 2 and return Falmouth.  
(B) U.S.L.S.T. 16, 379 and 522 to Barrow and return Falmouth. (Comphibsukay, 101603A to Comnavu, Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth, R.A.L.S.C.U., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

21st A.G. hospital carrier and leave service from Ostend. With reference to discussion at Shipments Priority Meeting yesterday, Saturday, in regard to the plan to use Ostend for 21st Army Group leave traffic as well as for the existing hospital carrier service. I consider that the risk of using Ostend should be accepted in view of the military difficulties involved in transferring these two services to Calais now.

(2) I strongly recommend that the necessary preparations should be commenced now to allow transfer of both services to Calais should circumstances make this necessary. (A.N.C.X.F., 101919A to S.H.A.E.F.)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

~~Mediterranean~~  
South Atlantic

Air  
Cositintrep  
No. 518,  
Part III.

MX 40535 cipher 10th December. 276600.  
Coastal Air Force: (? Day 9) 6 Beaufighters  
destroyed 2 barges and 1 dredger in North Adriatic  
and damaged several barges. 1 Beaufighter  
missing. Air/Sea Rescue Missions in Adriatic  
and off west coast Italy. 12 Aircrew rescued  
in Adriatic. Uneventful minespotting patrols  
off South France.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., T.O.O. Nil/10.)

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SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Palestine Request you will take action on last sentence of 091156.  
(C. in C. Med., 101227A to F.O.L.E.M.)

F.D.T.13 F.D.T.13 is to be sailed to U.K. to pay off.  
Admty. 091128 Nov. refers.  
(V.C.N.S. 101330A to C. in C. Med.)

PRINCE PRINCE DAVID struck mine in position Cape Surlos  
DAVID 150° 2.9 miles. Now in Salamis strait.  
mined Number 1 fuel tank leaking, forward magazine  
flooded. No other apparent damage, no casualties,  
further report follows when weather permits  
diver investigation. Admty. pass to Canadian  
Naval Mission Overseas, London.  
(S.B.N.O. Greece, 101555B to Admty.)

L.S.T.(2) Your 061809. The primary consideration for  
for S.E.A.C. these ten U.S. L.S.T.(2) is that they should be in  
the best possible condition.  
(2) Subject to the above, 6 davit type would be  
preferred.  
(V.C.N.S. 101645A to C. in C. Med.)

Situation Greece. Situation in Athens-Piraeus Area well  
Report under control. Tendency of E.L.A.S. is to  
No. 501 concentrate attack on R.H.N. Issue reported  
to hinge on capital and E.L.A.S. said to be  
unlikely to commit themselves deeply elsewhere  
until that issue settled. 9th December was  
quiet day with Army consolidating and Navy providing close support  
on hospital. Bishop of Piraeus and Citizens' Committee  
requested cessation of air naval and tank fire and medical  
assistance for civilian casualties. Committee were ordered to  
Local E.L.A.S. Commander and instructed to inform him to lay down  
his arms and allow distribution of hospital supplies. No reply  
has been received. Other main ports all well covered by Naval  
support. Situation at Kavalla reported serious but H.M.S.  
CALEDON has now arrived there. Gr. Officers have been ordered  
to use their discretion and evacuate Allied Naval personnel at  
ports where this is considered necessary.  
(2) Adriatic. Cerni has requested N.O.I.C. Split to say when  
H.M.S. DELHI will leave. Communication with shore has ceased  
and Partisan (?to) many gunners are standing by. Partisan have  
apparently no objection to sweepers and small craft remaining.  
(Corrupt group) reports H.M.S. COLOMBO has not been asked (?to)  
leave.  
(C. in C. Med. 101847A.)  
Cositintrep No. 520 - Part 4.

Greece. Athens/Piraeus area. The night 8/9 December was quiet  
but E.L.A.S. activity increased again during day 9 December and  
there were numerous minor incidents and skirmishes in all sectors.  
In the Western Sector (Piraeus) E.L.A.S. blew a Railway Bridge  
600 (?yards) from the docks. No reports have been received of  
British Troops being seriously engaged outside Athens/Piraeus  
area.

/Salonika. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation  
Report  
No. 501.  
(Contd.)

Salonika. The general strike was called off morning 9th December. Para. C. Peloponnese. Patras. The general strike declared on 4th Dec. ended on 6th December but the situation is tense and E.L.A.S. are reported to be digging in around the town. Outlying British and Indian troops are being recalled into the town.  
(N.F.H.Q. No. T.O.O./10)

Aegean  
Sitrep  
No. 2.

(2) Political. Force 142 reports. Syros. 8th December E.L.A.S. handed over arms including 62 rifles to Mil. Governor. Thasos. E.A.M. demonstrations 6th Dec.  
(C. in C. M.E. 102220B to A.F.H.Q.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B  
dispositions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas  
remain unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I., 100349Z.)

F.O.(Air).

R.A. Clement Moody, C.B., hoisted his flag as  
F.O. Air E.I.S. a.m./10th December.  
(F.O.(Air) E.I., 100418.)

Victualling  
Store  
Issuing  
Ships.

Movements V.S.I.S. A.M. 022049 paras. (B) and (C).  
FORT KILMAR will not be ready to sail before  
end of December. CITY OF DIEPPE: it is desired  
to adhere to the date arranged before departure  
of C. in C. B.P.F., viz end of January. This  
date cannot now be anticipated appreciably  
without dislocation of local supply arrangements.  
(2) Vancouver C.C.O. pass to B.A.D.R. (P.C.)  
(C. in C. E.I., 100539Z to Admty., etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U.G.S/  
G.U.S.  
Convoy  
Cycles. For your information, following has been made by C.S.A.B. London to C.S.A.B. Washington (Begins:) Sablo 678. We understand that you have had under discussion desirability of running the U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys on a five-day cycle which would bring them into line with the H.X. and K.M.S. convoys. We do not know if any decision has been reached but in view of extreme stringency in the present tonnage position we here are most anxious that every effort be made to obtain agreement of U.S. Navy to five-day cycle. (Ends.) (D.T.D. 100117A to B.A.D.)

U-Boat  
dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 101359Z, Cominch, 101505Z)

SASKATCHEWAN. C. in C. C.N.A. 081659. SASKATCHEWAN arrived St. John's with boiler fuel system salted due to probable condenser leak. Boilers require cleaning. Anticipate ship be ready to proceed Londonderry 18th Dec.  
(F.O.N.F. 101442Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

BARBADOS  
tug  
Breakdowns. Tugs should remain at Bermuda pending further instructions. Your 091709 not to all refers.  
(2) Request you will sail BARBADOS independently for U.K. when ready. Destination Clyde.  
(D.O.D.(H), 101854A to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

U-Boats. By D/F on WW at 1934Z Enemy Unit within 120 miles 054 degs. 00' N. 033 degs. 00' W. on 5075 K/cs.  
(N.S.H.Q. 102119Z to Sec. O.N.S.27, Sec. S.C.162, H.M.C.S., PARRY SOUND)  
Transmission of further WW messages on 5095 at 2208Z and on 5075 at 2224Z indicate U-Boats my 102119 probably still to West of you.  
(N.S.H.Q. 10231Z to Sec. O.N.S.37, Sec. S.C.162)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
1054 for  
9th Dec. (7) Midday R/C Liberator over Northern Palawan Island shot down Jap floatplane West Cuyo passage. Previous day search plane this sector sank two small coasters off southwest coast Mindoro shortly after daybreak.

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest  
1054 for  
9th Dec.  
(Contd.)

(8) Night 7th Dec. two patrol Liberators over Manila Bay bombed warship ? (probably) light Cruiser run Cavite scoring near misses.  
(9) Navy Liberator strafed and damaged three sea-trucks two luggers anchored southern end Mompog Passage afternoon 9th during Sibuyan search.  
(16) Search plane reported 12 ships of undetermined class 60 miles southwest Miri morning 7th course southeast. Next day two Liberators bombed Miri refinery and Labuan Docks.  
(17) Two merchant ships 3 escorts sighted anchored off Balikpapan daybreak 8th.  
(18) 4 Mitchells swept Flores sea midday 7th shooting up two small craft off coast Flores Island. Next day two Liberators eight Mitchells bombed Ende Barracks.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 100735Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/10th December.  
Para. C. (1) CARNARVON CASTLE reported violent underwater explosion at 0710Z/8th Dec. in approx. 53 degs. 11' N. 04 degs. 59' W.  
(2) LYMAN STEWART reported torpedo tracks crossed bow at 1545Z/9th Dec. in 13 degs. 16' N. 50 degs. 19' E.  
(D.D.I.G.101110A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 101333A, 101345)



11.12.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

1. H.M. Battleship RESOLUTION is to reduce to Category 'C' Reserve Fleet at Plymouth and be renamed IMPERIEUSE II.

North Sea.

2(a) All minesweeping responsibilities within the Dover Command at present held by C.T.F. 125 and F.O.B.A.A. are transferred to V.A. Dover. C.T.F. 125 assumes responsibility for Dieppe and le Treport and their approaches.  
(b) M.M.S. 257 was mined and sunk in the Schelde at ~~1245~~ 1217. Outward sailings from Antwerp have been suspended for 24 hours.

\* see p. 158

Channel.

3(a) For weighty reasons Admiralty insist that Calais and not Ostend must be used for leave traffic for the Western Front. S.H.A.E.F. is to be informed accordingly.  
(b) E.G. 25 from Western Approaches is being transferred to the Channel for U-Boat hunting. It is being replaced by the 6th Group from Rosyth Command.

Western Approaches.

4(a) Headquarters Fighter Command concur in the abolition of all fighter protection in Western Approaches Command.  
(b) Barry Roads are to be used as an additional convoy assembly area, since Milford Haven has not proved to be large enough.  
(c) It now appears that DAN BEARD's damage off Strumble Head might have been caused by either mine or torpedo.

Norway.

5(a) An aircraft of 18 Group has attacked a 4000 ton merchantman off Aalesund, but she seems to have evaded the bombs.  
(b) C.S.10 has asked for M.T.Bs. to operate in the Sirefjord area in dark hours during the next few days, but A.C.O.S. points out that there is sufficient shelter there during the present bad weather month.

Northern Waters.

6. The new destroyer CASSANDRA, escorting Convoy R.A.62, has been torpedoed and lost her bows about 100 miles north of Varanger Fjord. She is being escorted back to Kola by the 20th Escort Group.

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Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic

Catalinas  
for U.K.

7. As it is considered that Catalinas fitted with M.A.D. equipment could be more profitably employed against the U-Boat threat in the shallow waters around the U.K., in view of the enemy's adoption of schnorkel and his employment of maximum submerged tactics, the Admiralty propose to ask Cominch temporarily to attach 4 M.A.D. Catalinas of No. 63 Squadron, Port Lyautey, to the Coastal Command for employment in the United Kingdom.

Algeciras  
ferries.

8. As the Ministry of Economic Warfare consider the necessary deterrent effect has been produced, they desire no more interception of Algeciras ferries unless specially requested.

Mediterranean

Riviera.

9. Between 0247 and 0353 this morning the U.S. destroyer LUDLOW and French ship SABRE (P.C.1248) attacked two enemy E-Boats or similar craft, at speeds up to 40 knots, from a point six miles south of Antibes to 20 miles south of Cape Ampeglio. One boat was sunk and prisoners taken

Adriatic.

10. Approval has now been given on orders from Marshal Tito for the A/A cruiser DELHI to remain at Split, but despite this the situation there continues tense.

Greece.

11(a) The CALEDON has arrived at Kavalla and reports that the situation is tense but quiet. Evacuation there is stated to have been ordered, but CALEDON signals that the O.C. Troops, Kavalla, has no such order. The C.O.S. of the local E.L.A.S. has given himself up.  
(b) Dock workers at Salonika declared a strike this afternoon.  
(c) A German raiding party is reported to have landed on Patmos from three barges. The destroyers KIMBERLEY and EXMOOR and M.Ls. are investigating.

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Monday.

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Transfers  
to Pacific  
Fleet.

12. The Admiralty today approved the transfer to the British Pacific Fleet of the:-  
GUARDIAN, netlayer,  
SALVESTOR, salvage vessel,  
STAGPOOL, merchant vessel, and  
SPRINGDALE, mine destructor ship.

TANTALUS,  
long  
patrol.

13. C. in C. East Indies reports that the submarine TANTALUS, operating from Fremantle, returned there on December 6 from her first S.W. Pacific patrol. She had been at sea for 52 days, covering 11,500 miles, and had spent 38 days submerged north of the Malay Barrier, with no major defects. Among her sinkings was that of a 3000 ton ship south of the Tambelan Islands (180 miles E. of Singapore) on November 2.

U-Boat.

14. The American SS. WILLIAM F. MACLENNAN, Galveston to Madras and Calcutta, reported a torpedo track at 2315 G.M.T. in 12.40 N., 46.12 E., Gulf of Aden.

Americ and West Indies

Atlantic  
Routes.

15. Following the adoption of Lion and Eagle routes for fast independent ships in the Atlantic (see November 27), the Admiralty today promulgated a third route known as Maple for traffic to Canada.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

16(a) An enemy convoy approaching North-west Leyte via the Central Visayan Sea was attacked throughout the day. Four merchant ships and two destroyers were claimed sunk. Another freighter transport was left burning fiercely. Between 40 and 60 Japanese aircraft were encountered over the convoy and 25 were shot down, with one more probable, for the loss of five fighters.

/(b) ...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.  
(Contd.)

(b) Enemy bombers, including two suicide dive-bombers, attacked an Allied convoy in Surigao Strait this evening and caused some damage.  
(c) A Navy search Mariner destroyed one small coaster in Burias Passage (N.E. Sibuyan Sea).  
(d) A reconnaissance Liberator damaged a small coastal freighter heading north-west off the south coast of Marinduque Island.

Borneo.

17. Four U.S. Mustangs attacked a barge, carrying personnel, and an oil tanker at Tarakan and started fires.

Burma.

18. Liberators laid 60 miles in the Tavoy - Heinze Bay area, Southern Burma, and damaged some small vessels.

War Diary11.12.1944  
MondayHOME COMMANDSMovements

BERWICK. Scapa departure BERWICK.  
(A.C.O.S.110405A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
On completion of fuelling and embarkation of passengers, C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail BERWICK with despatch for Bizerta.

(2) Route: (C) 180 degs. Lizard 3 miles.  
(D) 48 degs. N. 06 degs. W. (E) 270 degs. Cape Finisterre 15 miles. (F) 38 degs. 50' N. 10 degs. W.  
(G) 225 degs. Cape St. Vincent 15 miles.  
(H) 35 degs. 51' N. 06 degs. 10' W. and thence as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean.

(3) After disembarkation C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to sail BERWICK for the Clyde. Service passengers may be embarked from the Mediterranean for the U.K. but ship is not to proceed east of Malta.

(4) Admty. messages 102253 and 111255, neither to all refer. (A.C.N.S.(H), 111623A to C's in C. Plymouth, Med.)

MAURITIUS. Scapa arrival MAURITIUS.  
(A.C.O.S.110936A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

UGANDA. My 051212A sails at 0900 tomorrow Tuesday. S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. May Island 1500/12.  
V.H.F.R/T yes. World Guard constant watch on port wave and routines. Mails to Scapa forthwith. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 111331A to C. in C. Rosyth)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Unless further defects develop intend to sail NEWFOUNDLAND to arrive Greenock a.m. Monday 18th December to embark passengers and mails as required.

(2) F.O.I.C.Greenock is requested to sail NEWFOUNDLAND p.m. 18th December for Gibraltar. Admty. 031259 November refers. (C. in C. H.F. 111406A to Admty. F.O.I.C.Greenock).

RESOLUTION/  
IMPERIEUSE II. RESOLUTION is to reduce to category C Reserve Fleet and will in future be known as IMPERIEUSE II.  
(2) You are requested to report when reduction is complete.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111735 to IMPERIEUSE)

PERSIMMON,  
SILVIO. PERSIMMON and SILVIO are to be in all respects ready to sail from Clyde for Foreign Service on 7th January, 1945. A.M. 301637 November refers. (D.O.D.111846A to R.A.L.S.C.U.)

CONQUEROR. Arrivals: CONQUEROR, RENONCULE, TJERK HIDDIS, VAN CALEN.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 112011A to C's in C. Plymouth, Portsmouth).

War Diary

11.12.1944  
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Situation Report

Naval.

Cositintrep No.251 Part II Naval.

(1) Schelde. Owing to casualty to minesweeper at 1245/11th December outward sailings from Antwerp are suspended 24 hours whilst intensive sweeping

is carried out.

(2) Unloading figures for 10th December.

<u>British.</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol</u>
Canoe	-	-	51	-
Dieppe	6	6	4,079	-
Boulogne	107	133	2,561	-
Calais	-	-	-	-
Ostend	2,676	74	5,682	4,377
Antwerp	-	248	6,802	15,489
Totals:	2,789	461	19,175	19,866
U.S.				
Cherbourg	-	-	875	7,899
Brittany	-	-	2,535	-
Ports				
Rouen	-	-	5,408	2,232
Le Havre	847	343	6,877	-
Antwerp	-	-	16,233	-
Totals:	847	343	31,928	10,131
Combined				
Totals:	3,636	804	51,103	29,997

(A.N.C.X.F. 112300 to Admt.)

Operations

North Sea

Survey of Schelde.

Survey of Schelde completed. Intend sailing Schelde Sunday December 17th with M.L's 1001 and 1053 in company. E.T.A. Sheerness 1000A Monday December 18th.

(2) Further survey in Schelde as necessary will be undertaken by Dutch Survey Unit and D.S. HYDROGRAAFF.

(3) A.N.C.X.F.'s 301733 November refers.

(FRANKLIN,111033A to Com. Belgium.)

Patrols.

Weather permitting following patrols are to be detailed.

F.A.8, 4 M.T.Bs vicinity N.F.13, F.B.2 2 M.T.Bs vicinity N.F.10, F.G.2 F.G.3 4 M.T.Bs patrol 16.

(2) Report by signal to other authorities and ships whether unit sailed or not.

(3) Unit F.A.8 to be on patrol at 2000A unit F.B.2 on patrol at 2030A. Unit to approach patrol position from South to avoid convoy A.T.M.10 at N.F.8 2100A.

(C. in C. Nore, 111034A to C.F.M.U.I.)

/On ...

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea.Patrols.  
(Contd.)

On leaving ORKNEY carry out sweep as close inshore as practicable between Duncansby Head, Tarbat Ness and Kinnaird Head.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 111124A to S.O.E.G.25)

Enemy air activity off Low Countries.

My 091527. It is urgently necessary that I should be informed of any instructions and orders issued by 2 T.A.F. and A/A Defences deployed along the coast to enable me to co-ordinate my orders to Escorts and Patrols.

(2) I suggest this can best be done at a conference at my Headquarters attended by representatives from 2 T.A.F. and Schelde Gun operations room.

(3) H.Q.F.C. and 16 Group will be invited to send representatives. I would be glad if N.C. Force T could attend.

(4) Please suggest earliest date possible.

(C. in C. Nore, 111510A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Schelde Indicator Loops.

Necessary sweeping has been completed to allow you to proceed with the laying of indicator loops. N.O.I.C. Antwerp 171916 November extended by Admiralty 240245 November refers.

Your should not commence operation of landing cables at Breskens without communicating with R.N.O. Breskens who will give you the necessary information as to the precaution to be taken with regard to modern tie mines and land mines in vicinity.

(Capt. M/S F.A. 111615A to ELDORADO)

Pilot vessels for Schelde.

Belgian State Marine informs me that 3 Belgian Pilot Boats Nos. 14, 15 and 18 all specially designed for the work and similar to KERNOT (No.16) are believed to be in English waters, two serving as H.M. Ships ASTRAL and AKYROCK.

(2) Ref. C. in C. Nore's 071041 request urgent consideration be given to very early return of at least one of these vessels. This particularly desirable in view of damage to KERNOT.

(Com. Belgium, 111811A to Admty.)

Minesweeping of Schelde.

Operation "Calendar".

(1) Sweeping to-day Monday December 11th S.A. and L.L. (A) N.F.12 to N.F.18.

(B) N.F.17 to Terneuzen. (C) Terneuzen to Bat.

(D) Hoofdplaat 8 actuations.

(E) Special sweeping referred to in C. in C. Nore 261609A RYLAA sweeping at Antwerp Oropesa N.F.13 to N.F.18.

(2) M.M.S.257 sunk by mine believed moored near N.F.14.

(3) Surveying work is continuing.

(4) Nil. (5) M.M/S. 175, 256, M.F.V. 1027, 1074.

(Capt. M/S F.A.111907A to C. in C. Nore.)

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MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

French potato traffic Brittany to Seine.

Shipment of potatoes should be confined to steam or motor craft only.

(2) Craft should assemble in groups as arranged by C.T.F.125 and should proceed on a route agreed between C.T.F.125, C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. Portsmouth. All masters should be warned that any craft breaking off from groups are liable to be sunk by allied aircraft.

(3) After passing Cap Barleur craft may proceed independently provided they keep within 5 miles of Normandy coast.

(4) Subject to these conditions being acceptable to the French Authorities request you will arrange direct with Flag Officers concerned.

(5) Your O61907 which is being passed to H.Q.C.C. refers. (A.C.N.S.(H), 110026A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Patrols.

(1) 21st E.G. resume patrol as in my O91236A, 100604 and 100926. 26th E.G. leave present patrol at 1700A/11th and take up patrol as in my O62352A paras. 2 and 3.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 111306A to S.O.E.G's 21,26.)

Night Patrol 11/12th.

My 111222. HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE be at J Buoy 17 sweep two miles apart along 50 degs. 05' to 01 degs. 47' W.

(2) WATCHMAN, ANTHONY from H.2 buoy sweep H Channel to 50 degs. 05' thence join and sweep with HARGOOD.

(3) On reaching 50 degs. 05' 01 degs. 47' W. anti-Snort patrol areas in my 101246.

(4) Take sections from North in sequence LA SURPRISE, HARGOOD ANTHONY, WATCHMAN.

(5) Ships start N.W. Corner own section, sweep to Eastern limit thence back to south-west corner by 0830. My 111648 November 051926 December refer.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111245A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Air Patrols. My 281728 para.12.

A. Day and night patrols 11th/12th December as in my 101620.

B. 838 Squadron JQA. 842 Squadron SYL.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111516 to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

N.O.M.11 Following temporary patrols are established:

No.12 in Q.Z.S. 581 from N.F.4 buoy to 02 degs. 33' E.

No.14 in Q.Z.S. 581 from N.F.7 buoy to 02 degs. 33' E.

(C. in C. Nore, 111520A to Nore Command)

Patrols 12th. Gamma Patrols limits given.

(2) M.T.Bs along 02 degs. 06' W. 50 degs. 05' 50 degs. 30'.

(3) HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE, WATCHMAN, ANTHONY along 01 degs. 48' 55 degs. 10' 49 degs. 46'. If no M.T.Bs shift patrol limits 10 miles North from 1400.

(4) SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE relieve HARGOOD and LA SURPRISE.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111555A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

/English ...



War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.English  
Channel  
"Aircraft  
Area".

A.30 11/12 Secret.

Following upon recommendation received from S.H.A.E.F. Main in signal S.68306 November 251530A propose that with effect from 0001 hours G.M.T. 23rd December area of English Channel between lines drawn from Lands End to Ushant and from edges of Port defended area of Calais to

Folkestone (excluding limits of port defended areas within these boundaries) be declared "Aircraft area" in which following rules would apply both day and by night.

(a) Ships to be instructed that all aircraft are to be assumed friendly. Allied warships and merchant ships are not to engage aircraft unless definitely visually recognised as hostile or seen to commit a hostile act. The burning of a Leigh Light (searchlight) by aircraft is not to be regarded as a hostile act.

(b) Use of I.F.F. and other recognition procedures by aircraft to be declared unnecessary within this area. Aircraft to be at liberty however to use I.F.F. in any circumstances where it is considered to be of value within limits imposed by S.H.A.E.F. Operation Memorandum No. 19 as modified by S.H.A.E.F. 1027/1/Add (forward) 7 August or by any further modification or new edition of Operation Memorandum No. 19 for the time being in force.

(c) Aircraft to be instructed that before they attack surface objects located by radar the contact must be visually recognised as hostile.

(d) If operational conditions permit Allied warships should fire the aircraft recognition cartridge in force if it is considered that this will assist aircraft in establishing ship's friendly identity. The non-firing of aircraft recognition cartridge will not be taken by aircraft as an indication that ship is hostile.

(2) Also propose that "Limited Waters" in Channel be cancelled with effect from same date and time in accordance with S.H.A.E.F. Main signal S.68714 November 281740A.

(3) If agreed these instructions supersede within the area described in para. 1 above. Instructions promulgated in your A.G.M. 982 (A) December 2 and my A.650 December 2. Last mentioned instructions would remain in force in area west of line Lands End to Ushant.

(4) Request your comments.

(Air Ministry, 111503A to Admty.)

E.Gs. 6,  
25, 26.

C. in C. Rosyth is requested to transfer E.G.6 and E.G.25 to C. in C. W.A.

(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to transfer one support group to work in the English Channel.

C. in C. Portsmouth and C. in C. Plymouth are

requested to concert the operation of this group and E.G.26 with the object of destroying U-Boats in the Channel.

(D.O.D.(H), 111714A to Cs. in C. Rosyth, W.A., Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

Cancel my 111124A. Proceed forthwith to Portsmouth by East Coast Route, reporting your E.T.A.; further instructions will be issued by C. in C. Portsmouth.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 112247A to S.O. E.G.25.)

War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Anti-U-Boat measures in Irish Sea. C.U.49 Irish Sea section. U-Boat is operating in south Irish Sea. (2) Three escorts remain with Bristol Channel section to Barry Roads. Escorts detailed lie over at Cardiff on completion. (3) MAYO escort Mersey ships to Liverpool. (4) Remaining escort with PATROLLER to Clyde

detaching Belfast ships as requisite and lying over at Greenock on completion. (C. in C. W.A., 110011A to Escorts of C.U. 49.) On arrival 2nd E.G. search area ordered in my 101952 para. 2. (2) If not in contact at daylight, 21st E.G. return to Cornish coast patrol as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. (3) Two halves of wreck are still afloat. Correct position to read 51° 56' N., 05° 29' W. (4) S.O. 2nd E.G. 110035 acknowledged. (C. in C. W.A., 110144A to S.O. E.Gs. 21, 2.) H.X.323. U/B is operating in south Irish Sea. (2) One escort of C.2 E.G. is to remain with Bristol Channel section from Tuskar to Helwick L/V thence to base. (3) Remainder of C.2 E.G. remain with convoy to vicinity Clyde Lt. Vessel. (4) Detail Mersey and Belfast ships unescorted as requisite. (C. in C. W.A., 111213A to Escorts of H.X. 323.) Enemy submarines are believed to be operating in the Irish Sea. (2) Extreme vigilance is to be exercised by all ships. (3) The area between 55° N. and 52° 45' N. is still a submarine sanctuary. No submarine is to be attacked in this area until proved hostile. (C. in C. W.A., 111720A to Western Approaches Command.) S.L.178/M.K.S.69. U-Boat is suspected operating in South Irish Sea. (2) Detach Bristol Channel ships from Helwick Light Vessel to proceed independently. (3) RUSHEN CASTLE detach with Mersey ships. (4) BALFOUR and HOSTE to remain with Clyde ships to vicinity of Clyde Light Vessel thence Greenock. (5) Attention is called to Q.Z.Y.524. Ships proceeding by Q.Z.S.301 should keep to the northward of the centre line of the Channel. (C. in C. W.A., 111851A to Escorts of S.L.178/M.K.S.69.)

Suspected U-Boats. Fading radar contact by COPPERCLIFF indicates probable U-Boat. COPPERCLIFF and OWEN SOUND carrying out two hour search in vicinity, P.C.S. at 2359Z 52.45 N., 32.16 W., 088, 7.5 knots, weather report 4578 1374. (S.O. E.G. C.7, 110130Z to C. in C. W.A.) Proceed forthwith to position 51° 25' 08" 23' where 2nd E.G. heard underwater explosion at 0021 in close vicinity of Q.Z.X. 1446. Search for wreckage and bottomed contact. If nothing found after 2 hours search resume original patrol. (C. in C. W.A., 110201A to S.O. E.G.1.)

/Patrols ...

War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches - Contd.

Patrols. 14th E.G., one frigate, 2 destroyers operating vicinity Northern Ireland.  
1st E.G. AFFLECK, 4 frigates operating off South-west Irish Coast.  
4th E.G. BENTINCK, 4 frigates operating off Cape Wrath.  
2nd E.G. WILD GOOSE, 3 frigates vicinity St. David's Head.  
(C. in C. W.A., 111312A to Admty.)  
Sailed HAVELOCK, ICARUS, DUNCAN at 1405A/11th to comply with your 101235A December.  
(Com. (D) W.A., 111531A to C. in C. W.A.)

Abolition of fighter protection in Western Approaches Command. A.O. 687, 11th December.  
Reference your 062122A.  
Concur and recommend that fighter protection in the Western Approaches Command be abolished.  
(H.Q.F.C., 111530A to Admty.)

E.Gs. 2, 6, 25. A.M. 111714. Request you will sail E.G. 6th at best speed to relieve E.G. 2nd in vicinity Milford Haven. On relief E.G. 2nd to Liverpool for laying over.  
(2) E.G. 25th is allocated to English Channel.  
Request you will sail group as desired by C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. W.A., 112215A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
If not in contact proceed by standard route to Milford Haven. Further instructions will be issued by C. in C. W.A.  
Report expected time of arrival.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 112234A to S.O. E.G.6.)

War Diary11.12.1944  
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorwayOperation  
"V.P."

V.P.77.

M.T.B. 713 (S.O.) and M.T.B.722 sailed at 0400A  
and V.P.74 M.T.B.711 (S.O.) and M.T.B.715 sailed  
at 0415A today 11th December.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 110437 to A.C.O.S.)

Contemplated  
action in  
Sirefjord.My 091141 para. me. As it is likely that  
enemy shipping may pass West of Karmoy in dark  
hours during next few days request consideration  
may be given to VP operations in Sirefjord area.  
(C.S.10, 111122A to A.C.O.S.)Your 111122A. I have already had an operation  
on these lines under consideration but I am afraid the unsheltered  
conditions in Sirefjord make it impracticable during the present  
bad weather month.

(A.C.O.S. 110907 (?111907) to C.S.10.)

OperationsNorthern WatersSuspected  
U-boats.Following U-boats reported on 3750 k/cs. by  
Russian D/F. At 2355Z/10th in position 070° 57'  
N. 034° 10' E.

0340Z/11th in position 071° 40' N. 032° 00' E.

At 0416Z/11th in position 071° 10' N. 034° 00' E.

At 0440Z/11th in position 071° 20' N. 033° 00' E.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, 110641A to Admty.)

Convoy  
R.A.62CASSANDRA has been torpedoed in position 071° 57'  
N.032° 04' E. at 0601/11th and lost her bows.

She is proceeding Kola escorted by 20 E.G.

(C.S.1, 110831A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

After fuelling return to England by route Blue.

My 110831 not to C. in C. Western Approaches, refers.

(C.S.1, 110855A to S.O.E.G.20.)

Patrol

If not in contact by 1800/11th establish new  
Gamma between 060° 44' N. 002° 18' W. and 061°  
21' N. 002° 48' W.

(C. in C. Rosyth 111131A to S.O.E.G.6.)

2000 position Monday, section one.

E.G.19 HESPERUS, 3 Frigates patrolling Cape Wrath Butt of Lewis  
Area. E.G.6 NEW WATERFORD, 3 Frigates patrolling between 060°  
35' N. 003° 30' W. and 061° 12' N. 004° 00' W.

(A.C.O.S. 111131A to Admty.)

Allied Air ActivityEnemy vessel  
off Aalesund.Position of four merchant vessels - 62° 28' N.  
6° 10' E. stationary.

(A/C MXN 67 110850A to 18 Group.)

/My...

War Diary11.12.1944  
MondayHOME COMMANDSAllied Air ActivityEnemy Vessel  
off Aalesund  
(Contd.)My 0850. Enemy previously reported merchant vessel 4000 tons have attacked with bombs no results seen due to evasive action.  
(A/C. MX N. 67 110905A to 18 Group.)MiningEastern  
Channel  
minesweeping  
responsibil-  
ities.

At 0001A/20th December.

(a) All minesweeping responsibilities within Dover Command at present held by C.T.F.125 and F.O.B.A.A. are to be transferred to V.A. Dover.

(b) Minesweeping responsibility for Dieppe and Le Treport and their approach channels and anchorages is to be assumed by C.T.F.125.

(c) 101st M.F. &amp; 173rd M.S.F. will be released to Admiralty for re-allocation.

(d) Title Captain M/S North France will lapse.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 111243A to C.T.F.125, F.O.B.A.A.)Sweep of  
Ostend  
approaches

(1) Sail from Small Downs at 0700A tomorrow Tuesday for Ostend. Carry out LL/SA E.G. M/S on passage south of centre line NF three to NF three Buoy.

(2) Use Q.Z.S. 584 entering and leaving Ostend keeping to northern half of channel between OD four

and OD five Buoys.

(3) Speed restrictions in accordance with Q.Z.Y.525.

(4) You are not to anchor within one mile of the eastern end of Q.Z.H.4500.

(5) C. in C. Nore is to be kept informed of progress and of movements.

(6) In the case of bad weather flotilla may proceed to Small Downs or Margate Roads for shelter.

(7) Attention is called to S.P.02312 (4) para. 27 (A)(1).  
Acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 111425A to FLORIZEL.)

5 Sweepers and one IG anchored Ostend Road.

(2) Today have swept LL/SA IGMS in accordance with para. 3 of my 101706 and a lap 6 cables wide either side of centre line from NF 8 to HK 4 all with negative results.

(3) All Dans have been weighed.

(4) Request sweep programme for tomorrow Tuesday.  
(HOUND, 111748A to C. in C. Nore, etc.)Deep minefield  
off Hartland  
Point.C. in C. Plymouth 081859 and Admiralty 071303A carry out operation "H.Y.A." 1 at 1400 December 12th. C. in C. Plymouth advised that, weather and other circumstances permitting, 72 hour cycle will be adhered to. CONQUEROR has been issued with relevant signals.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 111911 to PLOVER, C. in C. Plymouth.)

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War Diary11.12.1944  
MondayHOME COMMANDSU-boatsSuspected  
U-boats

One or two in central English Channel.  
One in St. Georges Channel or off Milford Haven from torpedoing of DAN BEARD at 1250Z/10th. Possibility that one or two U-boats are now operating in the Irish Sea should be reckoned

with.

Three or four on passage probably within 100 miles of Irish (R) coast from Bloody Foreland to Kinsale Head.

Three or four patrolling or on passage off Coast of Scotland. Half-a-dozen on passage between Faeroes-Shetlands and coast of Norway and two or three between Iceland (C) and Faeroes.

Probably one still of Reykjavik.

Weather reporters 47° N. 24° W., 55° N. 28° W. and 56° N. 33° W. (D.D.I.C. 111353A to Cominch.)

S.C.162 position 52.55 N. 28.11 W. at 1943Z LANARK and DUNDEE obtained 3rd Class bearing of U-boat making weather report on 5075 kilocycles bearing 255 distance uncertain. Weather report 9080 1400.

(S.O.E.G. C.7, 112006Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 112006Z. U-boat fixed by D/F within 40 miles of 55° N. 36° W.

(D.D.I.C. 112355A to S.O.E.G. C.7.)

Casualties and DefectsSS. DAN  
BEARD

Master and Officer in Charge of Armed Guard of U.S. DAN BEARD have been interviewed and report that the explosion took place at 1350. Vessel broke in two about 5 minutes later. Ship was in ballast. Damage occurred right aft and it was

noticed that propeller seemed to have been bent up and rudder is missing. There was a hole about 3 feet diameter. Explosion was felt as a dull thud. The stern was lifted and ship broke in two grinding of the parts being heard immediately afterwards. No column of water was observed. Ship was pitching at the time. It appears that damage might have been caused by British floating mine or by mine laid by enemy or by torpedo. Evidence so far available is not sufficient to enable a definite opinion to be formed. Recommend that until further evidence can be obtained Q.Z.Y. be declared 5 miles radius from position 51° 56' N. 05° 29' W.

35 survivors out of a total crew of 67 have now been landed. Search for balance is continuing. Request air search first. (F.O.I.C. Milford, 110011A to C. in C.W.A.)

Regret to report U.S. DAN BEARD sunk off Strumble Head. Complement 67. 38 survivors, 2 dead, 27 missing.

Survivors accommodated as follows:-

Master and U.S.N. Guard Officer Milford Haven will be transferred to Carmarthen p.m. today Monday.

2nd Officer, Purser and 21 ratings at 232 American Hospital Carmarthen.

1st Officer and 14 ratings at R.N. sick quarters Treowen will be transferred to 232 American Hospital Carmarthen tomorrow Tuesday. Nominal lists will be forwarded when received.

(F.O.I.C. Milford, 111327 to Admt.)

/L.C.T.1107...

11.12.1944

Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

L.C.T. 1107, 1038 The following received from F.O.I.C. Portland begins:  
Corep. L.C.T. 1107 has badly broken back and no rudders. She cannot be beached or docked without risk of complete breakage. Request permission to cannabalise. L.C.T. 1038 which is due to be sailed to Mylodon vide C. in C's. 131155 October, has suffered further damage in recent gales and is no longer fit for any passage and permission is requested to cannabalise this vessel also.  
071640 ends.  
(2) Request approval in accordance with C.A.F.O. 846.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111608A to Admty.)

L.C.Ts. 1149, 1147, 742 Your 101434A/12 reference damaged hulls L.C.Ts. 1149, 1147, 742, craft have been surveyed by Shpt. officer and it is agreed that temporary repairs can be made as suggested in M.C.L. Soton 101139. In view of heavy commitments with Force T craft at Soton, it is proposed to effect necessary temporary repairs to enable L.C.Ts. 1149, 1147 and 742 to proceed to Falmouth.  
(SQUID, 111701A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

M.M.S.257 Regret to report loss of M.M.S.257 by mine presumed moored at 1217/11 December in approx. position 022° N.F.14 buoy 3.5 cables. Missing, presumed killed R. Smith Leading Seaman A. Crinson, Stoker. Next of kin not informed.  
(Capt. M/S F.A. 112052A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys

Bristol Channel additional convoy assembly area required. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 081029A concur in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 as amplified by F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 101010A.  
(2) Propose to implement. If approved request additional staff may be appointed as soon as possible.  
(C. in C. W.A. 111018A to Admty.)

Uncompleted tanker salvaged at Antwerp Uncompleted ex-enemy tanker number 694, 12,000 tons, 504 feet length, dry docked Antwerp 6th December. My 291306 September refers.  
(2) Night 6th/7th December. After explosion of enemy bomb dry dock shoring to ship collapsed and ship fell on to port bilge with keel still on middle line blocks. Minor damage only to ship. Temporary steel patches being welded over seven scuttling holes in outer bottom. Expect to undock 12th December.  
(3) Hull practically complete. Diesel main engine and auxiliary boiler not available. If instructed to complete

/ship...

11.12.1944  
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects - Contd.

Uncompleted tanker salvaged at Antwerp. (Contd.) ship estimate 9 months. In meantime ship will be placed care and maintenance.  
(4) Agreed M.W.T.R. Antwerp.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 111256A to Admty.)

A.T.M. convoys Intend to sail future A.T.M. convoys daily commencing 12th December accordance with following time table. Leave Terneuzen 1130A N.F. 18 1330A, N.F.9 1800, Dumpton 0030A.  
(N.O.I.C. Antwerp 111658A to C. in C. Nore.)

V.W.C., E.W.C. convoys Your 091935. C.T.F.125 concurs in new convoy system.  
(A.N.C.X.F. 112005A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Leave service to be from Calais, not Ostend. C. in C. Nore's views with which the Admiralty agree were expressed at a meeting held at the War Office on Wednesday 6th December. They were as follows:-  
(a) The route which has to be used across the North Sea passes within easy distance of enemy E-boat bases and owing to its shallow depth is very susceptible to mining both by these craft and from the air. It is impracticable to ensure that these attacks can always be driven off.  
(b) Little diversion from the route can be made.  
(c) Personnel traffic cannot be allowed at night when E-boats are operating or when mining is suspected.  
(d) The use of this route for leave traffic is considered an unjustifiable risk.  
(e) The ships used are few in number and irreplaceable.  
(f) Weather will cause interruptions in winter through ships being unable to enter Ostend.  
(g) Few of the above considerations apply to the short sea route from Calais which is free from enemy activity and where ships can proceed unescorted with little danger and few interruptions.  
(2) In consequence the Admiralty cannot accept the use of Ostend for leave traffic, your 101919 refers, and you should request S.H.A.E.F. to arrange for Calais to be used instead.  
(V.C.N.S.(H) 112343A to A.N.C.X.F.)



War Diary11.12.1944  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

TERPSICHOE, Intend to sail TERPSICHOE (S.O.) TYRIAN and  
TYRIAN, TUSCAN at 0900A Dec. 12th.  
TUSCAN. (2) Route (P) 35.59 N. 06.10 W.  
(Q) 36.55 N. 09.05 W.  
(R) 39.00 N. 09.45 W.  
(S) 44.00 N. 09.45 W.  
(T) 180° Lizard 5 miles thence by standard route  
and current swept channels. (All positions N. and W.)  
(3) Destinations: TERPSICHOE Devonport. TUSCAN Portsmouth.  
TYRIAN Chatham.  
(4) S. of A. 20 knots.  
(5) Codeword "Knifebox" 895.  
(6) Shifting to Home Station W/T organisation at 1500A Dec. 13th.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 110948A to Cs. in C.)

SERENE P.C. and S. 039° 57' N. 044° 08' W. 095° 13.2.  
(from Weather report 5481 1863.  
Halifax) (SERENE, 111201Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Algeciras As M.E.W. consider the necessary deterrent  
ferries. effect has been produced they desire no more  
interceptions of Algeciras ferries unless  
specially requested.  
(2) My 231306 Sept. para. 3 refers.  
(3) The Spaniards of course will not be told of this.  
(Admty., 111909A to F.O.G.M.A., Info. N.A. Madrid.)

South Atlantic

LOCH CREE Your 021729/Nov. (reply to 292143A Oct., q.v.)  
for South D. of S.T. has been asked to make the passage  
Africa. arrangements by ANDES leaving South Africa first  
week in January.  
(2) Frigate selected is LOCH CREE building at  
Swan Hunter's Neptune Yard. Vessel due to  
complete end February but may well not be ready until mid March.  
(3) Request confirmation vessel should be renamed NATAL.  
(Hd. of M. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 112254A to C. in C.S.A.)  
Reply 131430B.)

War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.

LUDLOW (U.S.) engages E-Boat. Chased enemy E-Boat or similar craft from Point of first encounter six miles south of Antibes to 20 miles south of Cape Ampeglio where contact was lost. Expended 128 R.Ds. A/A common and 85 R.Ds. Star Shell. No apparent damage. Target tracked at speeds up to 40 knots. Initial contact made at 0247 lost contact at 0353. (LUDLOW, 110520A to Comflanfor).

Enemy M.T.Bs. Patrol contacted at 0140A/10th, 2 enemy M.T.Bs. attacked by destroyers. One M.T.B. badly damaged. Crew prisoners. Other enemy craft chased by LUDLOW and withdrew to Gulf of Genoa. (Comflanfor, 110845 to F.O.N.A.M.).

Supplies for French Navy. Etousa's F.X. 64920 (D.T.G. 072235) (N.T. in W.R.) addressed S.H.A.E.F. Main is being passed to you with reference to C. in C.Med's 021238 concerning supply of French Navy. (2) S.H.A.E.F. have been informed that Admty. have been requested to give early confirmation that matter will be handled by Admty. and B.A.D. in conjunction with Cominch and Marine Paris. (3) A.N.C.X.F. concurs fully with para.1 (D) of C. in C. Med's. 021238 and in connection with para. 1(B) of that message it is observed that French will shortly assume control of additional ports in Northern France. (A.N.C.X.F., 110920A to Admty.).

Air report. C.S.455 I.C. Dec. 11th. Summary of Operations ending 1800 hours 10th Dec. Coastal Details. Bad weather curtailed operations. 3 Wellingtons and 2 Beaufighters flew shipping R/C. in Gulf of Venice. 1 of these Wellingtons bombed 2 barges and a Siebel ferry off Caorle with unobserved results. 4 Beaufighters attacked groups of barges near S Dona Di Piave, 1 sinking 4 and leaving 3 burning. Numerous hits were scored on a tug and a warehouse was left on fire. (Eaker, 8th Air Force, 111040A to Agwar etc.).

EMILE BAUDOT. Cable ship EMILE BAUDOT sails at 0800/12th. S. of A. 6 knots to Gibraltar. (2) Route. E.T.A. Gibraltar at 0830/19th. (3) Continuous watch on area broadcast. (4) Codeword "Langley" 651 low. (5) N.O.i/c Port Said 301337+ not to all refers. (6) Times A. (V.A. (M), 111105 to F.O.G.M.A.). + Port Said C.C.Os. 302347 is repetition of 301337. Intended sailing of EMILE BAUDOT.

/Greek...

11.12.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Greek ports, dispositions. Request situation report of British and Greek warships in Greek ports, cruisers down to and including minesweepers, and subsequently daily changes.  
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 111155A to F.O.L.E.M. Afloat). W.D. Note: First report, 121952B. See Dispositions and Movements Volume.

Bulgaria and Greece. Allied Control Commission, Bulgaria, 111205 to A.F.H.Q. See Lion Copy.

BRUISER. Request reply to my 281226A Nov. / (C. in C.Med., 111207A to Admty.).  
/ Requests BRUISER may remain in Med. until required in U.K.

AJAX. Sailed Salonica 1200/11th Dec. Sherry and Cyder to Kinaros Channel thence through position 614 to 309. S. of A. 25 knots. E.T.A. Boom 1530 12th Dec. Request alongside berth to facilitate storing.  
(AJAX, 111237B to F.O.L.E.M.).

South Aegean summary. Up to 0900 hours Dec. 11th.  
One. Shipping. Photographic cover obtained of few ports Dec. 10. Leros. Portolago. First cover since 29th Nov. Arrived 1 Magda from Kos or Kalino. Shipping visible but south side Bay cloud covered. 1 British minesweeper, 1 Pioneer landing craft, 3 Magda barges, 1 tug 80/100, 1 launch 80/100, 2 caiques 40/80. Piscopi. Livadia. Nil shipping NR Rhodes harbours not covered. Lindos. 1 small craft still present. Angonia nil. Alinnia nil. No further photograohic cover owing to cloud. Patmos. Ground report states German armed force landed p.m. 10th Dec., no details but presumably in craft from Leros. Crete. Suda Bay. Departed 1 launch 80 to Melos. Shipping present, 1 tug and 1 launch. Canea. Now confirmed 2 caiques arrived from Suda 9th Dec. Total present 4 launches 5 caiques Melos. Arrived 1 launch 80 from Suda.  
(C. in C.M.E., 111300B).

M.A.D. Catalinas for Home. Suggestion has been made that M.A.D. equipment installed in U.S. V.P.B.63 Squadron could be profitably employed in combating U-Boat threat in shallow water around U.K., in view of enemy's adoption of Schnorkel and employment of maximum submerged tactics.  
(2) It is therefore under consideration to ask Cominch temporarily to attach 4 M.A.D. Catalinas of 63 Squadron to Coastal Command for employment in U.K.  
(3) Request your early remarks.  
(4) Air Ministry are making a similar signal to M.A.A.F. (D.O.D.(H) Approved V.C.N.S., 111346A to C. in C.Med.).  
Replies from F.O.G.M.A., 131058, C. in C.Med. 141713A. W.D.Note: No. 63 Sqdn. Port Lyautey.

/Supplies...

# SECRET

IN <sup>hex</sup>  
262A

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.)

111205/December.

From: Allied Control Commission,  
Bulgaria.

Date: 11.12.44.

Recd: 2230

ONE TIME PAD

To: A.F.H.Q.  
Info War Office, 3 Corps.

Bulgaria and Greece

IMPORTANT

276894. M/279 cipher 11th December. SECRET

Your FX (? word omitted) 10th December NOT addressed  
3 Corps.

Para. 1. Reports received by you may link up with subject matter of letter just received by chairman Allied Control Commission Bulgaria from Bulgarian Foreign Minister and passed to me with request that representations be made to Greek Government.

Para. 2. Letter states approximately 200 Bulgarian Mahomedans (Femaks repeat Femaks) have deserted with arms and uniform from Bulgarian units principally 39th Infantry Regiment stationed at Nevrokop. The Turkish Anatolian press agency had published despatch that Bulgarian Komitadjis were entering Greek territory. Letter points out such bands are not (repeat not) regular Bulgarian Army Units and requests Greek and British co-operation to arrest these deserters.

Para. 3. Regarding possibility ELAS obtaining arms etc., from Yugoslavia and Bulgaria well informed Greek contact here was of opinion ELAS not liked in either country. Owing to Greek attitude to popular conception of New Macedonia State including Salonika and Kavalla. Before I press chairman of Allied Control Commission as you ask I suggest you consider whether or NOT you would welcome offer of Russian intervention on frontier or even in Greek territory. It occurs to me an offer of this nature might well prove embarrassing. My telegrams M/214 30 Nov. and M/280 of today's date indicate that Russians appear only too anxious to infiltrate some uncontrolled observers into (Greece).

Please pass Foreign Office.

111205

note by C.A.6: Advance copy has been sent to the Foreign Office.

Received in War Registry at 132000/December

circulations over .....

Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts.  
and Admiralty, Air Ministry, War Cabinet  
Offices, Foreign Office. (Lord Ho  
(Mr. D. Howard)

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
P.A.S. (L)  
I.A.S. (S)  
O.L. (5)  
Ops. (2)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D. of I. (2)  
D. of I. (Q) (3)  
M. (2)  
A.C. Bellairs.  
A.C. Bellairs.  
W.D.

J.R.  
104

War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.Supplies  
for French  
Navy.Request that "supplies" in my 021238A may be read as including provisions.  
(C. in C.Med., 111457A to Admty.).MUSKETEER,  
Volo.Military have concentrated 2 defence areas on waterfront at Volo in agreement with me.  
N.O.I.C. and self take (4 corrupt groups) avoid (corrupt group) hostilities ashore which, without military reinforcement, must end ultimately in withdrawal. Do you approve? Armed E.L.A.N. craft are in harbour and 3 inch gun has been removed (corrupt group) by night. Should I consider this or other guns have been mounted (corrupt group) have moved MUSKETEER outside harbour to make fighting withdrawal more difficult. This message agreed Military.  
(MUSKETEER, 111532B to S.B.N.O.Greece, (R) F.O.L.E.M. Afloat, F.O.L.E.M. C.S.15).

WESTRAY.

Intend sailing WESTRAY at 1700B 11th Dec. to Salonica to complete with coal.  
(2) Route from position 039° 45' N. 025° 17' E. positions 118, 115 and Q.B.C. 939. Speed 9 knots E.T.A. 1300B 12th Dec.  
(3) Two operator period on L.V. Broadcast.  
(4) Request you will sail WESTRAY to Mudros on completion.  
(S.O. M/S.F.12, 111612B to S.B.N.O. North Aegean).F.A.A.  
Malta.Facilities to be made available at Malta for accommodation and training of F.A.A. Squadrons disembarking from carriers for about one month's training.  
(Air Min., 111807 to Air H.Q. Malta).  
See Lion Copy.Vessel for  
Greece.C. in C. Med's. 091103.  
Vessel referred to in last para. as Russian. Should this not be Turkish?  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 111835C to Admty.).C. in C.  
to visit  
Algiers.I intend to visit Algiers on 16th Dec. I had hoped situation set out in C.O.S.(W) 464 would be sufficiently developed to allow me to conclude arrangements with Monarch (?Ronarch). Request I may be informed how matters stand.  
(C. in C.Med., 111838 to Admty.).  
Reply:(Admty., 121221A, B.A.D.132221Z)  
Visit postponed, see 160515.Admiral  
Auboyneau.F.O.L.E.M. 092015 (N.T. in W.D.). When the matter is again raised by French the opinion in my 251101 Nov.\* will still hold good.  
(2) Should the visit be unavoidable, whether additional prestige should be lent to it by the presence of S.N.O: Levant to receive Auboyneau would appear to be a matter of high policy on which Admty. guidance is

/requested...

**TOP SECRET****IN** 263A

**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.)

111807/December.

Date: 12.12.44  
Recd: 0906.

From: Air Min. Kingsway

Int. Ser. Spec. X Plug by T/P

Addressed: Air H.Q. Malta,  
Info: Admiralty, H.Q.M.A.A.F., H.Q.R.A.F. Mid East.

OX6007 11 December. We have received a request from the Admiralty for facilities to be made available in Malta for accommodation and training of Fleet Air Arm Sqdns. Agreement has been reached that F.A.A. retain the loan of Takali for their full use and that in addition they should share the facilities at Halfar on a lodger basis. Any overflow to be accommodated at Krendi if practicable. Admiralty will provide accommodation requirements at Takali. Retain use of Lug<sup>a</sup> and facilities at Halfar for one fighter squadron and one MR/GR/A.S.R. Sqn. Responsibility devolves on R.A.F. for providing the necessary accommodation and facilities at Halfar. To assist you in assessing extent to which local resources will meet this requirement we have arranged for two Admiralty representatives to fly from U.K. in the near future and discuss requirements with you and V.A.M. on the spot.

2. Admiralty envisage succession of carriers disembarking F.A.A. Sqn. individually for training for periods of about a month. This process will continue indefinitely and should therefore be regarded as a permanent commitment until the end of phase 2. Target date for arrival of first carrier and F.A.A. Sqdns. 21st February 1945.

3. Extent of naval commitment for Halfar at any one time will be

- (a) One T.B.R. Sqn.
- (b) Two Fighter Sqdns.
- (c) One Communication Flight
- (d) One Flight of Radio Controlled Aircraft with their controlling aircraft called "Shepherds and Sheep".

Total including reserves approximately 81 aircraft all of which are single engine types except some of the communication aircraft.

4. Personnel. Total naval personnel for whom accommodation will be required at Halfar amounts to approximately 140 officers and 850 ratings including Naval Air Section Hqrs make up of 29 officers and 174 ratings.

/ 5 .....

5. Facilities required will embrace

- (a) Normal Squadron accommodation
- (b) P.O.L.
- (c) Airfield facilities including night flying
- (d) Radio and signals facilities
- (e) Limited hangarage.

These requirements will be discussed in detail with you by Admiralty representatives as stated in para. 1 above. Any hitting M/T etc. which cannot be supplied from local resources will be shipped from U.K. either from R.A.F. or Naval sources. If accommodation or Messen huts cannot be provided in time then only possible alternative seems to be use tents. Victualling arrangements will also be discussed with you.

6. Labour. Admiralty have agreed that labour requirements at Halifar should take precedence over Takali and subject to V.A.M.'s agreement labour might also be drawn from dockyard.

7. Any development at Halifar and Takali should conform to Air Force policy because if operational necessity should arise R.A.F. would assume air defence of Malta.

8. Admiralty will be sending a parallel signal to V.A.M.

111807z.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.(3)  
 D.F.S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(W)  
 A.C.N.S.(A)(2)  
 A.C.N.S.(F)  
 A.C.N.S.(H)  
 A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)  
 Sec.  
 Civil Lord.  
 P.A.S.(S)  
 D.C.N.A.E.  
 U.W.R.  
 D. of P.(2)  
 D. of P.(Q)(3)  
 D.O.D.(H)(4)  
 D.C.D.(F)(2)  
 D.N.A.O.(2)  
 D.A.E.  
 D.A.M.R.(2)  
 D.N.A.R.(3)  
 D.A.C.R.(2)  
 Hd. of Air. Br.(3)

D.A.W.T.  
 D. of S.(2)  
 Hd. of M.(2)  
 D.G.D.  
 D.N.O.  
 D.A.S.(L)  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.N.T.  
 N.A. 2nd SL(Air)  
 Hd. of N.  
 A.C.N.P.  
 D. of M.  
 Hd. of C.W.  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.  
 D. of V.  
 C.E. in C.  
 D.R.E.(2)  
 D.A./S.W.  
 D.A./U.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 Hd. of W.G.F.  
 D.T.M.  
 D. of L.  
 D.S.D.  
 W.D.  
 Ad.Blake.(4)

Dep. Contr  
 D.N.O.  
 D.T.M.  
 D.A.S.  
 D.R.E.  
 C.E. in C.  
 Hd. of L.Br.  
 D. of D.  
 Hd. S.W.R.(3)

mgb.

th.



11.12.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Admiral requested. My opinion is that the (?) V. Admiral  
Auboyneau. should not receive Auboyneau at Beirut.  
(Contd.) (C. in C. Med., 111841A to Admty.) \*N.T. in W.D.  
Reply: Admty., 151900A.

Cositintrep Greece. Athens/Piraeus area. E.L.A.S. resumed  
521 part 4. offensive action against British troops before  
dawn 10th December and made determined attacks  
during the day in all sectors using mortars and  
in some cases 75 mm. guns. All these attacks  
were repulsed and further progress was made in clearing the  
eastern and central sectors. The R.A.F. bombed rebel positions  
in the eastern sector. Strong resistance in the confined dock  
area slowed up clearance operations in the western sector.  
Salonika. No change.  
Peloponnese. Patras. No change.  
(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O./11.)

Cositintrep (1) Approval has now been given on orders from  
522, Part 2. Tito for H.M. Cruiser DELHI to remain at Split.  
(C. in C. Med. (Wilson), 112129A to W.O.)

Situation (1) At Piraeus Allied Naval H.Qs. under accurate  
Report mortar fire forenoon of 10th Dec. British and  
No. 502. Greek warships continue to provide close support  
fire. E.L.A.S. reported constructing strong  
point north of coal wharf which will dominate all  
movements in harbour unless eliminated. Such  
movements are at present almost impossible due to southerly gale.  
L.S.I. H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID damaged by underwater explosion in  
searched channel off Cape Turlo, cause is doubtful and damage  
slight. H.M.S. CALEDON has arrived Kavalla and states situation  
tense but quiet. Later report says that evacuation there has  
been ordered but H.M.S. CALEDON signals O.C. troops Kavalla has  
no such order. No report available from H.M. ships at other  
main ports.  
(2) At Split on orders from Tito approval has now been given  
for DELHI to remain.  
(3) On night of 10th December U.S. Destroyer LUDLOW attacked 2  
enemy coastal craft south of Antibes. One badly damaged and  
crew taken prisoners, the other got away after a long chase.\*  
(C. in C. Med., 112141A.)  
\* Addition, see 122351A, *page 291.*

War Diary11.12.1944  
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesU-boat  
dispositions

Area VP.1.  
H.M.I.S. PATNA reports good S/M contact at 1300 FG 10th in 020° 49' N. 088° 11' E. An attack was made but contact was lost at 1600 FG. Scale Y.4. All other areas no fresh information. Scale remains unchanged except KD.3 to W.5. (C. in C. E.I. 110401Z.)

GUARDIAN,  
SALVESTOR,  
STAGPOOL,  
SPRINGDALE.

Your 160912Z November not to C. in C. B.P.F. Transfers to British Pacific Fleet agreed. (2) Request programme of coal requirements of STAGPOOL in Australian ports and estimate of monthly requirements at advance base. (Head of M., 111252A to C. in C.E.I.)

RENOWN  
ammunition

(1) A.M. 041523 not to all, reference 15 inch shell. Intend RENOWN's ultimate outfit of 15 inch shells should be 30% APC and 70% HE.  
(2) Surplus APC shells to requirement in para. 1 is to be landed by RENOWN at Durban as convenient.  
(3) Expect that RENOWN will require to land approx. 460 rounds APC before starting refit to comply.  
(4) Admty. requested to divert sufficient 15 inch HE. ammunition to Durban for making up outfit as in para. 1, before end of refit. (C. in C.E.I., 111308Z to RENOWN, N.O.I.C. Durban, Admty.)  
Reply: Admty. 161803A.

S/M  
K.11.

A.M.081420. Following has been received addressed A.C.N.B. repeated (?C. in C. E.I.) Cdr. S.W. Pacific, B.A.D. Washington, F.O.S. C.T.F.71, Admty., from N.O.I.C. Fremantle, (begins) Your 291109 not to all addressees but quoted Admty. 231851 and C. in C.E.I. 212246. D.S.K.11 can be received Fremantle for clearance and partial dismantling estimated to take about 6 weeks. Permanent berth not available, and recommend she be sunk or beached thereafter as was D.S. K.8 and that orders will be given to dispose of all arisings. C.T.F.71 and Lieut. Commander Bach Kolling R.N.N. concur. Admty. pass to B.D.Z. T.O.O. 010341. (Ends.) (C. in C.E.I., 111309Z to Admty.)

INDEFATIGABLE. INDEFATIGABLE will be operationally fit to act in concert with other carriers providing Seafire Cap and a Firefly strike only by December 30th.

(2) Avenger squad. should be ready for daylight bombing strike by about Jan. 7th.

(3) A proportion of her Seafire pilots are virtually untrained and require extensive wing and weapon training. These are not included in Cap referred to in para. 1 which will only consist of 24 A/C.

(4) All flying crew now disembarking for necessary training. (C. in C.E.I., 111343Z, to Admty.)

/VIVID...

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11.12.1944  
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.VIVID  
report

Sighted merchant ship hull down bearing 190° at 1300Z today, 11th, in position 018° 39' N. 069° 53' E., your 111320Z refers.  
(VIVID, 111416Z, to C. in C.E.I. etc.)  
W.R. Note. Former not identified.

TANTALUS  
R. of P.

TANTALUS returned to Fremantle on 6th December from first South West Pacific patrol having been 52 days at sea, covering 11500 miles, spent 38 days submerged north of the Malay Barrier, with no major defects.

- (2) 2nd November south of Tambelan Islands sank 3,000 ton merchant ship in escorted convoy with 2 torpedoes.  
(3) 11th November south of Pulo Tenggo(?) sank by gunfire 200 ton wooden coaster. 1(one) Japanese prisoner taken.  
(4) 27th November off Brunei Bay missed 2,500 ton merchant ship with 4 torpedoes 2 prematured.  
(5) Special operation was carried out on 21st/22nd November. (C. in C.E.I., 111417Z to Admty.)

Troopships

Our understanding is that troopships of any speed can now sail unescorted throughout a considerable proportion of the Mediterranean. This decision should enable us to distribute slower ships more advantageously between the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean.  
(2) P.S.T.O. Mediterranean is requested to report to what extent he can now reduce his need for ships of 14 knots and over for internal Mediterranean troop movements. (Further proposals).  
(7) P.S.T.O. India is requested to state whether he can arrange for DEVONSHIRE after disembarkation at Bombay, or other vessel, to reach Aden in time to make up the shortage in Berbera lift to withdrawal of EMPIRE WOODLARK without serious delay to C.M.60. (D.S.T. 112030A to P.S.T.O. India (R) P.S.T.O. Med. etc.)  
Reply from C. in C.E.I., 140247Z.

U-boat

Torpedo track lat. 12.40 North Long. 46.12 E.  
(WILLIAM F. MACLENNAN, 112315Z.)

War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

FAL. P.C.S. at 1000Z/11th 029° 24' N., 055° 15' W., 283° 15.5 knots. E.T.A. 2000Z/12th. Request pilot.  
(FAL, 111230Z to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

Atlantic, Lion and Eagle Routes. A.M. 081417.  
Maple Following is proposed Maple Route.  
Route. (2) Maple Route: (a) 1st position numbered 1 to 5 on long. 18° W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 51.54 N. and 51.30 N.  
(b) 2nd position numbered 6 to 10 on long. 32° W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 50.54 and 50.30 N.  
(c) 3rd position numbered 11 to 15 on long. 41° W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 49.24 and 49.00 N.  
(d) 4th position numbered 16 to 20 on long. 49° W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 47.24 N. and 47.00 N.  
(e) 5th position numbered 21 to 25 on long. 60° W. in steps of six mins. of lat. between 44.44 N. and 44.20 N.  
(3) Request your remarks.  
(Plot. (O.D.), 111240A to N.S.H.Q.)  
Reply: N.S.H.Q., 132141Z.

TRUCULENT In company (corrupt group). My observed P.C.S. (from Scapa at 1000Z 050° 10' N., 049° 40' W., 210°, 9 knots. for refit E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0700Z/12th. in U.S.A.) C. in C. C.N.A. pass to A.O.C.E.A.C.  
(TRUCULENT, 111330Z to C. in C. C.N.A., etc.)

U/B Enemy U-Boat estimate 1200Z/11.  
dispositions. (Cominch, 111500Z.)

Convoy Request arrival. Various sections C.K.4.  
C.K.4. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. and R.), 111518Z to Admty.)  
Reply: 121720Z.

HYDRANGEA. HYDRANGEA departs Bermuda Sea buoy 2100Z/11 for Horta through (C) 35.30 N., 53.30 W. (D) 37.10 N., 45.01 W. (E) 38.10 N., 35.01 W. (F) 38.26 N., 28.37 W. At 13 knots, E.T.A. Horta 1600Z/17th Q.B.A. 138.  
Admiralty 041952A Dec. not to all. Routed s'ward to Portsmouth through (G) 44.10, 18.10. (H) 48.03, 09.09.  
Request Admiralty furnish onward routing from position (H).  
R.D.O. Washington pass to B.A.D. Washington.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 111546 to N.O.I.C. Horta, etc.)

U/B No report 10th.  
contacts. (C) 0130Z/11 H.M.C.S. COPPER CLIFF radar contact 52.45 N., 32.16 W.  
(D) 0005Z/11 Navy patrol A/C radar contact 27.12 N., 75.13 W. (Comnavu also info.)  
(Cominch, 112021Z to Admty., for O.I.C.)

/LE TRIUMPHANT ...

War Diary.11.12.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.LE  
TRIUMPHANT.

Upon completion refresher training grant F/S LE TRIUMPHANT minimum two day loading period at Norfolk prior sailing her as additional escort U.G.F./U.G.S. Convoy to Casablanca, where on arrival ship is to report to C. in C. Med. for duty.  
(Cominch, 112040Z to Cinclant.)

S/M O.21.

Add one week all sailing dates my 031922.  
(Cominch, 112115 to Cinclant, etc.)  
Trials of O.21 now satisfactory, my 061430.  
Ready to sail from U.S.A. about 6th Jan. Pass to B.D.Z. mails signal follows.  
(B.A.D., 112132Z to Admt.)

British  
Combined  
Operations  
Observers.

J.S.M. 439, 11th Dec. IZ. 9384. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 440 (142215/11). The U.S. Chiefs of Staff have agreed that three teams each consisting of one Naval, one Army and one Air Force officer can be accepted. One in the Central Pacific and two in the South-west Pacific area.  
(J.S.M. Washington, 112155Z to A.M.S.S.O.)

AGAMEMNON,  
MENESTHEUS.

Departed Balboa 2200Z Dec. 10th, AGAMEMNON and MENESTHEUS. En route Vancouver at speed 12, E.T.A. Dec. 29th. Route to interested parties by separate message. R.D.O. Washington pass to C. in C. British Pacific Flt.  
(Compaseafon, 112252 to Cominch.)

Australia and New ZealandILISSOS,  
U/B.

u 862

Greek ship ILISSOS (?gunned) by submarine at 0220Z/9th in position 037° 11' S., 139° 35' E. Ship sustained no damage. After investigation report is graded A.1. N.O.I.C. Brisbane pass to R.A.A.F.H.Q. Brisbane.  
(Com. S.W. Pacific Force, 110540Z to Admt., etc.)

Pacific  
Fleet  
Flagships.

I intend that my flag shall remain in HOWE for the present.  
(2) Request you will instruct Admiral Rawlings to hoist his flag in KING GEORGE V on arrival of that ship in Ceylon.  
(C. in C. B.P.F., 110707Z to C. in C. E.I.)

11.12.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand - Contd.Digest  
1055,  
Dec. 10th.  
Ormoc  
captured.

(3) Morning search Liberator shot down 1 enemy transport plane over northern Palahan Island and set afire 1 small coastal craft off west coast (? Manila).

(4) On Leyte our forces entered Ormoc early afternoon after driving through Camp Downes from south-east; enemy resistance reported as moderate. Further south, forward elements from

Balogo reached Talisayan River and continued advance against stiffening opposition towards Qeporits where southern flank Ipil beachhead situated. Forces moving westwards over Burauen-Albuera trail made visual contact with main body vicinity Talisayan River: nil recent enemy contacts reported eastern slopes Mount Lobi nor on adjacent southern slopes Mount Majanag.

(5) Enemy resistance continues strong in Ormoc Corridor: Japs reported supplying and possibly reinforcing this area by air.

(6) Few Japanese paratroops remaining are contained north-west of Buri Strip but offering stubborn resistance.

(7) Allied amphibious craft carrying reinforcements to Leyte Bay experienced dive-bombing attacks early morning without effect.

(8) Enemy supplies and concentrations San Isidor bombed during day by 16 Kittyhawks.

(9) Jap air on moderate scale encountered over Ormoc Bay positions: 5 planes were shot down plus 1 probable and 4 damaged (mainly fighters) by our air patrols without loss. Early evening 8 Jap medium bombers ineffectively attacked our surface units in Leyte Gulf. 1 bomber shot down. At dusk 4 Zekes (?Zeros) attacked 2 pairs P.T. Boats in Surigao Strait: 2 damaged Zekes (sic) used suicide dive tactics hitting boat causing damage and casualties.

(11) 1 or 2 destroyers 1 patrol craft observed probably on patrol outside Manila Bay forenoon 9th. Same morning 1 hospital ship seen westbound apparently from Manila. That night 1 Liberator bombed unidentified transport in Lingayen Gulf 3 others attacked concentration of 10 ships off Corregidor: results unobserved both strikes. Following night, 10/11, about 10 ships observed Manila Bay.

(12) Search Liberator strafed and damaged 5 luggers off southwestern Buhol Island noon 9th.

(13) Same time another Liberator attacked and damaged tug in Butuan Bay near northernmost Mindanao.

(16) Three Liberators raided Balikpapan area morning 9th demolishing bridge, breaking pipeline and exploding several tanks: two sea trucks also attacked and one left sinking, other afire.

(19) Four Liberators bombed bridges at Baucau on north coast Portuguese Timor 9th Dec. Next day patrol Liberators bombed and probably destroyed one lugger, one barge off Atapoepoo. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 111113Z.)

11.12.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/11th Dec.  
Para. B. (1) COPPER CLIFF obtained radar contact at 0130Z/11th Dec. in 52° 45' N., 32° 16' W.  
(2) DAN BEARD torpedoed or mined at 1250Z/10th Dec. in 51° 56' N., 05° 29' W.  
(3) E.G.2 reported unexplained underwater explosion at 2321Z/10th Dec. in 51° 25' N., 08° 23' W.  
Para. D. (1) U.S. A/C reported periscope course 240° at 1124Z/10th Dec. in 52° 12' N., 01° 52' E.  
(2) U.S. A/C reported possible U-Boat course 190° at 1307Z/10th Dec. in 52° 05' N., 02° 03' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 111138A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 111351A.)

12.12.1944  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. BERWICK sailed with despatch for Bizerta with approximately 60 officers and 700 ratings.

North Sea.

2(a) M.V. LOOKOUT, 5339 tons, struck a wreck in the Schelde and sunk in the fairway between Nos. 13 and 14 buoys.

(b) Four acoustic mines were swept in the Schelde.

(c) Ghent can now accept one Liberty ship and 10 coasters.

Channel.

3. On urgent representations from A.N.C.X.F. for S.H.A.E.F. Admty. have agreed to accept leave traffic through Ostend, but to be sailed only at the discretion of C. in C. Nore.

Western Approaches.

4. CAMELLIA has sailed for 53 degs. N. 20 degs. W. to report the weather there.

Northern Waters.

5(a) TUNSBURG CASTLE, one of the Norwegian corvettes which accompanied Convoy J.W.62 to Northern Norway for distribution of relief stores, has been mined or torpedoed off Makaur and abandoned.

(b) Eight Junkers aircraft carried out an ineffective attack on Convoy R.A.62 about 100 miles W.N.W. of North Cape.

Foreign Stations.

South Atlantic

6. No U-Boats are estimated to be in the Atlantic south of the latitude of 30 degs. N.

Mediterranean

Command.

7. Field Marshal Alexander assumed duty as Supreme Allied Commander, in the Mediterranean Theatre, at 0900 to-day, on the departure of General Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson, appointed to Washington.



12.12.1944  
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ships in  
 Greek  
 Ports.

8. At noon to-day the totals of Allied warships in the Greek ports were as follows:

<u>Port.</u>	<u>British.</u>	<u>Greek.</u>	<u>French.</u>
Piraeus	7	12	1
Poros	1	-	
Syra	1	1	
Paros	-	1	
Heraklion	-	1	
Preveza	-	1	
Patras	1	1	
Kalamata	1	1	
Salonika	4	1	
Volos	1	1	
Nauplia	1	-	
Kavalla	2	1	
Mudros	11	-	
Mitylene	-	2	
Khios	3	-	
	<u>33</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>1</u>

Greece.

9(a) After a night without any major incident, shelling by rebels was renewed this morning and continued throughout the day, causing a number of casualties, including a few military.

(b) All the water-front at the Piraeus from Navy House to the Naval Headquarters was to-day reported clear of rebels, and clearance of the peninsula on which these Headquarters stand was progressing well. Warships continue to provide close fire support on call. A moderation in weather has enabled M/T discharges to restart, but the preparation of an E.L.A.S. strong point north of the coal jetty causes grave concern. The central and eastern sectors remain unchanged.

(c) Elements of the 4th ~~British~~ Division have arrived from Italy at Kalamaki airfield, (about 6 miles from centre of Athens).  
 (d) MUSKETEER has received many reports of E.L.A.S. guns, 75 and 88 mm., being mounted round Port Volos and also at the entrance to the Gulf, and asks for air reconnaissance.

*Indian  
 (Despatch of F.M.  
 Alexander, Supreme  
 Allied Commander,  
 Mediterranean -  
 M. 0912/47)*

Aegean  
 attempted  
 invasion  
 of Symi.

10. Enemy landing craft were engaged by destroyers last night south of Symi Island (north of Rhodes, Dodecanese). One landing craft was blown up, and others, possibly damaged, were driven off and were believed to have returned to Rhodes. At 0536B the destroyer LIDDESDALE reported that an attempt by Germans to invade Symi had been frustrated, and that she was maintaining close patrol with the TETCOTT and M.T.B.402 until daylight. Batteries on Rhodes fired on the LIDDESDALE without result.

A report received later from a British caique stated that some Germans landed at Symi last night - probably survivors from the sunken landing craft.

War Diary

12.12.1944  
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

11. The battleship KING GEORGE V and destroyers WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER arrived at Colombo from Aden.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines.

12(a) Last night, two Japanese landing craft type ships and one barge attempted to land troops at or near Ormoc. The barge was sunk. One landing craft was sunk by shore fire 2000 yards northwest of Ormoc; the other was hit and withdrew westwards on fire.

(b) One merchant ship and three escorts of the enemy convoy attacked off Leyte yesterday were sighted 10 miles out of San Isidro Bay, course north-west. The merchantman was set on fire and two of the escorts damaged, one being possibly sunk.

(c) Enemy air activity to-day was directed at an Allied convoy off South Western Leyte. In one morning attack by 20 aircraft, one destroyer was damaged by a suicide dive-bomber, but otherwise damage was negligible and U.S. Naval hellcats covering the convoy shot down 11 aircraft.

Borneo.

13. At Brunei Bay two sea trucks and ten luggers were attacked by aircraft. Two luggers were sunk, one sea truck was set on fire, and the remainder damaged.

War Diary.

12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

**PURSUER** Sailed PURSUER in U.C.48 B to comply with A.M. 271531A November. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120208A to Admty).

**UGANDA** My 051212A and 111332A sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 121000A to C. in C. Rosyth) Your 111332A arrived. (C. in C. Rosyth, 121655A to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

**BERWICK** A.M. 102253, 111412 and 111415 the intention is that BERWICK should sail as soon as ten parties of officers are complete.  
2. You are to report to Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Plymouth the names of officers and parties to which they belong that actually embark.  
3. You are also to report to C. in C. Plymouth repeated the depot concerned any discrepancies in ratings that are embarked. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121114 to Com. R.N.B. Devonport)  
Intend to sail BERWICK with despatch for Bizerta p.m./12th December. 2. Routed as in A.M. 111623A. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121155A to F.O. Tunisia).

**DESPATCH** Intend sailing at 1600A/12 DESPATCH towed by JUSTICE to Portsmouth. ENTICER will proceed in company as stand by tug. Escorts ROSEVEAN (S.O.) and FIR.  
4. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to relieve escorts off Portland Bill and to sail an additional tug should ENTICER be called off for rescue duties. Speed of advance 6 knots. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 121229A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations.

Situation Report.

**Military.** G-2 Summary No.81, Part I, dated 12th December 1944.  
In Mulhouse area Loeschle (A.89) last enemy bridgehead over Rhine between Swiss Border and Kembs, lost by enemy.  
Sarreguemines cleared. Enemy retreating to East. (S.H.A.E.F., 121545 to War Office).

**Naval**

Cositintrep No.252 Part II Naval.  
Unloading figures for 11th December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Canoe	-	-	717	-
Dieppe	5	11	3,590	-
Boulogne	4	-	2,232	-
Calais	-	-	-	-
Ostend	406	112	4,444	3,205
Antwerp	-	597	6,361	9,672
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>17,344</b>	<b>12,875</b>

War Diary.

12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Situation Report.

Naval. (contd).	U.S.	Troops	Vehicles	Stores	Pol.
	Cherbourg	-	-	9,144	4,480
	Brittany				
	Ports	-	-	3,312	-
	Le Havre	4,176	555	7,259	-
	Rouen	1,763	567	2,860	690
	Antwerp	-	-	15,307	787
<hr/>					
	Total.	5,939	1,122	37,882	5,957
<hr/>					
	Combined Total	5,354	1,842	55,226	18,832

(A. N. C. X. F., 122319A to Admty).

Operations.

North Sea.

American  
Command  
"set-up".

Following Task Forces 12th Fleet activated as of 00012/15/12. 124. Vice-Admiral R.L. Ghormley Commander U.S. Naval Forces Germany short title Comnavforger.

126. Captain A.E. Schrader Acting Commander U.S. Ports and Bases Germany, short title Comusbasger. C.T.F.126 report to C.T.F.124 for duty. C.T.F. 127 provide logistic support including personnel to Task Forces 124 and 126 in accordance 12th Fleet Basic Logistic plan. C.T.F.124 will organize, equip and train such forces as are assigned for Germany Plan all matters pertinent to U.S. Naval participation in the occupation of Germany, and in the enforcement of the surrender terms but will not become active in Germany until called forward by S.H.A.E.F. Meanwhile be prepared to support T.F.122 if circumstances so require. Headquarters C.T.F.124 London. Administrative Headquarters C.T.F.126 Base 2 Roseneath. The activation of these Task Forces does not in any way modify the command provisions of Cominch and C.N.O. 051613/11 which includes in the operational command of C.T.F.122 (Comnavforfrance) all U.S. Naval activities on the Continent of Europe and all U.S. Naval Forces which are now or may later be placed under the operational control of S.H.A.E.F. Cominch has authorized the modification of his 051613/11 to provide that S.H.A.E.F. may change the command set-up at his discretion before the end of active combat operations by calling forward Comnavforger. Admty. please pass to interested British commands and Agencies. My 231154 of October cancelled. (Com. 12th Fleet, 121542 to 12th Fleet).

Patrols.

Nore and Dover Patrols night 12/13 Dec. 12 SEYMOUR, 14 CURZON, 16 TORRINGTON, 18 KITTIWAKE, 19 STAYNER and HAMBLEDON. Coastal Force Unit. F.B.2 at N.F.10 buoy F.A.8 at N.F.13 buoy F.C.1 at middle Steen Bank Buoy F.G.2 & G.G.3 with TORRINGTON (V.A. Dover, 121535A to Admty).

/Mishap...

War Diary.

12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Mishap in  
Schelde.

Returning to harbour (?). Ship struck wreck  
between N.F.13 and 14. Request tug.  
(M.L.1353, 121700A to C. in C. Nore, KIRKLAND  
LAKE).

1700 today Tuesday. SS. LOOKOUT in A.T.M. struck wreck  
between N.F.13 and N.F.14 buoys.  
Tug ANTIC proceeding to assist. Ship taking in water in  
number two hold and engine room. GRASSHOLME taking off crew  
and standing by.

(S.O. Force T, 122340 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Landing  
Craft  
requirements  
of  
A.N.C.X.F.

Your 111701 para. I. This assumption is not  
correct. The requirement of S.H.A.E.F. for a  
lift of 78 L.C.A. Davits as stated in my No.  
1661/X/0670/41 of 20th August still stands, and  
is likely to remain until end of hostilities in  
Europe.

Para. 2. Force T was formed to carry out  
operation "Infatuate" for which L.S.I. were not  
required as L.C.A. could be carried to Area in L.S.D. and  
mounted from Local Harbours. Examination of possible future  
operations against East Frisian Islands has already shown need  
for L.S.I. for these if seaborne assault proves necessary as may  
well be the case.

Para. 3. As regards operation "Nestegg" three L.S.I.(L) are  
required by C. in C. Plymouth who is requested to remark whether  
he can recast his plan so that a smaller lift will suffice.

Para. 4. Need to undertake refits and conversions of all L.S.I.  
is appreciated and while it may be possible to place L.S.I.  
lift available to S.H.A.E.F. at an extended notice which so far  
as "Nestegg" is concerned must presumably receive approval of  
British Chiefs of Staff, it is regretted that it is not possible  
to reduce the dormant requirement of S.H.A.E.F. for Assault  
shipping as stated in para. one above.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 121859A to Admty).

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.

My 111555A for HARGOOD and LA SURPRISE read:  
WATCHMAN and ANTHONY.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 120139A to Portsmouth A/S  
Patrol Force).

Patrol night 12/13th. SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE, HARGOOD, LA  
SURPRISE. Ships in sequence shown from North 2 miles apart  
speed 8 knots from 50° 05' 01" 48' W., search 090° to 00.38' W.  
thence anti snort patrol areas below.

2. Area X 00° 38', 01° 48' W. 50° 23', 49° 47' divided 4 sections  
by parallels 49° 56', 50° 05', 50° 14'.

3. Take sections from North sequence shown above start north  
east corner own section finish south west corner 0830.

4. M.T.Bs. if weather suitable ordered search Z.127, 126, 125,  
130, 132.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121251A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Forces)

War Diary.12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel

Patrols. 13th Day patrols. Search areas limits given.  
(Contd.) (2) M.T.Bs.  $01^{\circ} 47'$ ,  $01^{\circ} 34'$  W.,  $50^{\circ} 11'$ ,  $50^{\circ} 28'$ .  
(3) SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE  $01^{\circ} 47'$ ,  $01^{\circ} 34'$  W.,  
 $49^{\circ} 55'$ ,  $50^{\circ} 11'$  or if no M.T.Bs.  $50^{\circ} 16'$ .  
(4) HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE  $01^{\circ} 47'$ ,  $01^{\circ} 13'$  W.,  
 $49^{\circ} 55'$ ,  $49^{\circ} 47'$ .  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121502A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol  
Forces)  
Air patrols. My 281728, para. 12.  
(A) Night 12th/13th patrol 3 - Liberators. Day 13th patrol 3 -  
Liberators. 4 and 5 - Swordfish.  
(B) 838 Squadron PFY. 842 Squadron WWD.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121558A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol  
Forces.)

Potato Admiralty 110026A to you directs sailing arrange-  
traffic ments be made between this Command, C. in C.  
Brittany to Portsmouth and Plymouth. Your 111213A to  
River Seine. S.H.A.E.F. G-4 reads C.T.F.122 will make similar  
arrangements. Is this a change in instructions,  
or coding error.  
(C.T.F. 125, 121005A to A.N.C.X.F.)  
Your 121005. It is confirmed that arrangements will be  
initiated by C.T.F. 122.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 121319A to C.T.F. 125.)

Suspected SPRAGGE attacking bottom contact in position  
U-Boat.  $050^{\circ} 12'2''$  N.,  $001^{\circ} 42'$  W. have ordered  
L'ESCARMOUCHE to join SPRAGGE. Am continuing  
patrol with LA SURPRISE.  
(HARGOOD, 121640A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
(A) No H.E. (B) No reliable movements.  
(C) U.O. Recorder trace good for extent of target indicated on  
bottom. L'ESCARMOUCHE in contact, dan buoy laid, attacking  
with depth charges. HARGOOD's 121640.  
(SPRAGGE, 121712 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
3 depth charge attacks. No evidence of wreckage or oil  
contact lost at 1751. Carrying out Observant. Consider this  
is probably a wreck.  
(SPRAGGE, 121807A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Check Q.H. position see Vespers Wreck P.N.O. 440.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121826A to SPRAGGE.)  
Your 121826. Q.H. position was checked and considered  
accurate within 2000 yards and possibly wrecked refers.  
(SPRAGGE, 121946A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Weather- CAMELLIA proceed passing Clyde Boom 1030A/13th  
reporting December to Merville to top up with fuel. E.T.A.  
ship. 1930A thence to comply with C. in C. W.A.  
081048A December.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Weather-reporting ship. (Contd.) (2) E.T.A. 53° N., 20° W. is to be reported to CELANDINE (R) C. in C. W.A. and Admiralty before leaving Moville. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120924A to CAMELLIA.)

E.G. 6 to relieve E.G. 2. (Operation "Chowder"). My 112215 and C. in C. Rosyth 112234 not to all. Call at Moville for fuel and onward routeing. Proceed at best speed. (C. in C. W.A., 121104A to S.O. E.G.6.) E.T.A. Moville 0600/13th. (S.O. E.G.6, 121715A to C. in C. W.A.) On completion of fuelling Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail 6th E.G. to operate in area bounded by (A) 51° 17', 05° 00'. (B) 51° 44', 06° 20'. (C) 52° 30', 06° 00'. (D) 52° 13', 04° 22'. Attention is called to Q.Z.X. 293. (2) E.T.A. latitude 52° 25' is to be reported. At this time 2nd E.G. if not in contact is to leave present patrol area and proceed to Liverpool for lay-over. (C. in C. W.A., 122351A to Com. (D) W.A., S.O. E.Gs. 6, 2.)

Patrol. Patrol area between (A) 49° 53', 09° 35'. (B) 50° 17', 08° 50'. (C) 51° 30', 10° 24'. (D) 51° 08', 11° 10'. (2) You will probably be relieved for short lay-over at Milford Haven about 18th December. (C. in C. W.A., 121232A to S.O. E.G.1.)

Suspected U-Boat. By D/F on 12010 N k/cs. 1209Z U-Boat making WW message estimated within 75 miles of 54° 20' N., 25° 30' W. The radius of 75 miles is likely to be east or west rather than north or south of the estimated position. (D.D.I.C., 121449A to Escorts of S.C.162.)

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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway

Intended  
S/M action  
off and  
south of  
Stavanger.

It is intended that S/M RUBIS shall carry out a minelaying operation on 17th December in vicinity of 58 degs. 51' N. 05 degs. 31' E. and a further S/M undertake an anti-shipping patrol in the area between Bergen and the Skagerrak during the period of the minelay.

(2) H.Q.C.C. is requested after consultation with F.O.S/M to cease anti-U-Boat operations in the areas required for the duration of one patrol.

(3) Para. 1 of Admty. Letter M.058227/44 of 16th November refers. (A.C.N.S.(H), 120559A to H.Q.C.C. F.O.S/M)

Request you will sail RUBIS and VENTURER to leave Lerwick 15th December.

(2) RUBIS to carry out F.D. 52 in accordance with my 121559A in an area bounded by latitudes 58 degs. 39' 58 degs. 59' long. 04 degs. and Norwegian Coast.

(3) Attention is called to enemy minefields in FSK. RUBIS should not approach within half a mile of the coast in vicinity of her lay.

(4) VENTURER to sail 6 hours before RUBIS to patrol in area bounded by 58 degs. 39' 04 degs. E. on the south by 58 degs. 15' on the southeast by a line 050 degs. from 58 degs. 15' 05 degs. 45' and on the east by Norwegian Coast.

(F.O.S/M.121558A to S/M.9, S.O.S/M Lerwick.)

I.S.O.H.280(iii). F.D.52.

(a) RUBIS. (b) 18th December. (c) 3 groups within a circle of radius 0.5 miles with centre in position 58 degs. 51' N. 05 degs. 30.8 E.

(d) 8 feet. (e) 6 feet. (g) 150 feet. (h) 40 days.

(j) Return to Lerwick by reverse of outward route.

(k) On passing 02 degs. E.

(F.O.S/M.121559A to S/M.9)

Operation  
"V.P".

V.P.74. M.T.B. 711 and M.T.B.715 returned at 1330A to-day 12th December.

(2) Unit detected on entering leads.

No shipping seen other than Fishing Vessels between 1730/11 and 0430/12.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 121422A to A.C.O.S.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

TUNSBURG  
CASTLE  
damaged.

TUNSBURG CASTLE (N.S.) abandoning ship probably mined. My position Makaur Light  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. (EGLANTINE, 120725Z to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Patrol.

2000 Movement Tuesday E.G.4, BYARD S.O. and 3 frigates patrol Cape Wrath and Butt of Lewis Area. (A.C.O.S.121121A to Admty.)

/Convoy ...



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TuesdayHOME COMLANDSOperationsNorthern Waters - Contd.Convoy  
R.A.62.

8 Ju. torpedo bombers made 2 attacks on convoy between 1400 and 1500. Believe no losses. Am still being shadowed. P.C.S. 071 degs. 55' N. 019 degs. 54' E. 260 degs. 8 knots. Weather report 2594 0975. (C.S.1, 121501A to C. in C. H.F.)

CASSANDRA.

My P.C.S. 071 degs. 35' N. 034 degs. 38' E. 170 degs. 3 knots towing CASSANDRA. Request tugs and air cover. Sea moderating. (S.O.E.G.20, 121645C to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

Further  
Escort  
Groups  
desired in  
Northern  
Waters.

I cannot but view with concern the disastrous effect which A.M.111714 must have on the anti-U-Boat warfare in the approaches to Norway. The removal of all escort groups from these waters. gives U-Boats a more or less free run to and from their Bases, the only deterrent being the activities of 18 Group Coastal Command. Experience has proved the need for surface craft to operate in

close co-operation with A/C which although contact has been obtained, are seldom able to get in an attack against Schnorkel U-Boats and must rely on surface craft to hunt. Of the 3 attacks carried out by the 17th Escort Group while operating in the Shetland Faeroes area between the 10th November and 2nd December, the most promising was as a direct result of air/sea co-operation.

Under these circumstances the policy of leaving not a single escort group in these waters appears most inadvisable, and it is requested that favourable consideration may be given to not only allocating another escort group to this Command at the earliest possible date but to increasing the number of escort groups to this Command at the earliest possible date but to increasing the number of escort groups for operations in Northern waters as soon as available.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 121800A to Admty.)

Destination  
for Norwegian  
M.F.V's.

In view of EGLANTINE's 120725. Request destination for Norwegian motor fishing vessels. Your 090857 refers. (Admty. 121824A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Action  
recommended  
against quick  
diving U-  
Boats at  
short range.

Conclude from your 111510A that no depth charges were fired and that U-Boat probably broke surface at short range.

(2) In such circumstances it is recommended that no time be lost in delivering an attack if necessary by eye before U-Boat can adopt effective shallow water anti-ascic tactics. If ascic contact is not obtained after this attack the area should be plastered liberally with depth charges

on the assumption that the U-Boat will bottom not far from her diving position.

/(3) ...

War Diary12.12.1944  
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern Waters

Action recommended against quick diving U-Boats at short range.  
(Contd.)

(3) The Schnorkel apparatus is vulnerable to damage by depth charges exploding at distances which otherwise might not cause damage to the U-Boat.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 121931A to A.C.I.C.)

Allied Air Activity

Conduct of air and surface craft.

A.X., 955. 12th December 1944.

My A.X. 894. August 16. As a result of further examination of problem set out in paras. 1 and 2 and 3 of above signal, it is proposed to substitute following instructions in place of recommendations in paras. 4 and 5.

- (2) Admiralty's view is that naval operations needing protection by use of special I.F.F. codes are:-
- (1) Likely to be restricted to an area north of a line in Portland (Iceland) - Orkneys - Statlandet (Norway) and to occur also in Mediterranean.
- (11) Likely to take place outside range of friendly shore-based fighters in Home Waters.
- (III) Not expected to exceed in frequency twice a month in Home Waters in connection with Russian convoys and movements of Home Fleet and would be limited in Mediterranean to protection of vital convoys.
- (3) (A) Scheme for use of special I.F.F. codes would be brought into operation only when essential for protection of important convoys and major fleet formations.
- (B) When it is decided to bring scheme into operation a special code zone would be declared by agreement between:
- (i) In Home Waters, C. in C. Home Fleet and A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command who may delegate this authority to A.O.C. 18 Group.
- (ii) In Mediterranean, C. in C. Mediterranean and Air C. in C. M.A.A.F.
- (C) Special code zones would be fixed in one of two ways namely:-
- (i) Whenever possible zone would be area surrounding convoy of Naval formation concerned and moving daily in accordance with movements of convoy or Naval formation. Extent of zone would be one day's run plus a margin of 100 miles all round. A.O.C.18 Group in Home Waters and Air C. in C. M.A.A.F. in Mediterranean would notify all air formations concerned of each day's location of zone.
- (ii) Where sub-para.(i) is not applicable a fixed zone covering area of intended operations for a period of several days would be promulgated by signal by A.O.C.18 Group in Home Waters and by Air C. in C. M.A.A.F. in Mediterranean.
- (D) Details of special codes to be used in special code zones would be included in the notifying signal referred to in sub-para. (C) (i) and (ii) above. Changes in code would not occur more frequently than every 12 hours.
- (E) All G.R. and Naval A/C flying in a special code zone would use I.F.F. codes as notified by signals referred to in sub-para. (C) above. All other aircraft than G.R. or Naval A/C should be routed clear of special code zone.

/(F) ...

War Diary.12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air ActivityConduct  
of air and  
surface  
craft.  
(Contd.)(F) G.R. and Naval aircraft should switch off their I.F.F. whenever practicable when flying within radar range of enemy territory in order to avoid disclosing to enemy the code of period.  
(G) Instructions would be issued to ships operating in special code zones that aircraft using wrong code should be treated as not showing I.F.F. i.e. as unidentified out not necessarily

hostile.

(4) Your early comments or concurrence are requested.  
(Air Ministry, 121002A to Admty.)Mining18th M.S.F. 5 Fleet M/S and 1 danlayer E.T.A. Small Downs 1615A.  
(HOUND, 121321A to C. in C. Nore.)  
Completed sweep in accordance with your 111426 to a depth  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cables north of centre line with negative result. One old drifting mine G.R. type partially waterlogged sunk by rifle in position  $160^\circ$  O.D.1 Buoy 7 cables.  
(HOUND, 121359A to C. in C. Nore.)42nd M.S.F. Am anchoring in Ostend Road. 3 M/S and one danlayer in company.  
(FLORIZEL, 121531A to C. in C. Nore.)Minesweeping Operation "Calendar".  
in Schelde. (1) Sweeping today Tuesday 12th December SA/LL  
(A) N.F. 13 to N.F. 18. (B) N.F. 17 to Terneuzen. (C) Grenade sweep N.F.13 to N.F.18.  
(D) LAA sweeping at Antwerp Oropesa N.F. 13 to N.F. 18 and outside edges.  
(2) Ground mines 4 acoustic (2 near N.F.15, 2 near N.F.13 all south of channel).  
(3) Surveying work is continuing.  
(Capt. M/S.F.A., 121854A to C. in C. Nore.)113th M.S.F. 113th M.S.F. is allocated to Dover M/S Force as from 20th December.  
(2) A further signal will be made regarding accounts.  
(3) A.N.C.X.F's 111243 not to all addressees refers.  
(D.M.S., 121921A to F.O.B.A.A., A.C. Dover.)

War Diary.12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSEnemy Intelligence

German My 091151.  
 Military It is learnt from railway transport movements  
 transport that Germans are now intending to use 6 of Oslo  
 from ports for shipments of military from Norway to  
 Norway. Denmark.  
 In addition to Oslo, Frederikstad, Moss, Porsgrund  
 Kragero and Arendal are in future to be used.  
 Following details of troop transport movements  
 are at present available.

(1) Oslo. (A) My 081717 para. 2(B) STAHLECK which discharged  
 large number of torpedoes at Oslo left December 4th with  
 damaged motor vehicles, machine parts and military baggage.  
 (B) WINRICH VON KNIPRODE arrived Oslo December 2nd from Aarhus  
 with 1000 men, mainly Infantry. On entering harbour she  
 collided with BIRKENAU and also damaged her propeller in anti-  
 torpedo nets. She had in consequence to enter Akers (?Floating)  
 Dock for repairs December 6th.  
 (C) ROLANDSECK which arrived Oslo December 6th was expected  
 to leave following day with about 400 Alpine troops, workmen  
 and auxiliaries.

(2) Herpesa Porsgrund.  
 (A) SUDERAU left Herpesa November 30th for Aarhus with horses,  
 material and troops.  
 (B) On December 2nd ferry DEUTSCHLAND one large unidentified  
 German vessel and BORBECK slightly damaged arrived Herpesa.  
 DEUTSCHLAND loaded oil tank waggons and cars while other two  
 vessels loaded troops, cars, motor cycles and guns. See my  
 top secret 071747.  
 (C) DONAU was reported at Herpesa December 4th loaded troops  
 and material. This was stated to be her third trip from  
 Herpesa.  
 (D) Vessel of same size as DONAU possibly ISAR was then  
 expected at Herpesa.  
 (E) Up to about December 4th it was estimated that 5000 troops  
 had been transported from Porsgrund.

(3) Arendal (?Swedish) transport was reported early December in  
 Arendal harbour with troops and material being embarked for  
 Aarhus but as yet further details are lacking.

(4) Coal situation. As a result of increased demands for  
 railway transport to various ports of embarkation railways of  
 Oslo district estimate their present stocks of coal amounting  
 60,000 tons will last about 2 months. See also my 091712 para.  
 2 regarding critical coal situation developed at Trondjhem. B.2

(5) Conclusion. (A) Recent British mining and attacks on  
 shipping have considerable delays to original schedule of  
 withdrawal of military by sea from Norway.  
 (B) German requirements to accelerate withdrawal at the same  
 time obviating as far as possible this inference has forced  
 them to appraise additional ports and to augment transport  
 tonnage.  
 (N.A. Stockholm, 121752 to Admty.)

U-Boats

Situation Several on passage in coastal waters from area N.  
 Report. of Shetlands to S. Ireland (R).  
 All inshore waters such as Moray Firth, North  
 Minch, North Channel, Bristol Channel and North  
 Cornish coasts are likely areas in which U-Boats

/may ...

War Diary.12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDSU-Boats

Situation Report. (Contd.) may now be patrolling. No firm reports are available as yet but U-Boats may approach the Irish Sea and St. Georges Channel also. One probably outward bound within 90 miles of 61° N., 15° W. One off Reykjavik.

Weather reporters within 100 miles of 55° N., 25° W. 46° N., 26° 30' W. 55° 30' N., 37° W. (D.D.I.C., 121440A to Cominch.)

Port Facilities

Ghent. Ghent. 23 feet maximum until dredging has taken place. (B) 460 feet. (C) 1 Liberty 23 feet. Remaining big ship berths encumbered by sand dumps. 10 coaster berths 22 feet. (D) Liberty total 3 moves or coasters total 10 moves. (P.S.T.O. N.W.E., 121814 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Shipping and Convoys

Army leave traffic through Ostend or Calais. A.M. 112343. The subject of Army leave traffic through Ostend has been discussed at a number of meetings at which Admiralty have been represented over a period of weeks, but, although Naval objections have been stated in general terms, no Admiralty veto has hitherto been applied to the use of this port. Army arrangements have accordingly progressed on the assumption that Ostend would be the main port for this traffic.

(2) Moreover, at the meeting on the 6th December quoted in the Admiralty message, it is understood Admiralty gave the impression that, if 21 Army Group were prepared to accept the Naval disadvantages, Admiralty were prepared to agree. Furthermore the Admiralty envisaged the use of Ostend for a proportion of this traffic in any event.

(3) A change at this late stage will entail the postponement of Army leave until some date in February which, in the opinion of S.H.A.E.F. would have the most grave consequences following the Government announcement that leave would start on the 1st January, and which may not be acceptable to the Supreme Commander.

(4) For the period 3rd October to 11th December, 73,868 personnel have been brought into the port of Ostend with negligible losses and, during the same time, Hospital Carriers have evacuated several thousand casualties. It was on the basis of the above facts and an appreciation of the actual risks involved, as well as for the reason given in para. 3 above, and consideration of the land transit difficulties between the battle area and Calais that I advised the Supreme Commander to accept the use of Ostend initially.

(5) It is requested that the Admiralty veto on the use of Ostend may therefore be reconsidered as a matter of urgency. (A.N.C.X.F., 121225A to Admty.)

/After ...

12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSShipping and ConvoysArmy leave  
traffic  
through  
Ostend or  
Calais.  
(Contd.)

After discussion with the War Office it has been agreed that, until leave through Calais can be arranged, traffic through Ostend will be accepted. It will only be sailed at the discretion of C. in C. Nore, any resulting dislocation being accepted.

(2) A.M. 112343A refers.  
(V.C.N.S., 121315A to A.N.C.X.F.)Naval  
Control  
Service  
in the  
Downs.

(2) The situation as regards craft for the Naval Control Service in the Downs is as follows:-

(A) Of the six drifters allocated only two are operational, one is on passage the remainder arrived in a useless condition owing to defects.

(B) Two drifters supplies by Dover are operational.

(C) All three motor fishing vessels allocated are out of action due to defects.

(3) Of the four operational drifters, two are being maintained on patrol, but this is insufficient to cope with the amount of shipping in the Downs.

(4) To make this service efficient it is now considered that 5 vessels on patrol throughout the 24 hours are necessary stationed as follows:-

(A) Dumpton Buoy to control ships proceeding south to the Downs Anchorage.

(B) Sandhead Buoy to control ships proceeding north to the Downs Anchorage.

(C) Downs North Anchorage.

(D) Downs South Anchorage.

(E) Trinity Bay Anchorage.

In addition two M.F.Vs. are required throughout the 24 hours to service the above.

(5) It is therefore requested that a further 4 trawlers or drifters and one M.F.V. may be allocated for this work.

Trawlers are considered preferable in view of their better sea-keeping qualities as they would be carrying out patrols (A) and (B).

It is further requested that the craft detailed may be in good condition and operational on arrival as Dover maintenance resources are already working at full pressure.

(V.A. Dover, 121255A to Admty.)

Convoy (D. T. D. 121420Z to Com: 10<sup>th</sup> Fleet c + R. Info: S. B. N. O.

C.K. 4. Azores.)

See p 295 (America + West Indies).

War Diary.

12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ENGADINE,  
EGGESFORD.

Intend to sail ENGADINE (S.O.) escorted by  
EGGESFORD at 1800A December 12th.

- (2) Route (A) 35.59 N. 06.10 W.  
(B) 36.55 N. 09.05 W. (C) 38.40 N. 09.50 W.  
(D) 43.20 N. 09.50 W. (E) 49.00 N. 06.59 W.

thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

- (3) S. of A. 14 knots.  
(4) Destination (A) ENGADINE not known. (B) EGGESFORD Nore.  
(5) Codeword "Wormbridge" 378.  
(6) Ships shift Home Station W/T Organisation at 1030A/14.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 121025A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Sailed ENGADINE, EGGESFORD, my 121025 refers. Q.Z.H. (c)  
632 L.67, S.650, X.1468, Y.528.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 121819A.)

Group I  
Patrol.

MALCOLM take VERITY under your orders and sail at  
0830A/13th Dec. to join Group I carrying out  
patrol "Bacon". My 051130A Nov. refers.

- (2) Group I consists of ENCHANTRESS S.O., INVER,  
WOLVERINE and KILMARTIN.  
(3) ENCHANTRESS arrange R/V direct with MALCOLM.  
(4) On joining MALCOLM to become S.O. on patrol. WOLVERINE and  
L.N. 2675 (allocation not known) to be detached and return to  
harbour.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 121139A to MALCOLM, etc.)

Destroyers  
for U.K.

Sailed TERPSICHORE, TYRIAN, TUSCAN.  
(Q.Z.H.(C) 6 32 L.67, S.650, X.1468, Y.528.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 121219A to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Shipping.

Your 051522 (request your remarks regarding C.C.F's  
proposals in appendix A of his Nr = 5021/15 of  
18 Nov.) Allied shipping proposal in appendix  
A concurred with.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 121730A to C. in C. Med.)

Collision.

As a result of collision with U.S.S. HURON,  
JAMES FENIMORE COOPER has broken anchor windlass  
and damaged Port Anchor. Unable to use anchors.  
Request tugs be furnished to assist in mooring.

Ammunition in forward hold must be removed before repairs can be  
made to damaged bow.

(C.T.F. 62, 122100 to F.O.G.M.A.)

War Diary12.12.1944  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

**Prisoners from Patras** Intend to sail KULL(?YSA) with security prisoners 0600/12th escorted by M.L.1158 by safe channel to position 038° N. 020° 36' E. thence unescorted to 037° (735") N. 020° E. thence by Chianti East and Milk North to Athens, speed 8 knots, continuous watch 500 Kcs. Master has been warned in sealed orders to keep a good lookout for signals. E.T.A. 1200/15th. (N.O.I.C. Patras, 120201B to C.C.O. Piraeus)

**LIDDESDALE report Symi.** Am confident invasion attempt has been frustrated. (2) Am maintaining close patrol with TETCOTT and M.T.B.402 until daylight when I intend to enter Symi to contact MCCLELLAND and confirm. (3) H.D.M.L. is in Symi now to evacuate in emergency. (4) Further signal will be made. (5) My 112050 and 112146, 112305 not to all addressees refer.\* (LIDDESDALE 120536B to F.O.L.E.M., Info, Comarol, F.O.L.E.M. Athens, S.O. Force 53, Force 142) \* W.D. Note - No trace of any of these former signals. 120536B was not addressed to Admty. See also 121555B.

**HUNTER Sabotage.** Attempted sabotage in HUNTER 6th December by placing starter cartridges and nail under tail wheel of aircraft in hangar. Discovered before damage caused. No suspects. Board of enquiry being held. (V.A. Maltar, 120859 to Admty. (D.N.I.) C. in C. Med. Cdre. Commanding Escort Carriers.)

**Aegean Summary.** G1/68996 cipher 12th December. Isum. No.10. Aegean. Patmos. Force 142 reports 10th Dec. enemy landed from three barges, strength unknown. Crete. CX reports 8th December enemy attacked Vafes, B.2539, using 500 infantry supported by tanks and armoured cars but withdrew at nightfall after Andartes counter attack. (C. in C.M.E., 120900B, to A.F.H.Q.)

**Supplies for French Navy.** Following is a repetition of 072235 from MATOUSA signed McNamee cite N.A.G.D.S. (Begins) Addressed S.H.A.E.F. Main, (R) S.O.L.O.C., A.N.C.X.F., C.in C. Medn. Com. 8th Fleet. Ref. F.X.64920. Receipt is acknowledged of your S.69627 dated 5th Dec. 1944. The entire matter of supply of the French Navy has been referred by C. in C. Med. to the Admty. by cable 021238 dated 2nd December. It was requested that the respective responsibilities of the United States and United Kingdom regarding supplies to the French Navy and its establishments be re-examined. Since the French Naval forces involved and ports from which they are now operating in France are not within this theatre it is considered further action toward clarifying the responsibilities is a matter that S.H.A.E.F. should take up with the Admiralty and the Combined Chiefs of Staff. No further action is being taken here D.T.G.072235. (Ends.) (A.N.C.X.F. 120901A to Admty.) /Russian...



12.12.1944  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Russian  
visit to  
Greece.

Your 091103. Request details and purpose of proposed visit of Russian vessel to Greece. (P.A.S.(L) 121143A to C. in C. Med.) Reply 131629A.

C. in Cs.  
visit to  
Algiers.

Your 111838 has been passed to B.A.D. under T.O.O. 121203 with instructions to reply and accelerate decision. (2) Cominch has stated that if C.C.S. approved proposals in C.O.S.(W) 464 he does not wish at the same time to take up question of Moroccan ports. (P.A.S.(L) 121221A to C. in C. Med. info. B.A.D.)

Escort  
Carrier  
Refits.

Admty. 121237. (Hush N.T. in W.D., but see Admty. 130756A.)

Supreme  
Commander.

For British Chiefs of Staff. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Signed Alexander cite FHCOS. Field Marshal Alexander assumed command in the Mediterranean Theatre at 0900 hours 12th Dec., 1944, on the departure of General Wilson for

United Kingdom.  
(A.F.H.Q. T.O.O. Nil, 12)

Aegean:  
Action  
off Symi.

South Aegean Summary up to 0900 hours Dec. 12. (1) Shippings. Poor photographic cover obtained Dec. 11 owing to weather. Rhodes Island. Lindos. 1 small craft still present Crete. Suda Bay. 1 launch 80 arrived from Melos or Canea and 1 Caique 40/60 arrived from Canea. Total now present 1 tug emitting smoke, 2 launches and 1 caique. Remainder Aegean ports not covered. Reference signal Dec. 8 ground source reports caique San Georgio arrived Marmaris from Rhodes Dec. 6 with cargo scrap iron tyres drums to be exchanged foodstuffs. Patmos. Naval source reports 3 lighters had left Patmos by dawn 11 Dec. presumably for Leros leaving party unknown strength ashore. Rhodes. Ground source states 2 large motor boats being built in hangars at Miesi map reference 265576. This being investigated. Symi. Naval source reports enemy landing craft engaged by destroyers south of Symi night 11/12 Dec. 1 landing craft blown up others possibly damaged and believed returned Rhodes. Not believed landing on Symi effected. (C. in C. M.E. 121555B to W.O.)

Cable  
Repairs.

Request you arrange repair of Gibraltar/Casablanca Number 2 Cable by H.M.S. MIRROR. (C. in C. Med. 121630A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/C. in C.'s....

12.12.1944  
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

C. in C.'s visit to Algiers, boundary of F.O.W.M. Ronarc'h intends to raise question of extension of Eastern Border of Area at present under F.O.W.M. to take in Western Corsica between Ile Rousse and Aquila Point. (2) Naval Command of Corsica is already in French hands, Comar Corse being responsible to C. in C. Med. through Almed. Propose, therefore to go further than Ronarc'h suggests and to make northern half of eastern limit of Area lie between 40.00 N. 07.30 E. 41.34 N. 07.30 thence to Aquila Point (41.34 N. 08.47 E.) thence following Corsican Coast Line south and East about to Cap Corse thence to Franco Italian Frontier. Proviso in para. 5 C. of C.C.S. (W) 462 not to F.O.N.A.M. would of (?course) hold good. (3) Request very early reply in view of my 111838. (C. in C. Med. 121642A to Admty.)

TETCOTT Have detached TETCOTT to Alexandria, reporting own E.T.A. (KIMBERLEY, 121701B, to F.O.L.E.M.)

Destroyer organisation The following organization of Fleet Destroyers is intended:- 3rd D.F. MILNE, MUSKETEER, MARNE, METEOR, MATCHLESS, LOOKOUT, LOYAL, 14th D.F. JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, KIMBERLEY. Pending arrival Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE it is intended that all Fleet Destroyers be administered by MUSKETEER, under V.A.M. (C. in C. Med., 121713 to Med. Station 305B, (R) Admty.) Pending arrival of MILNE it is intended MUSKETEER administer under V.A. Malta all fleet destroyers in Med. Station. My 121713 refers. (2) This would release Comdr. Ransome who it is proposed should return to U.K. and bring out JERVIS. (3) If proposal in para. 2 is approved it is requested that the Lt. Comdr. who would have changed into LOYAL in accordance with Admty. 140410 October may be sent to take command of that ship as soon as possible after his relief in JERVIS. (C. in C. Med. 121720 to Admty.)

SOMERSET COAST, Kalamata. SOMERSET COAST completes discharging Kalamata today. Owing to local situation SOMERSET COAST required to stand by for military evacuation. Intend holding. (N.O.I.C. Kalamata, 121730B to F.O.L.E.M., Athens.)

Volos Many reports of E.L.A.S. guns 85 mm. and 88 mm. being mounted round Port Volos also at entrance to Gulf. Request air reconnaissance if possible to locate or refute. There are certainly guns in district and local factory is repairing others. (MUSKETEER, 121730B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

/EASTWAY...

War Diary12.12.1944  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.EASTWAY,  
STORK.

EASTWAY has been detailed to ferry 6 L.C.T.(R) from U.K. to Gibraltar - this entails carrying 2 craft on each of 3 trips.  
 (2) EASTWAY will leave U.K. in K.M.F.37 with L.C.T.(R) 484 and 398.  
 (3) C. in C. Med. is requested to make STORK available at Gibraltar by 21st December to escort EASTWAY to Clyde. A.M. 241720 November and F.O.G.M.A.'s 301240 neither to all refer.  
 (4) Further programme will be signalled. (D.O.D.(H) 121753A to C. in C. Med.)

BRUISER

Your 281225 November.  
 (BRUISER may be retained temporarily.  
 (V.C.N.S. 121935A to C. in C. Med.)

Greek  
Ports

Shipping situation Report No. 1, at noon Dec. 12, sent in reply to Admt. 111155A.  
 (F.O.L.E.M. 121952B.)  
 See Dispositions and Movements Volume.

Aegean  
Sitrep  
No. 4

(1) Sea Ops. R.N. report abortive attempt by Germans to invade Syri night 11/12 Dec. one landing craft destroyed one put to flight.  
 (2) Political. Force 142 report 11 Dec. Icari. Arms being collected, no incidents. Samos. Fighting between Andartes and civilians 10th December, ceased 11th December only few E.A.M. now hostile, arms being handed in by remainder. Patras, Mil and political authorities endeavouring dissolve E.L.A.S. and call up 1936 age group.  
 (C. in C.M.E. 122015B, to A.F.H.Q.)

Cable  
repairs.

Your 041426 and 051210.  
 (2) MARIE LOUISE MACKAY arrived U.K. 3rd Dec. and owing damage sustained in Azores is now laid up for repairs.  
 (3) PACIFIC should not be needed for Red Sea repairs as these have been allocated to STORE NORDISKE.  
 (4) In view of above and non-availability of ALSACE, MIRROR is therefore only possible cable ship available to carry out St. Vincent repairs. Given good weather, these should not entail more than fortnight's work.  
 (5) Request vessel may be sailed accordingly as soon as possible after completing Casablanca work.  
 (6) In emergency, ST. MARGARETS, BULLFINCH and RETRIEVER are all capable of effecting cable repairs with assistance in personnel and equipment from Cable and Wireless depots.  
 (D.S.D., 122050A to C. in C. Med.)

C.F.HUGHES

Intend depart Toulon for Bombardment Area 0700A/13th. E.T.A. 1100A.  
 C.F.HUGHES, 122115A to Comflanfor.)

/WILTON...

War Diary12.12.1944  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

WILTON (Yugoslavia) Request you will pass following message to S.A.S.O. addressed S.A.S.O.B.A.F. from Smythe. Visited local partisan Area Cdr. with Breene A.M. Dec. 12th. His instructions only allow him to give authority for R/C party to visit Zemunik air fields and their immediate vicinity. Meeting most cordial but Cdr. made it perfectly clear that he could not act on his own authority to give us facilities to carry out R/C according to the terms of reference set out in (Secret?) Macmis GO/599 Dec. 9th para. 2 B and C to relator. Suggest you again refer VIII Corps to above terms of reference as agreed, write Tito, and ensure he instructs local Cdr. immediately.

Particularly request that specific authority be given for the following facilities;

- (1) Access to Harbour and all port installations.
- (2) Detailed R/C of town and area for all accommodation and storage requirements.
- (3) Inspection of electric and water installations.
- (4) R/C of existing telephone system between town and air field.
- (5) R/C of area for suitable Radar site.
- (6) Possibility of termination of Ancona - Zadar will be cabled.

(WILTON 122300Z to N.L.O.B.A.F.)

Situation report No.503 (1) All water front at Piraeus from Navy House to Naval Headquarters clear of rebels. Clearance of peninsula on which these headquarters stand progressing well. Warships continue to provide close support fire on call. Moderation in weather has enabled discharge of M/T to restart. Preparation of E.L.A.S. strong point north of coal jetty continues and is causing grave concern.

(2) Arrival of CALEDON has eased situation at Kavalla where all is now reported quiet. C.O.S. of local E.L.A.S. has given himself up.

(3) Reports from other Greek ports are as follows. Patras. E.L.A.S. troops have left town and are digging in on high ground on outskirts. Situation otherwise quiet. Kalamata. Situation tense. Syra. E.A.M. surrendered arms without incident but firing broke out later. Mitylene. Situation delicate but eased by arrival of H.M. ships. Lemnos. No disturbances. Volos. No shooting yet but Greek N.O.I.C. threatened and has been embarked.

(4) German raiding party landed on Patmos from 3 barges. KIMBERLEY and EXMOOR and M/Ls are investigating.

(5) Destroyers carried out night bombardment of Rab Island.

(6) Situation at Split remains tense in spite of approval from Tito for DELHI to remain.

(7) Situation report No. 502 para. 3. F.F.S. SABRE was also in this engagement and sank 1 enemy coastal craft.

(C. in C. Med., 122351A.)

Greek situation Cositintrep No.552 part IV. Greece. Athens/Piraeus area. General situation not improved. There has been extensive infiltration by E.L.A.S. forces into areas previously cleared, and enemy snipers now picket all routes out of the city.

12.12.1944  
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek  
Situation  
(Contd.)

Many are dressed as civilians. In the central sector, fighting was continuous most of the day, and our troops withdrew in some areas. In eastern and western sectors, some progress was made but opposition is still strong.

Salonika. Five hundred E.L.A.S. troops closed. ten miles north of town. Anti-British propaganda is increasing Situation is quiet but tense.

Volos. Strained situation with demonstrations.

Peloponnese. Patras. No change.

(A.F.H.Q., no T.O.O./12.)

Army  
Command  
Changes.

FX.67803 cipher 12th Dec.

Field Marshal Alexander assumed command in the Med. theatre at 0900 /12 Dec., 1944 on the departure of General Wilson for U.K.

(2) With effect from 1200 Sat., 16th Dec., 1944, Lieut. General Mark Clark will assume command

of Fifth and Eighth Armies with the title of Commanding General, 15 Army Group.

(3) At the same time, H.Qs., Allied Armies in Italy will become H.Qs., 15 Army Group.

(4) Consequential changes in administrative organisation will be put into effect a few days later. Separate instructions follow.

(5) Number 1 District will be temporarily under command of Commanding General, 15 Army Group, pending issue of instructions mentioned in para 4 above.

(A.F.H.Q., No T.O.O.)

War Diary.

12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

China.

Summary of events, week ending Dec. 7, 1944.  
(Rear S.A.C.S.E.A. 120255Z to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

U/B dis-  
positions.

No fresh information. Scales in all areas remain unchanged except V.P. 2 increased to X.4.  
(C. in C. E.I. 120400Z.)

Colombo  
movements.

Colombo 12th December. Arrivals KING GEORGE V, WHIRLWIND, WRANGLER, BUSHWOOD.  
Departures INDEFATIGABLE, GRENVILLE, UNDINE, URANIA  
(F.O. Ceylon 121052Z to Admty., etc.)

V.A.2,  
B.P.F.

The flag of Vice Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings, K.C.B., O.B.E., as Vice Admiral commanding 1st Battle Squadron and 2nd in command B.P.F. is to be hoisted in KING GEORGE V at 0800 tomorrow 13th December.  
(C. in C. E.I. 121158Z, 130437Z to K.G.V.)

STRONGBOW  
R. of P.

H.M. S/M STRONGBOW (P.235) 3rd Far East Patrol.  
28th Nov. off Chubadak Island sank 150 ton tug and large lighter by gunfire.  
30th Nov. off Priman Roads boarded Pram and took 2 prisoners also sank large junk. 4 inch or 6 inch shore batteries retaliated with accurate fire.  
(C. in C. E.I. 121417 to Admty.)

BOLD,  
defective  
crankshaft.

Request areport on the circumstances relating to the crankshaft failure, including details of nature of damage be forwarded to C.C.R.T. Your 130952 Nov. refers.  
(Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs 121652A to Cdre. Aden.)

**SECRET**

Recd: in WD 15.12.44

293A.IN

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

WD  
REV.

120255Z December  
Date 13.12.44  
Recd. 0715

FROM: Rear SACSEA

CYPHER

ADDRESSED. War Office  
Repeated SACSEA (for D. of I and BGS (I)) Main ALFSEA  
497221.

China

SEA 2270 cipher 12th December.

Following received from H.Q. USAF IBT for transmission to Prime Minister and Chiefs of Staff London as representing summary of events for week ending 7th December 1944.

1. Chinese Air. No report received.
2. Chinese ground. Fighting continued along the Nantan-Kweiyang road. Chinese troops recaptured the town of Pachai on 5th December and Sankiao on 6th December. Other Chinese troops were about 13 miles North of Tushan on 7th December.

In other sectors there was no change in the situation.

3. U.S. Air. 1st December. No report received. 2nd December. 8P 51's Mustangs attacked shipping on Yangtze River scoring three direct hits on a 200 foot freighter which is claimed as sunk, eight P.51's Mustangs attacked installations at Shihweiyao causing considerable damage. 8 P.51's Mustangs attacked and probably destroyed a 150 foot gunboat at Kiukiang and damaged a 100 foot tug. Mission was intercepted by eight enemy fighters of which one was damaged. One B-24 Liberator on a night mission attacked a small convoy on South China sea with no claims of damage. 12 P-40's attacked targets nr Young-Fen area including shipping and buildings, and strafed Paoching airfield with unobserved results. 3 December. 4 P-40's bombed the barracks area at Wanting and strafed a small group of troops. One B-24 Liberator located several small convoys in the South China sea but no bombing was reported. One B-24 Liberator sank a medium Freighter between Hongkong and Formosa straits. Eight P-51's Mustangs dive bombed shipping on Yangtze River scoring near misses on a 170 foot vessel and two direct hits in the docks causing considerable damage, strafed and probably destroyed one Oscar on Wuhu airfield. One P-51 Mustang strafed two motor convoys in Hengyang area with unobserved results. 26 P-40's on sweep of roads in Hengyang and Lingling area destroyed 19 trucks and damaged 13 trucks, two locomotives seven warehouses of camouflaged stores, and many railroad cars. Four B 25 Mitchels escorted by 10 P-51's Mustangs bombed the storage area North of Siangsiang with good hits; P-51's Mustangs swept roads and rail road southward destroying one locomotive killing 25 troops and strafed 60 railroad cars and two piles of stores starting fires. Five B-24's Liberators bombed Pengpp rail bridge northwest of Nanking scoring direct hits and two near misses with no

((observation) ....

4/12 observation of results. Four December. Three B-24's Liberators on a night mission attacked six vessels sinking a 400 foot freighter and a 250 foot freighter and damaged another in South China sea. Four P-51's attacked shipping on Yangtze River at Pengtseh sinking a 150 foot boat and damaging three. Same planes attacked for a second time leaving two 100 foot boats sinking and damaging five. Two P-51's Mustangs on Mission to attack a large freighter in Amoy Harbour damaging three enemy planes on the airfield and two 100 foot vessels in the Harbour. 12 P 51's Mustangs bombed one enemy plane on Hengyang airfield with near misses and destroyed one truck, damaged two trucks and 24 railcars. 12 P 40's destroyed 11 trucks and damaged 33 in Nantan area. Seven P 40's on a road sweep from Tuyun to Hochih destroyed five trucks and damaged 12 trucks, one locomotive and five rail cars. Two P 51's Mustangs strafed a train at Langson. damaging two locomotives. Five P 51's Mustangs attacked targets at Packai with unreported results. Four P 38's bombed Hsenwi bridge scoring two hits, five P 38's bombed and destroyed Namkai bridge and four P 51's Mustangs bombed Kwanghka bridge causing a temporary road block. Four B 25's Mitchels bombed and knocked out the Western by pass bridge at Lashio and damaged the Eastern by pass bridge. Four B 25's Mitchels bombed and destroyed the fourth Western by pass bridge at Namkai, returning, Lashio bridge and the town of Kutkai was bombed. Three B 24's Liberators on a night mission bombed Fort Bayard causing large explosions. 16 P 51's Mustangs bombed Tayuan steel works and Linfen locomotive repair shops causing considerable damage; on the railroad 14 locomotives were strafed and destroyed. Eight B 25's Mitchels escorted by 16 P 40's bombed rail bridges at Pin Han railroad with the bridge at Minkiang probably destroyed and three locomotives and 10 railroads cars damaged. 22 P 51's Mustangs attacked enemy positions and installations in Nandan-Hochih area; 100 Japanese Cavalry and pack horses were bombed and strafed south of Pachai with the majority killed. Five December. Two B 25's Mitchels escorted by four P 40's attacked railroad installations between Sinyang and Siangtan, in addition the P 40's strafed some railroad cars, six P 38s and four P 51s Mustangs attacked targets in North Thailand with unobserved results. Five B 24's Liberators on a night mission, searched the South China sea and Tonkin Gulf for shipping but sighted none then bombed Samdh by installations, Kowloon docks and Fort Bayard with no observation of results. 5 P 40's destroyed three trucks and strafed buildings and Sampans in Lingling area. 11 P 40's attacked cavalry troops, buildings, barges, trucks and one locomotive in Kwailin-Hengyang area. Four P 40's damaged 10 compound and strafed trenches and Sampans in Paoching area. Three P 51's bombed Fangtsun railroad destroying six rail cars and damaging 15. Eight P 51's Mustangs on a mission to bomb shipping at Kiukiang were intercepted by 21 enemy aircraft of which three were destroyed and five damaged. Seven P 51's Mustangs bombed and probably sank a 150 foot freighter southwest of Anking. Seven P 51's Mustangs attacked shipping at Pengtseh setting fire to a 1750 foot freighter and a 100 foot launch and damaging a 200 foot and a 75 foot freighter. Four P 40's bombed a village near Yiyang (or Yiyeng) destroyed a 50 foot powder boat and damaged 15 Sampans. Two B 24's Liberators attacked and damaged a 300 foot freighter in sweep of Formosa Straits. Six December. Eight P 51's

6/12 /Mustangs .....



# SECRET

293B  
IN

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

- 3 -

Mustangs on sweep of road from Wanting to Lashio thru Kunlong destroyed six trucks and one auto. Seven December. No report received.

Four U.S. ground. Nil for period.

120255Z

Received in War Registry at 0759/15th December

Circulated by War Office to War Office Departments  
Admiralty India Office Air Ministry Foreign Office

1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
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.  
D. Map Room  
Ops.(2)  
Plot.  
O.D.(5)  
O.I.C.(3)  
D.N.I.(7) and for D.N.L.O.(2)  
M(2)  
C.O.L.S.  
A.L.O.  
W.D.✓  
Admiral Blake  
C.W.R.  
D.N.O.R.  
Hydrog.  
D.D.O.D.(C)(2)  
C.N.I.  
Admiral James

Advance copy Ops. O.D. U.W.R.

61/EG

War Diary.12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U-Boat. Very inconclusive D/F of enigma preamble from 0309Z to 0407Z on 5630 k/cs and 4075 k/cs indicate U-Boat (German) possibly within 60 miles either side of a line joining positions N. and W. 049° 00' 063° 45' and 047° 45' 061° 30'.

(N.S.H.Q. 120623Z to G.B.7 A.G.)

D/F my 120623 now re-assessed as probable in general area 048° 00' N. 043° 00' W.  
(N.S.H.Q. 121613Z.)

Visit of C. in C. Med. to Algiers. Following is repetition of C. in C. Med's 111838: (begins) I intend to visit Algiers on 16th Dec. I had hoped the situation set out in C.O.S. (W) 464 would be sufficiently developed to allow me to conclude arrangements with Monarch. Request I may be informed how matters stand. (Ends.)

(2) Request you will reply and accelerate decision.  
(P.A.S.(L) 121203A to B.A.D.)

TRUCULENT, from Scapa for refit in U.S.A. P.315 (TRUCULENT) escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY arrived St. Johns N.F. 1230Z/12th December. (F.O.N.F. 121242Z to F.O. S/M.)

SEA/CLIFFE. The following allocation from new construction is effective today, 12th December, to the mid ocean force for duty with C.3., H.M.C.S. SEA/CLIFFE. (2) Pay accounts to be held in AVALON, F.O.N.F. pass to SEA/CLIFFE. (C. in C. C.N.A. 121317Z to N.S.H.Q.)

BARBADOS. For Clyde BARBADOS departs point X Bermuda, all times Z. 1900/12th via positions:  
J. 35.50 N. 60.01 W. K. 42.01 N. 50.01 W.  
L. 47.30 N. 40.01 W. M. 51.25 N. 30.01 W.  
N. 54.01 N. 20.01 W. O. 55.01 N. 14.01 W. P. 55.33 N. 07.25 W.  
E.T.A. P. 1400/20th "Chop" 47 2000/15th speed 14.5 knots.  
BARBADOS has by hand.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda 121526 to N.O.I.C. Clyde, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q. 121527Z, Cominch 121540Z.)

T.G. 27.5. Task Group 27.5 hereby constituted, Commander Strohbehn in WAINWRIGHT, NELSON. This group depart Hampton Roads and Vascoe Bay 13th Dec. R/V at 1200Q/15th Dec. position 36 N. 61 W. then proceed in company to U.K. return U.S. escorting special L.S.T. convoy when directed by Com. 12th Fleet about 27th Dec. Request that Com. 12th Fleet assign destinations in U.K. (Cinclant 121541Z to U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT, NELSON.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.12.12.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy C.K. 4 arrived U.K. ports as follows:-  
Plymouth 5th Dec. L.T. 785, Tankers Y.50, Y.85, Y.87, Y.89, Y.90, Y.91 and Y.107. MATTOLE and COCOPA.

The Downs for onward routing Antwerp 6th Dec.  
Crane barge B.D. 2584 in tow of L.T. 787. Crane barge B.D. 2585 in tow of L.T. 788. SEA POWER in tow of tug GAYHEAD. RESISTANCE in tow of tug YAQUINA HEAD.

(2) Antwerp section still anchored in the Downs awaiting favourable weather to proceed. Your 111518 refers.

(D.T.D. 121720Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R., Info. S.B.N.O. Azores.) *See Home Commands P. 285.*

U/B. Para. D. 121325Z A.T.C. plane at altitude of 8000 feet reported sighting submerging U-Boat 30.00 N. 47.10 W. course S.W.  
(Cominch 121950Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia & New Zealand.

HOWE and destroyers. Arrived Fremantle 10th Dec. HOWE with escorts QUILLIAM, QUADRANT, QUIBERON, QUALITY.  
(A.C.N.B. 120445Z to Admty., etc.)  
Ships referred to in my 120445 left Fremantle 0900Z/11th Dec. for Sydney (N.S.W.)  
(A.C.N.B. 120605Z to Admty., etc.)

Digest 1056, covering 11th December. (1) Enemy convoy probably comprising 11 ships including three or four merchant ships, three transport destroyers and remainder escorts seen early daylight approaching Northwestern Leyte through Central Visayan Sea with air cover involving during initial stages 20 - 30 fighters.

Leyte based fighter bombers attacked throughout day inflicting considerable damage but final results not yet assessed. 21 enemy planes (majority fighters) shot down over convoy: our losses 4 fighters.

(5) Enemy casualties to date on Leyte: 31,529 known dead, 237 Jap. prisoners plus 128 Formosans/Koreans captured. Our losses 2012 killed, 7309 wounded and 254 missing.

(6) Two enemy bombers attacked Allied convoy Surigao Strait evening including two suicide dive bombers: damage suffered. Previous evening Japanese suicide dive bomber damaged destroyer in Surigao Strait, merchant ship in Leyte Gulf suffered one bomb hit.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 1056,  
covering 11th  
December.  
(Contd.)

(10) Navy search Mariner sighted three ships of which one described as TONE class heavy cruiser and second as destroyer, anchored off Dasal Bay\* between Lingayan Gulf and Manila early hours. Later destroyed one small coaster in Burias Passage (northeastern Sibuyan Sea.)

(11) After daybreak R/C Liberator saw one tanker one Sea Truck in Tayasas Bay (northern Sibuyan Sea) and damaged one small coastal freighter heading northwest off South Coast Marinduque Island.

(13) Same time search Liberator saw three ships described as destroyers 100 miles northeast Balikpapan course S.W. This plane had running fight with two Jap. fighters over Balikpapan lasting over 40 minutes and was well shot up but destroyed one Zeke plus 2 probables before returning to base.

(14) R/C 10th December again reported nil significant shipping main north Borneo anchorages including Brunei Bay, Tawi Tawi and Jolo. Three floatplanes seen taking off East Coast Balasac Island. Two Liberators hit Miri Waterfront and another two bombed Brunei Bay Docks at Labuan.

(17) Search Liberator attacked small merchant ship off south-eastern Celebes morning 11th without apparent effect.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 121111Z.) \*As recd.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/12th December.

Para. A. (1) H.M. ship torpedoed at 0501Z/11th December in 71° 57' N. 32° 04' E.

Para. B. (1) A/C P/407 obtained A.S.V. contact but saw nothing at 2040Z/11th December in 50° 58' N. 05° 19' W.

(2) H.M.I.S. PATNA attacked good contact at 0630Z/10th December in 20° 49' N. 88° 11' E.

(3) ILISSOS reported gunned by submarine at 0220Z/9th December in 37° 11' S. 139° 35' E.

Para. C. (1) WILLIAM F. MACLENNAN sighted torpedo track at 2315Z/11th December in 12° 40' N. 46° 12' E.

(D.D.I.C. 121023A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 121425A.)

Attacks on  
U-Boats.

Following since my 281804 Nov.

(2) Sunderland A/C Y/201 attacked possible snort with depth charges in position 055° Cape Wrath 16 miles at 061625. Six depth charges produced large oil patch one mile long half mile wide.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks on  
U-Boats.  
(Contd.)

(3) At 061608 Swordfish aircraft L/813 of CAMPANIA escort to J.W. 62 attacked U-Boat with depth charges approx. 40 miles north of Kola Inlet. Two underwater flashes and possible dinghy observed.

(4) At 050145C two U-Boats were sighted on surface by two Russian destroyers off Cape Cherni (Kola). One U-Boat rammed, depth charged and claimed sunk.  
(D.A.U.D. 121819A to Cominch, etc.)

War Diary

13.12.1944  
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

1. C. in C. Home Fleet demurs to Admiralty's proposal of December 3rd to merge the offices of C. in C.H.F. and A.C.O.S., but proposes instead a considerable reduction in Scapa fixed defences with consequential reduction in small craft and Base maintenance services.

2. There have been several U-boat alarms and attacks in the Channel and Western Approaches, but no definite sightings or promising results have been reported.

North Sea

3. The Belgian tug ORION blew up with the loss of all hands, supposedly on a mine, opposite Burcht in the Schelde. The area had been swept daily for 5 weeks, so that it seems possible that she was actually hit by a V.2 rocket.

Channel

4. Mine-search of the proposed up-Channel route for the "Monster" troopships QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH has been completed with negative result.

Norway.

5. An aircraft of 18 Group has attacked an enemy merchantman off Vaagsø with cannon and machine gunfire, but did not observe the results.

Mediterranean

Greece

6. The situation at the Piraeus is reported quieter and the Army are making steady progress. Volunteer Greek naval ratings are operating on shore. The rebels, however, continued to move towards the centre of Athens, using mines, explosives and road blocks more extensively. The road between Athens and Piraeus is still open but subject to rebel machine gun and rifle fire.

7. The flag Officer, Levant and Eastern Mediterranean, arrived at the Piraeus today in the cruiser SIRIUS from Alexandria.

8. Lieutenant-General Hawkesworth is establishing forthwith a military headquarters to be known as Athens Military Command (short title A.M.C.) in the Athens - Piraeus area and will be responsible to Lieutenant-General Scobie for operations in that area.

13.12.1944  
WednesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTMediterranean - Contd.Greece  
(Contd.)

9. Five E.L.A.N. caiques were intercepted at Salonika.

10. E.L.A.S. have surrendered their arms at Syra.

Aegean

11. Eight Baltimores bombed shipping in Mandracchio harbour, Rhodes. Bursts were observed in the town and west of the harbour.

Malta  
mine  
depot

12. As there appears to be no further operational requirement for the Malta mine Depot during present hostilities, C. in C. Mediterranean proposes that it be reduced to a care and maintenance basis.

Riviera

13. The U.S. destroyer CHARLES F. HUGHES bombarded an enemy command post, and sank two mines about 12 miles south of the bombardment area.

Southern  
French  
Ports.

14. At Toulon, Port de Bouc, and Marseilles, a total of 1,513,167 tons of dry cargo has been discharged.

East IndiesV.A.2,  
Pacific  
Fleet

15. The flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings K.C.B., O.B.E., as Vice-Admiral Commanding 1st Battle Squadron and Second in Command, British Pacific Fleet was hoisted in H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. at 0800 today at Colombo.

America and West IndiesConvoy  
scattered

16. H.X.325 is hove to, badly scattered, in about 42.15 N., 57.12 W. The RAPANA, British tanker, and MISSION PARK, British, were in collision at 0200, but without serious damage. The MAURETANIA has been warned to keep a sharp look-out for this convoy.

War Diary

13.12.1944  
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines

17(a) Aircraft destroyed three (probably four) sea trucks off South-Western Luzon and left one coaster burning.  
(b) Last night a patrol Mariner sank a small freighter off Mindoro Island.  
(c) Enemy air attacks on an Allied convoy in the Sulu Sea included one by a suicide dive bomber which damaged one warship (name not yet reported) and caused fairly heavy casualties. Other attacks damaged one ship.  
(d) P.T. boats in the Camoys Sea last night sank one lugger.

Japan

18. Of 82 Super-Fortresses sent to Japan 74 bombed the Mitsubishi aircraft factory at Nagoya, Honshu Island, and the other targets in the area; 183 tons of bombs were dropped with good results.



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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Proposed  
Merger of  
C. in C.H.F.  
and  
A.C.O.S.

Together with A.C.O.S. I have examined the proposal in A.M. 031651 which I will call Scheme A.

(2) There are two serious drawbacks to Scheme A:  
(i) The C. in C.H.F. and his staff would be several miles from the Fleet and touch with the ships, already difficult to maintain in winter here, would be largely lost. I consider

it essential for the command to keep in close touch particularly during the coming months when questions and difficulties as regards personnel may be expected to arise.

(ii) A.C.O.S. Operational H.Q. are too small to accommodate the combined staff and being isolated on a hill away from officers quarters and messes no existing huts can be used to increase accommodation. To carry out scheme A. therefore, it will be necessary to build extra offices adjoining the present H.Q. and also to provide considerable extra transport to enable Home Fleet operational staff to be available at H.Q. at any time of the day or night. I assume that building and extra transport at Scapa is most undesirable at this stage of the war.

(3) I realise the importance of reducing our personnel commitments at Home and I therefore suggest the following alternative scheme B which has the advantage of keeping the Home Fleet and its command together and mobile and also commences the reduction of Scapa base which will take place anyhow as soon as the German war is ended.

(4) Scheme B.

(i) C. in C. H.F. and staff to remain afloat. A reduction of four active service commanders is proposed. Little if any other reduction can be made as the reduction of Vice Admiral Second B.S. and Staff has been commensurate with the reduction of the Fleet.

(ii) On the assumption that the scale of attack is limited to U-boat and Midget submersibles and that the risk of sabotage raids and aircraft mining may be accepted, Scapa defences to be drastically reduced leaving only the underwater defences completely intact, and a small token anti-aircraft defence of short range weapons over the dockyard itself. The Fleet to be responsible for its own A/A defences. Coast defence guns except for twelve pdr. and six pdr. anti-U-boat guns to be placed in C. and M. Local defence companies and VP Guards to be largely reduced. This should enable a large proportion of the military forces, at present some ten thousand, to be removed. A large number of these would be of low medical category. Consequent on the above an appropriate reduction of small craft and base maintenance services would be possible.

(5) If scheme B is accepted in principle detailed proposals will be forwarded.

(C. in C. H.F. 131537 as amended by his 131834 to Admty.)

Information  
on mine-  
fields for  
foreign  
fishing  
craft.

Requests are being received from Authorities of liberated countries for information regarding minefields to be given to Fishing Craft. Request Admiralty policy on this matter. (A.N.C.X.F. 131735A to Admty.)

War Diary

13.12.1944  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

EURYALUS My 071532A sailed.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 131815 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

PRINS ALBERT It is intended to sail PRINS ALBERT to the Mediterranean on 22nd December for onward routing to East Indies Station.  
(2) Ship is to be in all respects ready to sail for foreign service on that date. A.M. 301637 November.  
(D.O.D. 131934A to R.A.L.S.C.U., R.A.C.O.B.W.A.)

Operations

Situation Report

Rearrangement of Cositintrep Commencing with Cositintrep number 255 Port unloading figures will be reported by Supreme H.Q. Allied Expeditionary Force in part 4 the Cositintrep and the inclusion of these figures by Allied Naval Commander Expeditionary Force in part two will no longer be necessary.  
(S.H.A.E.F. 131430A to Cositintrep Addressees.)

Operations

North Sea

Re-inforcement of 16 anti-E-boats. Request your will reinforce 16 group to meet C. in C. Nore's requirements. C. in C. Nore's 071601 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 130233A to A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

Patrols Patrol for tonight Wednesday.  
(1) VERSATILE  
(2) WALPOLE (3) DAKENS (4) BLEASDALE  
(5) KITTIWAKE (6a) PUFFIN  
(2) (12) RETALICK (14) TORRINGTON (16) CURZON with coastal forces from Ostend. (18) GUILLEMOT. (19) RIOU and SLAZAK.  
(3) Escorts for TAM 17, LUDLOW and MENDIP.  
(C. in C. Nore, 130952A to Nore Command.)

Operations

Channel

Probable U-boat My 0125 not to C. in C. Probable Snort with Radar and H.E. am in contact now my position 270° J buoy 16 miles.  
(L'ESCARMOUCHE 130145A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
Am in company with L'ESCARMOUCHE who has carried out 6 attacks, 4 by depth charge, and 2 by Hedgehog. SPRAGGE in company and carrying out observant round datum point position 050° 50' 7" N. 001° 11' 2" W.  
(HARGOOD 130315A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Contact...

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WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Channel

Probable Contact lost. Am carrying out operation  
U-boats Scabard followed by Box arranged Datum area.  
(Contd.) (HARGOOD 130435 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
On completion of search, my 130435 refers,  
intend Gamma search to 15 miles each side Datum,  
course east and west.  
(HARGOOD 130705A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My 130145. Good small (radar?) contact at 3000 yards  
H.E. diesel motor 1200 yards. Bubbling object seen by all on  
bridge large tube by 3 Officers immediate depth charge attack  
by eye then 5 attacks by echo varying good to doubtful  
producing no visible evidence.

(L'ESCARMOUCHE, 130845 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Be at J Buoy 1700, thence search 270° for 20 miles.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131225A to Portsmouth A.S. Patrol  
Force.)

Night Patrol 13th/14th. My 131225 not to all Anti-Snort.  
Search area limits shown ships 2 miles apart steady 8 knots.

(2) HARGOOD, SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE, LA SURPRISE.

01° 30' 00" 40' W. 50° 00' 50" 10'. If no M.T.Bs. west limit  
01° 50' W.

(3) M.T.Bs. ordered search 01° 30' 02" 00' W. 50° 00' 50" 10'.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131238A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

E.Gs. 26 and Subject to operational requirements intend E.G.26  
21 to enter Plymouth for 48 hours layover a.m./15.

E.G.21 on relief by E.G.26 a.m./18.

(2) Further signal will be made.

(3) S.O. E.Gs. addressed report defects.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131629A to S.O. E.Gs. 26 and  
21)

## Patrols

## Air Patrols.

My 281728 para. 12.

(a) Night 13th/14th patrol 2 and 3 Leigh Light  
Wellingtons. Day 14th Patrol 3 and 4

Liberators, 5 and 6 Swordfish.

(b) 838 Squadron M.O.K. 842 Squadron L.G.H.

(2) M.T.B. patrol informed.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131720A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force  
etc.)

14th day patrols.

Search areas limits given.

(2) Area Y.01° 05' 01" 53' W. and 49° 55' 50" 15' divided 3  
sections by longitudes 01° 21' 01" 37' W.

(3) E.G.25 66th M.T.B. Flotilla take E. and W. sections  
respectively.

(4) HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE, SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE take centre  
section.

(5) WATCHMAN, ANTHONY relieve HARGOOD, LA SURPRISE.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131754A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

/Examination...

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsChannel - Contd.

Examination of sunken U-boat. Proceeded with M.Ls. 180 and 259 escorting to position at 0700 today. Conditions more favourable with decreasing swell. Unable to locate wreck after extensive search with A/S escorts and by creeping in vicinity of position given. Increasing southerly wind forced me to discontinue search at 1600. Will resume tomorrow weather permitting. Diving operations would be facilitated if wreck were relocated and more accurately marked. Present buoy was reported as being laid 200 yards 090° from wreck. (TEDWORTH 131735A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Suspected U-boat. Proceed with despatch to investigate suspicious oil slick reported by A/C K/114 50.29 N. 02.39 W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 131807A to E.G.26, RIBBLE.)

Conduct consequent on loss of U-boat contact. In future if a submarine contact is lost ships are to carry out observant and scabbard.  
(2) The group is then to search across tide to latitudes 3 miles north and south of datum.  
(3) The search area is to be moved as follows:-  
(a) Gradually down tide to maximum 12 miles east or west of datum.  
(b) Then back to 12 miles on opposite side of datum.  
(c) In (a) or (b) if tide changes before reaching 12 miles from datum direction of search to east or west should be reversed also.  
(4) Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force ANTHONY, 25th E.G. acknowledge. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131943A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Possible U-boat in St. Georges Channel. Contacted possible submerged submarine. Explosion with Hedgehog 51.57 N. 05.55 W. Continuing search. (C.T.F.21, 130004Z to Admty.) My 130004Z Fired three Hedgehog patterns 1 13 depth charge pattern. Possible submarine contact position 51.71 N. 05.55 W. 2 Hedgehog Patterns exploded at depths 225 feet in 52 fathoms of water. Attack commenced 2325. Rejoining U.C.48 B at 0045Z/13th. Unable to contact Killer Group. Possible wreck. Doppler indicated. (C.T.U. 21, 130110Z to Admty.) C.T.U.21.5.7 reports having obtained hit with Hedgehog on U-boat in 51° 57' N. 05° 55' W. at 0100A/13. Close position and investigate. (C. in C. W.A., 130338A to S.O.E.G.2.) At 2155A/13 attacked suspicious asdic contact with 2 depth charges in a position 051° 56' 30" N. 005° 54' W. No visible results. (BLYSKAWICA 132221A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

/E.G.6 ...

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

E.G.6  
Operation  
"Chowder"

Arrived - 6th E.G.  
(Comdre. D.W.A., 130301A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Your 122351. E.T.A. 0200/14.  
(S.O.E.G.6 131621A to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 122351A. Codeword "Chowder" for this  
operation.  
(C. in C.W.A. 132308A to S.O.E.G. 6.)

Suspected  
U-boat off  
Lands' End.

(1) My 121000A amend E.T.A. Barry Roads to  
read 1100A/14.  
(2) BALFOUR attacked promising contact in  
position 050° 23' 006° 52' as follows 0737A D/C  
attack 0748 Hedgehog attack 0828 D/C 0846 D/C  
attack. Small patches light oil observed at  
daylight, but no other evidence.  
No known non-submarines in this area.  
(S.O.E.G. B.21 131415A to C. in C.W.A., Admty.)

E.G.18.

TOWY, BALFOUR, HOSTE, CRANSTON, LOCH LOMOND,  
NYASALAND are to form 18th E.G. for Special  
Escort Duty.  
(2) Ships are required to R/V at Bar Lt. Vessel  
at 2230Z December 16th and before making R/V 18th E.G. is to  
carry out square A/S search of area between parallels 53° 33' and  
53° 43' N. and meridians 04° 00' and 04° 20' W.  
(3) Request you will sail ships accordingly.  
(C. in C.W.A. 131653A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Cardigan  
Bay  
Sanctuary

A.46 13th December. The sanctuary covering S.  
half of Irish sea has been cancelled to allow  
surface craft and air A/U operations against  
possible U-boats in this area. In view of  
DAN BEARD probably being a mine casualty, request  
the earliest possible reinstatement of the  
Cardigan Bay sanctuary to allow resumption of air A/U training  
and C.C.D.U.'s important experiments on K band radar against  
Snorts.  
(A.O.C. in C. C.C. 131745A to C. in C.W.A.)

Patrol

Irish Sea Section S.L. convoy supported to  
Trevose Head, have resumed patrol.  
(S.O.E.G.21, 131820 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
My 121548 and 131046, are cancelled.  
(2) Convoys are to be supported in accordance with C.E.2 as  
follows:-  
(3) 3rd E.G. leave Lough Foyle at 0900A tomorrow, 14th, and  
R/V with S.C.162 at 0400A/15th in position 55° 15', 13° 26'.  
Convoy routed thence to (AH) 55° 30', 07° 50' with 3rd E.G. in  
support to Mull of Kintyre.  
(4) 14th E.G. enter Lough Foyle at 1000A/14th and top up with  
fuel. Group is to be sailed to R/V with ONSU 38 at 2330A/  
14th in position 56° 56' 07° 08'. Local escort until relief  
LADY BERYL.

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperationsWestern Approaches

Patrol (Contd.) (5) C.5. E.G. will escort Irish Sea section. Oversay rendezvous 1230A/15th.  
(6) 14th E.G. remain with O.N.S.38 until ordered to detach.  
(8) In event of attack 14th and 3rd E.Gs. may be ordered by C. in C. W.A., to concentrate as Force 33, in which case Force 33 call signs will be used.  
(C. in C. W.A. 131947A to Com. D.W.A., S.O.E.Gs. 14, 3.)

OperationsNorway

S/M operations off S.W. Norway VENTURER is leaving Lerwick at 0800/15th Dec. routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles 061° 04' N. 000° 01' E. 061° 04' N. 001° 01' E. 060° 35' N. 003° 20' E. 058° 27' N. 004° 31' E. to patrol in accordance with F.O. (S/M) 121558A. RUBIS is leaving Lerwick at 1400 15th routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles 061° 04' N. 000° 01' E. 061° 15' N. 001° 01' E. 060° 40' N. 003° 38' E. 058° 50' N. 004° 38' E. thence to carry out F.O.C. Subs. 121559.  
(2) Passage to be made diving by day East 42,001° 01' E. estimated advance 130 miles per 24 hours.  
(3) S.O. Submarines Lerwick pass to VENTURER. F.S. RUBIS. (S/M 9, 131747A to S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick.)

Operation "Fretsaw" Request you will carry out following operation with object destruction of enemy shipping on Norwegian Coast.  
(2) Force three consisting of DIADEM, MAURITIUS and 4 destroyers detailed by Com. (D) leave Scapa p.m. D. day under your orders and proceed West of Orkneys and Shetlands and thence as requisite to approach Svino Island (62° 19.7' N. 5° 16.5' E.) from the northwestward after dark on D+1.  
(3) On arrival in this area Force three to patrol within gun range of enemy shipping route round Stadtlandet and withdraw at your discretion before daylight D+2. If no shipping is detected a demonstration with star shell should be made before final withdrawal.  
(4) Mining intelligence will be supplied. Admiralty notice to Mariners 2515T/43 also refers.  
(5) Force Four consisting of DEVONSHIRE, PREMIER, TRUMPETER\* and 6 destroyers detailed by Com. (D) leave Scapa p.m. D+1 and proceed North of the Shetlands as requisite to provide Fighter cover for Force 3 at daylight D+2.  
(6) If after sailing weather proves unfavourable the approach to the coast may be delayed 24 hours.  
(7) If no shipping is detected on the night of D+1 the force should return to Scapa or attempt a repetition on the night of D+2 at your discretion.  
(8) Force four may be required to carry out an air operation on Norwegian coast on completion. Further signal will be made.

1(9)...  
\* Refer to this force (191412A, page 457)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Operation  
"Fretsaw"  
(Contd.)

(9) Codeword and D day follow.  
(C. in C.H.F. 132004A to C.S.10.)  
Paragraph 9 my 132004A codeword "Fretsaw".  
(C. in C.H.F. 132019A to C.S.10.)  
D day Tuesday 19th December paragraph 9 of my  
132004 refers.

*Operation postponed (C. in C.H.F. 171306A, page 403)*

*D day December 20 (C. in C.H.F. 191412A, page 451)*

*Result of Operation (pages 539, 552)*

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersSuspected  
U-Boat.

By D/F on 3910 k/cs at 0516Z and on 3800 k/cs at 0531Z and 0541Z, U-Boat making enigma message estimated within 75 miles of 60° 00' N., 12° 40' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 130800A to Escorts of D.S.60.)

Norwegian  
M.F.Vs.

Captain Hostvedt Royal Norwegian Navy requires no change in destination of Motor Fishing Ships. A.M. 121824 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 130916A to Admty.)

U-Boat.

By D/F on 3750 k/cs at 1355Z U-Boat estimated within 60 miles of 70° N., 10° E.  
(D.D.I.C., 131744A to H.F.)

Further  
escort  
groups  
desired  
in Northern  
Waters.

A.889, 13 Dec. Your 111714A not to Air Ministry.  
I wish to support most strongly the views expressed in C. in C. Rosyth's signal 121800A not to all addressees. Consider maintenance of offensive in Northern transit area to be essential to success in coming phase of A/U operations and had in fact contemplated recommending intensification of offensive by addition of strong reinforcements to surface hunting forces. Further the submarine operations foreshadowed in your signal 120559A preclude air operations close to Norwegian coast and together with decision to withdraw surface groups is tantamount to abandonment of A/U offensive in the North.  
(2) I suggest that full consultation between naval and air staffs should precede any decisions which involve such a fundamental change in policy for A/U operations as those contained in your above quoted signals. I therefore urge that conference of all interested parties be called immediately to consider the whole problems and that the implementation of your decisions be suspended until such conference has been held.  
(A.O.C. in C. C.C., 131130A to Admty.)

Convoy  
R.A. 62.

U-Boat transmitted B barred signal on 3750 k/cs. at 1037Z possibly from general vicinity of Convoy R.A. 62.  
(D.D.I.C., 131225A to H.F.)

Convoy  
J.W. 63.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
The following ships for J.W.63 are to be sailed to Loch Ewe to arrive not later than a.m./29th December.  
From Newport: EDMUND FANNING (1 ship).  
From Manchester: ADOLPH S. OCHS, THOMAS SCOTT, J.D. YEAGER (3 ships).

/From ...



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorthern WatersConvoy  
J.W. 63.  
(Contd.)

From Birkenhead: HENRY VILLARD, IDEFJORD (2 ships).

From Clyde: EMPIRE ARCHER, LACKLAND (T), FRANCIS C. HARRINGTON, HENRY WYNKOOP, JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER, NACELLA (T) (6 ships).

In H.X.323 due Clyde 13th Dec.: JOHN A. QUITMAN, GEORGE H. PENDLETON, PHILIP F. THOMAS (3 ships).

In H.X.324 due Clyde 19th Dec.: HORACE GRAY, LE BARON RUSSELL BRIGGS, HENRY BACON, JOHN LAFARGE, JOSE MARTI, BERNARD N. BAKER, ALANSON B. HOUGHTON (7 ships).

In H.X.325 due Clyde 24th Dec.: WARREN DELANO, JOHN IRELAND, BENJAMIN HILL, GEORGE STEERS, R. NEY MCNELLY, CROSBY S. NOYES, CAESAR RODNEY, CHARLES SCRIBNER, SILAS WEIR MITCHELL, BRITISH PROMISE (T), NORFJELL (T), CHARLES M. SCHWAB, PAUL H. HARWOOD (T) (13 ships).

In H.X.326 due Clyde 28th/29th Dec.: (to be included if time permits) JAMES KERNEY (1 ship).

(2) M. Forms should be forwarded to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe in good time and it is essential that ships are in all respects ready for ocean convoy.

(3) Masters are to be reminded that fuel, stores and water cannot be supplies at Loch Ewe except in cases of emergency.

(4) Admiralty (Ext. 716) should be informed immediately if any ship is unable to sail.

(D.T.D., 131714A to C. in C. W.A.)

Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.

The following ships for J.W.63 are to be sailed to Loch Ewe to arrive not later than a.m./29th December.

From Middlesbrough: EMPIRE CELIA and EMPIRE ARCHER.

(2) M. Forms should be forwarded to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe in good time and it is essential that ships are in all respects ready for ocean convoy.

(3) Admiralty (Ext. 716) should be informed immediately if either ship is unable to sail.

(D.T.D., 131852A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Request you arrange for one RANGER Class Fleet Oiler to proceed with Convoy J.W.63. Oiler should be equipped for fuelling Russian Submarine Chasers and will be required to leave Scapa about 27th December. My 131734 refers.

(C. in C. H.F., 131739A to A.C.O.S.)

Allied Air ActivityConvoy  
straffed  
off Vaagso.

One enemy merchant vessel, one escort vessel bearing 350° distant 3 miles course 090° position 61° 53' N., 5° 10' E. Have attacked with cannon or machine gunfire and R.P. Result of attack unobserved.

(A/C UJN52, 131506A to 18 Group.)

/Rules ...

13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Rules for  
use of  
Resin  
lights.

A.I.48, 13th Dec. Secret. Resin lights.  
Present rules for use of Resin lights over  
United Kingdom and adjacent waters are as  
stated in Neugrip (SD 533) paragraph 43 and  
SD 158 (1) paragraph 14.

(2) In view of recommendation received from Air  
Staff S.H.A.E.F., following rules are proposed

for use of Resin lights over Continent:-

(i) General rule to be that all twin-engined aircraft fitted  
with Resin lights are to display them in correct colour of  
period at all heights when flying over Allied Occupied territory  
up to front line.

(ii) Following classes of twin-engined aircraft to be exempt  
from above rule:- (A) Night fighters when actually in process  
of intercepting under close ground control or in A.I. contact  
with target. (B) Flying Boats. (C) Bi-planes. (D)  
Transport aircraft other than Dakotas.

(iii) Attention of night fighter units to be drawn to rule in  
Neugrip paragraph 48 concerning engagement of aircraft not  
displaying correct Resin lights.

(3) Above proposals if agreed will not result in any alteration  
of present rules governing use of Resin lights over United  
Kingdom and adjacent waters as detailed in SD 158 (1) paragraph  
14.

(4) Request your comments.

(Air Ministry, 131642A to Bomber, Fighter, Coastal and Transport  
Commands, U.S.S.T.A.F., Info. Air Staff S.H.A.E.F., Admty.)

Mining

Minesweeping  
responsi-  
bilities.

A.N.C.X.F. 111243.  
Propose following changes in responsibility  
for minesweeping and swept channels.

(1) C.T.F. 125 to be responsible for the  
following - Q.Z.S. 526, H.10 to L.2, 616, 600,  
595, 585, 588, 619, 648 to Portsmouth-Dover  
border 576, 647, 561, 606, Link, Dieppe anchorage, Cherbourg  
approach, H.10 to harbour.

(2) C.T.F. to be responsible for the following Q.Z.S. till  
Arrow is dismantled 528, Arrow to Canoe, 539, 541, 640, 587,  
Juno light vessel to replace H.V.3.

(3) Following Q.Z.S. can be cancelled on December 20th - 556,  
528, 526, L.2 to L.4, 641, 639, 527, 553, 549, 538, Port en  
Bessin to Arrow approach, 542, 571, 570, 569, 568.

(4) C. in C. Portsmouth to be responsible for all other swept  
channels in his Command.

(5) V.A. Dover to be responsible for all swept channels in his  
Command.

(6) Request your concurrence.

(C.T.F. 125, 131055A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Sweeping  
of Q.Z.Y.  
524.

Intend proceeding at 0400 to commence clearance  
of Q.Z.Y.524. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is  
requested to sail danlayers to R/V Milford Haven  
buoy at 0830. Intend returning to Swansea on  
completion of clearance.

(M/S.4, 131141A to N.O.I.C. Swansea.)

/Withdrawal ...

13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSMining - Contd.

Withdrawal of craft from Schelde. It is proposed shortly to withdraw Capt. M/S, Force 'A', and M/S Force 'A' from Terneuzen, leaving sufficient ships to supplement the existing local M/S Flotilla until they are at full strength.

(2) The ships to be left to be arranged between Capt. M/S Force 'A' and Cdre. Belgium, and to include a sufficient force of B.Y.M.S.

(3) It is further proposed that 4 M/S M.L., 6 L.C.P.(L) and 6 M.F.V. be left, these craft being considered available for future operation if required by C. in C. Nore. Arrangements to refit these ships to be made locally, or ships to return to U.K. if necessary for this purpose.

(4) It is also proposed to leave water-boat BETTY HUDSON temporarily at Terneuzen till improved watering facilities are available.

(5) ST. TUDNO to return to Sheerness when Force is withdrawn.

(6) Force 'A' to clear mines from South Beveland Canal and its exits before leaving.

(7) Until other arrangements can be made. Cdre. i/c Sheerness is to arrange supply of C.B. and S.P. to ships of M/S Force 'A' remaining in the Schelde through N.O.I.C. Antwerp, who is requested to arrange sub-distribution to ships concerned. N.O.I.C. Antwerp is further requested to supply ships of M/S Force 'A' remaining with necessary extract of recognition signals.

(C. in C. Nore, 131400A to Com. Belgium.)

Mine search of up-Channel route for QUEENS MARY and ELIZABETH. Your 211224A. Search completed. Negative result. (M/S.16, 131553A to C. in C. Plymouth.) My 171131 November. Route now searched to width of 1-1/2 miles either side of centre line with negative result. (C. in C. Plymouth, 131832 to Admty.)

Mine sweep of Schelde. Your 121128A and 121523A. Have completed 2 actuations 1 mile width south of centre line between N.F.8 and N.F.5 buoys. Outer ridge danned with (?stick) dans showing 'H' flags, and dans 'HH'. Result as in my 131205A. Intend unless otherwise ordered carrying out similar sweep north of side channel tomorrow 14th. Unavoidable delay was caused due to traffic and substitution of parent ship for 1 with defective LL caused by mine explosion. Anchored off Ostend 1900A, 3 fleet sweepers and 1 danlayer in company. (FLORIZEL, 131916A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence

German main units. EMDEN and KÖLN sighted Horten December 10th. C.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 132059 to Admty.)

13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSTechnicalFast type  
U-Boat  
hunting.

H.M.S. SERAPH has been modified to give an underwater speed of twelve knots. A short series of asdic trials carried out against her demonstrate the following points which may be applicable to new fast type German U-Boats:-

- (A) Asdic contact. (i) SERAPH is an inferior asdic target due to her streamline. The weak echo obtained may be masked until a late stage in the attack, by loud reverberations in shallow water or by the submarines' H.E. if she is using high speed. This makes the lining up of recorders a difficult and hurried but not impossible operation.
- (ii) Doppler effect may enable the contact to be picked out and held when it is not marking the recorder.
- (iii) If target speed is less than six knots, H.E. cannot be relied upon. At higher speeds it may be a great assistance in obtaining and holding contact. Good fixes can be obtained by using Directing Vessels' bearings. A means of marking H.E. on the Bearing Recorder is being developed.
- (B) A/S action. Two is the ideal number of A/S vessels for an A/S action. Any additional vessels should carry out a square search 6,000 yards from the datum. The rapid movement of the action necessitates constant adjustment of the datum to the last known position of the U-Boat and a square of cardboard cut to the right size is a great assistance to the plot to indicate the line on which the ship should be.
- (C) A/S search. Good co-operation between the Bridge and Asdic Control Room is essential in order that operators are cognisant of the bearings of ships in company.
- (D) Training. A high speed submarine does not allow time to correct small errors in ship-handling and operating in the final stages of the attack. These were the main reasons for loss of contact. Except under adverse asdic conditions existing A/S material should be able to compete with a fast U-Boat provided the A/S team is efficient and have carried out ample practices with a fast submarine.
- (E) Amendments to Asdic Operating Procedure will shortly be promulgated to assist in holding contact with the fast U-Boat. It must be borne in mind that when contact is lost, the arc in which the U-Boat may be will increase more rapidly than formerly due to the possible high rate of change of bearing.
- (A.C.N.S.(W), 132122A to all Flag Officers.)

Casualties and Defects

M.V. LOOKOUT. GRASSHOLM's 131305. Wreck is on side and 6 feet visible. A.T.M.12 of 9 ships now at N.F.13. E.T.A. Dumpton 0030. EMPIRE ASQUITH not joined sea calm no wind, visibility good, sea temperature 44. (VIVACIOUS, 131614A to C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Antwerp.)

Steamship LOOKOUT in A.T.M.11 hit wreck mentioned in Q.Z.H. 672 p.m./12th Dec. and sank in position 51° 23'48" N., 03° 17'42" E. Wreck visible at all states of tide. Request Q.Z.H. (2) Request also Trinity House be instructed to provide centre line buoy close east of wreck. (C. in C. Nore, 132355A to Admty.)

/S.T. ORION ...

War Diary.13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSCasualties and Defects - Contd.

S.T. ORION. Regret to report that at approx. 1140A today Wednesday Belgian Tug ORION blew up and sank in River Schelde 1/2 mile above petroleum jetty opposite Burcht. There were no survivors. From description the cause was a ground mine. The area had been swept Oropesa and LAA/SA sweeping has been carried out daily for 5 weeks. No mines were detonated so far up stream. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 131827A to Com. Belgium.)

H.M.S. STEADFAST. When entering Ostend p.m. today 13th Dec., and when proceeding northern side of Q.Z.S. 584 between O.D.4 and O.D.5 buoy in accordance with your 121523A, STEADFAST fouled wreck at 1835 with her asdic dome in approx. position 051° 15'42" N., 002° 50'18" E. Asdic dome is either damaged or lost, slight leak in Asdic compartment, pillars fractured. Ship still capable of sweeping. (FLORIZEL, 132305A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys

Cross-Channel sailings. My 041938A December, paras. 7 and 8. V.W.C. and E.W.C. convoys are suspended for the time being.  
(2) Empty M/T ships and coasters from France may be sailed independently.  
(3) Para. 7. Ships from Havre and East Calvados should be routed:-  
(A) For Newhaven, and Thames by Q.Z.S. 619 and 575 for Newhaven 648 for Thames.  
(B) For Isle of Wight and ports west thereof: St. Helens by route Z.K.  
(4) Para. 9. Ships from Cherbourg should be routed:-  
(A) For Isle of Wight and ports east thereof: St. Helens by Channel H and Q.Z.S. 552.  
(B) For Weymouth and ports west thereof: By Channel H and Q.Z.S. 628 to Weymouth for onward routing in T.B.C. convoys.  
(5) L.S.I. returning from France will continue to be escorted. L.S.T., L.C.T. and tugs with tows will continue to sail in their respective groups as hitherto.  
(6) Escorts taking over W.V.C. and W.E.C. convoys will return to Portsmouth unless required as escort to L.S.I. or other important movements.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131044A to Admty.)

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13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

SERENE. E.T.A. 1400 hours.  
(SERENE, 130914Z to N.O.I.C. Horta, Info.  
S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
C. in C. C.N.A's 041406 December. Request  
route and destination H.M.S. SERENE. E.T.A. Horta 1600Z/13th.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 131146Z to Admty., (R) F.O.G.M.A.)  
SERENE, your 131146. (S) 43° N., 20° W. (T) 47° N.,  
10° W. (U) 180° Lizard 5 miles thence to Falmouth for onward  
routeing to Granton.  
(Plot. (O.D.), 131842A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

M.A.D. Suggestion in A.M. 111346 is concurred in.  
Catalinas (2) M.A.D. fitted Catalinas and Blimps have been  
for Home. operating in the Strait of Gibraltar with much  
success since January 1944.  
(3) While the U-Boat situation precludes the  
chances of boats attempting to make passage of  
Strait at present it is felt that M.A.D. equipment can be more  
usefully employed in the Narrow Coastal Waters around the  
British Isles.  
(4) Your 121046 to F.O.G.M.A. only refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 131058 to C. in C. Med.)

MIRROR Request you comply with C. in C. Med.'s 121630  
cables. reporting present situation and whether escort  
is required from Gibraltar.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 131134A to C.M.S.F.)

TORBAY, TORBAY and SCYTHIAN (P.237) sailed in O.S.98/  
SCYTHIAN. K.M.S.72 for Gibraltar, Malta and E.F. Last  
Q.B.449, Q.B.A.138 colour green communications  
500 k/cs and H.S. routine.  
(Capt. (S) 3, 131443A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

Frigates for Confirmed your 112254, para. 3. Also confirmed  
South Africa. that 3rd ship should be renamed TRANSVAAL in due  
course.  
(C. in C. S.A., 131430B to Admty.)

KILHAM, Capt. D. Freetown's 152004 Nov. Now established  
collision. that KILHAM was wholly to blame for collision.  
Report of Board and Enquiry follows.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 131716Z to Admty.)

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War Diary13.12.1944  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Cositintrep No.523. Part 4. F.X. 68089 cipher 13 December. Greece. Athens/Piraeus area. There has been little improvement in the situation and the rebel offensive has increase. There was no major incident during night 11/12 December, but there was considerable rebel movement toward the centre of the city. Shelling by rebels was renewed on morning of 12th December and continued throughout the day causing a number of casualties including a few military. Some progress was made by our troops in Piraeus but the central and eastern sectors remained unchanged. Elements of Fourth British Division have arrived from Italy at Kalamaki airfield. Salonika. Dock workers declared a strike afternoon 11th Dec. (A.F.H.Q.T.O.O. Nil/13)

Escort Carrier Refits. Your 081931, not to C. in C. E.I. Reply will be made on receipt of C. in C. E.I's answer to para.2 of A.M.121237 (Hush - N.T. in W.D.). (D.O.D.(F), approved A.C.N.S.(F) on P.D.0218/44 130756A to C. in C. Med.)

Your 071715B. Reply will be made on receipt of C. in C. East Indies answer to para. 2 of A.M. 121237. (D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F) on P.D.0218/44, 130757A to C.O.M.E.C.)

Linrep No.212. Summary of operations 7th to 10th December. (A.F.H.Q. 130940A to W.O.) See Lion copy.

Riviera Report. Cositintrep No.66 ending 122400A. On 11th S.B.L.O. reported no change in front lines. SABRE contacted at 0140, 2 Italian Vedettes - 2 destroyers sailed immediately, 1 Vedette destroyed by SABRE nearly sinking at 7 miles South of Cannes. Crew (11 men including 2 Germans) and 2 officers taken prisoners. The second Vedette was chased by LUDLOW and LE FORTUNE but without results. JAVELOT picked up Italian Officer from sea, his explosive boat had broken down 10 miles South of Monaco. Ready Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC, HUGHES and MADISON relieved by LE FORTUNE and LUDLOW at 1200A/10 & LUDLOW by NIBLACK at 1200/11. 9 mines sunk by destroyers and P.C. boats. (Comflanfor, 131020A to F.O.N.A.M. etc.)

ANTWERP. Request approval to retain ANTWERP for service in Aegean until situation improves. A.M. 080616 refers. (2) If approved F.F.D. and Associated Radar and Communication ratings would be discharged to U.K. retaining only those required for maintenance and normal operations. (C. in C. Med, 131150A to Admty.) Approved (Admty. 141149A)

/South ...

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13.12.1944  
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

South Aegean Summary. Up to 0900 hours Dec.13th.  
(1) Shipping. No Ph/r. Dec.12th except Melos owing to weather.  
Melos. Departed 1 launch 80 to Suda or Canea.  
Rhodes. Ground source reports captured British Schooner MINEDI and British Tug TANAKA arrived at Marmaris on Dec. 10th with refugees from Rhodes. Vessels reported still at Marmaris Dec.11th.  
Symi. Report received from British Caique that Germans landed Symi night 11th/12th these probably survivors from craft sunk 11th/12th by naval force.  
(2) Air. Nothing to report.  
(C. in C. M.E. 131230B to the War Office and Usual Addressees)

Malta mine depot. There appears to be no further operations requirement for the Malta Mine Depot during present hostilities.  
(2) Propose this depot be reduced to C. and M. basis and surplus stores be transferred elsewhere as required by Admty.  
(3) It is presumed that Haifa Mine Depot is required to be retained for maintenance of stocks for Far East. This will also ensure that in the unlikely event of further minelaying being required in Mediterranean necessary facilities will be available.  
(C. in C. Med. 131512 to Admty)

Kalamata Situation. After conference with local E.L.A.S. commander situation at Kalamata easier. Discharging of relief supplies continues unchecked and distribution to outlying districts resumed by road and caique. N.O.I.C. and Port Party still embarked in SPHENDONI alongside. All military defences and evacuation precautions still in force. Leave to British Naval and Military personnel resumed to-day to 2000. U.S. L.S.T.602 arrived and libertymen given warm welcome by townfolk.  
(B.N.L.O.Kalamata, 131618B to S.B.N.O. Greece.)

Russian visit to Greece. A.M.121143 (requesting details and purpose of proposed visit of Russian vessel to Greece.).  
Repatriation of Russian ex Prisoners of War from Greece.  
(C. in C. Med. 131629A to Admty.)

Bulgaria and Greece. M/298 cipher 13th Dec. 277299. Ref. A.F.H.Q. F.X.66493 of 10th December (N.T. in W.R.) and my M/279 (111205) of 11th Dec. Most reliable informant tells us that within last 24 hours he has received following news from several independent sources of whose bona-fides he is sure but whose reports are so far unconfirmed. Partisans of General Aposolovski's Macedonia Army have crossed Greek frontier ostensibly to give aid to E.L.A.S. but in fact to establish themselves in Greek Macedonia. These troops described as 1st Macedonia Bde. reported commanded

/ by ...



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Bulgaria and Greece. (Contd.) by Petsko Trajkov probably number about 3,000. same source states that Bulgarian Partisans under Slavche Trnski have entered Thrace between Nevrokop and Drama in co-operation with Macedonians. It is not believed that Bulgarian Government is in any way party to either of these movements. Personality notes on Trajkov and Trnski follow. Please pass to Foreign Office. (A.C.C. Bulgaria, 131710 to W.O.)

HUGHES, Riviera. Target for to-day was enemy command post 826883. Several hits on target. Many in area ammo 91 fuel 90. Sank 2 mines about 12 miles South of bombardment area. (C.F. HUGHES, 131801A to Comflanfor, Info: LE FORTUNE, MADISON).

Shipping for Black Sea. Have had discussions with General Staff as regards para.(5), your 091343, and following preliminary remarks are offered:  
(A) Pilots are only ?required for passage through narrows at Cannakale and Bosphorus and I am to be told number available at each place.  
(B) Am asking for necessary lights on Black Sea coast of Turkey to be lit in addition to those in Aegean and Sea of Marmora.  
(C) Am arranging with Ministry of War Transport for chartering small tug and motor-boat for use of N.C.S.O. Officers at Istanbul.  
(D) Propose that Lieut. Taylor R.N.R. on Boom Defence in Alexandretta, acquainted with Cannakale, should take over duty of British N.L.O. there.  
(2) Hope to signal answer to other points raised shortly. (B.N.A. Ankara, 131841C to C. in C. Med. etc.) See also 151858C.

Athens Military Command. 277416. F.X. 68244 cipher 13 Dec. Cite F.H.G.C.T. signed Sacmed. Lieut. General Hawkesworth will establish forthwith a headquarters to be known as Athens Military Command short title A.M.C. in the Athens-Piraeus area and will be responsible to Lieut. General Scobie for operations in that area. (A.F.H.Q.131910A)

*Should be in America and West Indies, see page 320.*

COBALT defect. Require A/S and combined cypher machine maintenance, intend returning to St. John's N.F. H.M.C.S. LETHBRIDGE acting as S.O. Passed to group. E.T.A. 2300Z/13th, C. and S. 230 degs. 12. Weather report 0924 0054. (COBALT, 131930Z to F.O.N.F.)

/Independent ...

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WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Independent sailings to U.S.A. Amend my 070947 to include U.S. managed tankers of 14.5 knots and over. (C. in C. Med. 132043A)

Volo. At Volo discharge continues between demonstrations MUSKETEER moved into (?Bay). G.S. PINDOS arrived. SEKSERN visiting Skiathos tomorrow 14th. (MUSKETEER, 132138B to S.B.N.O. Greece)

Situation report No.504. (1) At Piraeus situation is quieter and army are making steady progress. Volunteer Greek Naval Ratings are now operating ashore and have proved enormous success as civilians are enthusiastic at sight of uniformed Greek forces. Situation at other Greek Ports is as follows.

(Syros)  
Syra. E.L.A.S. have surrendered their arms.  
Kavalla. All quiet.  
E.A.M. in control of town and provinces.  
Eastern Areas, Salonika. 5 E.L.A.N. caiques intercepted.  
Mitylene. Arrival of Greek and British warships has completely restored situation.  
o/ Volos. Fluid. Military have concentrated in defence area on water front.  
Kalamata. Fluid.  
Patras. Fluid.  
(3) Night of 11th Dec. H.M.S. LIDDESDALE engaged 3 landing craft attempting to invade Symi Island near Rodi (Rhodes). 1 was blown up and the others driven off. Rhodes batteries fired at H.M.S. LIDDESDALE who was not hit.  
(4) In Adriatic situation at Zara is quiet and that at Spalate must easier.  
(5) At Toulon, Port De Bouc, and Marseilles total of 1,513,167 tons dry cargo has been discharged so far. (C. in C. Med. 123144A)

F.O.L.E.M. Intend proceeding SIRIUS leaving Piraeus 1300B/14 Dec. S. of A. 24 knots by Q.B.C.927 and route Coffee South to arrive 309 at 0950/15th thence by Q.B.C.911 to pass breakwater 1030.  
(2) SIRIUS sail to comply.  
(F.O.L.E.M. Athens, 132229B to F.O.L.E.M.)

BERWICK. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to provide onward route for BERWICK to Bizerta.  
(2) On completion of disembarkation N.O.I.C. Tunisia is requested to sail BERWICK to Malta.  
(3) After embarkation of personnel for U.K. V.A. Malta is requested to sail ship to Gibraltar for onward routing to the Clyde.  
(4) A.M.111623 refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 132233A to V.A. Malta., F.O.G.M.A., N.O.I.C. Tunisia. (R) F.O.W.M., BERWICK, Admty.)

# SECRET

# IN

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.  
(\*Note : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad : "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

130940A/December.

From : A.F.H.Q.

Date: 13, 12, 44

Reed, 0340.

CYPHER.

To : War Office and Linrep addressees.

277138,  
FX/67330 .

Cite FHCCT signed Wilson

Linrep No. 212.

Summary of Operations 7th December to 10th December,

Ground.

Subpara. A. Eighth Army. On the right Canadian Armored elements penetrated to within three miles of the Valli Di Comacchi but an enemy counter attack forced forward elements to withdraw some two miles to the south. Canadian Infantry elements extended their hold on the east bank of the Lamone River to a point two miles north east of Mezzano, On the left flank of Five Corps front heavy fighting is in progress in the vicinity of the crossroads one mile southwest of Faenza. Activity was confined to patrolling in two Polish Corps Sector.

Subpara B. Fifth Army. Thirteen Corps made contact with Two Polish Corps two miles west of Brisighella and made small gains in the Cesola Valsenio Area. There was no change on the remainder of the Army front where activity was confined to patrolling.

Subpara C. A.F.H.Q. Greece. Fighting has continued in the Athens/Piraeus Area during the period. ELAS troops have made several determined attacks against our troops using mortars and in some cases 75 mm guns. The task of clearing the city is proceeding slowly. No reports have been received of British troops being seriously engaged outside the Athens/Piraeus area.

2. Naval, Adriatic. An ML supported by a destroyer entered KRK harbour on night six December and attacked shipping. At Split the local partisan leader Cerni has requested H.M. Cruiser Delhi to leave, Partisan Tommy gunners prevent all communication with shore. There is apparently no objection to small craft and sweepers remaining. H.M. Cruiser Colombo at Zara has not so far been asked to leave. The whole question is now under discussion on a higher level.

Greece, Athens/Piraeus area. Naval personnel have been concentrated at four strong points which include the Naval H.Q. and Navy House. ELAS have made one determined attack on the latter and

Low/.....

low positions have been menaced by machine gun and fired at with mortars. British and Greek warships have provided effective close support which has assisted the army to clear Peninsular near the Navy College. W/T station at Piraeus has been put out of action, At Kavalle the situation reported serious but H.M. Cruiser CALEDON has arrived. All other main ports are well covered by Naval support.

3. Air. MAAF strategic air force in two nights dispatched small forces of B 17's and B 24's to attack marshalling yards in Austria. Attacks were made through clouds by pathfinder technique. On two days every effort was made to attack targets in Germany but very bad route weather necessitated the recall of all aircraft on one occasion and only a small force penetrated the weather on the other occasion bombing marshalling yards at Regensburg Germany and Villach and Klagenfurt in Austria and the Skoda Works at Pilsen Czechoslovakia. Fighters gave escort to the bombers and photo reconnaissance aircraft and strafed the railway between Salzburg Austria and Munich Germany.

Tactical Air Force. Operations were seriously curtailed on three days. Medium bombers operated successfully on one day against defence positions in the Faenza area and along the Brenner route hitting two bridges two embankments and one tunnel. Fighters and fighter bombers operated at full strength on one day and very reduced strength through the remaining days. Targets were communications in the Po valley and the Brenner route and close support targets. 36 rail cuts effected and 10 locomotives 90 rail cars 50 M/T and 22 guns destroyed. Bostons A 20's and Beaufighters harassed the enemy by night.

Coastal air force continued attacks against shipping in North Adriatic sinking or leaving in flames 8 barges. Mine spotting was flown off Italian Riviera.

Balkan air force. Rocket projectile aircraft fighters and fighter bombers although impeded by bad weather attacked communications in the Brod/Doboj/Karlovac area of Yugoslavia. Greece based aircraft patrolled roads in Athens area strafed rebel strongholds bombed rebel concentrations and dropped leaflets.

4. Enemy. The enemy has brought in a fresh mobile formation from Bologna reserve to deal with serious situation south west Faenza and has thereby succeeded in temporarily stabilising his position. On the central sector the relief of a mobile division holding east of route 65 by an Infantry Division which has been refitting north of Bologna is confirmed. The Mountain Division which left the Alpine front at the end of November is now believed to be in North East Italy thus partly compensating for the departure of the Two Divisions which left for Hungary.

Tenth Army with a fresh Corps controlling the two Divisions on the east coast is now responsible for the main battle front whilst Fourteenth Army is more directly concerned with evacuation from the Northwest.

130940A.

Received in War Registry by 140358 Circulated by War Office to War Office Depts and Admiralty, Air Ministry, Defence Map Room, S.H.A.E.F

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

War Diary.

13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B  
dispositions. Area C.B.2 north of 005° N. and east of 080° E.  
increased scale to X.4. Area K.D.1 reduce to  
W.5.  
(C. in C. E.I., 130410Z.)

V.A.2  
B.P.F. Please correct my 121158 Dec. to read V.A. Sir  
Bernard Rawlings, K.C.B., O.B.E.  
(C. in C. E.I., 130437Z.)

Enemy  
Convoy. Following received from secret sources. Important  
convoy coming from north expected at Cap St.  
Jacques today.  
(C. in C. E.I., 130615Z to Admty., etc.)

Movements,  
Seychelles. Arrivals QUEEN ELIZABETH, ROTHERHAM, ROCKET,  
THYME.  
Departures QUEEN ELIZABETH, ROTHERHAM, ROCKET.  
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 131505Z to Admty.)

5th C.S. 193C. Now that Vice-Admiral Walker has been  
appointed as V.A.3 and R.A. Read as S.O. 61  
Force, the appointment of F.O. 5th C.S. is in  
abeyance. LONDON, CUMBERLAND and SUFFOLK will  
be administered temporarily by V.A.3. Correspondence and  
signals should be addressed accordingly.  
(C. in C. E.I., 131509Z to E.I. Stn.)



War Diary.13.12.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New ZealandDigest  
No. 1057,  
Dec. 12th.

(8) Enemy air activity 12th directed at Allied convoy off south-western Leyte. Continuous observation and occasional attacks carried out from dawn to dusk including one mid-morning attack involving 20 planes: one destroyer damaged by suicide dive-bomber but otherwise negligible damage reported. Hellcats covering convoy shot down 11 planes.

(9) Enemy convoy approaching north-west Leyte via Visayan Sea morning 11th reported Digest 1056 (corrupt) paragraph, attacked throughout that day and four merchant ships possibly up to 7,000 tons (including one finished off by (corrupt) boats that night) two destroyers sunk or destroyed, another freighter transport left burning fiercely. Next morning one merchantman three escorts sighted 10 miles out of San Isidro Bay course north-west and attacks set merchant vessel on fire, damaged two escorts whereof one possibly sunk. 40-60 Jap planes encountered over convoy 11th Dec. and aggregate 25 shot down plus one probable, our losses were 5 fighters.

(10) R/C Liberators 11th Dec. saw 14 sea trucks mainly of smallest category and dispersed at anchor Verde Island Passage area besides 1,000 ton sea truck heading north-west off south-east coast Marindalue Island which was (corrupt) small merchantman sunk by Navy Mariner north-eastern Tablas Strait.

(11) Same date Navy Liberator searched entire west coast Luzon finding one tanker, 10 other merchant ships, 4 sea trucks and 5 escorts in dispersed groups, majority at anchor.

(12) That night two Liberators 22 ships in Manila Bay with unobserved results.

(13) Four Mustangs attacked personnel laden barge and oil storage tanker Tarakan noon 11th camping fires.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 131125Z.)

ADELAIDE.

Intend to pay off H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE into reserve early 1945.

(A.C.N.B., 131556Z to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900A/13th Dec.

Para. (A) (1) H.N.M. Ship reported probably mined abandoning ship at 0725Z/12th Dec. in approx. 70.41 N., 30.03 E.

(2) A/C K/53 attacked smoke probably from Schnorkel with depth charges at 1446Z/12th Dec. in 56.10 N., 08.10 W.

(3) T.G. 21.5.7 escort of U.C.48B attacked contact with Hedgehog at 2224Z/12th Dec. in 51.57 N., 05.55 W.

Para. (B) (1) F.S. L'ESCARMOUCHE attacked contact from 0044Z to 0215Z/13th Dec. in 50.05 N., 01.11 W.

(D.D.I.C., 131125 to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

14.12.1944  
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

- Channel. 1(a) Rouen can now take 12 Liberty ships and 4 small tankers.  
(b) Le Havre contemplates receiving 11 additional Liberty ships and two large coasters.
- Norway. 2(a) DEVONSHIRE, PREMIER and TRUMPETER affording air cover to C.S.10 in DIADEM with MAURITIUS and 4 destroyers during their strike on shipping off Stadlandet, have beaten off 3 night attacks by Junkers 88 torpedo bombers and shot down one of them without loss.  
(b) Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 91 mines in the Kattegat and the approaches to Oslo last night.
- Northern Waters. 3(a) CASSANDRA has been towed into Kola.  
(b) It is improbable that the Norwegian request (of Dec.7th) for a repair ship for Kirkenes will be in the affirmative.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

- Adriatic. 4(a) The destroyer ALDENHAM (Capt. D.5) was sunk by mine at 1529A in 44.30 N. 14.50 E. some 45 miles south-east of Pola. The ATHERSTONE rescued survivors, who numbered five officers, including the C.O. and 58 ratings.  
(b) The situation at Split has eased considerably and the DELHI has given shore leave.
- Greece. 5(a) So long as E.L.A.S. hold the north shore of the harbour the situation at the Piraeus will remain awkward, but there has been no offensive action from that direction so far. General Alexander says that naval gunfire throughout the revolt has produced marked effect whenever called for.  
(b) British troops in the Missolonghi area were subjected to an unprovoked E.L.A.S. attack, and concentrated at Krioneri (?Krionero) in Kalidhon Bay.
- Aegean. 6. Nine Baltimores bombed shipping in Mandracchio harbour, Rhodes. Bursts seen at the harbour

/entrance ...



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14.12.1944  
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Aegean.  
(Contd.)

entrance caused explosions on or near the jetty.

East Indies

SUPREME  
R. of P.

7. The submarine SUPREME, on her first Far East patrol, sunk six junks by gunfire between Nov.24 and Dec. 1.

Australia and New Zealand

C. in C.  
B.P.F.

8. Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser left Sydney by air for Brisbane en route to Pearl Harbour.

Philippines.

9(a) An Allied convoy in the Sulu Sea was attacked intermittently by enemy aircraft throughout the day, and despite some near misses no damage is reported. Allied combat patrols destroyed four Japanese aircraft.

(b) A Navy patrol Liberator sunk one sea truck and two small coaster freighters just south of Davao at midday.

(c) A single enemy aircraft, which approached low over Samar undetected, crash dived into a tanker anchored in San Pedro Bay, causing damage.

(d) P.T. boats last night intercepted two sailing craft leaving San Isidro Bay. One fled back to the beach, the other was abandoned.

(e) A search Liberator destroyed a small coastal freighter off the west coast of Panay this afternoon.

14.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Netherlands submarines K.14, K.15. Your 042241Z December. Admiralty have no operational requirement for Dutch submarines K.14 and K.15 and have no objection to their disposal being dealt with between the Dutch and the Americans direct.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 140527A to B.A.D.)

Movements

UGANDA. Intend to sail UGANDA p.m. today 14th December by S/C route to Scapa, E.T.D. May Island 1600/14th. Speed of advance 25 knots. E.T.A. 2245/14th, Hoxa Gate 2300/14th.  
(2) UGANDA is to request lights as required.  
(3) Mails to Scapa.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 141055A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Scapa arrival UGANDA.  
(A.C.O.S., 142302 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

KENT. Proceed at best speed and take full A/S precaution when passing Cape Wrath area. Escort will not be provided.  
(C. in C. H.F., 141434 to KENT.)

Admiralty Floating Dock No.55. F.O.I.C. London is requested to sail A.F.D. 55 in tow of EMPHATIC when ready about 20th Dec. to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Bombay.  
(2) Cs. in C. concerned are requested to arrange escort to vicinity of Plymouth and C. in C. W.A. from thence to Gibraltar.  
(D.O.D.(H), 141657A to F.O.I.C. London, Cs. in C. Nore, W.A., Plymouth, Portsmouth.)

Operations

North Sea

Situation Report. Cositintrep No. 253 part II, Naval.  
(1) Captured Ports: Port Capacity. Ghent: Maximum draught 23' maximum length 460'. One Liberty berth 23'. 10 coaster berths 22'. Rouen: 10,732 feet available at quayside includes 12 Liberty berths, 4 tanker berths 13' draught. Le Havre: Contemplated increase of 11 Liberty berths and 2 large coaster berths of locks at Bassin de l'eure and Bassin Beliot about 15th December.

(2) Unloading figures for 12th December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Pol.</u>
Canoe	-	-	373	-
Dieppe	-	-	950	-
Boulogne	52	95	1,290	-
Calais	-	33	147	-
Ostend	1,839	-	2,390	1,577
Antwerp	-	146	6,621	10,363
Total	1,891	274	11,771	11,940

U.S.  
Antwerp - - - 22,330 -  
Other totals not yet received.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 140010A to Admty.)

/Engagement ...

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14.12.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorth Sea - Contd.Engagement  
of aircraft  
by night.

Following rules for opening fire on aircraft during dark hours in the Schelde area are to be brought into force forthwith.

(a) Ships in the I.A.Z. are only to engage aircraft that are already being engaged by shore batteries or commit a hostile act.

(b) Between 02° 45' E. and Schelde I.A.Z. ships are not to open fire on any aircraft unless a hostile act is committed.

(2) Standing instructions contained in S.P. 02312(4) as quoted in previous signals remain in force west of 02° 46' E.

(C. in C. Nore, 141551A to Nore Command, A.N.C.X.F.)

Wreck  
dispersal  
in South  
Beveland  
Canal.Request wreck dispersal vessel JACINTA be sailed to Antwerp for work in South Beveland Canal.  
(P.S.V.O. Antwerp, 141930A to S.V.O.X.F.)OperationsChannel

Patrols.

Proceed to search through position 50.24 N., 02.55 W. thence carry out sweep to westward. If no contact by 1700A resume patrol.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141219A to E.G. 26.)

My 131754. 25th E.G. be in west section area Y by 1700 patrol that section.

(2) A.I.G.61 be at H.5 Buoy 1700 search thence along 50° 10' to 00' 40' W.

(3) Further orders follow.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141241A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Night patrol 14th/15th. My 141241, not to all. Anti-Snort. patrol areas given.

(2) Area (X) 00° 40', 01° 37' W., 49° 48', 50° 18' divided 3 sections by 49° 58', 50° 08'.

(3) On arrival 50° 10', 00° 40' W. take sections from north in sequence L'ESCARMOUCHE, SPRAGGE, WATCHMAN. Search from north-east corner to south-west corner by 0830.

(4) When 25th E.G. leave Y west extend sections to 01° 47' W.

(5) ANTHONY 49° 42', Q.Z.S.526, 49° 30', Q.Z.S.640 be at north-west corner by 0830.

(6) Further orders to 25th E.G. follow.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141253A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

E.G. 26 if not in contact leave patrols so as to enter Plymouth at 0900A/15 for short lay-over.

(2) At 0500A/15 21st E.G. proceed to take up following zig-zag patrols: CONN, BYRON, DEAN between 50.15 N. 05.56 W. and 49.44 N. 05.55 W. RUPERT, REDMILL, FITZROY 50.48 N. 04.53 W. and 50.25 N. 05.25 W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141536A to Plymouth A/S Groups.)

/Air ...

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14.12.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsChannelPatrols.  
(Contd.)

Air patrols. My 281728, para. 12.  
 (A) Night 14th/15th patrol 3 Leigh Light Wellingtons. Day 15th patrol 3 Liberators. Patrol 4 and 5 Swordfish.  
 (B) 838 Squadron JXC. 842 Squadron WGK.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 141703A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

15th day patrols. Search areas limits shown.

(2) WATCHMAN, ANTHONY within 2 miles north of Q.Z.S. 526, west of L.1 thence 2 miles each side H Channel to 50° 00'.

(3) SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE 2 miles each side H Channel 50° 00' to 50° 25'.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141750A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force.)

Operation  
"Nestegg"  
to Channel  
Islands.

A.N.C.X.F. 121859 December.  
 Landings in Guernsey and Jersey necessitate the use of L.C.As. as it cannot be accepted that the ports will be sufficiently undamaged to permit entry and berthing alongside of any vessels large enough to be able to transport the approved military force to the Channel Islands in winter.

(2) Winter conditions of light and weather preclude landing on beaches.

(3) The only apparent method of transporting simultaneously the required number of infantry for both objectives is in 3 L.S.I.(L) and landing them in L.C.As. now planned.

(4) Soutco and Commander Force 135 consulted and it is agreed that under present directive plans cannot be recast for a smaller lift.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141257A to Admty.)

Recovery of  
moorings from  
Arromanches  
and Omaha.

On completion of work at Morlaix, request KIRRIEMOOR accompanied by attendant BARS may be sailed as convenient for Arromanches to recover moorings no longer required.

(2) FOSSBECK on completion of off-loading and boiler cleaning to be sailed for Omaha accompanied by 2 BARS for similar work.

(3) Moorings at Utah to be recovered subsequently.

(4) Commanding Officers of KIRRIEMOOR and FOSSBECK to consult N.O.I.C. Arrow as necessary and he should consult Comusbasfrance regarding any problems relating to Omaha and Utah.

(5) Subject to C. in C. Portsmouth's concurrence request B.D.O. Gosport may detail and arrange for reliefs of attendant BARS as necessary.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 141914A to Cs. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth.)

OperationsWestern Approaches

Patrol.

R/V me off Lundy Island at 1300A/14th December. Intend transferring to you in Barnstaple Bay. N.O.I.C. Belfast's 132200A refers.  
 (S.O. E.G.21, 140230A to CONN.)

/14th E.G. ...

War Diary.

14.12.1944.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Approaches

Patrol. 14th E.G. sailed at 1600/14 to comply with your  
(Contd.) 131947A December, para. 4.  
(Com. (D) W.A., 141645A to C. in C. W.A.)

Suspected Your 140031 and my 131415. Amend position of  
U-Boat. BALFOUR contact to read 049° 38' N., 006° 52' W.  
(S.O. E.G. B.21, 140440A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

Norway

NARVIK's Intend to sail operation employing H.N.M.S.  
operation NARVIK (my 141216 gives codeword and my 141217  
to Lofotens gives D day).  
("Synnove"). (2) NARVIK leaves Lerwick p.m. D day and passes  
through following position (AA) 090° Out Skerries  
5 miles. (BB) 064° 00' N., 004° 30' E. (CC)  
068° 45' N., 010° 00' E.  
(3) From position (CC) NARVIK steers for 068° 49' N., 014° 34' E.  
(4) NARVIK leave last position given between 1900 B.S.T. D+3  
and 0700 B.S.T. D+6 and return Lerwick by reverse of outward  
route but pass through position 062° 30' N., 003° 00' E. which  
is aircraft R/V for air protection if required.  
(5) Air protection on return journey is not especially desired  
but may be requested by signal from NARVIK to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.  
(6) For this operation NARVIK will use 2 star pyrotechnic  
recognition signals as for coastal force craft.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141201A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 141201. Codeword "Synnove".  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141216A to A.C.O.S.)  
My 141201A. D day 15th December.  
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 141217A to A.C.O.S.)

*Position amended:  
151154A and 151204A,  
see page 349.*

Operation Have repelled 3 night attacks by Ju.88 torpedo  
"Fretsaw". bomber (corrupt group) KG 26. 1 A/C shot down.  
Strike "Able" completed. No losses. Weather  
deteriorating, am returning to base. HD 601  
undecodeable table not held. My P.C.S. 064°  
01' N., 004° 12' E., 285°, 13½. Weather report  
4581 2544.  
(DEVONSHIRE, 141801A to C. in C. H.F.)

S/Ms. off My 121558 and S/M.9 131747. VENTURER is to  
S.W. Norway. leave Lerwick six hours after RUBIS, that is, at  
2000/15th Dec. S.O. S/M Lerwick pass to  
VENTURER, RUBIS.  
(F.O. S/M., 142152A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)

14.12.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSOperationsNorway - Contd.

Force 2 off Christiansund. German aircraft reported formation at 1438A/14th December in approx. position lat. 63° 45' N., long. 06° 15' E., and an aircraft was probably still in contact at 1645A.  
(2) 4 B.V.138 and 1 Ju.88 were operating at 2139A/14th.  
(D.D.I.C., 142317A to Force 2, C. in C. H.F., Rosyth, A.C.O.S., C.S.10, H.Q.C.C.)

OperationsNorthern Waters

Repair ship for Norwegian forces at Kirkenes. Detailed requirements have now been received from C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy and are being examined. Your 071036 refers. A further signal will follow. It is most improbable that a repair ship can be provided.  
(V.C.N.S., 140059A to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

Convoy R.A. 62. Transmission on 3750 and 5035 k/cs from 2233Z/13th onwards indicate possible homing of U-Boats on to R.A. 62.  
(D.D.I.C., 140130A to H.F., S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

Arrival of WALKER and PITCAIRN in Iceland. On arrival proceed to Reykjavik. Cdre. Auxiliary Vessels in BALDUR will administer you.  
(A.C.I.C., 141248A to WALKER, PITCAIRN.)

Arrival of CASSANDRA at Kola. Kola Inlet 14th Dec. 1944. Arrived CASSANDRA, TAVY, TORTOLA, BAHAMAS, SOMALILAND.  
(S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 141950A to Admty.)

Loss of TUNSBURG CASTLE. Your 141936. Stern of TUNSBURG CASTLE blown off by explosion at 1005C/12th Dec. in position 015° Sandstabben Light one mile. Ship sank at 1145C/12th in position 070° 44'30" N., 030° 09'00" E. in (?55) fathoms.  
(2) Board of Enquiry held 14th December at request of Captain Hostvedt.  
(3) Casualties reported in my 130959.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 142311A to Admty.)

Mining

Deep mining off Hartland Point. Carry out operation H.Y.A.2 at 1415 December 15.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141103 to PLOVER.)

/Loss ...

14.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining - Contd.

Loss of special mining barge CYRUS. My 061156. Survey of CYRUS shows she has broken amidships, lies in an exposed position and could not be floated without building watertight bulkheads across broken sections. (2) Salvage is considered impracticable. (A.N.C.X.F., 141105A to Admty.)

Minesweeping of channel to Sas-van-Goes. Your 131400, para. 6. Request also clearance of a channel from north end of South Beveland Canal to Sas-van-Goes. (2) This channel is required for movement of L.C.T. of Force T and will also progress Operation "Placket". (A.N.C.X.F., 141130A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 131400A. Request you will comply with A.N.C.X.F.'s 141130A, reporting details of channel swept. Any arrangements made with Commodore Belgium for his minesweeping force, supplemented by some of your ships to take over the responsibility of minesweeping between N.F.13 buoy and Antwerp and for you and the remainder of your ships then to return to U.K. must be postponed accordingly. (C. in C. Nore, 141715A to Capt. M/S. F.A.)

Minesweeping in Schelde. Operation "Calendar". (1) Sweeping today Thursday 14th Dec. SA/LL to South Beveland Canal. (B) Special sweeping in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 261609A all other sweepings abandoned owing to dense fog. (2) None. (3) Fog restricted surveying. (4) Nil. (5) B.Y.M.S. 2157, 2188, 2173, 2213, M.M.S. 256, 282, 175, 253, M.F.Vs. 1027, 1078. (Capt. F.A., 141923A to C. in C. Nore.)

Port Facilities

Antwerp. Your 151401A October and my 241923 October, 071922 November. Total number of berths and draught available remain unchanged. Limit of 30 feet draught in the River still considered advisable except that one ship of 32 feet each daylight tide can now be taken. (B) Maximum length of ship can now be increased to 550 feet but it is strongly recommended that ships of this length be less than 26 foot draught. (C) Petrol berths are as in my 141222 December. (D) Agreed P.E.C. (N.O.I.C. Antwerp, 141304 to A.N.C.X.F.) Belgian Pilot Vessel SKYRACK is urgently required for pilotage on River Schelde. Request she be sailed to Nore as soon as practicable. Relief will be provided later, if necessary. (D.S.V.P., 141506A to A.C.I.C.)

/Flushing ...

14.12.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Port Facilities - Contd.

Flushing. A.N.C.X.F's 121857 and further to my 121535. My visit to Flushing confirms necessity for water boat and it is not understood why it should be deemed that I have asked for something unnecessary. After coal and water, building repair material is most wanted, and L.B.K. will probably be needed. (F.O.I.C. Holland, 141730A to Admt.)

Casualties and Defects

LOOKOUT. LOOKOUT Panamanian Registry struck wreck 12th December near Buoy N.F.13. Crew removed and landed Flushing. Ship now declared total loss. Will return survivors to United Kingdom first available transportation. (W.S.A. Antwerp, 141204A to W.S.A. London.)

SOUTHCOATES. SOUTHCOATES refloated at 1415 proceeding Leith. (C.S.V.O. Storeton, 141511A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipping and Convoys

Sailings from Far shore. Your 131044A. Para. 2. Empty tankers including those for inclusion in U.C. convoys will also be sailed independently (your 131306 December refers). Para. 4. Ships from Cherbourg for ports west of Portland will carry through routes to destination and will be sailed to Weymouth for onward convoy only. Para. 5. L.S.Ts. returning from France will continue to sail in groups unescorted (Admiralty's 281801A October para. 2 refers). (C.T.F. 125, 141123A to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Coasters are locked out at Ouistreham when tide serves and proceed Pasture to await convoy. Masters represent danger and difficulty of remaining in this open anchorage in bad weather. Request consideration be given to sailing Canoe ships independently to Wight. (R.N.O. Arrow, 141904A to F.O.B.A.A.)

Dublin shipping. To save turn-round time it is requested that ships in ocean convoys bound Dublin may in future remain with Mersey section until broken off direct to destination. (D.T.D., 141230A to C. in C. W.A.)

Closing of Loch Ewe as Assembly Port O.N.S., S.C., U.R./R.U. Convoys. It is proposed to discontinue the use of Loch Ewe as an Ocean Convoy Assembly Port early in January. (2) In consequence the following steps are proposed:- (a) Withdraw all Naval Control Service and D.E.M.S. personnel with the exception of two or



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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Closing of Loch Ewe as Assembly Port O.N.S., S.C., U.R./R.U. Convoys. (Contd.)

three officers who will be required for duties in paras. (c), (d) and (e) below.

(b) Subsequent to J.W.63, North Russian convoys to sail from Clyde.

(c) O.N.S. Convoys. East coast ships to assemble at Belfast. To enable ships from the Humber and north thereof to connect with the O.N.S. convoys the sailing of the corresponding E.N. convoy to be adjusted as necessary and this convoy to be escorted to Belfast instead of to Loch Ewe. Ships from ports south of the Humber to proceed in appropriate convoys southabout.

(d) S.C. Convoys. East coast ships for Humber and ports north thereof to proceed to Loch Ewe for W.N. convoy. Ships for ports south of the Humber to proceed to Milford Haven or Belfast if necessary for onward routeing southabout.

(e) U.R./R.U. convoys to sail to and from Clyde. East coast ships to join and leave at Loch Ewe.

(3) Subject to concurrence of C. in C. H.F. in para. 2(b) and of C. in C. Rosyth in para. 2(c), C. in C. W.A. is requested to report names of N.C.S. Officers who should be retained, (those with ocean routeing experience will be required for other appointments) and what boarding vessels or small craft can be released.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 141656A to Cs. in C. W.A., H.F., Rosyth.)

*Closing of Loch Ewe to take effect on Jan. 7, 1945.*

*(BTD, 251630A. page 605)*

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

13th M.S.F. Intend to sail 13th M.S.F. consisting of ROTHSAY (S.O.) RHYL, BUDE, BRIXHAM, POLRUAN and STORNOWAY at 1800A Dec. 14 to Falmouth for fuel and onward routeing.

(2) Route R. 35.59 N. 06.10 W. (S) 36.55 N. 09.05 W. (T) 38.40 N. 09.45 W. (U) 43.20 N. 09.(45?) W. (V) 180 degs. Lizard 5 miles thence by current swept channels to Falmouth.

(3) S.O.A. 10 knots.

(4) Codeword "Tennyson" 337.

(5) Shifting to home service W/T organisation at 0300A Dec. 17th

(6) Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141037A to C. in C. Plymouth etc.)

Sailed 13th M.S.F. as in my 141027.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 142113A)

MIRROR,  
Cables  
BERGAMOT. MIRROR estimates completion work on shore end Gibraltar-Casablanca cable P.M. 15th Dec. Intend sail MIRROR 0800A/16th, speed 10, to repair Gibraltar-Lisbon No.2 in position 37-14 N. 09-14 W. Request you furnish escort. C. in C. Med. 121630 your 131134A and my 132323A refers.  
(Commorseafron 141132A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Sail at 1830A 14th Dec. to Casablanca routed through (A) 35.51 N. 06.10 W. (B) 35.45 N. 06.24 W. (C) 35.24 N. 07.13 W. and Q.B.A.102 S.O.A. 12 knots. (2) E.T.A. Casablanca 1430A/15th.

(3) On arrival you will be required to escort Cable Ship MIRROR during cable repairs, C.M.S.F.'s 141132 not to BERGAMOT, refers.

(4) Codeword throughout "Corner" 587.

(5) Keep W/T watch in accordance with S1/44 section MD.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141709A to BERGAMOT)

Azores  
Command Cdr. J.A. Jaap, U.S.N. assumed command of the U.S. Naval Force Azores with effect from 6th Dec. 1944 vice Capt. W.G. Tomlinson.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 141446Z to Admty.)

SERENE Sailed from Horta 1435Z/14 SERENE to Falmouth for onward routeing to Granton. Routed as in Admty. 131842. S.O.A. 12½ knots, E.T.A. 1700Z/18.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 141736Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

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## ACTIVE

Owing to necessity for extensive retubing of boilers ACTIVE will not now leave U.K. until Dec. 19th.  
(D.O.D.(F) 140025A to C. in C. Med.)

Shipping for  
Black Sea

Request your comments on F.O.L.E.M.'s 292120 to C. in C. Med. and Admty. only, and on C. in C. Med's 091343.

2. Convoys proceeding to Black Sea will in first instance comprise only U.S. ships, and M.W.T. are informing U.S. Authorities of F.O.L.E.M.'s proposal that Turks should be asked to reduce port dues at Istanbul for ships in convoy. It is possible, however, that some British ships may be included later on.

3. Russians have been asked to complete preparations for reception of convoys by 15th Jan. Admiral Archer's 091021, not to all, (N.T. in W.D.) refers. First sailing is likely to be two U.S. sugar ships arriving Dardanelles approx. 23rd Jan.

4. British N.C.S.O. will be installed Istanbul as soon as there is prospect of continuous movements. It is not considered worth while sending N.C.S.O. for the two ships mentioned in preceding paragraph, routing of which can be handled by present organisation

5. Admiralty's general comments on C. in C. Med's 091343 will be reserved pending your reply and further information from Washington.

6. Caserta pass to S.A.C. Med. and Com. 8th Fleet and Alexandria pass to S.B.N.O. Greece.

((L) Approved A.C.N.S.(UT) 140335A to N.A. Ankara)

Aegean:  
MARNE,  
LIDDESDALE,  
EXMOOR,  
KIMBERLEY.

F.O.L.E.M.102006 (N.T. in W.D.) MARNE is to relieve LIDDESDALE. My 121014 para. 2 (N.T. in W.D.) After contacting LIDDESDALE A.M. 15th Dec. MARNE is to sail for patrol B. LIDDESDALE sails from Khios as convenient to Alexandria collecting EXMOOR mail from KIMBERLEY en route and report E.T.A. 309.  
(S.O. Force 53 140402B to Force 53 (R) F.O.L.E.M., S.O. Force 51, F.O.L.E.M. Afloat)

## Cables

Comply with para. 4 A.M.122050/ when repair in my 121630 to F.O.C.W.AF. has also been completed.  
(C. in C. Med. 140857A to F.O.G.M.A.)

EASTWAY  
escorted by  
STORK

Request you comply with A.M.121753A, para. 3.  
(EASTWAY to ferry 6 L.C.T.)  
(C. in C. Med. 140942A to F.O.G.M.A.)

VISIGOTH  
(Malta)

My 181205 Nov. not to S.O.S/M's East Indies Stn. Repairs to VISIGOTH (P.7.6) are now satisfactory. Port 4 Cranit Head has run 64 hours satisfactory trials and spare for this bearing has run 40 hours trial. VISIGOTH (P.7.6) is being sailed in accordance with my 121320A Dec. Spare bearings requested in my 111115 Oct. should be forwarded to S.O.S/M's East Indies Stn.  
(Capt. (S/M)1. 141001A to F.O. S/M)

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- ANTWERP Approved to retain ANTWERP temporarily. Your 131150/Dec. (D.O.D.(F). Approved V.C.N.S. 141149A to C. in C. Med.)
- Alexandria defences Request detailed figures asked for in my 092015 May concerning payment for fixed defences of Alexandria Harbour may now be sent, as the transfer of the A/S fixed Defence Station at Agami to Egyptian Government is now under consideration. C. in C. Med. Letter No. 6712/Med. 00700/2 of 1st November, 1944 refers. (F.O.L.E.M. 141230 to Admty.) 112038B/APRIL.45.
- C.O.P.P.10 From (2 corrupt groups) C.O.P.P.10. C.O.P.P.10 is now in Alexandria awaiting orders. F.O.15th C.S. 081351\* refers. (F.O.L.E.M. 141320B to C. in C. Med.) \* C.O.P.P.10 Party to go to Alexandria. See also 171006B.
- C.S.15 (Corrupt groups) Intend(?transferring) my flag to AJAX from ORION at 0930/18th Dec. Request C. in C. Med. issue station message. (F.O. 15 C.S., 141501B to Admty. C. in C. Med. etc.)
- ALDENHAM sunk, mine. ALDENHAM sunk by mine in position 044° 30' N. 014° 50' E. (ATHERSTONE, 141530 to S.N.O. North Adriatic.) ALDENHAM sunk by mine in position 044° 30' N. 014° 50' E. (corrupt group) 9 miles at 1529. returning to Voli (corrupt group) with survivors. (ATHERSTONE, 141545A to S.N.O Adriatic, F.O.T. A.L.I.)  
Regret to report ALDENHAM sunk by mine in position 044° 30' N. 014° 50' E.  
(2) ATHERSTONE reports having survivors on board number unspecified.  
(C. in C. Med. 142107A to Admty., (R) V.A.M., F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- M.A.D. Catalinas for home. With present U-boat situation, concur in suggestion your 111346A.  
(2) Officer from V.P.B. 63 experienced in M.A.D. is being sent to U.K. to confer with Coastal Command as to practicability of employing these aircraft in proposed area F.O.G.M.A. 131058 also refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 141713A to Admty. (R) F.O.G.M.A., Com. Eighth Fleet.)

/DROTTNINGHOLM...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

DROTTNINGHOLM Your 091103A December. It is desired to expedite exchange of movement as far as possible in order:-  
personnel. (a) To free DROTTNINGHOLM for further exchanges.  
(b) To ensure early repatriation of 300 British Subjects, and  
(c) To permit early mining of Sassnitz-Trelleborg Ferry route which has been kept open since April, 1944, for these exchanges.  
(2) It is not expected that DROTTNINGHOLM will arrive at Istanbul before late January, 1945. Is this acceptable?  
(Hd. of Mil. Branch Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 141732A to C. in C. Med.)  
Reply; C. in C. Med., 161802A.

Escort Request you will make available one ship of the 13 D.F. to act as escort from Gibraltar to Malta if URCHIN is not ready. A.M. 122215 refers.  
(N.T. in.W.D.)  
(C. in C. Med. 141757 to F.O.G.M.A., (R) Admty.)

BERWICK There is no objection to BERWICK remaining a day or two at Malta if this is convenient to you  
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 141848A to C. in C. Mediterranean)

Aegean Isum No. 12 Aegean. Simi. Force 142 reports 12th December enemy failed to make landings. Report Patmos. Same source reports no positive information that enemy landed but local source through Force 142 reports Germans holding Mount Prasson 845559.  
(C. in C. M.E., 141900, to A.F.H.Q.)

Transfers of Escort Forces. A.M. 241641 Nov. para. 3. Your 052014 gives allocations for 7 Hunts in addition to CALPE. Request, therefore, you will signal three further allocations instead of two as mentioned in last sentence but one of your 052014.  
(D.O.D.(F) 141905A to C. in C. Med.)

Aegean (2) B.L.O. reports. Mytilene. 13th December Sitrep armed E.L.A.S. Police keeping order, situation on No. 6. surface normal. Samos. 12th December 190 (150) armed Andartes in hills.  
(C. in C. M.E. 142010B to A.F.H.Q.)

ATHENE Onward route from position 292 at 1020/15th Basic westbound route omitting positions 120 and 100 and proceeding direct from 89 to 70.

/(2)...

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ATHENE (Contd.)

- (2) S. of A. 16 knots.
- (3) E.T.A. position 79 at 1658 16th 89 at 1640 17th Gibraltar Boom at 1300 18th.
- (4) Codeword "Peach" 385.
- (5) All times A.
- (6) N.O.I.C. Port Said 121637 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all refers.

(V.A. Malta, 142050, to ATHENE.)

Cositintrep No. 524 Part IV

Greece. Athens/Piraeus area. During 13th December the rebels continued to move toward the centre of Athens. They are using mines, explosives and road blocks more extensively than before. The road between Athens and Piraeus is still open but is subject to rebel machine gun and rifle fire. A rebel attack on some high ground in the Eastern sector was repulsed. The rebels attacked infantry barracks in the central sector and caused some damage before being driven out. In Piraeus our troops have made further progress in the dock area. There was no material change in the situation elsewhere in Greece.

(A.F.H.Q., T.O.O. Nil 14th December.)

Air Cositintrep No. 522 Part III

Strategic Air Force. Night 12/13. No operations Day 13. 49 Wellingtons and 29 Liberators carried out special supply mission to Greece. P.38s and 12 P.51s escorted photo. R/C. Flak all slight accurate heavy. 1 P.51 is missing. No bomber operations due weather.

Tactical Air Force. Day 13. Coastal guns at Spezia were bombed with two positions claimed destroyed and seven damaged. A storage tank in same area was destroyed. Coastal details: 16 P.39s on tactical R/C Tenda/Cuneo/Mandovi/Savigliano scored many hits on electrical station and relay station and destroyed 6 trucks and 2 cars. 3 Beaufighters patrolled and 2 Latecoeres flew mine sweeping patrols off south coast of France.

(H.Q. M.A.A.F. T.O.O. nil/14)

Cositintrep No. 525 Part 2.

One. Greece. So long as E.L.A.S. hold north shore of harbour situation at Piraeus will remain awkward. There has however been no offensive action from that direction so far. Disembarkation continues smoothly. Naval gunfire has throughout revolt produced marked effect whenever called for. At provincial ports presence of warships has coloured situation and it is probable that E.L.A.S. are awaiting outcome in capital.

Two. Adriatic. One of our destroyers has been mined and sunk \* in position 44° 30' N. 14° 50' E. There are known to be survivors but details are not yet available. At Split situation has eased considerably and H.M. Cruiser there has given shore leave.

(C. in C. Med. No T.O.O. 14)

\* ALDENHAM. See also 152204A.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troopships. Welcome proposal to operate more reliable Troopships on East Indies Station. Your 112030 refers.  
(2) Owing to speed of Escorts on CM.MC Route maximum convoy speed must continue to be 12 knots for some time to come.  
(3) Adoption of 20 day cycle for K.M.F. ships will rarely permit of escorts being available for intermediate AB-BA Convoys.  
(4) Request therefore that the faster ships referred to in para. 2C of your 112030 may be employed on this run and sail with K.M.F/M.K.F. ships.  
(C. in C. E.I. 140247Z to D.S.T.)

U-Boat disposition. No fresh information. Scales in all areas remains unchanged.  
(C. in C. E.I.140346Z)

SUPREME. SUPREME first Far East patrol. 24th November east of Puket sank 50 ton junk.  
(2) 26th November air/sea rescue duties.  
(3) 27th November and 29th November South of the Vogels sank 50 ton junk and 100 ton junk laden with cases petrol also 50 ton and 30 ton junk.  
(4) First December off Bunting Island sank 50 ton junk.  
(5) All by gunfire.  
(C. in C. E.I. 140535Z to Admty.)

CRANE. H.M.S. CRANE is allocated temporarily to Aden escort force.  
(C. in C.E.I.140619Z to N.O.I.C.Aden.)

A/S training B.P.F. To meet requirements for A/S training in British Pacific Fleet it has been decided to allocate two "U" class submarines from East Indies Station. A.M. 042024/Nov. not to all, refers. Transfer should take place as required.  
(2) It is proposed that submarines selected should be based on Sydney in first instance and then as required by C. in C. British Pacific Fleet.  
(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F) on O.D.1606/44, 141150A to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. B.P.F.)

KING GEORGE V. Colombo 14th. Arrival B.Y.M.S. No.2203. Departures KING GEORGE V, WHIRLWIND, WRANGLER.  
(F.O.Ceylon, 141157Z to Admty. F.O.C. R.I.N.)

VALIANT. Despite improvement in handling ship I consider entry into Durban a distinct risk. If permissible propose ship proceed direct to Capetown, ship's endurance of escorts ample margin. Your 110409Z and F.O.L.E.M.'s 192239B amended by his 201348B, both November, neither to F.O.C.W.Af., refer. F.O.L.E.M. signals quoted were repeated to C. in C. S.A. later but you were not so informed.  
(3) Subject to your approval request arrangements may be made for

/ escort ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

- VALIANT.  
(Contd.)
- escort mentioned in para. 4(b) of A.M. 231646 November should meet me off Durban and that I then part company from convoy and proceed direct.  
(VALIANT, 141212Z to C. in C. E.I.)
- RENOWN.
- Sailed RENOWN, NORMAN, PALADIN 1345Z/14th Dec. shifting to broadcast S.L. at 0200Z/17th Dec. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 141348Z to Admty. etc.)
- VALIANT.
- Arrived HONESTY, GUARDIAN, S/M TALLY HO, SOUTHERN ISLES.  
Departed VALIANT, FALMOUTH, GENISTA, HONESTY.  
(Cdre. Aden, 141553Z to Admty. etc.)



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TRACKER,  
TROUNCER. Your 081749. TRACKER may be used in the Pacific.  
(2) As BATTLE is already in the Pacific she will be loaned in the place of TROUNCER after unloading aircraft at Sydney (A.M. 021805 and 131800 Nov. refer) and so ensure TROUNCER being available in U.K. by 1st March.  
(3) TROUNCER would be available in Atlantic if required by Cominch until early February when she should load the cargo of aircraft previously allocated for BATTLE (A.M. 021805 Nov.).  
(4) Answer to para.2 of your signal will be made shortly.  
(D.O.D.(F), (on Docket A.O.D.434/44) Approved V.C.N.S. 141421A to B.A.D.)

U-Boat  
contact. N.S.H.Q.S/M attack and sighting summary.  
No report since my 042358Z.  
C. Disappearing A.S.V. contact in 43.25 N. 54.00 W. at 1810Z/13.  
Comment possibly on merchant vessel later sighted in same vicinity.  
(N.S.H.Q. 141428Z to Admty. Cominch)

U-Boat  
dispositions. Estimates.  
(N.S.H.Q.141431Z, Cominch, 141523Z)

K.11. Request decision on disposal of K.11 as I wish to include this information in my reply to Cominch re disposal of K.14 and K.15. A.M. 231851 Nov. and my 042241 refers.  
(B.A.D.141515Z to Admty.)

THANE. Owing to defects THANE did not sail in U.C.48B but will sail in U.C.49A.  
(D.O.D.(H), 141520A to Cominch)

STANFORD  
grounding. SS. STANFORD grounded Execution Rock, Long Island Sound (11th) Dec. Proceeded 1 hour later to Boston. Survey being held, leak in No.4 hold.  
(Boston, 141901Z to Admty.)

A.F.D.32. Further to B.A.D's 312139 October (Anticipate tugs and escorts for A.F.D.32 will now be required at New York 1st week of January). Request Admty's intentions as to provision of tugs and escorts in view of possibility of dock being ready to start first week in January.  
(B.A.D.142309Z to Admty. Reply: Admty, 152023A)

PURSUER. N.A.R.Washington states there is a requirement for ferrying R.N. aircraft to Australia where they are urgently required and suggests use of PURSUER for this purpose after she has completed short

/refit ...

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.PURSUER.  
(Contd.)

refit and fitted catapult.  
 (2) In view of PURSUER's future it seems possible that Admiralty may approve her proceeding to the far East via the Pacific with an embarked load of about 50 fighter aircraft.  
 (3) Your 271621 Nov. para. 3 refers.  
 (B.A.D. 142311Z to Admty.)

Australia and New ZealandDigest  
for 13th  
Dec.No.1058.

(4) Patrol planes over Southwestern Luzon early afternoon saw 3 Coasters in Supic Bay, one Sea Truck 4 Coastal Freighters Northwestern entrance Verde Island Passage, 4 Sea Trucks along Northeast Coast Mindoro Island and one patrol craft East of North Palawan Island: attack destroyed 3 sea trucks, probably destroyed 4th. Sea truck plus patrol craft, and left one Coaster Burning. Nil shipping reported East Coast nor elsewhere along West Coast Luzon but 2 Warships (probably escort type vessels) seen afternoon approaching Manila from Verde Island Passage and 2 Merchant ships one Auxiliary observed heading Northwest through Mindoro Strait. Previous night patrol Mariner sank small Freighter off Mindoro Island.  
 (5) Allied convoy Mindano Sea subjected to continuous observation and several attacks during afternoon. Combat air patrol shot down 4 Jap Bombers.  
 (6) ?On (?Cenl ak) (West?) Coast Samar Island our Forces captured Wright early afternoon.  
 (7) In Ormoc vicinity severest resistance encountered since West Coast landing North of town but our troops achieved 1200 yard advance to Citt Re Cogon. Further South in Ipic neighbourhood enemy launched heavy attack from hills on east flank.  
 (9) Night 11th. December 2 Jap Landing Craft type ships one barge attempted land troops at or near Ormoc. Barge was sunk off Ormoc Pitt and one landing craft sunk by shore fire 2000 yards Northwest of Ormoc; other landing craft hit, started burning and withdrew Westwards.  
 (14) R/C North Borneo anchorages 12th. again showed nil sizeable shipping, at Brunei Bay 2 sea trucks 10 Luggers attacked and 2 Luggers sunk, one Sea truck set on fire and damaged remainder.  
 (15) Search Liberator from Darwin strafed one camouflaged picket boat off Southern Celebes morning 19th (sic).  
 (16) 31 Mitchells attacked Nibon area airdrome. 12th Dec. damaging 3 planes of undetermined serviceability on Kaivatoe. Same day 8 more Mitchells swept Ambon-Cerem Coasts destroying one damaging 2 small craft.  
 (20) Enemy S/M. (thought possibly German) shelled Merchant ship 150 miles South of Adelaide (South Australia) midday 9th Dec. without inflicting damage.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.141005Z)

/C. in C. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

C. in C.  
B.P.F.

Admiral Fraser left Sydney by air for Brisbane en route to Pearl Harbour E.T.A. Pearl Harbour 17th December (?West) longitude date.  
(C. in C. B.P.F.141131 to C. in C. Pacific)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900A/14th December.

(A) (1) BALFOUR attacked contact at 0637Z/13th December in 49 degs. 38' N. 06 degs. 52' W.

(B) (1) P.S. BLYSKAWICA attacked asdic contact with depth charges at 2055Z/13th December in 51 degs. 56' N. 05 degs. 54' W.

(2) A/C N/282 sighted object believed periscope at 0935Z/13th December in 47 degs. 26' N. 07 degs. 22' W.

(D.D.I.C.141113A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U-Boat  
dispositions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C.141423A)

15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

North Sea.

1(a) C. in C. Nore and A.N.C.X.F. press for better A/A protection between Breskens and Zeebrugge.  
(b) SS. FORT MAISON NEUVE has been mined 10 miles west of Flushing and drifted ashore.  
(c) The Belgian pilot vessel SKYRACK, urgently required on the Schelde, is unfortunately in Iceland, out of action for 2 or 3 weeks due to an engine-starter back firing.

Western Approaches.

2. The abolition of fighter protection in the Western Approaches Command is now approved.

Northern Waters.

3. C.S.1, on returning from his escort of R.A.62, now nearing home, reports that as a result of intense, although ineffective, torpedo-bomber attacks 2 Junkers 88s. were shot down and several damaged, but he adds "lack of night fighters keenly felt. They would have had wonderful opportunity to score big bag". C. in C. H.F. stresses this need and asks when trained naval night fighter crews may be expected. One B.V.138 machine was also shot down. We lost one Wildcat. In addition, C.S.1's force claim one U-Boat sunk, 3 possibles, and several possibly damaged.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean

Greece.

4(a) At the Piraeus, the clearance of the rebels from the Southern Peninsula continues but is accompanied by fierce fighting. Allied warships in support bombarded Lofos Castello. The naval W/T station being menaced, 10 tanks were landed from an L.S.T., and a destroyer provided close support. The Greek Naval Brigade, which has been a great success, is being increased.  
(b) At Kalamata the landing of relief stores continues. British liberty men who landed on the 13th were welcomed enthusiastically by the townspeople.  
(c) The situation at other ports is unchanged, and reported tenable except at Missolonghi where evacuation of British troops (see 14th) was begun. The RINALDO, minesweeper, and BEAUFORT, destroyer, proceed to cover their withdrawal from Krionero, in the Gulf of Patras, to Patras (Peloponnese).

/(d) ...

Greece:  
Athens  
Military  
Command.

F. M. Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, decided to assist General Scobie in the conduct of the actual fighting by sending him an additional Commander and Staff. He selected General Hawkesworth, commanding the 56th Division, as he was at the time out of the line, and gave him as a staff the battle-experienced X Corps Headquarters, also not then operationally engaged. This took the name of Athens Military Command, and assumed responsibility for the conduct of all operations in Athens and area. General Hawkesworth arrived in Athens on 15th December. General Scobie retained over-all command and remained responsible for the general direction of policy.

(F.M. Alexander, Despatch, Greece, 19 44-45, M.09 12/47).

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Greece.  
(Contd.)

(d) The situation at Kavalla is quiet, and has improved by the withdrawal of the IERAX, Greek destroyer, which was present, and the Greek N.O.I.C.

(e) At Volos, E.L.A.S. are mounting guns round the port, but the situation there is otherwise easier.

Adriatic.

5. Four Beaufighters escorted by four Spitfires scored hits on a 300 ton steamship and two small vessels in the Northern Adriatic.

Aegean.

6(a) Sweeping of the Port and Bay of Mudros has now been completed.

(b) The Greek depot ship IONIA went ashore today on Repi Island, near Skiathos, and may become a total loss. A Greek merchantman is also aground in Skiathos Channel.

East Indies

KING GEORGE  
V.

7. The KING GEORGE V, wearing the flag of V.A.2, British Pacific Fleet and the destroyers WHIRLWIND and WRANGLER, arrived at Trincomalee.

STYGIAN,  
R. of P.

8. The submarine STYGIAN, on her third Far East patrol, sank a 200 ton coaster by gunfire on November 28 off the Bernam River, west coast of Malaya. On December 7, she attacked a convoy of one 300 ton coaster, 2 landing craft, and 2 M.G.Bs. by gunfire, off the Panei River, east coast of Sumatra. The coaster and one landing craft were sunk; the other vessels withdrew into shoal water. On December 10, off Olehleh, north-east corner of Sumatra, she fired 6 torpedoes at a convoy of 6 coasters escorted by one S/M chaser and one M.T.B. Two ships were probably hit. A counter attack was ineffective.

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies

BATTLEER.

9. The BATTLEER, ferry carrier, now in the East Indies, is to be lent to the U.S. Navy for ferry duties in the Pacific.

Australia and New Zealand

Philippines,  
Mindoro  
landing.

10(a) A substantial force of the U.S. Army landed in the south-west of Mindoro Island shortly after dawn. The initial stages of the landing were unopposed, but air attacks were experienced by shipping at the beachhead without damage except to some amphibious craft. (Mindoro is the nearest of the Philippine Islands to the airfields around Manila and to the naval port of Cavite on Manila Bay. The town and airfield of San Jose is 145 miles from Manila by air).

(b) Battleship, fleet carrier and cruiser task groups, and land-based aircraft from Leyte supported the landing. By nightfall a beachhead extending 15 miles southwards from a point three miles north of the mouth of the Bugsanga River had been secured and an inward thrust had captured San Jose town and airfield.

(c) The Mindoro Naval Assault Force shelled and set on fire an enemy destroyer damaged and hiding in a cove on the south coast of Mindoro.

(d) Enemy casualties on Leyte to date total 35,356 counted dead, 261 Japanese prisoners, plus 178 Ormoscans/Koreans captured.

(e) A Navy Liberator damaged one large tanker and one gunboat in the North Channel, Balabac Strait.

(f) A search Liberator sank one lugger and damaged one small freighter off Basilan Island.

Dutch East  
Indies.

11. Four Dutch Mitchells probably damaged a 200 ton ship near Waingapoe, Soemba Island this forenoon. The ship was again attacked and probably destroyed by another four Dutch Mitchells on the morning of the 16th.

Borneo.

12. Two Navy Catalinas bombed the waterfront at Kudat, blowing up trucks and a lugger.

15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

**EURYALUS** Arrived EURYALUS.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 151100 to C. in C. Rosyth).

**NEWFOUNDLAND** On completion of practices Sunday 17th December proceed by Minches and standard route to Greenock arriving Clyde Gate at 0800A/18th December my 111406 refers.

2. You will be berthed at D. one buoy on arrival Greenock.
  3. Admiralty divert mails to Greenock forthwith.
- (C. in C. H.F., 151551A to NEWFOUNDLAND)

**ARETHUSA** H.M.S. ARETHUSA's 131449 not to all approved.  
2. Paras. 1 and 2 of A.M. 232317 of November not to C.S.10 are cancelled.  
3. When ready about 21st December request you will sail H.M.S. ARETHUSA to Gibraltar.  
4. Admiralty will promulgate route.  
(D.O.D. (H), 151934A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

North Sea.

**A.A. defences of Schelde.** At Conference held here yesterday Thursday I learned with considerable concern that with exception of one battery at Heyst whose A.A. role is secondary to coast defence there are no A.A. batteries between Breskens and Zeebrugge. The channel between these places is thus completely undefended against aircraft mine laying since night fighters cannot enter (2 corrupt groups) and in any case cannot guarantee interception of enemy aircraft before they reach swept channel.

(2) This channel is as vital as river, a few more wrecks will completely block it and stop traffic to Antwerp.

(3) Request immediate action may be taken to provide (?heavy) A.A. battery between Breskens and Zeebrugge.

(C. in C. Nore, 151214A to A.N.C.X.F.)

C. in C. Nore, 151214. Strongly concur. It is considered that the enemy is more likely to mine this part of the Channel than the river, and that the available A.A. batteries should be re-sited accordingly.

(A.N.C.X.F., 151943A to S.H.A.E.F.)

**Vessel mined in Schelde.** SS. FORT MAISONNEUVE mined and stranded in position 105° N.F.14, 8.5 cables.  
(MENDIP, 151338 to N.O.I.C. Antwerp).

**Situation Report (a) Military.** General. Order of 19 Army dated 4 Nov. draws renewed attention to right of commanders to use firearms for discipline in emergency including use against elements endangering combat morale of troops.

Order of 708 Volksgrenadier Division dated 20 Nov. draws attention to unduly high percentage of missing in action in casualty returns: henceforward special report to be submitted by

/battalion...



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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

Situation Report (a) Military. (contd).  
battalion or company commander whenever proportion of missing is greater than 25% of battle casualties, with view to instituting courts martial for desertion.  
(S.H.A.E.F., 151615A to War Office).

(b) Naval. Cositintrep No. 255 part 4.  
Discharged by sea - 14th December.

<u>British</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Antwerp	-	385	6,433	-
Ostend	911	58	5,151	6,703
Boulogne	21	18	2,032	-
Dieppe	-	-	5,362	-
Caen	-	-	2,395	-
Calais	-	2	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>21,373</b>	<b>6,703</b>
<u>U.S. North.</u>				
Antwerp	-	-	22,810	-
Cherbourg	95	-	10,794	12,001
Le Havre	14,083	228	5,451	-
Rouen	1,105	452	1,857	1,443
Morlaix	-	-	267	-
Granville	-	-	3,636	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,283</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>44,715</b>	<b>13,444</b>

(S.H.A.E.F., 151730A to War Dept. etc).

Cositintrep No.255 Part II Naval.

1.SS. FORT MAISON NEUVE mined 10 miles west of Flushing and sank clear of channel. U.S. unloading figures for 12th December.

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Cherbourg	277	-	11,085	-
Brittany Ports	-	-	4,588	-
Le Havre	1,064	209	6,205	-
Rouen	9	1	2,806	-
Antwerp	-	-	22,330	336
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>47,014</b>	<b>336</b>

Cumulative totals from 1st-14th December inclusive.

<u>British.</u>				
Dieppe	359	152	43,764	-
Boulogne	443	704	34,783	-

/Calais...

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

North Sea.

(b) Naval.  
(contd).

British - Contd.

	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Bulk Pol.</u>
Calais	7	187	265	-
Ostend	22,285	2,096	58,138	37,326
Antwerp	-	4,518	145,965	93,369
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,094</b>	<b>7,657</b>	<b>282,915</b>	<b>130,695</b>

(A.N.C.X.F., 152359A to Admty)

Procedure  
for damaged  
ships.

Inform N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
A case has recently occurred of a merchant vessel anchoring in the channel after being in collision with a wreck and subsequently sinking in the channel some 18 hours later. The ship was also

prematurely abandoned.

2. It is to be impressed on all masters and all escorts that when danger exists of a vessel sinking every endeavour is to be made to get the ship out of the searched channel immediately. Furthermore the practice of abandoning the ship prematurely invariably leads to the loss of the ship and generally to unnecessary loss of life among her crew.

3. AMDI 35/44 refers and is to be brought to the attention of all Masters at conferences.

(C. in C. Nore, 151651A to Nore Command).

Undesirable  
eviction  
orders on  
N.P.1732.

Your 141(7656)A/December.

2. The (?following) is draft signal made out by F.O. Holland before leaving, to U.K. when first rumour of impending moves were heard.

3. Begins: A.N.C.X.F. (Main) repeated Cdre. Belgium. N.P.1732. From F.O. Holland.

N.P. 1732 has received directions from H.Q.L. of C. to vacate premises at Alost. No previous intimation of this effect has been received by Cdre. Belgium or myself. Apart from this procedure which both of us consider objectionable, an upheaval of N.P.1732 is most undesirable unless reason is one of real military necessity. N.P.1732 is standing to undertake an important operation and has only just settled down and a move beforehand will interfere with its administration and training. It has become a centre for the Naval Forces preparing to enter Holland and for the assistance of Netherlands Naval Forces in Zeeland, also Kiel Canal. An advance post at the Beveland Canal and these commitments will grow. This centre should not be lightly disturbed and every (?consideration) should be given to R.N. which has important work to do and which if this (?enlarges) has a very modest share of accommodation in Belgium. Ends.

4. I will contact Exfor Rear (Q) A.M. tomorrow Saturday.  
(N.O.I.C. N.P. 1732, 152130 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Channel.

Patrols.

Night patrol 15th/16th. Be at 50° 05' 01" 47' W.

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Channel.

- Patrols. at 1700 search 090° to 00° 35' W.  
(contd). 2. Thence anti-snort patrols as in my 141253.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151236A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force).
- Air Patrols. My 281728 para. 12. (A) Night 15th/16th None in Portsmouth Command. Day 16th. Patrol 3 Liberator, 4 and 5 Swordfish.  
(B) 838 squadron R.S.U. 842 Squadron W.O.O.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151728A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)  
Day Patrols 16th. Search areas limits shown.
2. M.T.Bs. 4 miles each side H. Channel 50° 30' 50° 15'.
  3. WATCHMAN, ANTHONY. Within 2 miles North of Q.Z.S.526 from L.1 thence 2 miles each side H. Channel to 50° 00' on arrival M.T.Bs. about 1530 limits 49° 50' to S.2 Buoy.
  4. SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE. 2 miles each side H. Channel 50° 00' 50° 25' on arrival M.T.Bs. limits 49° 50', 50° 15'.
  5. BRILLIANT, LA SURPRISE. Relieve SPRAGGE, L'ESCARMOUCHE.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151804A to Portsmouth A/S Patrol Force)

Operations.

Western Approaches.

ANGUILLA Number 2 boiler room fan crank shaft broken.  
Number 1 boiler room fan fuses knocking badly.  
Maximum speed available 12 knots. P.C.S. 044°  
22' N., 028° 44' W., 179° 12.  
Weather report 3371 1056.  
Intend proceeding to Horta for repairs to crank shaft. Request approval.  
(ANGUILLA, 151201Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols. Fourth E.G. BENTINCK, 5 frigates operating Cape Wrath area.  
First E.G. AFFLECK, 4 frigates on patrol off south west Irish Coast, proceeding Milford Haven on relief.  
Sixth E.G., NEW WATERFORD, LOCH MORLICH, ANNAN, 051° 12', 008° 12' to relieve first E.G.  
(C. in C. W.A., 151344A to Admty).  
H.M.S. TOWY take ships addressed under your orders and proceed passing Clyde Boom at 2130A/15th December to comply with C. in C. W.A's 131653 not to all, E.T.A. search area 0930A/16th December.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 151626A to TOWY)  
Join Sixth E.G. operating in area bound by (a) 049° 53', 009° 35' (b) 050° 17', 008° 50'. (c) 051° 30', 010° 24'.  
(d) 051° 08', 011° 10'. S.O. E.G.6th is to arrange rendezvous.  
Cdre. (D) W.A., 151035 and my 151118 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 151833A to GROU).  
TOWY (S.O.), GRANSTOUN and LOCH LOMOND sailed in accordance with my 15 1626.  
2. NYASALAND and HOSTE will sail to overtake. BALFOUR will not sail owing to defects.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 152344A to C. in C. W.A.)

/Abolition...

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Western Approaches. - Contd.

Abolition of Fighter protection in Western Approaches. Your 062122 para. one. Approved. H.Q.C.C.091610 and H.Q.F.C., 111530 also refer. 2. A.G.M. will be issued and a new C.A.F.O. is in course of preparation. (D.O.D. (H), 151506A to C. in C. W.A.)

CAMELLIA Copper steam pipe to boiler fan engine fractured. Repair beyond capacity of ship, temporary repair has been effected. 2. Request early rendezvous with any ship in area capable of brazing flange to pipe. Size of unit one inch copper pipe with flange of four inch diameter. My position, course and speed are 053° 50' N., 016° 16' W., 248° 8½ knots, best speed 9 knots. Weather report 5381 8764. (CAMELLIA, 151730A to C. in C. W.A.)

KILMINGTON's tow. Two parted in position 044° 06' N., 010° 00' W. Further signal will be made. (KILMINGTON, 151915A to Admty).

Operations.Norway.

Operation "Synnove". My 141201. (a) Para. (2). Amend BB to read 064° 00' N., 002° 30' E. (b) Para. (4). Amend position to read 063° 00' N. 002° 00' E. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 151154A and 151204A to A.C.O.S)

Operations.Northern Waters.

Situation report. Section one position for 2000 Friday. DEVONSHIRE, TRUMPETER, PREMIER and 6 destroyers in the vicinity 060° 40' N., 003° 30' W. to Scapa, 13.

E.G.4 BENTINCK S.O., 5 frigates patrolling Cape Wrath area F.S. RUBIS 061° 00' N., 000° 01' E. to eastward; VENTURER leaving Lerwick to North eastward, 10 Narvik 061° 10' N., 000° 10' E. to north eastward 10. (A.C.O.S., 151211A to Admty).

Night fighting naval A/C crews now required. The recent dusk and night torpedo attacks by Ju. 88 torpedo bombers on R.A.62 and Force Two show the urgent need for night fighters in operations off Norwegian Coast. In order to assist planning future operations, request information as to when it is expected naval aircraft with crews trained in night fighting will be available for this purpose. (C. in C. H.F., 151245A to Admty). /Convoy...

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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Northern Waters. - Contd.

Convoy Kola Inlet 15th December.  
J.W.62. Departure. SS. LONGWOOD (T), Special Cdre.  
BRITISH RESPECT (T), Vice Cdre. of convoy ANDREW  
TURNBULL, onward routing<sup>August</sup> BELMONT for Molotovsk,  
FORT BOISE for Archangel. Speed 9½ knots.  
Russian Escort. (2) Am investigating why Russians did not  
provide pilot and sailed CECIL N. BEAN.  
(3) Radio distinguishing group XT.  
(4) Admiralty pass to M. of W.T.  
(S.B.N.O. N. Russia, Polyarnoe, 151428A to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Convoy All well convoy R.A.62 when Ninth Escort Group  
R.A.62. detached to Western Approaches p.m./14th.  
(2) As result of attacks on U-boats on different  
days by aircraft and escorts following claimed.  
One definite, 3 possible, some possibly damaged, U-boats withdrew  
out of range early 14th.  
(3) Result of intense torpedo bomber attack by Ju. 88s 12th.  
2 shot down several damaged, 4 prisoners recovered. Regret one  
of NAIRANA's Wildcats lost.  
(4) One B.V.138 reconnaissance shot down.  
(5) Lack of night fighters keenly felt.  
They would have had wonderful opportunity to score big bag.  
(6) P.C.S. 1200/14th Dec. 068° 13' N., 002° 22' E. 207° 8 knots.  
(C.S.1, 151606A to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

Re-organisa- Concur in proposal in your 131400.  
of minesweep- 2. Capt. M/S F.A. intends to leave his Cdr. M/S  
ing in Nore Dibley at Terneuzen until turnover is completed  
Command. and I shall be grateful for this assistance.  
(Com. Belgium, 151131A to C. in C. Nore).

Minesweeping Operation "Calendar".  
in Schelde. (1) Sweeping today Friday 15th Dec. S.A-L.L.  
(A) South Beveland Canal and exits completed.  
(B) Sweeping in accordance C. in C. Nore's 261609A  
completed.  
(C) Terneuzen to N.F.13 with laps North and South of channel  
between N.F.13 and N.F.14 Oropesa N.F.13 - N.F.18.  
(2) Nil.  
(3) Surveying continues.  
(4) Nil.  
(5) B.Y.M.S. 2157, 2173, 2213, M.M.S. 253, 175, 252, M.F.V. 1027,  
1074.  
(Capt. M/S F.A., 151803A to C. in C. Nore).

Changes in Your 131055 concur but request you will also assume  
responsibility responsibility for Q.Z.S. 637 and 638 (routes K.W.  
for mine- and K.E.)  
sweeping in 2. In view of early cancellation of Q.Z.S. listed  
Channel. in para. 3 intend to direct ANDRE BLONDEL to lift  
numbers 52, 60, 64, and L.6 Buoys while en route  
to Havre. Para. 1 of my 141224 not to all refers.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 151910A to C.T.F. 125).

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Rumours of troops-collection in Stettin. Both Swedish Naval and Military Attache's Berlin have reported rumours about large gathering of German troops in Stettin area. They connect these rumours with fact that recent requisitioned fast Danish passage vessels are also in this port.

2. Though there would appear to be no evidence to suggest it Swedish Staff apparently think it possible that some small expedition may be contemplated.

(N.A. Stockholm, 151047 to D.N.I.)

N.I.D. Comment: There is no confirmation of German troops collecting in the Stettin area. There has been no photographic reconnaissance of Stettin since 5th October. P.R. of the Baltic ports has, owing to weather, been insufficient of recent weeks to permit any statement as to the number of fast Danish passenger vessels which may be at Stettin. These vessels have, however, shown little activity since they were requisitioned in the Spring of 1944.

Port Facilities.

Antwerp Can you accept any increase on your 051531\* observing that on only one day have you received the number quoted in that signal.  
(A.N.C.X.F., 150950A to N.O.I.C. Antwerp)  
\*U.S. Ships scheduled Antwerp.

SKYRACK at present out of action due to explosion in starting system A.M. 141506 refers. Repairs in hand. Estimated time required 2 to 3 weeks. In view of unreliability of SKYRACK's engines it will be necessary to wait for period of fine weather before sailing her for U.K.

Para. 2. It is for consideration that MEDIATOR should tow her to Loch Ewe before proceeding to New York A.M. 111220 (to A.C.I.C. only) refers.

Para. 3. New Commanding Officer named in A.M. 140547 (to A.C.I.C. only) required at early date.

Para. 4. Both engineers in hospital with minor injuries but should be fit for duty by time SKYRACK is ready to sail.

Para. 5. Relief for SKYRACK is required in Iceland (C).  
(A.C.I.C., 151326A to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

SS. GEORGE E. PICKETT. Ship damaged by collision with L.S.T.15 0230. Anchoring at position 143° approximately 4 miles off Scarweather light vessel. Request pilot for entering Swansea or Port I may enter for repairs.  
(GEORGE E. PICKETT, 151137Z to Admty).

H.M. Trawler SOUTHCOATES. My 291224. SOUTHCOATES was refloated p.m./14th December and is now at Leith.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 151316A to Admty).

/H.M....

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.- Contd.

- H.M. Drifter  
TRIUMPH. Regret to report Drifter TRIUMPH sank as a result of a collision in deep water precluding salvage operations in approximate position 107° 3.4 cables from Beamer Rock.  
2. There was no loss of life.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 151317A to Admty).
- L.C.I.(L)  
250. Request you will sail tug EMPIRE CUPID with all despatch to assistance of L.C.I.(L) 250, aground on Glass Island, Sound of Islay, approximate position 55° 48' 30" N., 06° 04' 30" W., at 1922A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 152013A to N.O.I.C. Oban).
- SS. FORT  
MAISONNEUVE SS. FORT MAISONNEUVE was mined and sunk today Friday in reported position 105° N.F.14 buoy 8.5 cables.  
(C. in C. Nore, 152350A to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

- Cross-Channel sailings. In order to reduce signalling and in view of daily sailings and arrival of train ferry propose that routine sailings and arrival signals originated by N.O.I.C. Calais be addressed only to V.A. Dover and repeated to Admiralty F.O.B.A.A., P.S.T.O. N.W.E. unless signals required by other authorities.  
(N.O.I.C. Calais, 151520A to F.O.B.A.A.)
- "Maple" Pass to N.C.S.Os. Lion and Eagle Routes. A.M. transatlantic 081417. Following is additional westbound route.  
route. 2. "Maple" Route.  
(a) 1st position numbered 1 to 5 on longitude 18° W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 51.54 N., and 51.30 N.,  
(b) 2nd Position numbered 6 to 10 on longitude 32° W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 50.54 N., and 50.30 N.  
(c) 3rd Position numbered 11 to 15 on longitude 41° W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 49.24 and 49.00 N.  
(d) 4th Position numbered 16 to 20 on longitude 49° W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 46.24 N., and 46.00 N.  
(e) 5th Position numbered 21 to 25 on longitude 60° W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 44.54 N., and 44.30 N.  
(f) 6th Position numbered 26 to 30 on longitude 65 W. in steps of six minutes of latitude between 43.20 N., and 42.54 N.  
(Plot (T.D.)), 151722 to Cs. in C. W.A., Plymouth, Nore, Portsmouth)

- Ramsgate routeing procedure. In order to economise in staff, printing facilities and accommodation it is not intended to institute an independent ocean routeing organisation at Ramsgate.

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Ramsgate  
routeing  
procedure.  
(contd).

2. Route and sailing instructions for ocean ships sailing in convoy or independently from Ramsgate will be supplied to N.C.S.O. Ramsgate by N.C.S.O. Thames who will also keep him supplied with all latest information to enable him to compile top press sheets as required.
3. N.C.S.O. Ramsgate will continue to re-route coastal shipping including ships bound Northern French, Belgian and Dutch ports.
4. N.C.S.O. Ramsgate is requested to give N.C.S.O. Thames as early notice as possible of his requirements.  
(C. in C. Nore, 151752A to N.C.S.O. Ramsgate)

Traffic  
from Far  
Shore.

- R.N.O. Arrow 141904.
- (1) Buoying of Dieppe - Boulogne Channel is being carried out now and traffic from East Calvados for Downs should be able to use that route within a day or two. A.C. Dover 141809 not to all refers.
- (2) Propose coasters from Canoe for Newhaven proceed independently Q.Z.S. 619 and 575.
- (3) There remain only coasters for ports west of Newhaven. Propose these proceed independently via route Z.K. as follows:-
- (A) those for Wight area and ports between Wight and Newhaven direct to destination.
- (B) those for ports westward of Wight area to St. Helens for onward routeing.  
(F.O.B.A.A., 151831A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Sailings  
for Le  
Havre.

In view availability additional berths, request sailings of Liberty's to Le Havre be expedited.  
(C.T.F.125, 151951 to A.N.C.X.F.)

C.O.C/C.C.C.  
Convoys.

M.O.W.T. has requested that C.O.C/C.C.C. should in future be run daily.

2. Request you will give this consideration and if found practicable take the necessary action.  
(D.T.D., 151954A to C. in C. Plymouth).

K.M.F/M.K.F.  
convoys.

- As result of the decision to allow ships of K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys to proceed unescorted in the Mediterranean, it is desirable to modify slightly the convoy schedule so that one escort group can maintain the cycle between U.K. and Gibraltar.
2. It is therefore proposed that:-
- (a) the escort group be based at Gibraltar
- (b) ships for the M.K.F. convoys be sailed from Mediterranean ports to arrive Gibraltar a.m. D+15.
- (c) M.K.F. convoy be sailed from Gibraltar a.m. D+16 so as to pass Milford Haven at 0800 D+20, where escort group detaches and local escort joins.
- (d) K.M.F. convoy be sailed from U.K. ports with local escort to Tuskar Rock rendezvous where escort group at Milford Haven takes over at 1200 D+1 (or 21).
- (e) If the M.K.F. convoy were badly delayed by weather, the K.M.F. would be held to give the escort group time to turn round at Milford Haven.
- (f) No alteration be made in the Indian Ocean Schedule.



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15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.F/M.K.F. convoys.  
(contd).
3. The effect of these proposals is to  
(a) Cut down the time for ships turning round at Naples to a minimum of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days.  
(b) Advance the sailing date of slower ships from Port Said to D+9.
4. If addressees are in agreement it is proposed to put this into effect with M.K.F.37 sailing from Gibraltar a.m. 1st January and K.M.F.38 sailing from U.K. ports 5th January.
5. Request your comments.  
(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 152000A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med).

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15.12.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

FLEETWOOD. Intend sail FLEETWOOD for U.K. at 1600A Dec. 16th.  
 (2) Route (L) 35.59 N., 06.10 W. (M) 36.55 N., 09.05 W. (N) 38.40 N., 09.50 W. (O) 43.20 N., 09.50 W. thence as ordered by Admiralty.  
 (3) S. of A. 12 knots. (4) Codeword "Generation" 583.  
 (5) Ship shifts W/T watch at 1200A/18. (6) C. in C. Med. 271237 Nov. not to all.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 151236A to Admty.)

PRIMULA. Intend to retain PRIMULA to escort cable ship LASSO to overtake M.K.S.(?72) should LASSO miss that convoy owing to delay in turn-over to cable ship ST. MARGARET.  
 Your O41243, not to C. in C. Portsmouth.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 151252A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth.)

South Atlantic

Durban Net. The Catenary net is now in position, ref. Admiralty Letter B.D.O.562/44 dated 6th Sept. 1944. At a meeting with the South African Railways and Harbours Authorities 15th Dec. it was agreed that trials at present indicate that it should be safe to operate the harbour with the net in place at L.W.O.S.T. for ships drawing 33 ft. Mean rise is 6 ft. Figures require confirmation when? trials have proceeded for some weeks. In case of very heavy draft ships a confirmatory sweep on the net will be necessary.  
 (2) Placing of the net is a difficult and complicated operation and in view of present forecast of H.M. ships for the port it is recommended that net should remain in place and that Union Authorities should be asked to provide crews for its permanent operation. Properly trained and permanent Officers and crews are essential as margin of safety is small.  
 (3) Another essential item to ensure safe depth for heavy draft ships is provision of a motor boat with crew to sweep over net and head rope to ensure that they are lying flat.  
 (4) If you agree to above, request you will confirm agreement with Union Authorities and arranged with D.S.A.N.F. for very early provision of permanent crews for net and motor boat.  
 (Com. i/c. Durban, 151648 to C. in C. S.A.)

WILLIAM SCORESBY. My 081256. WILLIAM SCORESBY returned to Port Stanley 15th from Base A and B with Lt. Com. Marr for conversation with Governor and Sub. Lt. Howkins R.N.V.R. to join Meteorological office aboard.  
 (N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 151718Z to Admty.)

/Stores ...

15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

Stores, West Africa. Ref. N.S.O. Freetown's 101700Z November addressed Admiralty, Info. Capt. (D). Boiler tube ferrules are in short supply. In view of large quantities demanded request immediate requirements be stated having regard to probable progressive reduction of West African Escort Forces until end of hostilities with Germany, and dispersal of remaining vessels of the Forces thereafter. (Director of Stores, 152153A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

War Diary15.12.1944  
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- M.A.D. Catalinas for Home. Direct one V.P.B.63 Officer experienced in capabilities performance M.A.D. equipment proceed U.K. by air for consultation with Coastal Command C. in C. Med. 141711A (presumably 141713 intended,) not to all refers. Admty. is requested to designate conference date and location. (Com. 8th Fleet, 150850 to Comfairwing, Info. C. in C. Med. F.O.G.M.A. Admty.)
- Linrep No.213. Summary of operations Dec. 11 to 13. (A.F.H.Q. 151015A) See Lion copy.
- F.O.L.E.M. Following is repetition of my 151020B groups 40 (Begins:- ) A.I.G.73 C. in C. Med. V.A.M., F.O.T.A.L.I. Admty. N.O.I.C.Aden, C. in C. E. Indies Stn., B.N.A. Ankara, A.H.Q. M.E.F., A.O.C. A.H.Q.E.M. from F.O.L.E.M.  
Cancel my 091321 (F.O.L.E.M. afloat in Aegean from 10th December for about 1 week ) as from 1200B/15th December (Ends. (F.O.L.E.M)151406B to Admty. etc.)
- Fire Loss. A.H.S.4 total loss by fire Skala (2 corrupt groups). One man badly burned. Request early transportation to (2 corrupt groups). Request further instructions. (C/S 3 HDT (Call Signs allocated locally), 151500B to C/S 3DTY, (R) C/S 3 EAH, C. C. F.E. Med.)
- H.D.M.L's. A.M. 081313 being passed to all refers.  
(2) The Present allocation of H.D.M.L's to Med. Station is only just sufficient to meet requirements and as long as operations in the Aegean, Gulf of Genoa, and Adriatic continue it is considered impracticable to release any of these boats.  
(3) Situation is aggravated by lack of spares for engine overhauls so that an increasing percentage of boats are liable to become non-operational, my 122008 not to all refers.  
(4) First 6 H.D.M.L's 1315 to 1320 building in the Levant should be completed by end of March and it is considered that these boats should be earmarked for East Indies Station as being a better proposition than refitted boats.  
(5) C.C.F. Med. is requested to nominate the other three boats which will be released as soon as circumstances permit. (C. in C. Med. 151747A to Admty.)
- GRADISCA, interception. Reported that German hospital ship GRADISCA is about to proceed from Trieste to Crete to embark German wounded.  
(2) Request I may be informed whether.  
(a) Ship is to be allowed to proceed unmolested.  
(b) Ship is to be allowed to proceed and after wounded have been embarked ship to be intercepted and wounded disembarked at an Allied port, or  
(c) Ship is to be intercepted in Adriatic and informed voyage to

/Aegean...

# SECRET

357A

IN

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

151015A/December.

From A.F.H.Q.

Date: 15.12.44.

Recd. 2100.

Cipher.

To Linrep Addressees.

FX.69012 cipher 15th Dec. 278027.

Cite FHGCT signed Alexander.

Linrep No. 213.

Summary of operations 11th Dec. to 13th Dec.

Para. One. Ground.

(A) Eighth Army. First Canadian Corps attacked across the Lamone River northeast of Faenza on the evening 10th December. Good progress was made and infantry elements reached the Canale Naviglio in the Bagnacavallo area on 12th December. At last report advanced troops had crossed the canal against heavy resistance. There have been no material changes in Five Corps and Two Polish Corps sectors.

(B) Fifth Army. In the 13 Corps Sector Tossignano 7 miles southwest of Imola has been captured. An enemy attack in the M. Cerere area succeeded in penetrating our positions but a counter attack restored the situation. Active patrolling continued throughout the remainder of the Army front.

(C) A.F.H.Q. Greece. Athens/Piraeus. Some progress has been made in clearing the Piraeus area but the situation elsewhere is generally unchanged. There has been considerable ELAS penetration into areas previously cleared and enemy snipers now picket all routes out of Athens. British reinforcements have arrived in the area from Italy.

Para. Two. Naval. South of France. To southward of Antibes Allied destroyers encountered two enemy coastal craft at night. One escaped after long chase the other was sunk and the crew taken prisoner.

Adriatic. Destroyers carried out night bombardment of Rab Island. At Split situation remains uneasy in spite of Tito's approval for H.M. Cruiser DELHI to remain. The situation at Zara is quiet.

Greece. British and Greek warships have continued to provide close support fire in the Piraeus area. Concern is being caused by preparation by ELAS of strong point north of coal jetty which unless eliminated will dominate all

/movement.....

movement in harbour. Discharge of motor transport ammunition and stores was stopped by southerly gale but is now again progressing. Use ashore of voluntary patrols of Greek naval ratings has been enormous success as civilians are enthusiastic at sight of uniformed Greek forces. An infantry landing ship has been slightly damaged in searched channel off Cape Turlo by under water explosion cause of which unknown.

Sporadhes. At Patmos German raiding parties landed from three barges. Two destroyers and coastal craft investigated. Attempt to invade island of Symi at night with similar force was frustrated by a destroyer which blew up one enemy landing craft and drove two others off. She was not hit by Rhodes batteries which fired at her.

Para. Three. Air.

M.A.A.F. Strategic Air Forces attacked Moosbierbaum oil refinery and Vienna Ordnance Depot with medium sized forces of heavy bombers on one day and on another day small forces bombed Blechhammer using individual pathfinder technique. P.38's straffed railways in Vienna area destroying 10 locomotives. R.A.F. heavies and mediums dropped supplies in Yugoslavia on one night and carried personnel and equipment and ammunition to Greece.

Tactical Air Force. A small force of medium bombers attacked the bridge at Motta Di Livenza. On one day Desert Air Force have excellent close support to Eighth Army in the Faenza area. On another day 22nd Tactical Air Force hit coastal guns at Spezia and attacked communications in Central and Western Po Valley. On one night light bombers were able to operate against communications and each night Beaufighters patrolled. During the period 42 rail cuts were effected 45 motor transport 21 rail cars were destroyed.

Coastal Air Force flew shipping reconnaissance flights over the North Adriatic and Gulf of Genoa. Fighters straffed a power station in Northwest Italy and also destroyed eight more motor transport.

Balkan Air Force. Medium and light bombers attacked marshalling yard at Konjic Yugoslavia. Fighters and fighter bombers and rocket projectile aircraft attacked rail and road communications destroying three locomotives 18 motor transport. Aircraft based in Greece attacked rebel positions dropped leaflets and flew reconnaissance of roads in the Athens area. Transport aircraft flew troops equipment and ammunition to Greece.

Para. Four. Enemy.

Initial resistance to Allied attack across Lamone was generally weak but with the assistance of an infantry formation switched from the central sector and employment

/of.....

# SECRET

2576.  
IN

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

- 3 -

of independent battalions the enemy shows some signs of recovery. Southwest of Faenza recent attempts to counter allied penetration have proved costly while high casualties were suffered in an abortive attack by parachutists in the M. Cerere area.

151015A.

Advance Copy: Ops. O.I.C.

Received in War Registry 1823/17th.  
Circulated by War Office to War  
Office Departments, S.H.A.E.F. Air  
Ministry and Admiralty.

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

KNG.  
(A.16)

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15.12.1944  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

GRADISCA, Aegean cannot be permitted.  
interception. (3) Proposal in (2) (a) above is most undesirable  
(Contd.) since to all intents and purposes the German  
position in Crete is similar to that of a beleaguered  
fortress.  
(4) A.F.H.Q. Medical authorities state with  
regard to proposal in (2)(b) that they can provide accommodation  
at probable future expense of British troops and would therefore  
desire to retain only light cases. They would request that all  
cases requiring more than six months hospitalisation be sent to  
Trieste with GRADISCA.  
(5) I consider therefore that the only logical proposal is that  
in (2) (c) and recommend that this course be approved.  
(C. in C. Med. 151756A to Admty) Reply Admty: 161903A.

C. in C. to C. in C. Med. will visit Algiers from 16th to  
visit 19th Dec. Signals requiring personal attention  
Algiers. of C. in C. are to be routed to Algiers in addition  
to Caserta. S.P. 02389 series will be held with  
Admiralty and Caserta.  
(C. in C. Med. 151821A to V.A. Malta etc.)  
W.D. Notes - Dates altered, see 171817A.

C.S.15. The flag of C.S.15 will be transferred from  
AJAX to ORION at 0930/18th December.  
(C. in C. Med. 151857 to Med. Stn. 309B)

Shipping Further to my 131841, no difficulty anticipated  
for Black in obtaining Turkish agreement to proposed plan  
Sea. in principle. Details outstanding are answers  
to questions in para. ?(5) II and III of C. in C.  
Med's 091343. Expect answers to these (?shortly).  
(2) Charting tug (?and) motor boat can be postponed  
until (?they) are actually required. Office accommodation for  
N.C.S.O. Istanbul (?at) token rent of pounds Turkish 50 per  
month will be taken more or less on his arrival.  
(3) With Lieut. Taylor at Cannakale, concur that no further  
assistance is required for 2 ships arriving 23rd January, 1945.  
(4) As regards port dues, further action will be taken with  
American Embassy when they receive instructions to take action.  
Admty. 140335 refers. Admty. pass to Admiral Archer and B.A.D.  
Washington. F.O.L.E.M. pass to Black Sea, Greece, and Cdr.  
8th Fleet and S.A.C. Med.  
(B.N.A. Ankara, 151858C to Admty.)

Adm. Your 111841 and F.O.L.E.M's 092015. Foreign  
Auboyneau. Office have question of this visit under  
active consideration and their views will be  
communicated in due course.  
(2) Request early report if it is raised again  
in any quarter by the French.  
(P.A.S.(L), 151900A to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation ...



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FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 506. (1) 5 officers including the C.O. and 58 ratings are survivors from ALDENHAM. Five of the ratings are seriously injured.

(2) Clearance of rebels from Southern Peninsula at Piraeus progresses but fierce fighting is taking place. Naval force has bombarded Lofos Castella in support. The Naval W/T Station was menaced but a destroyer provided close support and 10 tanks were landed from an L.S.T.

Greek Naval Brigade continues to be great success and its size is being increased.

(3) At Naxos towns people have expressed loyalty to Greek Govt. and confidence in British. Situation at Kavalla is quiet and improves as result withdrawal (?from) (?area) Destroyer G.S. IERAX with Greek N.O.I.C. At Volos E.L.A.S. are mounting guns round the port. Situation there is otherwise easier. At Kalamata landing of relief stores continues and when British liberty men were landed on 13th December they were given an enthusiastic welcome by towns people.

Situation at other ports unchanged and reported tenable except at Mesolongion where army are being evacuated from Kalidhon Bay. RINALDO and BEAUFORT are proceeding to cover this withdrawal.

(4) Sweeping of Mudros Bay and port has been completed.

(5) Situation ashore at Split is now correct but strained.

(C. in C. Med. 152213A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.) / as received.

WILTON  
at Zara.

Please pass to B.A.F.A.C. to pass to Clarke Rear Macmis from Wintour. Arrived Zara this evening. Saw General this morning and was assured every facility was being given to R/C party. Brigadier Davy appears satisfied. W/T contact from here with Bari and relator impossible owing to heavy naval traffic. Please pass all messages to me via naval link as relator Crystals with me here. Probably staying here for a few days unless otherwise ordered by you.

(WILTON, 152223 to N.L.O. B.A.F.)

Please pass to B.A.F.A.C. (Begins):  
To B.A.F.A.C. from Davy. (1) Corps Cmdr. apparently changed mind and left Zara without seeing me. Rude, but evidently told Town Major, with whom he left message, that we were to have facilities to see all except submarine cable. This naval matter under Cerni. Please fix with Tito.

(2) Locals beginning to understand problem and being helpful. R/C going on. Owing to delay E.T.A. in WILTON morning Dec. 18th.

(3) Subject to port R/C and naval opinion first R/C indicates operation can be carried out as planned. Water will be all right. Ample open dumping and camping ground. Amount of covered accommodation for personnel and installation will be very small and 100% tentage (not bivouacs) must be included in plan.

(4) Please inform near MACMIS. Wintour here.

(WILTON, 152230 to N.L.O. B.A.F.)

/Boundary ...

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15.12.1944  
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanBoundary  
between  
French  
and  
F.O.W.M.

Your 121642, not to F.O.W.M.  
Concur generally with your para.(2). Admty. is prepared to go even further and in order to avoid small British area West of Sardinia would agree to Eastern boundary running from C. Spartivento round the Western limits of Sardinian territorial waters to Caprara Point, thence to Aquila Point in Corsica and Eastward round the coast of Corsica to Cap Corse, thence to Franco-Italian frontier.

(2) There is no objection to alteration of boundary being discussed at your meeting without decision on C.O.S.(W) 464 having been received.

(3) If C.C.S. approval is given before 16th, you should only discuss transfer of command to French on provisional basis saying formal proposal will be made to Admiral Lemonnier by Admty. (1st S.L.152235A to C. in C. Med.)

Cosintintrep  
No.525  
Part.4.

Greece, Athens/Piraeus Area. The situation during 14th December was generally quieter and there was little E.L.A.S. activity except in Piraeus. In Piraeus E.L.A.S. troops supported by mortar fire attacked a British company H.Q. and caused some casualties before being driven off. The following formations are now in Greece: (a) Athens/Piraeus, H.Q. 4 British Division and 28 Bde. 139 Brigade (ex 46 Division) 5 Indian Bde. (ex 4 Indian Division) 23 Armoured Bde. 2 Indep Para. Bde, and the Greek Mountain Bde. (b) in the Pelopannese, mainly based on Patras, 11 Indian Bde. (4 Indian Division). (c) Salonika, H.Q. 4 Indian Division with 7 Indian Bde. and 9 Commando. (d) in addition there are small detachments located on the mainland at Volos, Preveza and Levkas and on Korfu. It has just been reported that E.L.A.S. troops made an unprovoked attack on a detachment of Indian troops at 150725 hrs. The location of the attack is not known but is believed to Krioneri, 10 miles South-east of Cessolonghi (?Missolonghi).  
(A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/15)

War Diary

15.12.1944.  
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/B Area VP.1 scale Y.4 area V.P.2 scale X.4 area  
dispositions C.B.2 N. of 005 degs. N.E. of 082 degs. E. scale  
X.4 all other areas scale W.5.  
(C. in C. E.I. 15035Z)

FORMIDABLE On completion of trial and examination request  
FORMIDABLE may be sailed for E.I.S. to work up.  
Following signals not to all refer: FORMIDABLE  
011417, C.S.Gibraltar 021253, F.O.Air E.I.111217.  
(C. in C. E.I., 150913Z to C. in C. Med.)

A.F.D.17 Rescue tugs and towage of Admiralty floating dock  
17 to Fremantle. To expedite this towage it is  
now intended that LARIAT and INTEGRITY shall  
undertake towing of dock with EMPIRE SAM towing  
astern of dock.  
2. N. O.I.C. Cochin is requested to ensure that dock is suitably  
rigged for towing tug astern and to arrange stowage in dock for  
reserve supply of diesel oil and lubricating oil in drums.  
Lubricating oil will be despatched from Colombo in INTEGRITY.  
3. My 140738 December and 160909 Nov. not to Cochin also refers.  
(C. in C. E.I., 151041Z to Admty.)

Enemy Following from secret sources (Graded A.O.)  
Intelligence (1) Arrived Camranh 14th Dec. - 2 battleships  
2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 2 S/M chasers.  
(2) Tanker YEISHO expected to leave Saigon 15th  
Dec. at 1340 Saigon time.  
(C. in C. E.I. 151142Z to Admty. etc.)

STYGIAN (P.249) Third Far East patrol.  
R. of P. 28th Nov. off Bernam River sank 200 tons Coaster  
by gunfire.  
7th Dec. off Panei River attacked convoy of one  
300 ton Coaster 2 Landing Craft and 2 M.G.B. by  
gunfire. Coaster and one Landing Craft sunk. Both Gunboats and  
second Landing Craft withdrew into Shoal water.  
10th Dec. off Olehleh fired 6 torpedoes at convoy of 6 Coasters  
escorted by one S/M Chaser and one M.T.B. 2 probably hit.  
Ineffective counter attack.  
(C. in C. E.I. 151211Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival KING GEORGE V wearing flag of V.A.2 B.P.F.  
CULBERLAND, WHIRLWIND, WRANGLER, MANCHESTER CITY,  
C.T.16.  
Departure P.326 (TUDOR).  
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 151729Z to Admty.)

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15.12.1944.  
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

IMPALA

Your 090921Z/Dec. (not to all). Request you sail whaler IMPALA when ready with present crew to Durban for further orders.

2. Instructions as to disposal of crew will be given at Durban.

3. Dates of sailings and arrivals to be reported to Admty. (D.S.V.P. 151956A to S.M.O. Persian Gulf).

Appian  
signals

Request all sailing signals in connection with Appian may be repeated to C. in C. East Indies and S.O.R.N. Establishments (India).

2. Increase in signalling is appreciated but in initial stages this information will be of great value to C. in C. E.I. and S.O.R.N.E.(I).

3. C. in C. E.I.'s 071052 (to Admty. and S.O.R.N.E.(I) only) refers.

(Head of M. 152026A to C's in C., etc.)

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15.12.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

John

BANVARD.

Following passed for W.S.A.:-

"W.S.A. Cognizant BANVARD probably damaged beyond repair requires vessel for other purposes in U.S. not Casablanca. Request vessel be towed to U.S.

Atlantic Port south of Hatteras. SAVANNAH preferred but do not wish to risk loss of life in the effort. If in your opinion safe for personnel man ship with a skeleton crew obtained from ships present company. Otherwise prepare and tow vessel unmanned if practicable." Your 101650 and 111205 not to all refers. Advise action taken.

(C.N.O. Washington 151210Z to Comnavzor.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 151342Z, Cominch 151505Z.)

BATTLER.

For information of Cominch, request date BATTLER will be available for loan to Cincpac. If this date is later than end of December it is possible that Cominch will ask for ATHELING in lieu. A.M. 141421 and B.A.D. 051701 refer..

(B.A.D. 151609Z to Admty.)

A.M. 021805 Nov. and 141421 not to all.

It has been approved for BATTLER to be sent to the U.S.N. for ferry duties in the Pacific.

(2) Request you make the necessary arrangements.

(D.O.D.(F) 151746A to B.A.D.)

GOLDEN FLEECE,  
FLYING FISH.

Departure Halifax 1530Z/15th Dec. GOLDEN FLEECE (S.O.), FLYING FISH in company to Horta, Azores, routed Q.J.A. 254 thence through:-

R. 41.30 N. 58.30 W. S. 40.30 N. 50.00 W.

T. 40.30 N. 40.00 W. U. 38.50 N. 30.00 W.

thence destination. Speed 12 knots, E.T.A. 1500Z/21st.

(2) Communications as in para. 2 my 091647 Oct.

(3) "Chop" 1200Z/18th.

(4) Upon arrival Horta request these ships be fuelled and given onward routing to U.K.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 151627Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

GLOIRE.

My position 1802Z/15th 040° 06' 059° 42' 16 knots. E.T.A. a.m. 17th Dec. C. in C. Plymouth's 091202 refers.

(2) Request French Naval Mission U.S.A. place 60,000 dollars at my disposal on arrival.

(French Cruiser GLOIRE 151900Z to Comeastseafon, Cominch, Admty.)

O.N. 269.

Convoy O.N. 269. 41 ships arrived New York 15th December. First ship 0507 last 1921Z.

(P.D. New York 151946Z to Comtenthfleet C. &amp; R.)

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15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

A.F.D. 32. Your 142309, not to all. H.M.R.Ts MEDIATOR and SAMSONIA are detailed for the towage of A.F.D. 32 from New York to Kilindini.  
(2) A.C.I.C. has been instructed to sail H.M.R.T. MEDIATOR about 1st Jan. to St. Johns for onward routing to New York A.M. 111220 not to all refers.  
(3) H.M.R.T. SAMSONIA now refitting in the Clyde will be sailed in O.N. 276 about 3rd Jan.  
(4) Separate signal will be made regarding route and provision of escort.  
(D.O.D.(H) 152023A to B.A.D.)

U/B contact. First report since Cominch 121950. Para. D, 151315Z Ventura A/C Radar contact 33.12 N. 75.55 W. (Cominch 152044Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

T.G. 21.9 T.G. 21.9 Capt. Wright, in DAVIS, Cortdiv 20 less CAMP plus KRETCHMER, OREILLY, KOINER, ROBERT E. PEARY, depart New York 25 Dec. escorting C.U. 52 for U.K. and continent.

T.G. 21.9, Capt. Wright in DAVIS, ROBERT E. PEARY, PETTIT, RICKETS, KOINER, OREILLY return escorting U.C. 52A.  
T.G. 21.9.7 Comdr. Mavor Comcortdiv. 20 in MARCHAND, HURST, HOWARD D. CROW, KRETCHMER, return escorting U.C. 52B when directed by Admty.  
(Cinclant 152152Z to C.T.G. 21.9.)

Australia & New Zealand.

HOWE, On arrival of HOWE at Sydney are press interviews  
publicity. photographs films etc. to be either -  
A. prohibited or B. allowed but publiciation  
delayed as necessary for security reasons or C.  
allowed and given immediate release?  
(2) Policy B. above was advocated by C. in C. B.P.F. in his  
221315 Nov. to Admty. In absence from Australia of C. in C. B.P.F.  
the V.A.(Q) B.P.F. advocates this policy. I agree. Request  
instructions as matter or urgency.  
(A.C.N.B. 150150Z to Admty.)  
Your 150150Z policy B. approved subject to any consultation  
considered necessary with U.S.N.A.  
V.C.N.S. 151309A to A.C.N.B.)

/Digest...

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15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

- Digest No. U.S. submarine saw two battleships one light  
 1059, Dec. cruiser five destroyers 70 miles southeast Camranh  
 14th. Bay (French Indo China) course 20° speed 19 knots  
 early daylight. Five hours later another submarine  
 sighted two battleships four destroyers just out-  
 side Camranh Bay course 10° at 17 knots.
- (2) Enemy aircraft intermittently attacked allied convoy in Sulu  
 Sea throughout daylight hours, some near misses experienced but nil  
 damage reported, effective, combat air patrol shot down four Jap.  
 planes. Previous days attacks included one suicide dive bomber  
 which damaged one warship and caused comparatively heavy casualties;  
 other attacks also damaged one ship.
- (3) Third Fleet Carrier based aircraft reported approx. 300 air-  
 craft on Luzon Fields from photos. and sightings during early  
 daylight sweeps including 45 operations (4 groups missing). Much  
 damage inflicted.
- (4) R/C Liberator over west coast Luzon midday saw three warships  
 described as one each heavy cruiser, destroyer and smaller escort  
 16 miles west of Corregidor course 300° at 25 knots. Later  
 sighted 55 barges or small ships anchored Linsayan Gulf off San  
 Fernando, one medium sized ship several sea trucks at anchor Subic  
 Bay, one small freighter three escorts off Dasolibay heading  
 south, one destroyer off Vigan (?southerly) and one destroyer  
 escort outside Subic Bay course southeast.
- (5) Previous night search planes while over Manila Bay saw 15  
 ships there; bombs dropped with unobserved results.
- (9) Navy patrol Liberator sank one sea truck two small coaster  
 freighters just south of Davao Midday.
- (13) Enemy casualties on Leyte to date total 35356 counted dead,  
 261 Jap. prisoners plus 178 Ormoscans/Koreans captured.
- (14) During 13th Dec. and following night 18 Jap. planes were over  
 our Leyte positions but only one aircraft attacked at dusk  
 dropping bombs ineffectively near Tacloban airfield. Following  
 morning single enemy plane approached low over Samar and undetected  
 crash dived into tanker anchored San Pedro Bay causing damage.
- (15) P.T. boats in Camoys Sea night 12th December sank one lugger  
 of palthpon (sic) and following night intercepted two sailing  
 craft leaving San Isidro Bay. One fled back to beach: other  
 was abandoned.
- (16) Patrol Ventura forced enemy floatplane into water near Tawi  
 Tawi then set on fire by straffing forenoon 14th. Previous  
 day three Mitchells bombed Zettelfield Aerodrome on Jolo and Navy  
 patrol Liberator straffed and damaged sea truck near Sandang.
- (26) Late report states that substantial force U.S. Army landed  
 on southwestern Mindoro Island near SanpJose shortly after dawn  
 15th. Initial stages unopposed but air attacks experienced by  
 shipping at beachhead.
- (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 151030.)

BISHOPDALE  
 damaged.

At 1250, one enemy plane crash-dived into No. 3  
 starboard tank and exploded causing extensive  
 underwater damage to fore part. A.C.N.B. pass to  
 (KD R)\*  
 (BISHOPDALE via C.T.U. 77.7.2 151512 to Admty. etc.)  
 \*As received.

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15.12.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine  
attack &  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/15th December. Nil.  
(D.D.I.C. 151120A.)

U/B dis-  
positions.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 151415A, 151427A.)

U-Boat  
trends. Bi-  
weekly No.  
56.

Current enemy activity continues at a moderate level with no marked changes anticipated during next 2 weeks. Majority of U-Boats in the Atlantic are concentrated in vicinity of U.K. where approx. 15 are estimated. Operations appear to be close inshore in the following areas:

(1) Central English Channel. (2) S.W. approaches including the Irish Sea. (3) N.W. Approaches. (4) North Scotland. Several U-Boats are estimated outbound via the Iceland - Shetland passages. 1 probably is still patrolling West Reykjavik although not aggressively. Currently 3 weather reporters are fixed in Central North Atlantic and 1 U-Boat is homebound from Canadian waters.

3 others remain unlocated between Newfoundland and Gulf of Maine of which 2 expected to start return voyages soon. Up to 5 estimated at sea in Indian Ocean. 1 of these may have attacked a Mer ship off Southern Australia on 9 December which is the first time German U-Boats have operated in that area. A U-Boat Wolfpack off Northern Norway has been operating against Murmansk convoys during the past 2 weeks. Limit contents this despatch to those who need to know. U-Boat victims for December include 2 Mer ships and 1 escort sunk in Atlantic and 1 escort torpedoed off Murmansk. These moderate losses are quite remarkable in view of the heavy shipping in the North Atlantic particularly at Trade Focal points where the majority of U-Boats are concentrated. While the present doctrine of continuous submerged operations with Schnorkel has provided U-Boats with a considerable degree of immunity from attack thus enabling them to move into profitable hunting grounds it is evident that such tactics are not conducive to aggressive action.

(Cominch 151556.)