

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOSTLY To ref. Thursday, 13th June, 1940.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 14th June, 1940.

R.A.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MORESEBY" is expected to arrive at Brisbane at 0630 today Friday from Hervey Bay.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" has been ordered to complete with all important stores by Friday 21st June on which date she is to be prepared to proceed outside the Australia Station.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" has been ordered to complete with all important stores by Wednesday, 19th June on which date she is to be prepared to proceed outside the Australia Station.

CONVOY U.S.3.

H.M.S. "HOOD" will relieve H.M.S. "DORSETSHIRE" a.m. today, Friday as one of the units of the escort for this convoy.

AMERICAN SHIP "ADMIRAL WILEY"

Is ashore at Kitava Island 8° 38'S 151° 20'E and is considered by the Master to be a total loss. It is estimated her crew totals 40. H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" has been ordered to proceed to her assistance and has reported her expected time of arrival as being 0800 Saturday 15th June. "MANOORA" has onboard 130 passengers and crew of the scuttled "ROMOLO" and had previously been ordered to Townsville.

GENERAL.

An intercept from the Admiralty to N.O. Wellington indicates an acute shortage of Trained Staff Officers.

Lieutenant-Commander L.E. Royston, R.A.N. is posted as missing on the loss of H.M.S. "GLORIOUS".

Commander E.F.V. Dechaineux R.A.N. is appointed to H.M.S. "EGLINGTON", in command on commissioning.

Commander H.J. Buchanan, R.A.N., is appointed to H.M.S. "VANITY" in command to date 18th June.

There is serious congestion of shipping at Capetown and ships requiring bunkers only or bunkers and Degaussing only may be routed to Durban. Because of this congestion arrangements are being made for some Degaussing to be carried out at Port Elizabeth (Algoa Bay).

It is impossible to patrol the sea and straits between the waters of islands on the West coast of Sumatra and guarding of the sea between Timor and Australia and between New Guinea and Australia.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 13th June, 1940.

ITALIAN SHIPPING ETC.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. abandoned and on fire. The passengers and crew were taken on board "MANOORA" all unhurt.
H.M.A. SHIPS route to Townsville. "POLOLO" sank at 1815K.

"MANOORA" is proceeding to Townsville and should arrive early Monday morning 17th June.

"ADELAIDE" intends to leave Fremantle p.m. tomorrow arriving at Geraldton a.m. Saturday, departing p.m. Sunday and arriving at Fremantle a.m. Monday, 17th June.

20th Minesweeping Flotilla having completed sweeping in Gulf area arrived as follows yesterday.

"PARRAMATTA" - Port Lincoln 2300K
"DOOMBA" - Whyalla 1320K
"SWAN" - Port Pirie 1530K

The Admiralty advise that action is being taken regarding the degaussing of the Australian Destroyers, and H.M.A. Ships "SYDNEY" and "HOBART".

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "PATROCLUS" is to maintain a patrol to the Northward of Madeira, H.M.S. "DORSETSHIRE" to assume a patrol West of the Canary Islands, H.M.S. "HERMES" is to carry out air reconnaissance of the Canary Islands on completion of which "HERMES" and "DORSETSHIRE" rendezvous and continue patrol. These operations evidently providing additional cover for Convoy U.S.3.

D/F BEARINGS from Lands End yesterday place an unknown German Unit or Units West of Cape Finistere.

ENEMY WARSHIPS in considerable force were reported 10th June off Trondjhem.

DIEPPE is only partially blocked but approach to the port is difficult.

The following casualties resulted from operations off the French coast recently:--

Damaged by Bombs.

H.M.S. "BULLDOG" (Lt.Cdr. J.S.M. Richardson)
H.M.S. "BOADICEA" (Lt.Cdr. G.B. Kingdon)

Damaged by Shore Batteries.

H.M.S. "AMBUSCADE"

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

The Netherlands East Indies Naval C. in C. has informed F.O.C. Malaya that certain patrols by vessels and aircraft of N.E.I. Navy have been instituted but owing to the impossibility of patrolling all N.E.I. seas and straits he would much appreciate periodical patrolling outside territorial waters of Islands on the West coast of Sumatra and guarding of the sea between Timor and Australia and between New Guinea and Australia.

ITALIAN SHIPPING Etc.

To 0900 Wedn "ROMOLO" was intercepted at 1259K yesterday by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" 220' S... of Nauru Island abandoned and on fire. The passengers and crew were taken on board "MANOORA" all unhurt and are now en route to Townsville. "ROMOLO" Sank at 1815K.

The Admiralty states that Italian Merchant Vessels at sea may make for Norwegian or Irish ports.

"WESTRALIA" 14 Italian Merchant Vessels averaging 5,000 tons have been seized in Home ports or waters. In addition one of 10,000 tons was scuttled at Port Sudan.

"MANOORA" searching for Italian vessel "ROMOLO" made no contact. The White garrison in Libya is estimated at 234,000 troops. contact is not made by dusk today.

"BOONBA" should arrive Whyalla today to embark 100 tons coal.

GENERAL.

"MORESBY" arrived Hervey Bay Saturday, 8th June, and, The Admiralty advise that action is being taken regarding the degaussing of the Australian Destroyers, and H.M.A. Ships "SYDNEY" and "HOBART".

Jandakot D/F Station is now ready to operate on "high frequency".

H.M. Destroyer The American S.S. "ADMIRAL WILEY" of 3,500 tons Coast bound to Salamao from Port Moresby sent out an S.O.S. stating that she had gone ashore on Vakuta Point, Trobriand Is. N.E. coast of New Guinea and was pounding heavily although not making water. No. 11 Squadron R.A.A.F. at Pt. Moresby has been instructed to render assistance and N.O.I.C. Port Moresby to co-operate. Polish Submarine "ORZEL" is overdue and presumed lost.

WALTA was bombed by 10 Italian aircraft yesterday.

CONVOY U.S.S.

An intercepted message originated by F.O.C. North Atlantic addressed to a number of H.M. Ships including H.M.S. "SHROPSHIRE", one of the cruisers escorting "U.S.S." reads as follows:-

"Admiralty informs me German Battle cruiser might have been in vicinity Straits of Gibraltar p.m. Monday, 10th June."

Another intercept, originated by the Admiralty, seems to indicate that H.M. Ships "HERMES", "DORSETSHIRE" and "PATROCLUS" are assisting with the protection of Convoy U.S.S.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

"REMO" (8,500 tons) was seized at 0901K yesterday at Fremantle. All officers, male members of crew and enemy male passengers have been interned. No codes or cyphers were discovered.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

"ROMOLO" A message was received from S.S. "TRIENZA" about 1430 To 0900 Wednesday, 12th June, 1940, sighted the previous day a vessel suspected of being "ROMOLO". One Aircraft searched yesterday with negative results and an aircraft is expected to leave Gizo today to OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. of "ROMOLO" if heading for Australia.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"WESTRALIA" having escorted Freight Ship "LARGS BAY" for 48 hours returned to Fremantle at 1000K yesterday.

"MANOORA" searching for Italian vessel "ROMOLO" made no reports yesterday and she will be recalled if contact is not made by dusk today.

"DOOMBA" should arrive Whyalla today to embark 160 tons coal.

"MORESBY" arrived Hervey Bay Saturday, 8th June, and, according to programme, she will depart tomorrow for Brisbane.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Destroyer "VIVIEN" whilst escorting a convoy off East Coast of England was attacked about midnight on 10th June by a number of motor torpedo boats. During the attack which lasted about an hour 7 torpedoes were fired without hitting.

Polish Submarine "ORZEL" is overdue and presumed lost.

MALTA was bombed by 10 Italian aircraft yesterday.

CONVOY U.S.3.

An intercepted message originated by F.O.C. North Atlantic addressed to a number of H.M. Ships including H.M.S. "SHROPSHIRE", one of the cruisers escorting "U.S.3" reads as follows:-

"Admiralty informs me German Battle cruiser might have been in vicinity Straits of Gibraltar p.m. Monday, 10th June."

Another intercept, originated by the Admiralty, seems to indicate that H.M. Ships "HERMES", "DORSETSHIRE" and "PATROCLUS" are assisting with the protection of Convoy U.S.3.

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2.
DAILY NARRATIVE.

"ROMOLO" A message was received from S.S. "TRIENZA" about 1430 yesterday that she had sighted the previous day a vessel suspected of being "ROMOLO". One Aircraft searched yesterday with negative results and an aircraft is expected to leave Gizo today to search the probable line of advance of "ROMOLO" if heading for Yokohama.

ITALY. H.M.S. "HECTOR" Australia had placed an anti sabotage guard onboard, prior to the commencement of hostilities.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" is continuing her search for "ROMOLO" in conjunction with Air Search by Flying Boat from Tula

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.
H.M.S. "HECTOR" sailed from Wellington for Auckland yesterday Monday.

H.M. Ships "NEWCASTLE" and "SUSSEX" have been ordered to patrol in the vicinity of 53°N 13°W with the object of intercepting two Merchant ships sighted off Iceland which may be conveying enemy troops to Kure.

CONVOY U.S.S.
Commander Gervis returned to Sydney by air yesterday.

GENERAL.
The B.E.F. announced the loss of H.M.S. "GLORIOUS" two destroyers, troopship "OSAMA" and one Oil Tanker.

The B.E.F. announced the loss of H.M.S. "GLORIOUS" two destroyers, troopship "OSAMA" and one Oil Tanker. "ROMOLO" was reported to have been sighted yesterday by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" and the two vessels started a search, "ROMOLO" apparently maintaining her waying. The destination was stated by the pilot being Iceland and "MANOORA" being ordered for Manurewa via Thursday Island. At 21:00 yesterday "MANOORA" was ordered to continue to search "ROMOLO" and reported at 22:00 that she was standing at 15 knots to re-establish contact. A Flying Boat based at Tula is searching for "ROMOLO" east of San Cristobal Island today to assist in again locating the vessel. A 20° bearing of "ROMOLO" was obtained by H.M.S. "HECTOR" this morning.

For Italian Merchant Ship sailings have been reported those in British Ports instructed to sail without delay and those at sea to seek for neutral Ports. The Admiralty considers that Italy may enter the war against the Allies at any moment.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

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0900 Monday, 10th June, 1940.

To 0900 Tuesday, 11th June, 1940. IA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

ITALY. Hostilities against Italy commenced at 0901K today. Yesterday "REMO". D.N.O. Western Australia had placed an anti sabotage guard onboard, prior to the commencement of hostilities.

"PERTH" H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" is continuing her search for "ROMOLO" in conjunction with Air Search by Flying Boat from Tulagi.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", is to be fitted with temporary D.O. coils at Simonstown. The Admiralty intends she should escort A.I.F. Freight Ship "STRATHEDEN" to the U.K. possibly joining a convoy of British Troops escorted by H.M.S. "CORNWALL".

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. completion of escort duties "AUSTRALIA" is intended to H.M.S. "HECTOR" sailed from Wellington for Auckland yesterday Monday.

H.M.S. "CARIBBEA" (Capt. J.F.B. Barrett (Mod.) was torpedoed H.M. Ships "NEWCASTLE" and "SUSSEX" have been ordered to patrol in the vicinity of 53°N 13°W with the object of intercepting two Merchant ships sighted off Iceland which may be conveying enemy troops to Eire.

H.M.S. "NEEDON" has completed her refit.

H.M. Ship "WANDERER" and "VESPER" successfully boarded a road between the CONVOY U.S.2. thereby assisting British Troops.

Commander Garcia returned to Sydney by air yesterday.

CONVOY U.S.3.

Escorted by H.M. Ships "CIMBERLAND" and "ENROPSHIRE" Convoy U.S.3 arrived at Fremantle to schedule 7th June and sailed for U.K. 8th June. GENERAL. arrival U.K. 16th or 17th June.

The B.B.C. announced the loss of H.M.S. "GLORIOUS" two destroyers, troopship "ORAMA" and one Oil Tanker.

"ROMOLO". The Torres Strait Pilot was taken off yesterday by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" and the two vessels parted company, "ROMOLO" apparently continuing her voyage, the destination as stated by the pilot being Yokohama and "MANOORA" setting course for Singapore via Thursday Island. At 2115K yesterday "MANOORA" was ordered to continue to shadow "ROMOLO" and reported at 2302K that she was steaming at 15 knots to re-establish contact. A Flying Boat based at Tulagi is searching for "ROMOLO" east of San Cristobal Island today to assist in again locating the vessel. A D/F bearing of "ROMOLO" was obtained by Harker at 0641 this morning.

All Italian Merchant Ship sailings have been suspended. Those in British Ports instructed to sail without delay and those at sea to make for Neutral Ports. The Admiralty considers that Italy may enter the war against the Allies at any moment.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

01
o 0900 Monday, 10th June, 1940.

The Ports of Wexhaven, Portland and Weymouth are now included as OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.N.A. SHIPS The Admiralty instructs that all stores received in Australia for H.N. Ships "GERES" and "COLOMBO" are to be
"PARRAMATTA", "DOONDA" and "SWAN" departed Port Phillip yesterday morning in execution of orders to sweep in St. Vincent and Spencer Gulfs. W.S.S. Cape Otway reported the United "PARRAMATTA" passing Westbound at 2100K yesterday. 150 aeroplanes, 25,000 revolvers, 25,000 automatic rifles.
"PERTH". It is intended should escort A.I.F. Freight ship "STRATHMORE" from Sydney to Melbourne, 19th June.

During May 27th British, 484 Allied and 218 Neutral vessels sailed in Convoy with the loss of only one British vessel. — From OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS. Gibraltar 250 British and 50 Neutral vessels in convoy without loss.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", is to be fitted with temporary D.G. coils at Simonstown. The Admiralty intends she should escort A.I.F. Freight Ship "STRATHEDEN" to the U.K. possibly joining a convoy of British Troops escorted by H.M.S. "CORNWALL" at Capetown bound from India to U.K. On completion of escort duties "AUSTRALIA" is intended to join the 1st Cruiser Squadron, Home Fleet.

H.M.S. "CARINTHIA" (Capt. J.F.B. Barrett (Red.) was torpedoed North West of Ireland 6th June and sank p.m. 7th June following an endeavour to tow her to port. There were 4 casualties.

H.M.S. "NELSON" has completed her refit.

H.M. Ships "WANDERER" and "VESPER" successfully bombarded a road between Treport and Abbeville thereby assisting British Troops.

CONVOY U.S.3.

Escorted by H.M. Ships "CUMBERLAND" and "SHROPSHIRE" Convoy U.S.3 arrived at Freetown to schedule 7th June and sailed for U.K. 8th June. Expected arrival U.K. 16th or 17th June.

ITALIAN SHIPPING AND SITUATION.

"ROMOLO". The Torres Strait Pilot was taken off yesterday by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" and the two vessels parted company, "ROMOLO" apparently continuing her voyage, the destination as stated by the pilot being Yokohama and "MANOORA" setting course for Singapore via Thursday Island. At 2115K yesterday "MANOORA" was ordered to continue to shadow "ROMOLO" and reported at 2302K that she was steaming at 15 knots to re-establish contact. A Flying Boat based at Tulagi is searching for "ROMOLO" east of San Cristobel Island today to assist in again locating the vessel. A D/P bearing of "ROMOLO" was obtained by Harman at 0041 this morning.

All Italian Merchant Ship sailings have been suspended Those in British Ports instructed to sail without delay and those at sea to make for Neutral Ports. The Admiralty considers that Italy may enter the war against the Allies at any moment.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

2.

10 0100 Sunday, 9th June GENERAL.

The Ports of Newhaven, Portland and Weymouth are now included as being "closed" at night.

The Admiralty instructs that all stores received in Australia for H.M. Ships "CERES" and "COLOMBO" are to be despatched to Ceylon.

AUSTRALIA - having escorted freight ship "HARBOUR" for Anglo-French purchases of war materials in the United States includes:- 80,000 machine guns, 400 field guns, 150 aeroplanes, 25,000 revolvers, 25,000 automatic rifles, 500,000 rifles and 300 trench mortars.

MORESBY - was expected to arrive Harvey Bay yesterday. During May 2767 British, 435 Allied and 228 Neutral vessels sailed in Convoy with the loss of only one British vessel. From the Western approaches to Gibraltar 269 British and 60 Neutrals sailed in convoy without loss. in St. Vincent and

SHAN) Spencer Gulfs. "DOOMBA" will proceed SHYALLA on Wednesday, 12th June to fuel whilst "PARRAMATTA" and "SHAN" visit STREAKY BAY. Flotilla will arrive Adelaide Saturday, 15th June.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS

On 6th June two "WU" boats were attacked one by aircraft off the Lizard and one off Spurn. Head by H.M.S. "WHITEBEAR".

GENERAL.

All Italian Ships entering and leaving Mediterranean are now to be brought into Gibraltar or Aden to be searched by contraband control authorities. Any war materials carried by Italian Merchant Vessels will be prevented from reaching Italy.

N.L.O. London reports that U.K. Government urgently desires to order minesweeping vessels in addition to the 10 of Australian design already ordered on Admiralty account.

The first V.C. to be won in this war has been awarded, posthumously, by Capt. in B.A.F. Warburton-Lee, R.N., who was killed when leading the first attack on Narvik in H.M.S. "HARDY" on April, 1940.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Sunday, 9th June.

To 0900 OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"WESTRALIA" - having escorted freight ship "IARCS BAY" for 48 hours probably parted company about 1500K yesterday and should now be returning to Fremantle.

"MORESBY" - was expected to arrive Hervey Bay yesterday where she will remain until 13th June.

"PARRAMATTA" } - will sail from Port Melbourne at 1000K to-day
"DOOMBA" } to carry out searching sweeps in St. Vincent and
"SWAN" } Spencer Gulfs. "DOOMBA" will proceed WHYALLA on Wednesday, 12th June to fuel whilst "PARRAMATTA" and "SWAN" visit STREAKY BAY. Flotilla will arrive Adelaide Saturday, 15th June.

"HOBART", "CALEDONIA", "MELBOURNE", "SYDNEY", "ADELAIDE", "FLORIAN", "FLORIAN", "CONWALLIS", "GRINDY".

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

On 6th June two "U" boats were attacked one by aircraft off the Lizard and one off Spurn. Head by H.M.S. "WHITEBEAR".

The following arrangements are proposed by D.S.T. "ORANA" arriving Australia empty from Singapore mid August and due load 2150. Officers berth - being fitted

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The Port of Portsmouth is closed nightly from dark until 0700.

WAB

~~SECRET~~ SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 8th June, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" arrived Williamstown at 0940 yesterday Friday and is berthed at Nelson Pier.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" arrived in company with "SWAN" and proceeded to 28 South Wharf for coal.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" arrived Port Melbourne 1030 Thursday, 6th June.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

The Red Sea Force comprises "LEANDER" (Flag) "HOBART", "CARLISLE", 28th Div. of Destroyers "AUCKLAND", "FLAMINGO", "SHOREHAM", "CORNWALLIS", "GRIMSEY".

The Aden Force comprises "HUNTLEY", "DARBY", "AMBER", "MOONSTONE", "CHANTALA", "CHAKDIRA", "SACITTA".

TRANSPORTS.

The following arrangements are proposed by D.S.T. "ORAMA" arriving Australia empty from Singapore mid August and due load homewards on Owners berth - being fitted for 2150 all ranks.

"ORCADES" due Sydney about 21st August, will be on Owners berth both Inwards and Outwards - can be fitted for 2750 all ranks.

"STRATHAIRD" due Egypt end July, could arrive Australia end of August - her capacity is 3000 all ranks.

GENERAL.

Air reconnaissance over Wilhelmshaven reports G.A.S. "ADMIRAL SCHEER" afloat presumably repairs are nearing completion.

The Port of Portsmouth is closed nightly from dark until 0700.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 7th June, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MORESBY" left Newcastle at noon yesterday and expects to arrive Hervey Bay 1700K tomorrow Saturday in continuation of her training cruise.

"DOOMBA" It is proposed to commence 14 days' leave and refit on Tuesday 2nd July.

"PARRAMATTA", "SWAN" and "DOOMBA". R.A.C.A.S. has been requested to despatch from Melbourne on Sunday, 9th June to carry out searching sweeps in St. Vincent and Spencer Gulfs for about 10 days and visiting Adelaide. This precaution is being taken in view of the report of 3 small vessels sighted in Streaky Bay (South Australia) 3rd inst. and not identified.

"DOOMBA" and "SWAN" entered Port Phillip Heads 0140K today.

A.I.F. FREIGHT SHIPS.

"LARGS BAY" left Fremantle 1230K yesterday for Colombo and was followed at 1522K by "WESTRALIA" escorting her for a period of 48 hours and then returning to Fremantle. Air reconnaissance was provided.

"DOMINION MONARCH" transporting a total Army personnel of 151 should sail from Sydney 15th June and from Melbourne, 19th June.

"STRATHMORE" leaving Sydney 19th June, Melbourne 22nd June and Adelaide 24th June arriving Fremantle 28th June will embark 918 troops in Australia. Limited air reconnaissance will be arranged, cover in S.E. Area and escort by "CANBERRA" thereafter.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

"ROMOLO" A report received from "MANOORA" at 0554K today reveals that after losing contact with "ROMOLO" during the night she was relocated this morning altering course and speed frequently and extensively in Capricorn Channel. One aircraft from Rockhampton has been ordered to investigate and report.

"REMO" is discharging her cargo at Fremantle. A request for 300 tons diesel oil bunkers has been refused.

Instructions given by the Naval Board do not permit of bunker or lubricating oils being supplied to Italian vessels until further notice.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, GENERAL. 1943.

The Admiralty considers the evacuation of the B.E.F. provides effective reply to German claim that British sea power has been countered by the enemy Air Force. During this operation H.M. Ships made a total of 540 round trips to Dunkirk and back. German aircraft under most favourable conditions scored hits on less than 5% of these passages and generally only when ships were stationary or manoeuvring under difficult circumstances.

The flag of F.O.C.A.S. was transferred to "PERTH" at 0800 today.

Captain H.B. Farncomb M.V.O., R.A.N., assumed command of H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" yesterday.

Captain P. Bowyer-Smyth R.N. has assumed command of H.M.A.S. "PERTH".

"NEPTUNE" left Darwin Bay 1200 yesterday and is shadowing Italian vessel "BOROLO" bound for Makassar. "BOROLO" expects to arrive Thursday Island early Monday morning, 15th June and Makassar Saturday, 18th June. Three aircraft from Darwinfield conducted a search for "BOROLO" at 0700 this morning and sighted her about 0800.

"AMALIE" arrived Fremantle yesterday having escorted Freight ship "STRAITHEAD" for 48 hours on her passage to Colombo and is available to shadow Italian ship "BONO", probably leaving for Melbourne today.

"MORLEY" departed Sydney and arrived Fremantle yesterday whence she will sail for Harvey Bay this morning in continuation of her cruise.

"YARRAMOUTH" arrived Port Phillip at 0730 this morning to join 20th S.S.F.

GENERAL.

Admiralty proposes that five Destroyers of 'M' Class expected to complete on various dates between December, 1943 and May, 1944 should be moved by cruise from present H.M.S. Destroyers reinforced by 425 additional ratings from Australia.

H.M.S. Destroyers on Mediterranean Station are to be fitted with sound reproduction equipment at Malta.

Flag of F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron was transferred to H.M.S. "LEWIS" yesterday.

Search planned for this morning to locate the 2 mysterious vessels reported by British ship "CORONIA" on Monday last, has been delayed owing to bad weather.

TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 6th June, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" arrived Sydney yesterday. Commences long leave and 14 day refit (to include fitting of temporary degaussing coils) to-day on completion of which she will proceed to Cape for service under orders of C. in C. South Atlantic. R.A.C.A.S.'s Flag will be transferred to "PERTH" on Friday next, 7th June.

"AUSTRALIA" is to be placed at Admiralty disposal forthwith for service in Home or Mediterranean waters. Her proposed future movements may be expected shortly from the Admiralty.

"PERTH" arrived Sydney yesterday.

"MANOORA" left Moreton Bay 1500K yesterday and is shadowing Italian vessel "ROMOLO" bound for Macassar. "ROMOLO" expects to arrive Thursday Island early Monday morning, 10th June and Macassar Saturday, 15th June. Three aircraft from Archerfield commenced a search for "ROMOLO" at 0700 this morning and sighted her about 0900K.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Fremantle yesterday having escorted Freight ship "STRATHEDEN" for 48 hours on her passage to Colombo and is available to shadow Italian ship "REMO", probably leaving for Melbourne today.

"MORESBY" departed Sydney and arrived Newcastle yesterday whence she will sail for Hervey Bay this morning in continuation of her cruise.

"PARRAMATTA" arrived Port Phillip at 0730 this morning to join 20th M.S.F.

GENERAL.

Admiralty proposes that five Destroyers of 'N' Class expected to complete on various dates between December, 1940 and May, 1941 should be manned by crews from present R.A.N. Destroyers reinforced by 400 additional ratings from Australia.

H.M.A. Destroyers on Mediterranean Station are to be fitted with sound reproduction equipment at Malta.

Flag of F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron was transferred to H.M.S. "LEANDER" yesterday.

Search planned for this forenoon to locate the 3 mysterious vessels reported by British ship "COORABIE" on Monday last, has been delayed owing to bad weather.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 4th June, 1940.
To 0900 Wednesday, 5th June, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

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H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed Port Melbourne at 1045 yesterday Tuesday and is due to arrive Sydney at 1515 today.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" carried out H.A. firings in Port Phillip yesterday then met "CANBERRA" at rendezvous off Cape Schanck and proceeded in company to Sydney. E.T.A. 1515 today.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" is S.O. 20th M.S. Flotilla. Departed from Sydney at 0923 yesterday, Tuesday and expects to arrive Port Phillip at 0600 tomorrow, Thursday.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA") departed Port Melbourne at 1820 yesterday
H.M.A.S. "SWAN") Tuesday to carry out exploratory sweep in Cape Otway Area and intend returning on Friday 7th June.

Group 77 Aux. M/S Vessels ("BERMAGUI" and "UKI") arrived Newcastle p.m. yesterday.

A.I.F. FREIGHT SHIPS.

"LARGS BAY" escorted by H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" arrived Rottneest at 1040 yesterday, Tuesday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The Netherlands Cruiser "SUMATRA" and Dutch Cruiser "HEAMSKIRCK" sailed from Milford Haven on 2nd June for Halifax N.S. where they are expected to arrive on the 11th June.

D.E.M.S.

Up to 3rd June a total of 14 ships have been De Caussed in Australia.

INTELLIGENCE.

The report of the Pilot of the A.N.A. Mail plane, diverted to investigate the report by the Master of the steamer "COORABIE", is negative.

B.E.F.

All British Forces were withdrawn from Dunkirk by 2300 Sunday 2nd June.

Total landed in U.K.	British Fit	209,564
	Casualties	18,004
	Allies Fit	68,017
	Casualties	1,795
		<u>292,380</u>

Note:- The figure given in to-day's press is 335,000.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 4th June, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived Sydney yesterday morning from Jervis Bay. N.O.C.S. intends to amend programme as follows:-
Leave Sydney a.m. 5th June and arrive Newcastle p.m.
Leave Newcastle a.m. 6th June and remain at Hervey Bay 8th to 13th June, Brisbane 14th to 17th June, Moreton Bay 17th and 18th June returning to Sydney Thursday, 20th June.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" slipped at 0900K today to carry out H.A. Firings in Port Phillip prior to rendezvous with "CANBERRA" leaving at 1600K today.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" having embarked her aircraft, anchored Moreton Bay yesterday morning.

CONVOY U.S.3.

Naval drafts ex "QUEEN MARY" and "EMPRESS of JAPAN" supplemented by technical army personnel replaced the Chinese crew of "EMPRESS of CANADA" at Capetown prior to the Convoy sailing for U.K.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

"ROMOLO" has been further delayed by the Customs Authorities at Brisbane and the position regarding her is again being reviewed today.

"REMO" has requested the services of a Pilot for arrival at Fremantle tomorrow.

RAIDERS.

The identity of the suspicious vessel sighted on the East Indies Station may have been established as the Japanese "AKIURA MARU".

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The following further casualties in connection with the evacuation of the B.E.F. from Dunkirk are reported:-

Bombed and Sunk:-

H.M. Ships "BASILISK" (Cdr. M. Richmond)
"KEITH" (Cdr. H.T.W. Pawsey)
"SKIPJACK" (Lt.Cdr. F.B. Proudfoot)
"HAVANT" (Lt.Cdr. A.F. Burnell-Nugent)
"MOSQUITO"

Damaged by Bombs:-

H.M. Ships "IVANHOE" (Cdr. B. Jones)
"VIVACIOUS" (Lt.Cdr. F.R.W. Parish)
"SALAMANDER" (Lt.Cdr. L.J.S. Ede)
"HEBE" (Lt.Cdr. J.B.G. Temple)
"SALTASH" (Lt.Cdr. T.R. Fowke)
"ALBURY" (Lt.Cdr. Corbet-Singleton)
"WESTWARD HO" (Cdr. A.L. Saunders)

Damaged by Collision with wreckage:-

- H.M. Ships "VENOMOUS" (Lt.Cdr. C.W.B. Milner)
- "WORCESTER" -
- "VIMY" (Lt.Cdr. C.G.W. Donald)
- "EXPRESS" (Capt. V.G. Bickford)

Two Transports and one trawler were sunk by shore batteries.

The Admiralty states that the German claim of sinking H.M.S. "NELSON" is entirely false.

The evacuation operation is nearly completed 266,700 troops including 12,850 wounded and 50,179 allies were landed in England to 0600 2nd June.

The Admiral Commanding Western Approaches has disposed patrols to intercept German and suspicious vessels leaving Vigo or approaching the South West Coasts of Ireland.

Should have parted company at 1200 yesterday and should now be returning to Fremantle.

"FRISTALL" is expected to meet freight ship "LANCE HAY" in vicinity of Albany this morning and expect her to Fremantle arriving early tomorrow Tuesday.

B.E.F. EVACUATION AND ATTENDANT OPERATIONS.

To noon Saturday, 1st June, 181,407, including 12,858 wounded and 54,481 Allied troops had been landed in England.

- H.M. Ships
- "POLBY" }
- "VICARUS" }
- "SCIMITAR" }
- "MITHRAIL" }
- "VINCENNES" }
- "HARVIETUS" }
- "LEADER" }

All sustained slight damage when going alongside or through touching wrecks.

"KELLY" damaged by bomb.

"VIMY" damaged in collision with a yacht.

"KALON" } is collision.
"GRIMP" } "HOOVER"

rumours were in circulation yesterday that H.M.S. "NELSON" had been sunk with the loss of 700 lives. This cannot be confirmed and is thought to be Berlin propaganda.

GENERAL.

A message originated by the Admiralty addressed to all C. in C.'s Flag Officers and R.A.F. C. through stresses the necessity for care when berthing Allied and Neutral vessels. Points of vital importance are to be avoided as it is thought Italian may attempt to block ports by scuttling themselves.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 3rd June.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA") Will depart Port Melbourne tomorrow Tuesday for
"PERTH") Sydney - "PERTH" will sail independently so as to
carry out H.A. firings at sleeve target provided by
Laverton and rendezvous with Flag off Cape Schanck
at 1600K.

"MANOORA" arrived Hervey Bay at noon yesterday where she will
remain until information in regard to the movements
of Italian vessel "ROMOLO" is received.

"ADELAIDE" having escorted freight ship "STRATHEDEEN" for 48 hours
should have parted company at 1800K yesterday and
should now be returning to Fremantle.

"WESTRALIA" is expected to meet freight ship "LARGS BAY" in
vicinity of Albany this morning and escort her to
Fremantle arriving early tomorrow Tuesday.

B.E.F. EVACUATION AND ATTENDANT OPERATIONS.

To noon Saturday, 1st June, 221,407, including
12,033 wounded and 34,431 Allied troops had been landed in England.

H.M. Ships

"WOLSEY")
"ISCARUS") All sustained slight damage when going alongside
"SCIMITAR") or through touching wrecks.
"WHITEHALL")
"IMPULSIVE")
"HARVESTER")
"LEADER")

"KELLETT" damaged by bomb.

"VIMY" damaged in collision with a yacht.

"MALCOLM") in collision.
"SHARPSHOOTER")

Rumours were in circulation yesterday that H.M.S.
"NELSON" had been sunk with the loss of 700 lives. This cannot be
confirmed and is thought to be Berlin propaganda.

GENERAL.

A message originated by the Admiralty addressed to
all C. in C.'s Flag Officers and N.O.I.Cs. Abroad stresses the
necessity for care when berthing Allied and Neutral vessels. Points
of vital importance are to be avoided as it is thought Italian ships
may attempt to block ports by scuttling themselves.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

NAVY NEWS.

1900 Sunday, 2nd June. 2.

A misfired time bomb has been found in one of the holds of S.S. "CITY OF SYDNEY" at Mauritius which is considered to have been placed onboard in London or Antwerp.

The Admiralty seeks information as to whether anchor chain cable for patrol vessels building in Australia can be manufactured locally.

Vice-Admiral R.H.T. Raikes has been appointed C. in C. South Atlantic from August next and Rear-Admiral Wake Walker R.A. Dover to date 29th May.

Ship "LADY MAY" in the vicinity of Albany and subsequently escorting her to Fremantle.

OPERATIONS - SYDNEY.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Singapore, Friday, 1st May.

H.M.S. "WESTON" (Commander A.G. Davidson) on escort duty off Orfordness depth-charged and then sunk U-boat by gunfire.

H.M.S. "GUY" called from Singapore on Friday, 1st May, escorted by H.M. Ships "MORNING" and "MORNING" and expect to arrive Fremantle Friday, 7th June.

GENERAL. - The Norwegian tanker "OSKAY" has arrived at Fremantle. Delay on the passage was probably due to defective steering gear.

Lieutenant-Commander Boulton has been appointed H.O.I.C., Thursday Island, and will report at Navy Office tomorrow, Monday.

R.N.F. WASHINGTON AND OPERATIONS up to noon Friday, 1st May - 184,400, including 14,000 Allies had been loaded at English ports.

221 Naval Vessels including 43 Destroyers, together with 645 other craft were engaged.

French Destroyer "DIXMUID" damaged by H.T.S. and sunk.
French Destroyer "DIXMUID" on fire.

H.M.S. "ANTHONY" (Lieut-Commander H.E. Shaw) damaged.

H.M.S. "WHITFIELD" (Lieut-Commander A.E. Russell) damaged.

Submarine "DIXMUID" damaged.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Sunday, 2nd June.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" will depart from Port Melbourne on Tuesday, 4th June for Sydney where a fourteen days' refit will be commenced on Thursday, 6th.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" will depart from Port Melbourne on Tuesday, 4th June for Sydney in company with "CANBERRA".

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" departed from Fremantle 1220 yesterday, Saturday, for the purpose of meeting A.I.F. Freight Ship "LARGS BAY" in the vicinity of Albany and subsequently escorting her to Fremantle.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Simonstown, Friday, 31st May.

H.M.S. "WESTON" (Commander A.G. Davidson) on escort duty off Orfordness depth-charged and then sank U-boat by gunfire.

CONVOY U.S.3 sailed from Cape ports on Friday, 31st May, escorted by H.M. Ships "SHROPSHIRE" and "CUMBERLAND" and expect to arrive Freetown Friday, 7th June.

GENERAL. - The Norwegian tanker "OSTHAV" has arrived at Fremantle. Delay on the passage was probably due to defective steering gear.

Lieutenant-Commander Roulston has been appointed N.O.I.C., Thursday Island, and will report at Navy Office tomorrow, Monday.

B.E.F. EVACUATION AND OPERATIONS up to noon Friday, 31st May - 164,453, including 14,000 Allies had been landed at English ports.

221 Naval Vessels including 41 destroyers, together with 665 other craft were employed.

French destroyer "SIROCCO" torpedoed by M.T.B. and sunk.

French Destroyer "SABRE" on fire.

H.M.S. "ANTHONY" (Lieut-Commander N.J. Thew) damaged.

H.M.S. "WHITEHALL" (Lieut-Commander A.B. Russell) damaged.

Gunboat "MOSQUITO" damaged.

MOST SECRET.

20,000 Tons: DAILY NARRATIVE. and sent to England to
P.M. 20th May.

To 0900 Saturday, 1st June, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ship "CANBERRA" arrived Port Melbourne 0745K today.
pending a further examination of the vessel today.

A.I.F. FREIGHT SHIPS

"STRATHEDEN" escorted by H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" arrived at
Fremantle 0811K yesterday. H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE"
departed Fremantle 1712K yesterday to escort for
48 hours "STRATHEDEN" leaving an hour later for
Colombo. On completion of cover H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE"
returns to Fremantle.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

During the evacuation of the B.E.F. from Dunkirk
the following further losses and damage to H.M. Ships are
reported:-

Sunk by Bombs:-

H.M.S. "GRENADE" (Commander R.C. Boyle)

2 Paddle Minesweepers

1 Minesweeping Trawler

Sunk by collision:-

1 Armed Yacht

1 drifter

Damaged by Bombs:-

H.M.S. "JAGUAR" (Lieut. Cdr. J.F.W. Hine)

H.M.S. "GREYHOUND" (Cdr. W.R. Marshall-A'Deane)

H.M.S. "INTREPID" (Cdr. R.C. Gordon)

H.M.S. "SALADIN" (Lieut.-Cdr. L.J. Dover)

H.M.S. "BIDEFORD" (Cdr. R.F. Elkins)

Missing:-

1 Paddle Minesweeper

1 Minesweeping Trawler.

The French sent 130 small ships to Dover, 30th May.

Handwritten initials and date:
MS
16/6

86,800 Troops have been evacuated and sent to England to p.m. 30th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

R.N.A. SHIPS

GENERAL.

"PANTIN" The Italian ship "ROMOLO" at Brisbane has been delayed and clearance withheld by the Customs authorities pending a further examination of the vessel today.

Captain C. Farquhar-Smith, R.A.N., D.N.O. W.A., is leaving Perth today by train to pay an official visit to Albany and Melbourne.

Lieutenant-Commander G.H. Roulston, R.A.N.R. has been appointed to "PENGUIN" IV as N.O.I.C. Thursday Island.

"TARMAHIA" will sail from Sydney Tuesday next, 4th June, for Port Phillip joining 20th N.S.F. as from date of departure.

"YONGE" commenced boiler cleaning yesterday completing p.m. 30th May. They remain at present action.

"CENTRALIA" at Fremantle came under operational orders of S.O. 1300 "EX" in H.M.A.S. "AVON" yesterday.

"SUN" will revert to operational orders of S.O. 1300 tomorrow.

A.I.E. FREIGHT SHIPS

"STRATHMORE" escorted by H.M.A.S. "ANGLADE" was due Fremantle 30th this morning and will not receive her cargo until ordered by Naval Board.

"LARGE BAY" at noon yesterday was about 60° S.W. of Cape Grey proceeding to Fremantle direct at 12 knots.

OPERATIONS OVERSEA.

The evacuation of S.S.F. from Tobruk continued under great difficulties. Up to Wednesday afternoon, 28th May approximately 48,800 troops had been evacuated and landed in England from all manner of small craft. Latest Naval losses during this operation include:-

H.M. Destroyers "SHEPHERD" and "GRANTON" torpedoed by E.F.S.'s and sunk.

H.M. Destroyer "GALLANT" damaged by same mine.

H.M. Destroyer "MADON" grounded Belgian coast but has returned to harbour.

2 H.M. Trainers, one paddle minesweeper and one drifter have also been sunk.

The enemy appears to be using a large number of E.F.S.'s with considerable success.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

100900 Friday 30th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" arrived Port Melbourne 1400K yesterday and berthed at Princes Pier.

"MANOORA" sailed from Townsville and arrived Magnetic Island - distant 12 miles - Wednesday, 29th May.
Last night "MANOORA" was ordered by N.B. to proceed towards Cape Morton forthwith as Italian vessel "ROMOLO" now at Brisbane is expected to sail today bound for Macassar.

"PARRAMATTA" will sail from Sydney Tuesday next, 4th June, for Port Phillip joining 20th M.S.F. as from time of departure.

"DOOMBA") Commenced boiler cleaning yesterday completing p.m.
"SWAN") Monday, 3rd June. They remain at standard notice.

"WESTRALIA" at Fremantle came under operational orders of S.O. Force "ZZ" in H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" yesterday.

20th M.S.F. will revert to operational orders of R.A.C.A.S. from 0900K tomorrow.

A.I.F. FREIGHT SHIPS

"STRATHEDEN" escorted by H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" was due Fremantle 0730K this morning and will not resume her voyage until ordered by Naval Board.

"LARGS BAY" at noon yesterday was about 60' S.W. of Cape Otway proceeding to Fremantle direct at 15 knots.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk continues under great difficulties. Up to Wednesday afternoon, 29th May approximately 46,500 troops had been evacuated and landed in England from all manner of small craft. Latest Naval losses during this operation include:-

H.M. Destroyers "WAKEFUL" and "GRAFTON" torpedoed by M.T.B.'s and sunk.

H.M. Destroyer "GALLANT" damaged by near miss.

H.M. Destroyer "MACKAY" grounded Belgian coast but has returned to harbour.

2 H.M. Trawlers, one paddle minesweeper and one drifter have also been sunk.

The enemy appears to be using a large number of M.T.B.'s with considerable success.

GENERAL.

The position regarding Italy has deteriorated and, according to the Admiralty, is graver than at any time hereto.
 Thursday, 27th May, 1940.

R.A.C.A.S. has been invited to attend a conference to be held at Navy Office at 1100K tomorrow.

Captain A.J. Power, C.V.O. has been appointed a Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty and as A.C.N.S. to date 27th May.

and expects to berth at Millers Cove at 1400 today and requests that decommissioning be held on board on arrival concerning serious defect in each astern turbine.

H.M.S. "INSUBRIA" arrived Fremantle at 0800 yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "PARDONER" departed from Albany at 1900 yesterday to escort A.I.F. Freight ship "STRATHGON".

AIR OPERATIONS - Reconnaissance to provide cover for A.I.F. Freight Ship "STRATHGON" will be provided today commencing at 0900 from a line due south of Cape Otway and extending 100 miles to the Eastward. Air reconnaissance in U.S. to provide cover for "STRATHGON" has also been arranged.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships "PHEASANT" and "MOLLY" will remain under the orders of C. in C. East Indies and are proceeding to Calcutta.

In the Harvik Area H.M. Ship "SIBLING" (Captain H.C.P. Gwyn, R.N.7) "HAINES" (Lieut. Commander A.A. Tait) "SHILBURN" (Lieut. Comdr. J.H. Sedgwick) have been holed and very slightly damaged. H.M.S. "ARMOA" (Commander G.E. Middleton R.N.) was damaged on the 27th May last and is now proceeding to the U.S.

GENERAL.

In the United Kingdom guns are being mounted at all undefended ports from Dublin via In. Co. Wick to Poole (Dorsetshire) in the south. War Signal Stations are not being established at these ports.

Commander Bentley's proposed date for visiting Navy Office is Friday, 2nd June.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 29th May, 1940.

To 0900 Thursday, 30th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" entered Port Phillip at 1131 yesterday Thursday and expects to berth at Williamstown at 1430 today and requests that consultation be held onboard on arrival concerning serious defect in each astern turbine.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" arrived Fremantle at 0935 yesterday Wednesday.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" departed from Albany at 1900 yesterday to escort A.I.F. Freight ship "STRATHEDEN".

AIR OPERATIONS - Reconnaissance to provide cover for A.I.F. Freight Ship "LARGS BAY" will be provided today commencing at 0900 from a line due south of Cape Otway and extending 180 miles to the Westward. Air reconnaissance in W.A. to provide cover for "STRATHEDEN" has also been arranged.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships "CERES" and "COLOMBO" will remain under the orders of C. in C. East Indies and are proceeding to Colombo.

In the Narvik Area H.M. Ships "CAIRO" (Captain H.K.P. Oram, R.N.?) "WALKER" (Lieut.-Commander A.A. Tait) "WHIRLWIND" (Lieut.-Comdr. J.M. Rodgers) have been bombed and very slightly damaged. H.M.S. "AURORA" (Captain G.B. Middleton R.N.) was damaged on the 8th May last and is now proceeding to the U.K.

GENERAL.

In the United Kingdom guns are being mounted at all undefended ports from Sullom Voe in the North to Poole (Dorsetshire) in the South. War Signal Stations are not being established at these ports.

Commander Wheatley's proposed date for visiting Navy Office is Monday, 3rd June.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 29th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" wearing flag of R.A.C.A.S. departed Fremantle 1115K yesterday for Melbourne. She expects to arrive Port Phillip 0400K Saturday 1st June.

"PERTH" arrived Westernport 1500K yesterday and expects to arrive Port Melbourne 1430K tomorrow 30th May.

"MANOORA" has deferred sailing to await receipt of secret letter and now intends to leave Townsville today proceeding to Palm Island.

"SWAN" arrived Williamstown 0700K yesterday and departs 0800K today to act as torpedo target ship for "PERTH".

"BINGERA" intended ships company proceed on 14 days' leave subject to recall commencing Friday, 31st May.

"MORESBY" proposes to carry out Anti Submarine training cruise departing Sydney on Tuesday 4th June, Hervey Bay 7th to 13th June, Brisbane 14th to 17th June, Moreton Bay 17th and 18th June arriving Sydney Thursday, 20th June.

"WESTRALIA" expects to arrive Fremantle 0630K today.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Albany 1841K yesterday from Fremantle.

CONVOY U.S.S.

A Naval draft and technical army personnel to replace the Asiatic crew of "EMPRESS of CANADA" is suggested by N.O.I.C. Simonstown in preference to withdrawing the vessel from the Convoy.

GENERAL.

A.I.F. Freight ship "LARGS BAY" sailed from Sydney yesterday at 1444K for Fremantle. Air reconnaissance is being provided today.

Italian S.S. "ROMOLO" sailed from Sydney at 1800K yesterday for Genoa via Brisbane and Macassar.

The Admiralty advise Masters of British Merchant Vessels that W/T silence may be broken for the purpose of reporting the presence of any Merchant Vessels which they have good reason for suspecting are disguised enemy raiders. False reports should be cancelled immediately.

At Narvik H.M.S. "CURLEW" was bombed and sunk. 25 of the crew were killed.

Private Motoring in Italy is to cease 1st June.

Belgian Shipping in Allied Ports is to be detained on the best pretext available but not treated as enemies. Ships encountered at sea are to be directed into a British or French port. There are no Belgian ships on the Australia Station.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 28th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.N.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" arrived Fremantle 0800 yesterday with 700 tons oil fuel remaining. She will sail as convenient after fuelling and expects to arrive Melbourne early on Saturday morning next, 1st June.

"PERTH" left Sydney yesterday for Westernport, Port Phillip (for sleeve target firings) and arrives Port Melbourne p.m. Thursday, 30th May. She will provide distant cover for "LARGS BAY" sailing from Sydney 1130K this morning.

"ADELAIDE" departed Fremantle yesterday for Albany.

"MANOORA" having collected memo XYZ from A.R.O., intends to leave Townsville today for Palm Island. "MANOORA" is now complete with oil fuel and fresh water.

"DOOMBA" delayed by bad weather and shortage of coal arrived Port Melbourne late last night. She will probably carry out gunnery school firing tomorrow instead of today.

"MORESBY" departed Sydney for and arrived at Jervis Bay yesterday.

"PARRAMATTA" is at standard notice at Sydney during further fitting out which includes installation of gyro compass.

"ORARA" Ships company proceeded on long leave at Sydney yesterday.

A.I.F. FREIGHT SHIPS.

"STRATHEDEN" sailed from Adelaide for Fremantle 2200K yesterday,

"ADELAIDE" has been ordered to escort her from vicinity of Albany to Fremantle and subsequently escort her for 48 hours after departure from Fremantle. Commencing at 0800K this morning air reconnaissance will be provided to westward of Cape Borda with aircraft operating from Adelaide.

"LARGS BAY" sails from Sydney 1130K today for Fremantle direct.

"WESTRALIA" will provide escort similarly to "ADELAIDE".

"LARGS BAY" disembarks certain troops at Fremantle, numbers onboard being reduced from 547 to less than 150. First port of call will be Colombo or Mombasa, thence intention is to U.K. calling at Mediterranean Ports. Commencing at 1200K today air reconnaissance will be provided by aircraft from Richmond.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.H.M. SHIPS

"ORION"
 "NEPTUNE"
 "GLOUCESTER"
 "LEANDER"
 H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY")

are to form 20th Cruiser Squadron under the Command of R.A.(D) Mediterranean Fleet Destroyer Flotillas in H.M.S. "ORION".

19th and 20th Divisions Destroyers are to form 10th Destroyer Flotilla under command of Commander H.M. Waller, R.A.N. in H.M.A.S. "STUART".

H.M. Ships "GALATEA" and "ARETHUSA" bombarded enemy troops at Calais on May 26th.

H.M. Ships "CAIRO" and "SOUTHAMPTON" were bombed and slightly damaged off Narvik May, 25th.

"MAID of KENT", a hospital ship of 2,700 tons, has been sunk off Dieppe and a large tanker mined and sunk at Havre.

GENERAL.

Captain Bowyer-Smith, taking passage in "STRATHMORE", will now disembark and join H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" at Melbourne instead of Fremantle.

The indicator loop system at Sydney is to be put into operation at night, and by day if the loop area is not under visual observation.

ITALIAN SHIP "ROMOLO" has ordered 250 tons diesel oil for delivery at Sydney this forenoon.

H.M.S. "VENUS" (Minesweeper) operating in the vicinity of Boulogne was damaged by near misses and shrapnel during the attack on the port.

In the Narvik Area the Destroyer "HMS" and "HMS" were slightly damaged by gunfire.

Six Dutch Warships departed from Rotterdam at 1800 hours on 25th May for the North Sea.

Arrived Capetown at 0800 yesterday, Sunday.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

"ROMOLO" is due Fremantle on Thursday 4th June from Calcutta.

"ROMOLO" at present in Sydney, is expected to depart on the 25th/26th for Brisbane from where she is expected to sail not later than Friday, 2nd May.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" reports that the two Italian aircraft at Sydney were damaged with the ship's gun.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 27th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" is expected to arrive Fremantle a.m. today.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" arrived Sydney at 1035 yesterday Sunday and commences a 42 days' refit today.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" arrived Sydney at 1035 yesterday Sunday, commences a 14 days' refit today and is expected to return to Melbourne on Wednesday, 12th June.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" departed Twofold Bay at 1200 yesterday Sunday, after having recovered "DOOMBA" anchor, and expects to arrive at Port Phillip 0300 tomorrow Tuesday.

Air Operations - cover was provided by aircraft for "STRATHERDEN" carrying 750 troops yesterday. "STRATHERDEN" arrived at Adelaide at 0600 today.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "WESSEX" (Lieut.-Commander W.A.R. Cartwright) was bombed and sunk whilst operating near Boulogne, the majority of the crew were saved.

Polish Destroyer "BURZA" also operating in the vicinity of Boulogne was hit forward by two bombs but able to return under her own steam.

H.M.S. "VIMIERA" (Lieut.-Commander R.B.N. Hicks) operating in the vicinity of Boulogne was damaged by near misses and requires docking, there were no casualties.

In the Narvik Area the Destroyers "FAME" and "PREDIAKE" were slightly damaged by gunfire.

Six Dutch Warships departed from Portsmouth at 1200 Saturday 25th May for Falmouth.

CONVOY U.S.S.

Arrived Capetown at 0930 yesterday, Sunday.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

"REMO" is due Fremantle on Tuesday 4th June from Colombo.

"ROMOLO" at present in Sydney, is expected to depart on the 27th/28th for Brisbane from where she is expected to sail not later than Friday, 31st May.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" reports that the two Walrus aircraft at Singapore can be handled with the ships gear and

embarked without affecting the ship's fighting efficiency.

Lieut.-Commander Rowland has taken over the duties of N.O.I.C. Newcastle as from the 26th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

N.M.A. SHIPS

- "PASHANATTA" arrived Sydney from Melbourne at 0800K yesterday.
- "BARBORA" has been instructed to exercise as usual in the vicinity of Sydney between Brit. Sunday Island and Cairns.
- "YARBA" and "ZARBA" expect to arrive Sydney from Twofold Bay 0800K today.
- "BOBBA" on weighing yesterday at Twofold Bay lost an anchor which has been located by diver but not yet recovered. She intended proceeding to Melbourne at 1800K yesterday.
- "ZARBA" is remaining at Twofold Bay to recover today the anchor lost by "BOBBA" returning then to Melbourne.
- "YARBA" expects to unhook at 1700K today. Examination revealed no serious defect to Radio Room.

OPERATIONS SYDNEY.

S.S. "SCHEFFLER" arrived Altona 2315K Friday, 26th May to await arrival of U.S.3 expected today.

GENERAL.

Captain Sir Phillip Power-Smith, taking passage in S.S. "STRATHMORE" is to disembark at Fremantle 28th May.

Lieutenant-Commander Webster, R.N., has assumed command of "SOPHIE" temporarily. Commander Turner R.N. is appointed "PASHANATTA" to await passage to Singapore.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

Air Operations command at 0700K today to provide cover for S.S. "STRATHMORE" carrying troops en route Melbourne Adelaide and passing Cape Otway 0800K this morning.

MOST SECRET.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.
DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 26th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PARRAMATTA" arrived Sydney from Melbourne at 0900K yesterday.

"MANOORA" has been instructed to exercise as desired limiting movements between Whit Sunday Island and Cairns.

"YARRA" and "ORARA" expect to arrive Sydney from Twofold Bay 0900K today.

"DOOMBA" on weighing yesterday at Twofold Bay lost an anchor which has been located by diver but not yet recovered. She intended proceeding to Melbourne at 1800K yesterday.

"SWAN" is remaining at Twofold Bay to recover today the anchor lost by "DOOMBA" returning then to Melbourne.

"PERTH" expects to undock at 1700K today. Examination revealed no serious defect to Asdic Dome.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" arrived Simonstown 2315K Friday, 24th May to await arrival of U.S.3 expected today.

GENERAL.

Captain Sir Phillip Bowyer-Smyth, taking passage in S.S. "STRATHMORE" is to disembark at Fremantle 30th May.

Lieutenant-Commander Brewster, R.N. has assumed command of "MORESBY" temporarily. Commander Turner R.N. is appointed "PENGUIN" to await passage to Singapore.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

Air Operations commenced at 0730K today to provide cover for S.S. "STRATHEDEN" carrying troops en route Melbourne Adelaide and passing Cape Otway 0255K this morning.

Italian ship "ROSE" - one in Sydney loading wool is not expected to sail until about 23th May. Arrangements have been made with Customs to insure Cairns Island of any projected movements.

During present period of tension, Coast Patrollers Australia Station have been warned to keep a sharp lookout for any Japanese or other foreign war vessels or aircraft.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 25th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships.

- "CANBERRA" - on completion of escort duties with Convoy "U.S.3" is returning to Fremantle probably arriving Tuesday, 28th May.
- "PERTH" - having damaged asdic dome fouled by paravane towing wire was docked at 0700 this morning and will be undocked a.m. to-morrow. The following programme will then be carried out:-

Leave Sydney - a.m. 27th May.
Arrive Port Phillip - p.m. 29th May.
" " Melbourne - p.m. 30th May.

On completion of this programme during which gunnery and torpedo firings will be carried out in Port Phillip, "PERTH" will provide distant cover in S.E. focal area for "LARGS BAY".

- "WESTRALIA" - E.T.A. Fremantle midnight Tuesday 28th May.
- 20th M.S.F. - anchored Twofold Bay last night and proceeded at 0600 this morning.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Submarine "SPEARFISH". - may be lost or damaged. An immediate message transmitted yesterday by Cleethorpes reads:-

"Nothing heard from you at 0040Z".

The enemy occupied Boulogne yesterday - mines have been laid outside Calais, Boulogne and Havre.

GENERAL.

- "STRATHEDEN" - with 730 troops and 50 passengers embarked will sail from Port Melbourne at noon today for Colombo calling Adelaide and Fremantle.
- "LARGS BAY" - due to sail from Sydney Tuesday, 28th May, with 547 troops embarked and cargo for Mediterranean ports will, according to present arrangements, proceed via Fremantle to Mombasa or Colombo for further instructions.
- "MANUNDA" - will be taken over in Sydney at 1000K this morning and fitted out there for service as a military hospital ship. Her owners (Adelaide Steamship Co.) have been advised by Naval Board that as Commonwealth accept liability for war risk, any insurance in force should be cancelled from time and date of delivery.

Italian Ship "ROMOLO" - now in Sydney loading wool is not expected to sail until about 29th May. Arrangements have been made with Customs to inform Garden Island of any projected movements.

During present period of tension, Coast Watchers on Australia Station have been warned to keep a sharp lookout for any Japanese or other foreign war vessels or aircraft.

~~SECRET SECRET.~~

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 24th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" arrived Sydney at 1045, yesterday, Thursday.

H.M.A.S. "HOBBSBY" is to leave Sydney p.m. Monday, 27th May for Jervis Bay.

H.M.A. Ships "YARRA" and "SWAN" arrived Port Phillip at 0745 yesterday Thursday and left later with "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" in company to carry out searching sweeps as arranged.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" departed Port Melbourne at 0712 yesterday, Thursday for Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The Magnetic ship "CORBURN" after successfully exploding magnetic mines has herself been mined.

A.I.F. The P. & O. Co.'s "STRATHEDEN" left Sydney at 1708 Wednesday with 730 troops onboard and berthed at Port Melbourne at 0730 today.

GENERAL.

The Italian steamship "ROMOLO" arrived Sydney at 1943 yesterday Thursday.

N.Z. Tanker "NUCULA" - although the Admiralty are not yet in possession of the full details Their Lordships are doubtful if this vessel is worthy of repair as the probability is that in the event of an emergency a commercial tanker could be made available.

An intercept from the Admiralty states that extra coastguard patrols are operating on the East Coast between War Watching Stations and that similar patrols will be extended to the other coasts. Except that the duty of these patrols is to warn all Service Defence personnel, A.R.P. Services and police the nature of the possible attack is not indicated.

The A.R.O. Rabaul is at Anir establishing a coastwatching post.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 23rd May, 1940.

A report graded A.I. discloses that 40 Germans landed at 0900 OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. "URCOWIA" last Sunday, 19th May and that a considerable number of boats have

H.M.A. SHIPS

there recently from Argentina. The Uruguayan Government has appointed a committee to investigate these activities. "PERTH" is proceeding to Sydney with moderate despatch, and should arrive a.m. today.

"WESTRALIA" has been ordered to discontinue present cruise and proceed to Fremantle at 15 knots.

"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" departed Port Melbourne 0415K today to rendezvous with "SWAN" and "YARRA" off Point Lonsdale at 0800K and carry out Searching sweeps in Bass Strait and off Gabo Is. It is intended that 20th M/S Flotilla should anchor in Twofold Bay p.m. tomorrow 24th May, "YARRA" and "ORARA" being detached and expecting to arrive Sydney 0900K Sunday 26th May where "ORARA" ships company will proceed on 10 days' leave commencing Monday 27th May. "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" will return to Melbourne.

"MANCOORA" arrived Townsville 0700K yesterday 22nd May and is to remain there for the present.

An Air operation carried out this morning located Italian ship "ROMOLO" at 0720K in a position 048° 38' from Sugarloaf Point, steering 205° making good an average speed of 8 knots in heavy weather. She is normally proceeding to Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "MALCOLM" sustained 13 casualties from a near miss when bombed off the North Foreland 20th May.

S.S.

"CITY OF BRUSSELS" whilst in the canal at Brussels using 12 pounder guns brought down 2 enemy aircraft with one shot

GENERAL.

The Admiralty enquires as to possibility of obtaining 40,000 steel drums in Australia for shipment, half to Singapore and half to Hong Kong.

The German tanker "RUDOLF ALBERCHT" thought to have been acting as a supply ship to a possible raider has arrived at Teneriffe.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

The following instructions are now in force regarding British and Norwegian shipping normally passing through or into the Mediterranean - all Westbound through traffic is to be routed via the Cape with the exception of ships with Mediterranean cargoes which if not normally calling at Colombo are to proceed to Mombassa for orders.

DAILY NARRATIVE
INTELLIGENCE.

A report graded A.1 discloses that 40 Germans landed at Montevideo from the Italian ship "YULCANIA" last Sunday, 19th May and that a considerable number of Nazis have been arriving there recently from Argentina. The Uruguayan Government has appointed a committee to investigate these activities.

Intercepted messages indicate that Italy is accelerating the return of her Merchant Shipping.

"ROCCA" on arrival Townsville is to remain there until further orders.

"RENT II" } Group 14 will revert to orders of R.N.C., Victoria
"SCORPION" } today.

"WIKI" } Group 77 arrived Sydney yesterday from Newcastle.
"WISACHI" }

Italian ship "ROMOLO" sailed from Brindisi 1800K yesterday for Sydney. At 2300K last night she was reported by Cape Norton proceeding S.E. with navigation lights burning. Doubtless R.N.A.S. "PETER" is now acting in accordance with previous instructions to shadow at a discreet distance, and aircraft from Archerfield commenced a search at daylight this morning to confirm "ROMOLO" is proceeding to Sydney and she was sighted in position 135°10' from Cape Byron at 0700K steering 135°.

R.N.A.S.

Since the commencement of hostilities, the following vessels have been armed:-

A.N.C.	5
Fast liners & P.N.A.S.	120
Auxiliary Vessels	12
Total	137

In addition 7 merchant vessels have been degusted.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

R.N.S. "EFFINGHAM", having struck an uncharted rock off Norwegian coast, is a total loss.

R.N.S. "WHITLEY" bombed off Newport Bay 18th is a total loss. There were only four casualties.

Italian warship movements were reported as being normal on May 19th.

R.N.S. "RECTOR" departed Wellington yesterday for a cruise which will terminate at Auckland on 18th June.

R.N.S. "LEANDER" departed Colaba Sunday, 19th May for an un stated destination.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 22nd May, 1940.

request to the Dominions for A.A. weapons to meet urgent requirements of Merchant Vessels in areas liable to attack, Naval Board has instructed that 20 Lewis Guns are available in New Zealand.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MANOCORA" on arrival Townsville is to remain there until further orders.

"BERYL II") Group 54 will revert to orders of D.N.O., Victoria,
"GOORANGAI") today.

"UKI") Group 77 arrived Sydney yesterday from Newcastle.
"BERMACUI")

Italian ship "ROMOLO" sailed from Brisbane 1800K yesterday for Sydney. At 2200K last night she was reported by Cape Moreton proceeding S.E. with navigation lights burning. Doubtless H.M.A.S. "PERTH" is now acting in accordance with previous instructions to shadow at a discreet distance, and aircraft from Archerfield commenced a search at daylight this morning to confirm "ROMOLO" is proceeding to Sydney and she was sighted in position 135°10' from Cape Byron at 0700K steering 185°.

D.E.M.S.

Since the commencement of hostilities, the following vessels have been armed:-

A.M.C.'s	5
Fast liners & D.E.M.S.	150
Auxiliary Vessels	<u>18</u>
Total	<u>173</u>

In addition 7 merchant vessels have been degaussed.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "EFFINGHAM", having struck an uncharted rock off Norwegian coast, is a total loss.

H.M.S. "WHITLEY" bombed off Nieuport May 19th is a total loss. There were only four casualties.

Italian warship movements were reported as being normal on May 19th.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed Wellington yesterday for a cruise which will terminate at Auckland on 15th June.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" departed Colombo Sunday, 19th May for an unstated destination.

GENERAL.

In response to an Admiralty request to the Dominions for A.A. weapons to meet urgent requirements of Merchant Vessels in areas liable to attack, Naval Board has instructed that 29 Lewis Guns are available and 12 can be supplied by New Zealand.

Commander Garcia, R.A.N., Commodore Convoy "U.S.2" has asked permission to return from Port Said to Australia by air as there is no ship available.

R.M.S. "STRATHEDEN" sails from Sydney 1600K today with troops embarked. Decision as to onward passage of troops will be made at Fremantle.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SUNBY" departed from Colombo at 0800K Sunday, 15th May.

H.M.A.S. "LEARNER" arrived at Colombo at 0800K Sunday, 15th May.

H.M.S. "RESOLUTION" (Captain G. Lewis R.N.) was hit by a bomb off Narvik on 17th May. Three decks were pierced but the damage was only slight and the casualties were one dead and 9 wounded.

Mine-layer "PRINCESS VICTORIA" (Captain J.H.S. Hall, R.N.) was mined and sunk off the entrance to the Bumber on Saturday, 18th May. The survivors included 12 Officers and 79 ratings.

SECRET.

In accordance with Admiralty's instructions both "STRATHEDEN" and "LEARNER" are to be routed via Cape Town.

The German Battleship "BISMARCK" at Hamburg is reported to be almost complete.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

0900 Monday, 20th DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 21st May, 1940.

H.M.A. SHIPS

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" departed from Darwin at 0641 yesterday Monday on a 4 day cruise and expects to arrive at Wessel Is. (approx. 370' East of Darwin) today.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" is expected to arrive at Townsville p.m. today.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" departed from Colombo at 0250Z Sunday, 19th May.

H.M.A.S. "LEANDER" arrived at Colombo at 0500Z Sunday, 19th May.

H.M.S. "RESOLUTION" (Captain O. Bevir R.N.) was hit by a bomb off Narvik on 17th May. Three decks were pierced but the damage was only slight and the casualties were one dead and 9 wounded.

Minelayer "PRINCESS VICTORIA" (Captain J.B.E. Hall, R.N.) was mined and sunk off the entrance to The Humber on Saturday, 18th May. The Survivors included 12 Officers and 79 ratings.

GENERAL.

In accordance with Admiralty's instructions both "STRATHEDEN" and "LARCS BAY" are to be routed via Cape Town.

The German Battleship "ESIMARK" at Hamburg is reported to be almost complete.

GENERAL.

The Naval Board estimates that approximately 100 recruits monthly during 1940 will be required to train for the building of new Naval construction in Australia.

Captain Boyer-Smyth R.N. is to take passage in S.S. "STRATHMORE" for H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA". "STRATHMORE" would arrive Sydney end June, 1940.

All R.N. & R.N.R. personnel are to wear uniforms when abroad or proceeding to leave with the exception of personnel entering ships who must wear plain clothes.

An air operation was carried out yesterday to establish the identity of a vessel passing Cape Gray some 20 miles distant. She proved to be S.S. "THE HULLFORD" bound to Adelaide from Perth.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

to 0900 Monday, 20th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOCRA" has been ordered to proceed to Townsville via Grafton Passage after rendezvous with S.S. "TULAGI" last night.

"PERTH" is in position off C. Moreton.

D.W.O. Queensland has made 'no change' report regarding sailing of "ROMOLO" ("ROMOLO" may ask for clearance today)

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Colombo 2252K last Saturday 18th May.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" is visiting various New Zealand ports during the period 21st May to 15th June.

CONVOY U.S.3.

D.S.T. advises that "EMPRESS of CANADA" and "EMPRESS of JAPAN" will proceed to Hong Kong via Singapore on completion of transfer of troops.

RAIDER

It is thought that German ships "WINNETOU" and "RUDOLF ALBRECHT" which recently escaped from Las Palmas and the Azores may be acting as Supply ships for possible raiders.

C. in C. South Atlantic has detailed H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" to search in vicinity of Lat. 26° 00'S Long. 5° 00'E, a position approximately 860' NW of Capetown for a probable enemy ship located by D/F bearings and then continue passage to Capetown.

GENERAL.

The Naval Board estimates that approximately 100 recruits monthly during 1940 will be required to train for the manning of new Naval construction in Australia.

Captain Bowyer-Smyth R.N. intends taking passage in S.S. "STRATHMORE" for H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA". "STRATHMORE" should arrive Sydney 2nd June, 1940.

All R.N. & R.M. personnel are to wear uniform when ashore or proceeding on leave with the exception of personnel entering Eire who must wear plain clothes.

An Air Operation was carried out yesterday to establish the identity of a vessel passing Cape Otway some 20 miles distant. She proved to be S.S. "PORT HALIFAX" bound to Adelaide from Burnie.

OPERATIONS - NORWAY.

H.M.S. "EFFINGHAM" is ashore near Jumna. She is to be towed off and sunk or beached where A.A. guns are of no (?) use.

H.M.S. "MATABELE" is also damaged and is returning to Harstad.

HOLLAND.

German parachutists landed were estimated between 10,000 and 15,000. Of these 2,000 were captured and the remainder practically all killed. Many were between the ages of 15 and 17 years.

MINES.

The Admiralty considers an enemy vessel may be in large South Atlantic. A suspicious vessel with Japanese colours sighted on 13th day was sighted on 14th day. 2nd day about 1000' S.W. of Cape Horn when no 2nd vessel ship would have been in that area. The British ship "H.M.S. GARDIAN", bound from London to Fremont in one night days overdue. Her loss is attributed to mine action as the mines found off Cape Horn on 13th day which it is estimated could have been laid 12th day.

Consequent upon this information, Naval Board has considered the possibility of mines being laid on 12th day. The regulations as to ships standing without navigation lights have been re-issued.

GENERAL.

Deputy-Commander Howe will report for duty at Harstad on Tuesday next, 21st day.

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SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 19th May.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

In the event of Italian ship "ROMOLO" leaving Brisbane, "PERTH" will shadow and "MANOCRA" will proceed towards Cook's passage.

"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" will join "SWAN" and "YARRA" off Port Phillip on Thursday. 20th M.S.P. will then carry out searching sweeps in Bass Strait and off Gabo Island. On completion "YARRA" and "ORARA" proceed to Sydney to refit and give long leave; "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" return to Port Melbourne.

RAIDER.

The Admiralty considers an enemy raider may be at large in South Atlantic. A suspicious vessel with Japanese colours painted on her side was sighted on Thursday, 2nd May about 1000' N.W. of Capetown when no Japanese ship should have been in that area. The British ship "SCIENTIST", bound from Durban to Freetown is now eight days overdue. Her loss is attributed to this raider as are the mines found off Cape Agulhas on 15th May which it is estimated could have been laid 8th May.

Consequent upon this information, Naval Board has emphasized the possibility of mines being laid on Australia Station and the regulations as to ships steaming without navigation lights have been re-imposed.

GENERAL.

Paymaster-Commander Havel will report for duty at Navy Office on Tuesday next, 21st May.

OPERATIONS SYSTEMS.

H.M.S. "VALERIE" after being hit by two bombs was beached off

GENERAL.

The Coastal passenger vessel "MORNING" (Melbourne S.S. Co.) is being requisitioned and will be fitted out as a Hospital Ship.

Following a suggestion made to the Admiralty by the C. in C. Mediterranean with which Lordships entirely agreed, that as the presence and use of themselves exceptionally fine mine craft and as such would excellent crews for use elsewhere. The Admiralty asked if the Commonwealth Government agreed in principle therewith to which reply in the affirmative has been sent. Details arrangements to be communicated by the Admiralty.

GENERAL.

As a result of the considered danger from mines merchant vessels on the Australian Coast are now being escorted outside

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DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Saturday, 18th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed from Sydney at 1900 yesterday Friday, speed 24 knots, to a position on the Coastal Shipping Route seaward of Cape Moreton, which should be reached by 1500 today, Saturday. Should Italy enter the war the object will be to capture the Italian steamer "ROMOLO" should she have left Brisbane.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" at 1315 yesterday Friday was ordered to proceed forthwith to Port Moresby and will be placed under the operational orders of "PERTH" should the necessity arise.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" the following programme has been approved.

Leave Darwin	20th May
Arrive off Wessel Island	21st "
Arrive King River	22nd "
Leave "	22nd "
Arrive Mountnorris Bay	22nd "
Leave " "	23rd "
Arrive Port Essington	23rd "
Leave " "	24th "
Arrive Port Darwin	24th "

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" arrived Port Melbourne at 1605 yesterday Friday.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" undocked at 1700 yesterday Friday.

Group 54 Aux. M.S. Vessels entered Port Phillip at 0513 yesterday, Friday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "VALENTINE" after being hit by two bombs was beached off Walcheren.

GENERAL.

The Coastal passenger vessel "MANUNDA" (Adelaide S.S. Co.) is being requisitioned and will be fitted out as a Hospital Ship.

R.A.N. Destroyers:- Following on a suggestion, made to the Admiralty by the C. in C. Mediterranean with which their Lordships entirely agreed, that as the officers and men had proved themselves exceptionally fine Ships Companies and as such would form excellent crews for new destroyers; the Admiralty asked if the Commonwealth Government agreed in principle therewith to which a reply in the affirmative has been made. Detailed arrangements will be communicated by the Admiralty.

ROUTEING.

As a result of the considered danger from mines Merchant Vessels on the Australian Coast are now being routed outside

The 100 fathom line where this is practicable except in the case of small vessels proceeding intrastate, and small interstate vessels calling at intermediate ports. Merchant vessels are still permitted to burn dimmed Navigation Lights.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" returned to Sydney 2130K yesterday from patrol.

"MANOORA" arrived Salemon yesterday morning and intended to sail in the afternoon for Madang.

"YARRA" and "SEAN" departed Fremantle 1800K yesterday and expect to arrive Port Melbourne 1800K Thursday 3rd May.

"BERNACULLI" and "HUXI". H.O.C.S. intends should arrive Sydney from Newcastle on Tuesday, 31st May to make good outstanding defects and to exercise with "MANOCCA" the following week.

"DOONBA" passed Cape Otway at 1800K yesterday returning to Port Melbourne.

"COOLGAI" and "TONGKOL". H.O.C.S. intends ships companies to proceed on 14 days' leave subject to recall on Wednesday 2nd May.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "BYENKY" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" have been ordered by C. in C. East Indies to proceed to Colombo.

H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" after fuelling in Rio de Janeiro area is proceeding to Simonstown at 21 knots where she will join H.M.S. "TEMPSHIRE" which left Simonstown last night to meet and escort U.S.S. to Capetown. Together they will form ocean escort for U.S.S. through the South Atlantic Station.

H.M.S. "SKIRING" P.O. Narvik states has been towed to Greenland which is a little South of Narvik.

ITALY.

Colonial Governments have been informed that precautionary steps against Italy should now be fully adopted. The possibility of war with Italy is greater than a few days ago but not yet certain. The Admiralty warns that submarines may commence to operate before a declaration of war is announced and advises the utmost vigilance be exercised. Italian merchant vessels have been ordered to accelerate their movements. The only vessel at present on the Australia Station is H.V. "ROMOLO" which arrived at Brisbane late last night and is at anchor. F.O.C. North Atlantic Station has disposed his patrols to intercept and capture Italian merchant and ships endeavouring to reach Lisbon and Vigo if hostilities ensue against Italy.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 17th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" returned to Sydney 2134K yesterday from patrol.

"MANOCORA" arrived Salamoia yesterday morning and intended to sail in the afternoon for Madang.

"YARRA" and "SWAN" departed Fremantle 1200K yesterday and expect to arrive Port Melbourne 1200K Thursday 23rd May.

"BERMACUI" and "UKI". N.O.C.S. intends should arrive Sydney from Newcastle on Tuesday, 21st May to make good outstanding defects and to exercise with "NAMBUCCA" the following week.

"DOONBA" passed Cape Otway at 1900K yesterday returning to Port Melbourne.

"COOLGWAI" and "TONGKOL" N.O.C.S. intends ships companies to proceed on 14 days' leave subject to recall on Wednesday 22nd May.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" have been ordered by C. in C. East Indies to proceed to Colombo.

H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" after fuelling in Rio de Janeiro area is proceeding to Simonstown at 21 knots where she will join H.M.S. "SHROPSHIRE" which left Simonstown last night to meet and escort U.S.3 to Capetown. Together they will form ocean escort for U.S.3 through the South Atlantic Station.

H.M.S. "ESKIMO" F.O. Narvik states has been towed to Skaanland which is a little South of Narvik.

ITALY.

Colonial Governments have been informed that precautionary stage against Italy should now be fully adopted. The possibility of war with Italy is greater than a few days ago but not yet certain. The Admiralty warns that submarines may commence to operate before a declaration of war is announced and advises the utmost vigilance be exercised. Italian merchant vessels have been ordered to accelerate their movements. The only vessel at present on the Australia Station is M.V. "ROMOLO" which arrived at Brisbane late last night and is at anchor. F.O.C. North Atlantic Station has disposed his patrols to intercept and capture Italian merchant and ships endeavouring to reach Lisbon and Vigo if hostilities commence against Italy.

GENERAL.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston S. Churchill spoke eulogistically of the work accomplished by the officers and men of H.M. Fleet during the first 8 months of the war and expressed his sorrow in a recent message from the Admiralty at severing his connection as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Dutch Merchant vessels may now be allowed to proceed between Australian ports.

S.O.(I) Capetown reports that moored enemy mines have been laid on Agulhas Bank off Cape Agulhas.

WESTERN FRONT.

Two Generals Commanding Sedan sector reported to Headquarters that they were masters of the situation and would regain complete control of their front within a week.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.E.M. SHIPS

"CORNWALL" } sailed from Freetown yesterday and are proceeding
"FORBESWIRE" } with convenient despatch to Gibraltar.

"HAWKINS" has landed 3 V.M. guns at Curacao and 3 at Aruba for coast defences and British troops are taking over further defences in Dutch West Indies. Curacao is noted for its phosphate deposits and Aruba is an oil loading and refining port for the Venezuela fields whence come large supplies for England and the Continent.

"VERSATILE" was bombed off Dutch coast and taken in tow. Casualties 7 dead and 19 wounded.

A number of H.M. Destroyers has been engaged during the past few days in transporting the Queen of Holland, Dutch Government, gold, diamonds, refugees and prisoners to U.K. 5 Dutch submarines have left for U.K.

CONVOY AND TROOPING.

U.S.S. was due Suez yesterday but arrival signal has not yet been received.

U.S.S. has been diverted to Capetown in accordance with Admiralty instructions. S.V.A. daylight Sunday, 20th May.

H.M.A. Ships "CORNWALL" and "AUSTRALIA" will form escort to mid position where "FORBESWIRE" will replace "CORNWALL" on Monday, 20th May.

H.M.A. "LEANDER" has been ordered to proceed Colombo and C. East Indies will probably recall H.M.A.S. "WINDY" to Colombo.

930 troops will embark in "STRATHMORE" and 847 in "LANCE BAY" sailing from Fremantle 21st May and 24th June respectively. These troops will include Infantry and Veterinary units for France and it is understood General Sir Thomas Blamey will proceed overseas in "STRATHMORE". If the situation remains as at present, it is not proposed to provide an escort.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 16th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" departed Sydney at noon yesterday for patrol.

"DOOMBA" will act as target ship for "PERTH's" torpedo firing in Port Phillip on 23rd May and "ORARA" on 28th May.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M. SHIPS

"CORNWALL") sailed from Freetown yesterday and are proceeding
"DORSETSHIRE") with convenient despatch to Gibraltar.

"HAWKINS" has landed 3 7.5" guns at Curacao and 3 at Aruba for coast defences and British troops are taking over further defences in Dutch West Indies. Curacao is noted for its phosphate deposits and Aruba is an oil loading and refining port for the Venezuela fields whence come large supplies for England and the Continent.

"VERSATILE" was bombed off Dutch coast and taken in tow. Casualties 7 dead and 19 wounded.

A number of H.M. Destroyers has been occupied during the past few days in transporting the Queen of Holland, Dutch Government, gold, diamonds, refugees and prisoners to U.K. 5 Dutch submarines have left for U.K.

CONVOY AND TROOPING.

U.S.2 was due Suez yesterday but arrival signal has not yet been received.

U.S.3 has been diverted to Capetown in accordance with Admiralty instructions. E.T.A. daylight Sunday, 26th May.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" will form escort to mid position where "SHROPSHIRE" will replace "CANBERRA" on Monday, 20th May.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" has been ordered to proceed Colombo and C. in C. East Indies will probably recall H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" to Colombo.

830 troops will embark in "STRATHEDEN" and 547 in "LARGS BAY" sailing from Fremantle 31st May and 6th June respectively. These troops will include Railway and Forestry units for France and it is understood General Sir Thomas Blamey will proceed overseas in "STRATHEDEN". If the situation remains as at present, it is not proposed to provide an escort.

RAIL NARRATIVE.

GENERAL.

To 0000 Wednesday, 15th May 1943.

The Dutch Military C. in C. capitulated yesterday and Dutch forces are now being demobilized.

P.W.S.S. Newcastle was transferred from Nobby's Head to Shepherds Hill at sunset yesterday.

Lieutenant-Commander Travis, R.A.N. assumed command of H.M.A.S. "SWAN" yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "SARDONIA" arrived at General 1001 Monday 14th and departed for Salomon at 1001 Tuesday, 15th May, in accordance with her programs.

H.M.A.S. "REYNOLDS" will remain based on Darwin for the present. The Naval Board has indicated to F.R.C. Polye that should he consider that the situation in the R.A.I. is such that it is desirable to spin piece this ship under his operational orders, the Board is ready to do so.

NOTE: H/B FIORELLA. - It is intended that H.M.A.S. "SWAN" and "YARDA" shall sail from Fremantle on Thursday 16th May for Port Phillip.

REVISE - C.C.S. reports that owing to increase in Dockyard work, shortage of hands in certain trades and limitation by the Colonies of the amount of overtime worked it may not be practicable to complete Naval Board's tentative refitting program (10342/8) unless "SARDONIA" can be refitted between "SWAN" and "YARDA". It is also desired by the Dockyard that after the above vessels are refitted not more than 120 vessels are to be held at any one time. Estimated time for "SWAN" and "YARDA" refits each 6 weeks but it is hoped to complete in 5 weeks.

SERVICE

U.S.S. is due at base today.

U.S.S. E. in G. East Indies has been made arrangements to receive L.S. at Melbourne on Sunday 15th May.

OPERATIONS - OTHERS

H.M.A.S. "NEOMARINE" has been ordered to proceed at best possible speed from Capetown to Aden.

RAILS

Summary to 15th May, 1943:-

A.N.C. Co	2
Pass Liners and S.S.N.S.	149
Auxiliary War Vessels	13
De Gaudet	2

SERIAL

The launch "CROCODILE" arrived at Millers Point

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

yesterday afternoon having been escorted from Westernport to Port Phillip by "DOONAN".

To 0900 Wednesday, 15th May, 1940.

Sydney Indicator Log - It is intended to cause continuous operational system and keep it at short notice.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" intends leaving Sydney a.m. Monday 20th May arriving Westernport p.m. 21st May. Leave Westernport a.m. Wednesday 22nd, arrive Port Phillip p.m. on that day and at Port Melbourne p.m. Thursday 25th May.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived at Samarai 1001 Monday 13th and departed for Salamoa at 1301 Tuesday, 14th May, in accordance with her programme.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" will remain based on Darwin for the present. The Naval Board has indicated to P.O.C. Malaya that should he consider that the situation in the D.E.I. is such that it is desirable to again place this ship under his operational orders, the Board is ready to do so.

20th M/S FLOTILLA. - It is intended that H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" shall sail from Fremantle on Thursday 16th May for Port Phillip.

REFITS - C.C.S. reports that owing to increase in Dockyard work, shortage of hands in certain trades and limitation by the Unions of the amount of overtime worked it may not be practicable to complete Naval Board's tentative refitting programme (10342/8) unless "CANBERRA" can be refitted between "SWAN" and "YARRA". It is also desired by the Dockyard that after the above vessels are refitted not more than TWO vessels are in hand at any one time. Estimated time for "SWAN" and "YARRA" refits each 8 weeks but it is hoped to complete in 6 weeks.

CONVOY

U.S.2 is due at Suez today.

U.S.3 - C. in C. East Indies has now made arrangements to receive K.2 at Trincomali on Sunday 19th May.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "GLOUCESTER" has been ordered to proceed at best possible speed from Capetown to Aden.

D.E.M.S.

Summary to 13th May, 1940:-

A.M.C.'s	5
Fast Liners and D.E.M.S.	149
Auxiliary War Vessels	18
De Gaussed	2

GENERAL.

The launch "CERBERUS" arrived at Williamstown

DAILY NARRATIVE.

yesterday afternoon having been escorted from Westernport to Port Phillip by "DOOMBA". May, 1940.

Sydney Indicator Loop - It is intended to cease continuous operational system and keep it at short notice.

R.N.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" arrived Darwin 0915K yesterday and intends carrying out local defence exercises during week ending 18th May.

"PARRAMATTA" will carry out low angle full calibre firing today, "GOORANGAI" acting as target towing ship.

"DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip at 1905K yesterday for Westernport and intended anchoring HMAS Inlet at 2200K. With "BENYL II" she is carrying out a searching sweep between Lonsdale and Western Port today.

"WARRAMUNGA" ships company proceeded on 14 days' leave, 10th May.

"TOLBURN" and "SHEAR" Naval Board approval has been given for ships' companies to proceed on 14 days' leave and R.N.A.S. intends that "HERON" and "St. GILES" give a similar period of leave commencing 17th May.

CONVOY.

Naval Board have informed D.N.S. V.A. of their appreciation of the manner in which Convoy U.S.3 was despatched from Fremantle.

R.N.A.S. "HYDRY" left Colombo 0015K yesterday to rendezvous with U.S.3 on Thursday, 16th May in the vicinity of Cocos Island to escort A.I. to Trincomalee.

DUTCH EAST and WEST INDIES.

With Dutch concurrence a small British force has been landed at Curacao to safeguard oil refineries and the French have taken similar action at Aruba.

The Governor of N.E.I. has proclaimed a state of war existing with Germany but international Political status remains unchanged.

GENERAL.

Admiralty states that German invasion of Switzerland appears imminent and Swiss mobilization is announced. The Icelandic Government have protested against the landing of a British force but give assurance of friendly co-operation.

The National Flag will not in future be painted on Dutch War or Merchant ships and submarines will be painted black.

S.O. (1) Port Kororua has been embarked in R.N.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA".

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 14th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"WESTRALIA" arrived Darwin 0915K yesterday and intends carrying out local defence exercises during week ending 18th May.

"PARRAMATTA" will carry out low angle full calibre firing today, "GOORANGAI" acting as target towing ship.

"DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip at 1903K yesterday for Westernport and intended anchoring Hanns Inlet at 2300K. With "BERYL II" she is carrying out a searching sweep between Lonsdale and Western Port today.

"NAMBUCCA" ships company proceeded on 14 days' leave, 10th May.

"COOLEBAR" and "TAMBAR" Naval Board approval has been given for ships' companies to proceed on 14 days' leave and N.O.C.S. intends that "HEROS" and "St.GILES" give a similar period of leave commencing 17th May.

CONVOY.

Naval Board have informed D.N.O. W.A. of their appreciation of the manner in which Convoy U.S.3 was despatched from Fremantle.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" left Colombo 0015K yesterday to rendezvous with U.S.3 on Thursday, 16th May in the vicinity of Cocos Island to escort X.1 to Trincomalee.

DUTCH EAST and WEST INDIES.

With Dutch concurrence a small British Force has been landed at Curacao to safeguard oil refineries and the French have taken similar action at Aruba.

The Governor of N.E.I. has proclaimed a state of war existing with Germany but international Political status remain unchanged.

GENERAL.

Admiralty states that German invasion of Switzerland appears imminent and Swiss mobilization is announced. The Icelandic Government have protested against the landing of a British force but give assurance of friendly co-operation.

The National Flag will not in future be painted on Dutch War or Merchant ships and submarines will be painted black.

S.O.(1) Port Moresby has been embarked in H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

Handwritten initials

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, Monday, 13th May, 1940.

CONVOYS AND ESCORTS.

U.S.2 escorted by H.M. Ships "RAMILLIES", "KENT", "DECOY", "DEFENDER", and French Cruiser "SUFFREN" arrived 1500K Sunday, 12th May. According to programme, this convoy should have reached Aden the previous day.

U.S.3, escorted by H.M.S. "LEANDER" and H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA", sailed from Fremantle for Colombo 1400K Sunday, 12th May.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" will part company with Convoy U.S.3, a.m. Thursday, 16th May and having visited Cocos Island the same day will proceed to Fremantle arriving 19th May and Melbourne 24th May.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will sail from Colombo so as to rendezvous with Convoy U.S.3 and join Ocean Escort in vicinity Cocos Islands at noon (local time) Thursday, 16th May.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" on arrival Convoy U.S.3 at Colombo will return to Sydney Northabout if circumstances permit.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA", following the seizure of German Merchant vessels and consequent withdrawal of Allied patrols in Netherland East Indies, has been ordered by F.O.C. Malaya to return Darwin (E.T.A. 0830K this morning) and revert to orders of N.B.

H.M. Ships "CERES" and "COLOMBO", at the request of the Admiralty, are to remain under orders of C.-in-C. China until the situation in the Netherland East Indies has been clarified when they will proceed to Australia Station. Both ships are now returning to Singapore.

Convoy U.S.2 departed from Aden at 0950Z Sunday, 12th May for Suez escorted by "LIVERPOOL" wearing Flag of F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron, "RAMILLIES", "DECOY", "DEFENDER", "SHOREHAM" and "SUFFREN".

SCANDINAVIAN AND DUTCH SHIPPING.

Consequent upon the invasion of Holland, all Norwegian vessels (including tankers) may now proceed to ports in Dutch Colonial Territories.

Norwegian tanker "VERA" on arrival Thursday Island is to await Admiralty decision as to whether she should proceed Bahrein for loading.

It is estimated that 19 German Merchant vessels, amounting to approximately 119,000 tons, were seized in N.E.I. ports.

DAILY NARRATIVE

2.

There are at present 4 Dutch vessels on Australia Station and another - the cargo vessel "AAGTEKERK" - is expected to arrive Fremantle from India 31st May.

H.M.A.S. "MANUKA." The instructions to proceed to Thursday Is. have been cancelled, although the commanding officer may proceed there if he so desires. GENERAL. to proceed on her intended cruise in the H.B. area.

The whole cost of Degaussing merchant vessels on U.K. register will be borne by the Admiralty.

S.O.(I) Wellington has informed C.O.I.S. Singapore that a large increase of diplomatic traffic between Rome and Japan has been observed. C.O.I.S. wishes to be informed of any significant changes in volume or type of Japanese W/T traffic.

H.M. Submarine "SEAL" is considerably overdue and must be presumed lost.

Remaining Cabinet appointments were broadcast by B.B.C. this morning as follows:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Lord Chancellor | Sir John Simon. |
| Chancellor of the Exchequer | Sir Kingsley Wood |
| Minister of Supply | Mr. Herbert Morrison |
| Minister for Information | Mr. A. Duff-Cooper |
| Secretary for the Colonies | Lord Lloyd |
| President Board of Trade | Sir Andrew Duncan |
| Home Secretary | Sir John Anderson. |

H.M.A.S. "..." will sail from Fremantle for Solomons this afternoon escorted by "CANTONIA" "AUSTRALIA" "LEANDER" and "ADRIAN." Air operations include Air Searches and constant A/S Patrol.

H.M.A.S. "..." is expected to leave here to-day for ...

The following was broadcast by the B.B.C. in this country's news:-

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Prime Minister and Minister for Defence | Mr. Winston Churchill |
| Lord President of the Council | Mr. Chamberlain |
| Lord Privy Seal | Mr. Attlee |
| Foreign Affairs | Lord Halifax |
| Minister without Portfolio | Mr. Arthur Greenwood |
| First Lord of the Admiralty | Mr. J.V. Alexander |
| Minister for War | Mr. Anthony Eden |
| Minister for Air | Sir Archibald Sinclair |
| London Officer at Brussels | Admiral Sir Roger Keyes |

It has been requested by H.C.I.S. that any R/T messages of the Japanese Combined Fleet be forwarded ...

DAILY NARRATIVE

Sunday 12/4

SECRET.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA." The instructions to proceed to Thursday Is. have been cancelled, although the Commanding Officer may proceed there if he so desires. The ship is to proceed on her intended cruise in the N.E. Area.

Auxiliary M/S and A/S Groups - in view of the coal strike opportunity is to be taken to grant long leave provided essential training is not interrupted.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "KELLY" after having been torpedoed by an enemy Coastal Torpedo Boat was taken in tow by H.M.S. "BEAGLE" and is expected to reach port safely. After torpedoing H.M.S. "KELLY" the Coastal Torpedo Boat rammed H.M.S. "BEAGLE" and sank.

D.E.I.

The Commander-in-Chief China has sent a congratulatory signal to the "Malaya Force which has successfully prevented the escape of enemy ships."

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" departed from Darwin at 1230 yesterday, Saturday, and has since reported a cracked piston in the starboard engine. The spare piston is being fitted, the estimated time for which is 12 hours, the ship is proceeding on one engine at 12 knots. It is presumed that she is proceeding on patrol although the withdrawal of patrols has been authorized by Commander-in-Chief China. The ship may be ordered to Singapore where two Walrus Aircraft for the use of H.M.A. Ships will be embarked.

CONVOY U.S.3. will sail from Fremantle for Colombo this afternoon escorted by "CANBERRA" "AUSTRALIA" "LEANDER" and "ADELAIDE." Air operations include Air Searches and constant A/S Patrol.

CONVOY U.S.2. is expected to leave Aden to-day for Suez.

GENERAL

The following was broadcast by the B.B.C. in this morning's news:-

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Prime Minister and Minister for Defence | Mr. Winston Churchill |
| Lord President of the Council | Mr. Chamberlain |
| Lord Privy Seal | Mr. Attlee |
| Foreign Affairs | Lord Halifax |
| Minister without Portfolio | Mr. Arthur Greenwood |
| First Lord of the Admiralty | Mr. A.V. Alexander |
| Minister for War | Mr. Anthony Eden |
| Minister for Air | Sir Archibald Sinclair |
| Liason Officer at Brussels | Admiral Sir Roger Keyes |

It has been requested by C.O.I.S. that any D/F bearings of the Japanese Combined Fleet be forwarded prefixed "Important".

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 11th May, 1940.

Relaxation of orders diverting ships from the Mediterranean has been authorized by the Admiralty.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" has reverted to usual notice for steam.

"PARRAMATTA" secured at outer East Princes Pier at 1820K yesterday and is at 4 hours' notice.

"MANOORA" is proceeding to Thursday Island. Expected time of arrival 1800K today.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" are to be sailed for Melbourne after the departure of U.S.3 from Fremantle.

CONVOY U.S.3.

U.S.3 and escort arrived Fremantle 1311K yesterday.

INVASION OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM.

GERMANY has invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg.

HOLLAND has requested Allied assistance and instructed their Naval Authorities to get into touch with ours.

BELGIUM has called upon the Allies to implement their guarantees.

BRITISH MINES have been laid in the vicinity of Ymuiden.

INSTRUCTION from Royal Netherlands and Belgium Governments are broadcast for Dutch Merchant ships bound for Holland, Belgium or Germany to proceed to the nearest British or French port. Ships bound elsewhere are to continue their voyages.

GERMANS in Netherlands East Indies are being interned and German Merchant Vessels have been taken over by the N.E.I. Government. No sabotage has been reported. When confirmation of this is received, F.O.C. Malaya intends to withdraw all patrols of N.E.I., send H.M. Ships "CERES" and "COLOMBO" to Australia and "FALMOUTH" to Colombo. Governor General D.E.I. expects British and Allied ships to continue to respect D.E.I. Territorial Waters.

OPERATIONS NORWEGIAN.

H.M.S. "AURORA" at Narvik reports 7 killed and 7 wounded with one turret out of action. Cause not yet known.

H.M.S. "TAKU" attacked 2 German transports obtaining 3 hits.

ITALIAN SITUATION.

Relaxation of orders diverting ships from the Mediterranean has been authorised by the Admiralty.

OPERATIONS GENERAL.

Commodore Muirhead-Gould is visiting Melbourne arriving 20th May and leaving 24th May.

French ship "SOLON" which left Paranagua 5th May direct for Rio de Janeiro approx. 360 miles distant, is overdue and has not been reported anywhere.

Islands area but it may be necessary to defer her departure in view of a report indicating strong probability of German vessels breaking out of B.M.I. ports in the near future.

"ANGLAIS" departed Fremantle yesterday for patrol.

Group 77 Auxiliary H/S vessels returned Newcastle yesterday from Sydney.

OPERATIONS GENERAL.

F.S.C. Malaya in a message addressed to Far East Ships and repeated Naval Board states there is a strong probability of German vessels in B.M.I. breaking out within the next day or so.

R.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA", now at Darwin, and other ships of Malaya Force are to come to 2 hours' notice for steam.

CONVOY U.S.S. and U.S.S.

Convoy U.S.S. is due Aden tomorrow.

First Transport U.S.S. is due Cape Roads, Fremantle at 1400K today.

GENERAL.

According to the Press this morning, Lieutenant I.S. Wheeler, R.N.S. was among those rescued from U.S.S. "APRIL". He was in U.S.S. "COSSACK" at the "ALYAN" rescue.

Foreigner tanker "YMA" having departed Newcastle on 5th May for Los Angeles has been recalled to Cape Horston as the charterers now wish her to load at Bahrain.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 9th May, 1940.
To 0900 Friday, 10th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" arrived Sydney yesterday from patrol.

"MANOORA" intends to sail from Port Moresby p.m. today for cruise in Solomon Islands area but it may be necessary to defer her departure in view of a report indicating strong probability of German vessels breaking out of D.E.I. ports in the near future.

"ADELAIDE" departed Fremantle yesterday for patrol.

Group 77 Auxiliary M/S vessels returned Newcastle yesterday from Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

F.O.C. Malaya in a message addressed to Far East Ships and repeated Naval Board states there is a strong probability of German vessels in D.E.I. breaking out within the next day or so.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA", now at Darwin, and other ships of Malaya Force are to come to 2 hours' notice for steam.

CONVOYS U.S.2 and U.S.3.

Convoy U.S.2 is due Aden tomorrow.

First Transport U.S.3 is due Gage Roads, Fremantle at 1400K today.

GENERAL.

According to the Press this morning, Lieutenant L.G. Wheeler, R.A.N. was among those rescued from H.M.S. "AFRIDI". He was in H.M.S. "COSSACK" at the "ALTMARK" rescue.

Norwegian tanker "VERA" having departed Newcastle on 8th May for Los Angeles has been recalled to Cape Moreton as the charterers now wish her to load at Bahrein.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 8th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" intends to proceed from Fremantle on patrol at 1800 today Thursday.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" arrived Port Melbourne at 1600 yesterday Wednesday. The working up programme, to be carried out in Port Phillip, covers the period up to Wednesday, 22nd May.

Group 51 A/S - C.C.S. reports that one of the difficulties presented by these ships being based on Fremantle would be in the training of A/S personnel.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Colombo 1245Z yesterday Wednesday.

OPERATIONS NORWAY.

H.M.S. "POLSKA" Polish troops have landed in Tromso.

H.M.S. "AFRIDI" - the casualties are 1 Petty Officer and 55 ratings missing.

H.M.S. "ENTERPRISE" was bombed on the 6th inst. - the Commander (M.F.L. Henstock) is reported wounded and one Marine killed as the result of a near miss.

H.M.S. "GARLAND" has been turned over to the Polish Navy.

CONVOY U.S.S.

Air operations - Reconnaissance and A/S Patrol is being provided today in West Australia.

Escort from Fremantle to vicinity Cocos Islands will be provided by "CANBERRA", "LEANDER" and "AUSTRALIA" and from Cocos Islands to Colombo by "LEANDER" and "AUSTRALIA".

GENERAL.

British and Norwegian ships from the West Coast of India and the Persian Gulf may proceed through the Mediterranean, ships from Colombo and East of Colombo are still to be routed via the Cape.

Danish ship "Anglo Naersk" has been requisitioned and should now be treated as British. The Australian-Flag only will be worn.

British

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 8th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" arrived Port Moresby 1100K yesterday from Thursday Island.

"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" returned to Port Melbourne early yesterday morning searching sweeps being completed.

"St. GILES" Boiler repairs at Sydney expected to be completed by Monday next 13th May.

CONVOY.

U.S.3 is expected to sail from Fremantle early in the afternoon Sunday 13th May.

OPERATIONS - NORWAY.

H.M.S. "SEAL" was damaged by mine and depth charges in the Kattegat and is making for the Swedish coast. There are no casualties.

H.M.S. "WARRIAL" 1st May fired six torpedoes at escorted German vessels in the Kattegat resulting in four explosions. 75 depth charges were dropped on her causing only the periscope to be damaged.

"GROM" (Polish destroyer) was bombed and sank.

Admiralty states in the last three weeks A.A. gunfire of H.M. Ships has accounted for at least 30 enemy aircraft. If double the number of aircraft shot down for the same number of rounds fired is accomplished it will make bombing attacks on ships unprofitable.

GENERAL.

Small craft entering or leaving the main Australian Ports with the exception of Darwin may now do so without examination.

The Trans Tasman flying boat "AWURUA" intends leaving Sydney for Auckland at 0400K tomorrow 9th May. Merchant ships "degaussed" are to wear a buff St. Georges Cross on each side of the vessel and ships "wiped" a vertical bar seven feet by one.

H.M. Ships serving abroad are to be "degaussed" at earliest opportunity.

DAILY NARRATIVE

2.

Danish ships being conducted to an Allied Port will wear the Allied Flag at the 'fore in addition to the Danish Flag. After requisition or adjudication they will wear Allied Flag only.

OPERATIONS Lieut.-Cdr. Little has proceeded to Fremantle to discuss intelligence subjects particularly in connection with U.S.S.

R.N.A. Ships

"PERITH" departed Sydney yesterday for patrol.

"MANOCHA" departed Thursday Island yesterday for Port Moresby where she is due at 1100 today.

"SEAN") With Group of Auxiliary U/S vessels in company
"YARRA") returned to Fremantle from Bunbury yesterday.

"PASARICATA" departed Port Melbourne yesterday for exercises in Bass Strait.

"REMYL II" will tow Pattern VI target for "PASARICATA" today and again on Thursday next.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

R.N.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Singapore Sunday, 5th May, and after oiling called for Wolf Rock in the Bassin River, Burma.

French Sloop "DOMONT D'ORVILLE", departed Noumea 3rd May for Popoete calling at Wallis Island and Apia.

OTHER U.S.S.

U.S. ("EXPRESS of CANADA") departed Port Phillip at 1000 yesterday to rendezvous with convoy in Bass Strait.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

T SECRET.

To 0900 Tuesday, 7th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships

"PERTH" departed Sydney yesterday for patrol.

"MANOORA" departed Thursday Island yesterday for Port Moresby where she is due at 1100 today.

"SWAN") With Group 66 Auxiliary M/S vessels in company
"YARRA") returned to Fremantle from Bunbury yesterday.

"PARRAMATTA" departed Port Melbourne yesterday for Exercises in Bass Strait.

"BERYL II" will tow Pattern VI target for "PARRAMATTA" today and again on Thursday next.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Singapore Sunday, 5th May, and after oiling sailed for Wolf Rock in the Bassein River, Burma.

French Sloop "DUMONT D'URVILLE". departed Noumea 3rd May for Papeete calling at Wallis Island and Apia.

CONVOY U.S.3.

X.5 ("EMPRESS of CANADA") departed Port Phillip at 1000K yesterday to rendezvous with convoy in Bass Strait.

EMPIRE U.S.3.

H.M.A.S. "SCHEERER" arrived Sydney at 0800 yesterday Sunday and departed at 1100 the same day with X.4 under escort.

H.M.A.S. "FRANK" departed from Sydney at 0800 yesterday, Sunday, escorting X.1.

H.M.A.S. "ELMER" arrived Sydney at 0800 yesterday Sunday and departed at 1100 the same day.

The three destroyers and two transports proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "SCHEERER" and X.1, X.2, X.3 and X.4 as arranged.

TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

Port Melbourne at 1200
Yesterday Sunday for a day anchorage and will join the Convoy
To 0900 Monday, 6th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived Thursday Island at 0910Z yesterday Sunday and is proceeding at 0700 today to Port Moresby and carry out her prearranged programme. E.T.A. Port Moresby 1100 Tuesday, 7th May.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" is to rendezvous with "CANBERRA" at 1000 Friday 10th May in approx, position 225° - 55 miles from Rottneest Island.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" - F.O.C. Malaya has approved the programme which provides for departure on 15th May, but requires that Notice of Readiness be as short as possible consistent with the work to be carried out.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships "MALAYA" and "ROYAL SOVEREIGN" with H.M.A. Ships "STUART" and "VAMPIRE" together with a considerable French Naval Force arrived at Alexandria on Friday 3rd May.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived at Singapore yesterday Sunday.

NORWEGIAN OPERATIONS.

The French Destroyer "BISON" (launched Oct. 1928) was sunk as a result of attack by aircraft on Friday, 3rd May.

H.M.S. "AFRIDI" was also attacked later on the same day and also sunk.

CONVOY U.S.2.

Departed from Colombo at 2330Z Saturday 4th May escorted by H.M. Ships "RAMILLIES" and "KENT" and the French Cruiser "SUFFREN".

CONVOY U.S.3.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived Sydney at 1045 yesterday Sunday and departed at 1345 the same day with X.4 under escort.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed from Sydney at 0630 yesterday, Sunday, escorting X.1.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrived Sydney at 0530 yesterday Sunday and departed at 1140 the same day.

The three cruisers and two transports proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" and X.2, X.3, X.6 and X.7 as arranged.

DAILY REPORT.

2.
20 0900 Sunday, 2nd May, 1943.

X.5 departed from Port Melbourne at 1300 yesterday Sunday for a bay anchorage and will join the Convoy off Port Phillip today.

R.M.A. Ships -

AIR OPERATIONS.

"AUSTRALIA": Air Reconnaissance and A/S Patrols were carried out yesterday and will again be carried out today to provide cover for U.S.3.

"WARRIOR": Passed Archer Point 1844K yesterday at route Thursday Island.

"ROCKAWAY" and "WARRIOR": Anchored in waterway Bay last night, weighed this morning passing Wilson's Pass at 0900 westward.

"WARRIOR II": Is to be targeted for U.S.1.3. "WARRIOR" on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th May.

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY.

in line with reports

"FRIGATE D'URVILLE": (French Sloop) left Sydney 2nd May.

U.S.S. "BARKER": Attacked a German convoy in the Atlantic 1st May. One ship was considered hit.

U.S.S. "TRIDENT": Caused the German supply ship "WARRIOR" to go ashore 2nd May and become a total loss.

U.S.S. "WARRIOR": Received superficial damage from splinters during a recent bombing attack, seven being killed and twenty wounded.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Australia intercepts A.S.3.3. that, if necessary to divert convoys to U.S. via the Cape, it is suggested to use "WARRIOR" and "KENT" as ocean escort from the Cape to Fremantle for U.S.S. "CANNON" and "AUSTRALIA" from Fremantle to destination "A", then "WARRIOR" and "AUSTRALIA" to sea base and the 3rd cruisers of South Atlantic Command to Fremantle for 2nd May.

Air Reconnaissance and other air A/S patrols are operating in connection with U.S.3 today.

U.S.S. "LEAHY" arrived Sydney at 1500 today.

C.I.C. East Indies considers that increased knowledge of the general public at Colombo regarding enemy movements is due to lack of censorship of Imperial mail and the weak notice being given of dates of departure of troop ships.

GENERAL.

D.S.O. F.A. reports that the Deep States will be in full working order at Fremantle before 10th May.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 5th May, 1940.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships -

- "WESTRALIA": Proposes to remain at Darwin until 15th May, in order to recover a Prize Crew and an Armed guard. Main engine maintenance overhaul is also to be carried out during her stay.
- "MANOORA": Passed Archer Point 1244K yesterday en route Thursday Island.
- "DOOMBA" and "ORARA": Anchored in Waterloo Bay last night, weighed this morning passing Wilson's Promontory at 0600 westbound.
- "BERYL II": Is to tow target for H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th May.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

- "DUMONT D'URVILLE": (French Sloop) left Noumea 3rd May. *In Wallis Apia Papete.*
- H.M.S. "NARWHAL": Attacked a German convoy in the Kattegat 1st May. One ship was considered hit.
- H.M.S. "TRIDENT": Caused the German supply ship "LANGUENUEN" to go ashore 2nd May and become a total loss.
- H.M.S. "MAORI": Received superficial damage from splinters during a recent bombing attack, three being killed and twenty wounded.

CONVOY U.S.2 AND 3.

Admiralty informs A.C.N.B. that, if necessary to divert convoys to U.K. via the Cape, it is intended to use "RAMILLIES" and "KENT" as ocean escort from the Arabian Sea to Freetown for U.S.2, "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" from Fremantle to rendezvous "A", then "SHROPSHIRE" and "AUSTRALIA" to the Cape and two 8" cruisers of South Atlantic Command to Freetown for U.S.3.

Air Reconnaissance and outer Air A/S Patrols are operating in connection with U.S.3 today.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrived Sydney at 0530K today.

C.in C., East Indies considers that advanced knowledge of the general public at Colombo regarding convoy movements is due to lack of censorship of Imperial mail and too much notice being given of dates of departure of troop ships.

GENERAL.

D.N.O. W.A. reports that the Loop System will be in full working order at Fremantle before 10th May.

NOTES

DAILY NARRATIVE

S.O., N.C.S., Lieutenant Swanson, R.A.N.R.(S) takes passage today in X.5 to discuss N.C.S. matters at Fremantle.

S.S. "WILLIAM McARTHUR", bound from Port Chalmers N.Z. to Sydney asks that owners in Melbourne may be informed that she is experiencing a full south-westerly gale and is controlling her tow (hulk "CANOPUS") with great difficulty.

R.N.A. SHIPS.

"ANGLADE" returned to Fremantle from patrol yesterday.

"AUSTRALIA" arrived Darwin from Macassar patrol yesterday.

"BACARA" arrived Townsville yesterday and after fueling called for Thursday Island where she is due at dusk tomorrow.

"BURBANK" arrived Sydney from Jarvis Bay Thursday, 2nd May.

"ZEPHYRUS" arrived Port Melbourne yesterday after spending in Port Phillip during the week.

"DOUGLA") With Group 5B Auxiliary A/O vessels is enroute sailed
"GRAB") from Port Melbourne at 0800 yesterday for sweeping operations in the approaches to Port Phillip as ordered by J. J. G. H. H. H.

Group 5B Auxiliary A/O vessels returned to Sydney yesterday.

GENERAL NEWS

"202" escorted by R.N.A. "HAMILTON" and French cruiser "MISTRAL" arrived Calcutta at 1300 yesterday and will proceed to its ultimate destination as originally planned.

"211" will embark as planned. Commonwealth Government will permit "AMERICA" and "LINDA" to escort "202" between Fremantle and Capetown if this route is used and provided New Zealand Government will make "LINDA" available.

"25" ("EMPEROR OF CANADA") } in unloading having been given by
"26" ("EMPEROR OF JAPAN") } His Majesty's warships will not enter Atlantic, Mediterranean or any other sea, while it is anticipated with Chinese goods if "25" is diverted to Ceylon via Cape. The practicability of providing relief at Capetown or transferring troops to other bases, and the expediency of passage to U.K. is not being investigated.

Dutch tanker "ORIENTA" bound from London (Australia) to Fremantle due 6th May is to be held for loading "202".

GENERAL NEWS

GENERAL

R.N.A., London (Paymaster-General's Office) was discharged to another Hospital on 24th April where he will be under treatment for about 4 weeks.

Sir Leopold Savile, who visited Australia last year to select a suitable site for a big bank of large dimensions, has been asked if difficulty is likely to be experienced in obtaining paving machinery under wartime conditions.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 4th May.

Admiralty has advised that no further aircraft will be available for R.A.F. requirements until the end of the year at the earliest.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"ADELAIDE" returned to Fremantle from patrol yesterday.

"WESTRALIA" arrived Darwin from Macassar patrol yesterday.

"MANOCORA" arrived Townsville yesterday and after fuelling sailed for Thursday Island where she is due at dusk tomorrow.

"MORESBY" arrived Sydney from Jervis Bay Thursday, 2nd May.

"PARRAMATTA" arrived Port Melbourne yesterday after exercising in Port Phillip during the week.

"DOOMBA" } With Group 54 Auxiliary M/S vessels in company sailed
"ORARA" } from Port Melbourne at 0900K yesterday for sweeping operations in the approaches to Port Phillip as ordered by D.N.O., Victoria.

Group 51. Auxiliary A/S vessels returned to Sydney yesterday.

CONVOYS "US2" and "US3".

"US2" escorted by H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and French Cruiser "SUFFREN" arrived Colombo at 1345K yesterday and will proceed to its ultimate destination as originally planned.

"US3" will embark as planned. Commonwealth Government will permit "AUSTRALIA" and "LEANDER" to escort convoy between Fremantle and Capetown if this route is used and provided New Zealand Government will make "LEANDER" available.

"X5" ("EMPRESS OF CANADA") } An undertaking having been given by
"X6" ("EMPRESS OF JAPAN") } their Masters that these ships will not enter Atlantic, Mediterranean or any War Zone, trouble is anticipated with Chinese crews if "US3" is diverted to U.K. via Cape. The practicability of providing relief crews at Capetown or transferring troops to other transports for the balance of passage to U.K. is now being investigated.

Dutch tanker "SUNETTA" bound from Pladjoe (Sumatra) to Fremantle due 6th May is to be held for fuelling "US3".

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

GENERAL.

N.L.O., London (Paymaster-Commander Perry) was discharged to Chatham Hospital on 24th April where he will be under treatment for about 4 weeks.

Sir Leopold Savile, who visited Australia last year to select a suitable site for a dry Dock of large dimensions, has been asked if difficulty is likely to be experienced in obtaining pumping machinery under wartime conditions.

2. NAVY.

Admiralty has advised Naval Board that no Walrus aircraft will be available for R.A.F. requirements until the end of the year at the earliest. *Ides, 3rd May, 1940.*

The following message has been received from C.O.S. H.M.S. "TAMAR":-

"H.M.S. "DANAÉ" reports all German ships at Sabang have raised or are raising steam." *is proceed to Thursday Island arriving there at dusk on Sunday, 5th May.*

Group 51 (Aux. A/S Vessels) has been ordered to return to Sydney in company for the reason that a serious defect developed in the boiler of "St. GILES" necessitating her being taken in tow, during the early hours of Thursday 2nd May, by "SINGORA" when in the vicinity of Hutman's Bay on passage to Melbourne.

Group 54 (Aux. M/S Vessels) will carry out searching sweeps as required on the 4th, 5th and 6th May respectively.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.S. "SYMPHONY" departed from Fremantle a.m. Wednesday, 1st May and is proceeding with all convenient despatch, by the shortest route and expects to arrive at Simonstown a.m. Tuesday, 7th May.

CONVOY H.M.S. 1.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" and H.M.S. "LEITH" departed from Wellington at 0030Z yesterday Thursday escorting K.5, L.5 and X.5.

H.M.A.S. "GARRUDA" departed from Lyttelton at 1045Z Wednesday, 1st May escorting X.7.

ISLEAF.

Isleafund was evacuated early on the morning of Thursday 2nd May and it was expected that the occupation by the Germans would follow shortly.

H.M.S. "SITON" (Lieutenant T. Johnston) was sunk in deep water after having been abandoned on account of damage inflicted by enemy bombers on Sunday, 29th April.

GENERAL.

Training R.A.F. V.R. / V.R. Officers and Ratings.

C.O.S. reports that 78 officers can be trained in 18 weeks. (It may be possible later to increase this number to 64) 224 ratings can be trained in 18 weeks.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

The C. in C. China has asked that the names of any retired officers suitable for the following, be forwarded. To 0900 Friday, 3rd May, 1940.

(3) Wireless Intelligence and General Plotting.

(11) OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MANDORA" has been ordered to proceed to Thursday Island arriving there at dusk on Sunday, 5th May.

Group 51 (Aux. A/S Vessels) has been ordered to return to Sydney in company for the reason that a serious defect developed in the boiler of "St. GILES" necessitating her being taken in tow, during the early hours of Thursday 2nd May, by "BINGERA" when in the vicinity of Bateman's Bay on passage to Melbourne.

Group 54 (Aux. M/S Vessels) will carry out searching sweeps as required on the 4th, 5th and 6th May respectively.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.S. "SHROPSHIRE" departed from Freetown a.m. Wednesday, 1st May and is proceeding with all convenient despatch, by the shortest route and expects to arrive at Simonstown a.m. Tuesday, 7th May.

CONVOY U.S.3.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" departed from Wellington at 0030Z yesterday Thursday escorting X.2, X.3 and X.6.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed from Lyttleton at 1842Z Wednesday, 1st May escorting X.7.

NORWAY.

Aalesund was evacuated early on the morning of Thursday 2nd May and it was expected that the occupation by the Germans would follow shortly.

H.M.S. "BITTERN" (Lieutenant T. Johnston) was sunk in deep water after having been abandoned on account of damage inflicted by enemy bombers on Tuesday, 30th April.

GENERAL.

Training R.A.N.V.R. A/S Officers and Ratings.

C.C.S. reports that -

72 officers can be trained in 56 weeks.
(it may be possible later to increase this number to 84)
264 ratings can be trained in 53 weeks.

The C. in C. China has asked that the names of any Retired Officers suitable for the following, be forwarded:-

- To 0000 (1) Wireless Intelligence and General Plotting.
 (11) Shipping Intelligence and General Plotting.
 (111) General Intelligence and Censorship Liaison (knowledge of German and Italian valuable).

R.N.A. SHIPS

"MAJORA" has been ordered to proceed to Eschay in connection with the sailing of Italian "SCORIONE" from Brisbane yesterday for Neosassari. Latest other instructions by letter are being flown to "MAJORA".

"ADSLAIDE" intends to patrol to the North Westward of Sydney at 1800K today and returning 1800K tomorrow 2nd May.

OPERATIONS OVERSEA.

R.N.A.S. "SYDNEY" estimated she should arrive Singapore to fuel 1800K Sunday 4th May en route Colombo and arriving there p.m. Wednesday, 5th May.

R.N.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Wellington yesterday morning.

OPERATIONS MEDITERRANEAN.

R.N.S. "WILTSHIRE" had 30 bombs dropped near her 18th April without any hits being registered. She had expended all her ammunition.

Holdes is in flight and communications with Andalusia severed probably following evacuation of troops from the latter. There are now no British in Holdes.

GENERAL.

Lieutenant-Commander Cecil R.N.S. previously in command of R.N.S. "YORKSHIRE" and recently reported upon is recommended by C. in C. Mediterranean to return to Australia for a period of light duty, Lieut. Rhodes R.N.S. remaining in command of "YORKSHIRE".

The Italian situation remains unaltered there being no further developments to report.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 2nd May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" has been ordered to proceed to MacKay in connection with the sailing of Italian "ESQUILINO" from Brisbane yesterday for Macassar. Latest cypher instructions by letter are being flown to "MANOORA". y.

"ADELAIDE" intends to patrol to the North Westward of Fremantle ne at 1600K today and returning 1545K tomorrow 3rd May.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" estimates she should arrive Singapore to fuel 1500K Sunday 5th May en route Colombo and arriving there p.m. Wednesday, 8th May.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Wellington yesterday morning.

OPERATIONS NORWEGIAN.

H.M.S. "FLEETWOOD" had 30 bombs dropped near her 29th April without any hits being registered. She had expended all her ammunition.

Molde is in flames and communications with Aandelsnes severed probably preventing evacuation of troops from the latter. There are now no British in Molde.

GENERAL.

Lieutenant-Commander Cant R.A.N. previously in Command of H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" and recently operated upon is recommended by C. in C. Mediterranean to return to Australia for a period of light duty, Lieut. Rhodes R.A.N. remaining in command of "VENDETTA".

The Italian situation remains unaltered there being no further developments to report.

H.M. Submarine "TRIDENT" is reported to have been considered lost.

H.M. Sloop "PLANT", "VENDETTA" and "VENUS" were slightly damaged 29th April and the last submarine attack lost the previous day as result of bombing attacks.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0500 Tuesday, 30th April, 1940.
To 0900 Wednesday, 1st May, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANCORA" departed Brisbane yesterday for Port Moresby arriving 6th May. Weather permitting, sub-calibre firing will be carried out in Hervey Bay today.

"WESTRALIA" expects to arrive Darwin from patrol Friday, 3rd May.

"St. GILES" } These vessels when sailed from Sydney for Melbourne
"HEROS" } (E.T.A. 1800K Friday, 3rd May) late last night,
"DINGERA" } came under operational orders of Naval Board.

"SWAN" } With group 74 Auxiliary M/S vessels ("OLIVE CAM",
"YARRA" } "KOROWA" and "BONTHORPE") arrived Bunbury from Fremantle yesterday.

"DOOMBA" } With Group 54 Auxiliary M/S vessels ("BERYL II" and
"ORARA" } "COORANGAI") arrived Port Melbourne yesterday.

"KOOKABURRA" } Arrived Darwin Monday, 29th April for boom
"KOALA" } Defence Duties.

CONVOY U.S.3.

In view of Italian situation, the Commonwealth Government decided yesterday to postpone temporarily the embarkation of Australian troops and it was suggested to the New Zealand Government that they should conform.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived Port Lyttleton yesterday from Wellington.

C. in C. South Atlantic is keeping all his ships at Freetown for the present, possibly in view of the Italian situation.

NORWEGIAN OPERATIONS.

H.M. Submarine "STERLET" is overdue and must be considered lost.

H.M. Ships "BLACK SWAN", "ASHANTI" and "NUBIAN" were slightly damaged 29th April and two anti submarine trawls lost the previous day as result of bombing attacks.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 30th April, 1940.

To 0900 Monday, 29th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" departed Port Melbourne at 0900 yesterday Monday for Exercises in Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" and Group 51 departed from Sydney at 0900, yesterday Monday for Exercises in Jervis Bay. Group 51 has been ordered to return to Sydney forthwith.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed from Sydney at 1100 yesterday Monday for full power trials and returned at 1520 the same day.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" with Auxiliary M/S vessels "OLIVE CAM", "BONTHORPE" and "KOROWA" departed from Fremantle at 1200 yesterday Monday for Bunbury.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" departed from Fremantle at 1200 yesterday for Exercises off Rottnest Island.

Group 54 Aux. Minesweepers departed from Westernport at 0745 Monday.

Group 77 from Newcastle arrived Sydney at 1730 yesterday, Monday.

GENERAL.

A number of Norwegians desire to return to Europe to join the Norwegian army and are enquiring if passages can be arranged in the Norwegian ship "Tirrana".

CONVOY.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed from Wellington yesterday Monday for Port Lyttleton.

By Royal Decree 22nd April, 1940, all Norwegian merchant vessels of more than 500 tons gross have been placed at the disposal of the Royal Norwegian Government. A shipping and Trade Mission has been established in London under Mr. Christen.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 29th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" left Sydney yesterday morning for Wellington and expects to arrive 0700K Wednesday, 1st May.

"ADELAIDE" approval has been given subject to unforeseen operational developments for examination of defective condenser tubes on the return of "SYDNEY" to Fremantle.

"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" arrived Port Phillip 1710K yesterday from Westernport and departed again at 0720K today.

20th M.S. FLOTILLA. Is intended to sail for Bunbury for exercise today returning to Fremantle Monday next, 6th May.

"UKI" and "BERMACUI" (Group 77) expect to arrive Sydney 1500 today.

CONVOY U.S.3.

X.5 berthed at outer East Station Pier Port Melbourne 0730K today.

OPERATIONS NORWAY.

Admiralty asks F.O. Narvik for names of officers and men died of wounds in various Norwegian Hospitals.

35 aircraft from H.M.S. "ARK ROYAL" successfully attacked Trondjheim 25th April, 10 failing to return.

18 R.A.F. Gladiator aircraft from another carrier landed 24th April on frozen lake Les Jaskof and were bombed, the majority being lost.

6 Heinkels were brought down and 8 damaged.

H.M.S. "CURACOA". Casualties were 30 killed and 36 wounded as result of recent bombing.

H.M.S. "BIRMINGHAM" sank 2 German Minelaying trawlers

DANISH AND NORWEGIAN SHIPPING.

By Royal Decree 20th April, 1940, All Norwegian merchant vessels of more than 500 tons gross have been placed at the disposal of the Royal Norwegian Government. A shipping and Trade Mission has been established in London under Mr. Sorenteen.

To 0800 Sunday, 29th April.

Danish New York Shipping Committee dispute British seizure of Danish ship "BONHOLM" as prize on grounds that Denmark is not at war and vessel not enemy owned.

E.N.A. China.

GENERAL.

Rear Admiral Renouf R.N. is appointed R.A. Commanding, 3rd Cruiser Squadron to date 2nd May.

Commander Dechaineux R.A.N. is appointed in command H.M.S. "EGLINGTON" (Escort Vessel) on commissioning.

Preliminary arrangements are being made with the civic authorities for a Naval March to take place on Monday 27th May through the streets of Melbourne.

S.S. "DUNTROON" Bound Melbourne from Sydney reports off Gabo Is. that she has one engine out of action and is proceeding at 8 knots.

ITALY.

Information suggesting that Italy may enter the war about 1st May attacking Malta and Gibraltar is passed by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

With the exception of Mail Steamers, all British Merchant ships bound through the Mediterranean Sea and not working Mediterranean ports for cargo are being routed via the Cape of Good Hope.

SMALL.

Trans-Japan flying boat "SUNIDA" is due to arrive Sydney 1200 Tuesday, 30th April.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 28th April.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

To 0900 Saturday, 27th April, 1945.

H.M.A. Ships.

"AUSTRALIA" expects to arrive Wellington 0700K Wednesday, 1st May.

"ADELAIDE" F.O.C.S. proposes should be placed at extended notice for a period of 48 hours for examination of defective condenser tubes on the return of H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" to Fremantle.

"BERYL II" } are remaining at Westernport until tomorrow.
"GOORANGAI" }

"DOOMBA" } will anchor off Portsea on completion of sweeping
"ORARA" } operations today.

"MANOORA" proposes to defer departure from Brisbane until Tuesday, 30th April, omitting Townsville from programme and arrive Port Moresby Monday, 6th May.

CONVOY U.S.2.

"X.5" departed Sydney yesterday for Melbourne. E.T.A. Point Lonsdale 0400K tomorrow.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived Wellington yesterday.

H.M.S. "BULOLO" reports part of degaussing cable carried away in slight weather and considers all cables will carry away in moderate weather resulting in danger of fouling propellers. She has requested permission to proceed to Gibraltar for repairs.

GENERAL.

Trans-Tasman flying boat "AWURUA" is due to arrive Sydney 1300K Tuesday, 30th April.

At Auckland (General Fleet) H.M.S. "CHURCHILL" (Captain E.A. Aylmer D.S.C.) was damaged by bombs on the 24th April but able to proceed at 18 knots.

H.M. Submarine "HMAS" (Commander H.C.A. Harwood) is overdue and must be considered lost.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 27th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sails from Sydney tomorrow, Sunday, and expects to arrive Wellington 2100Z Tuesday, 30th April.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived Brisbane 1311 yesterday, Friday.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" proceeded to Port Phillip for Exercises at 0900 yesterday Friday and returned to Port Melbourne at 1500 the same day.

H.M.A. Aux. M/S Vessels "DOOMBA", "ORARA" and Group 54 arrived Westernport at 1958 Thursday, 25th April.

GROUP 50 Aux. M.S. Vessels departed from Newcastle at 0700 Thursday, 25th April, and arrived Sydney at 1600 yesterday Friday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" and H.M.S. "LIVERPOOL" are to form the Red Sea Force under the Command of F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron in H.M.S. "LIVERPOOL".

GENERAL.

On 1st May, Captain W.E. Parry, C.B., R.N. will assume the post of 1st Naval Member and C.N.S. New Zealand also in Command of the New Zealand Squadron with the rank of Commodore 2nd Class whilst retaining Command of H.M.S. "ACHILLES".

Commodore Horan will revert to the rank of Captain and remain in Command of H.M.S. "LEANDER".

NORWEGIAN OPERATIONS.

At Aandlesnes (Romsdal Fjord) H.M.S. "CURACOA" (Captain E.A. Aylmer D.S.C.) was damaged by bombs on the 24th April but able to proceed at 18 knots.

H.M. Submarine "TARPON" (Commander R.C.S. Garwood) is overdue and must be considered lost.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 06 To 0900 Friday, 26th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

H.M.A. "DOOMBA", "ORARA", "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip yesterday afternoon for Western Port.

"KOOKABURRA" and "KOALA" sailed from Thursday Island 1645K yesterday and expect to arrive Darwin p.m. Monday, 29th April.

GROUP 54 was placed under orders of S.O. 20th W.S.F. yesterday. "MANOORA" expected to arrive Moreton Bay 0400K today escorting Norwegian vessels "HAVBOR", "HOECH GIANT" and "ANDERS JAHRE". "THORDIS" was detached and is proceeding independently under Armed Guard. With the exception of "ANDERS JAHRE", engine trouble has been experienced by the tankers.

"MOORSBY" with R.A.N.R. training aircraft, will depart Sydney in company with "KORANGAI" and "KORANGAI" to carry out OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" arrived Wellington yesterday morning.

"SUPPREN" (French Cruiser) sailed from Colombo 24th April to rendezvous with U.S.2.

"WESTRALIA" leaves patrol 30th April for Darwin, gives recreational leave, completes with stores and returns to patrol.

R.N.S. "HECTOR", escorting the Norwegian tankers "HOLM" and "GENERAL" to Wellington, reported yesterday that she had collided with "HOLM" which Admiralty advise decision to fit cruisers of all classes except "ADELAIDE" with asdic.

SCANDINAVIAN V. Lieut.-Comdr. L. Gellatly R.A.N. has been appointed to H.M.S. "DRYAD" and Lieut. W.G. Wheeler R.A.N. to H.M.S. "AFRIDI". Admiral E.R.G.R. Evans has been appointed Naval Attache Norway and Sweden as from 17th April.

Handwritten initials "AWB" in the bottom left corner.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 25th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S. departed Sydney for Wellington at 0930K yesterday.

"AUSTRALIA" carried out firings off Sydney yesterday.

GROUP 54 was placed under orders of S.O. 20th M.S.F. yesterday and will sail in company this morning to carry out exercises in Port Phillip anchoring Westernport on completion. On Sunday 28th April a channel 1 mile wide will be searched at the entrance to Port Phillip and all ships will return to Port Melbourne on 30th April.

"MORESBY" with R.A.N.R. training classes embarked, will depart Sydney in company with Group 51 A/S vessels to carry out exercises in Jervis Bay from Monday, 29th April until Thursday, 2nd May.

"PARRAMATTA" has submitted working up programme to N.O.C.S.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "PLEANDER" wearing broad pennant of C.C.N.Z. arrived Wellington from Auckland yesterday.

H.M.S. "HECTOR", escorting the Norwegian tankers "THORSHOV" and "SOLOR" from Brisbane to Wellington, reported yesterday that she had collided with "THORSHOV" which sustained serious damage.

SCANDINAVIAN VESSELS.

"EVITA", Norwegian tanker, bound from Bahrain to New Zealand when ordered to proceed Fremantle did not acknowledge. Passed Wilson's Promontory yesterday.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 24th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departs Sydney today Wednesday for Wellington and expects to arrive there at 2030Z Friday, 26th April.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is to take over the duties of Senior Officer, Force YY as from today Wednesday. Is to sail on Sunday 28th April and to arrive Wellington a.m. Wednesday, 1st May.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" intends to swing ship for Adjustment of compasses on Friday 26th April.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" sailed from Auckland yesterday for Wellington.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships "CERES" and "COLOMBO" - The Naval Board have concurred in the proposal that these two ships remain on the China Station so as to continue operations in the N.E.I.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" at Aden on Tuesday, 22nd April.

H.M.S. "RANILLIUM" GENERAL.

The Commander-in-Chief China requests from the Naval Board the nomination of a Lieut.-Commander or Commander for Command of H.M.S. "CICADA".

In accordance with Admiralty Instructions, Norwegian Tankers may now be allowed to proceed to Portugal and Portuguese possessions.

The Consul General Batavia reports that there are persistent rumours circulating in N.E.I. Ports that the German steamers will fly the Japanese flag on departure.

Admiralty classification of information that four German agents are included in the crew of L.4 is B.I.

"THE HAGUE" believes that the Japanese are considering purchasing German ships in N.E.I. and may escort them to Japan with cruisers.

Handwritten initials and scribbles at the bottom left corner.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 23rd April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" has taken over the duties of Senior Officer Force Z.Z.

"GOOLGWAI", "TONGKOL" and "NAMBUCCA" (Aux. M/S Group 50) Arrived Newcastle yesterday evening.

"KOALA" and "KOOKABURRA" passed Archer Point en route Darwin at 1800K 21st April.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" sailed from Auckland yesterday for Wellington flying broad pendant of Commodore Commanding, New Zealand Squadron.

H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" attempting to intercept Norwegian vessel "THORSHOLM" has been instructed by C. in C. China not to approach within 50 miles of Japan.

CONVOY U.S.2.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" escorting H.M. transports Y.1 to Y.5 inclusive left Fremantle 1910K yesterday for Colombo with H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" in company. Aircraft patrol covering convoy route was provided. The Convoy expects to enter East Indies Station 2100Z Saturday, 27th April.

GENERAL.

The Director of Engineering (N) will visit Maryborough today and will visit Naval Establishments Sydney on Thursday.

Admiralty classification of information that four German agents are included in the crew of X.4 is B.1.

"THE HAGUE" believes that the Japanese are considering purchasing German ships in N.E.I. and may escort them to Japan with cruisers.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday 21st April, 1940.

To 0900 Monday, 22nd April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MANCORA", escorting 4 Norwegian Ships from Thursday Island to Brisbane, passed Archer Point at 1330K yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" - Revised intended working up programme is to be forwarded to the Naval Board by C.O.S. The intended date of joining the 20th N.S. is to be reported later.

CONVOY and ESCORT.

U.S.2 escorted by H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and H.M.A. Ships "SYDNEY" ships and "ADELAIDE" arrived Fremantle at 1020K Sunday, 21st April. Wednesday 24th April.

TRANSPORTS.

SCANDINAVIAN SHIPS.

X.2 arrived Wellington 0800K yesterday, Saturday.

Subject to certain conditions, Danish merchant ships requisitioned by Ministry of Shipping and Norwegian Ships trading to U.K. may be provided with defensive and degaussing equipment.

GENERAL.

Lieutenant OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. and Calder are both promoted to the Acting Rank of Commander to date 6th April and re-appointed.

H.M.S. "ROYAL SOVEREIGN" is proceeding from North Atlantic to Gibraltar at best possible speed due, possibly, to the uncertain situation in regard to Italy.

GENERAL.

15 inch gun damaged in H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" will probably be exchanged at Malta.

C. in C. Mediterranean considers danger of sabotage is very real. According to reliable French source, Germans intend to commence sabotage in Allied Ships at Neutral ports.

To 0900 Sunday 21st April

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday 21st April, 1940.

"PERTH" will be at 8 hours' notice from today until 28th April
at OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"PARRAMATTA" is at 4 hours' notice and reverts to orders of
N.O.C.S. forthwith.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" will probably sail for Wellington on Sunday,
28th April.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" - Revised intended working up programme is
to be forwarded to the Naval Board by C.C.S. The
intended date of joining the 20th M.S. is to be reported
later.

Convey will probably depart Fremantle p.m. on Monday

H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed 0800 Friday 19th, escorting Norwegian
ships "THORSHOV" and "SOLIR". Expects to arrive
SCANDI Wellington 1000Z Wednesday 24th April.

"EVITA" Bahrain to Wellington ordered to Fremantle is now overdue

TRANSPORTS.

"HAYBO" "THORSHOV" and "SOLIR" escorted by H.M.A.S. "WABOORA"
X.2 arrived Wellington 0205Z yesterday, Saturday.

U.S.2 is due at Fremantle today Sunday.
Zealand escorted by H.M.S. "HECTOR".

"HORDEN" arrived GENERAL. at Thursday Is. from Brisbane and later
left for Singapore.

Lieutenant-Commanders Thurlby and Calder are both promoted
to the Acting Rank of Commander to date 6th April and re-appointed.
respectively have been ordered to Singapore by
Admiralty.

"SSIRSTAD" and "SOLHEIM" departed Fremantle last night for
Singapore.

TWO OFFICERS and EQ ratings were despatched by air to Thursday
Is. yesterday for guards if necessary.

ADMIRALTY has issued instructions that certain named Norwegian
vessels may be sailed without Armed Guards subject
to the Masters giving an undertaking in writing
that they will not proceed to a port other than
British or French. Such ships are:

- "TAI-YEN" Fremantle to Aden.
- "THEMOPYLAE" Melbourne to Albany and Aden
- "THALATTA" due Townsville tomorrow
- "TIGRE" due Fremantle yesterday for Port Pirie.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 20th April

DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH" will be at 8 hours' notice from today until 28th April after which date she will be at 4 hours' notice.

"PARRAMATTA" is at 4 hours' notice and reverts to orders of N.O.C.S. forthwith.

"MORESBY" is remaining in Sydney for A/S training classes examination taking place on Wednesday 24th April. continue A/S training cruise.

U.S.2.
Convoy will probably depart Fremantle p.m. on Monday 22nd April.

SCANDINAVIAN VESSELS.

"EVITA" Bahrein to Wellington ordered to Fremantle is now overdue

"HAVBOR" "THORDIS" and "HOECH GIANT" escorted by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" left Thursday Island for Brisbane yesterday.

"THORSHOV" and "SOLOR" sailed yesterday from Brisbane for New Zealand escorted by H.M.S. "HECTOR".

"NORDEN" arrived yesterday at Thursday Is. from Brisbane and later left for Singapore.

"GRENA" and "SKAARAS" now at Fremantle and Thursday Is. respectively have been ordered to Singapore by Admiralty.

"SEIRSTAD" and "SOLHEIM" departed Fremantle last night for Singapore.

TWO OFFICERS and 20 ratings were despatched by air to Thursday Is. yesterday for guards if necessary.

ADMIRALTY has issued instructions that certain named Norwegian vessels may be sailed without Armed Guards subject to the Masters giving an undertaking in writing that they will not proceed to a port other than British or French. Such ships are:-

"TAI-YEN" Fremantle to Aden.
"THERMOPYLAE" Melbourne to Albany and Aden
"THALATTA" due Townsville tomorrow
"TIGRE" due Fremantle yesterday for Port Pirie.

TOP SECRET.

TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thurs DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 19th April, 1940.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" intends sailing from Fremantle at 1100 today.
H.M.A. Ships ^{Fremantle} "SYDNEY" departed Sydney yesterday to rendezvous with Convoy U.S.2.

H.M.A. Ships "MORSEBY" escorting Norwegian tanker "FALKEFJELL" arrived Sydney from Brisbane at noon yesterday and is to continue A/S training cruise.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" escorting Norwegian tankers "THORDIS" and "HAVBOR" was due Thursday Island at 2300K last night. Her arrival has not yet been reported.

CONVOY U.S.2.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" is expected to rendezvous with convoy p.m. today. After relief by French cruiser "SUPPREN" in vicinity of Cocos Islands, "SYDNEY" will return to Fremantle to escort U.S.3 to Suez or Aden and then remain on East Indies Station with the

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" will now proceed to Wellington to fuel before departure U.S.3. "CHASER" is reported to have been towed into Fremantle on 11th April and to have

H.M.S. "LEANDER" will escort U.S.3 to its destination. Her subsequent movements are unknown.

TRANSPORTS.

L.I. arrived Sydney at 1415 yesterday, Wednesday.

SCANDINAVIAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following movements actual or projected have been reported during the past 24 hours:-

"HOECH GIANT" arrived Thursday Island en route to Wellington.

"FERNBROOK" arrived Nauru from Wellington.

"OSTHAV" departed Fremantle for Singapore.

"SOLHEIM") Have been ordered to sail from Fremantle to
"SEIRSTAD") Singapore.

"VARDAAS" arrived Geraldton from overseas.

"EVITA" due Fremantle 17th April has not yet been reported.

"OSTHAV" is to be sailed from Fremantle for Singapore for orders with an Armed Guard.

The Norwegian Tanker "HOECH GIANT" is due at Thursday Island today en route to Wellington and will probably join the convoy of 3 ships which are being escorted to Brisbane by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 17th April, 1940.

To 0900 Thursday, 18th April.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" intends sailing from Fremantle at 1100 today, Thursday to rendezvous with Convoy U.S.2. "WORESBY" yesterday for Sydney.

H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" returned to Port Melbourne at 2100 yesterday Wednesday having carried out Gunnery School Firings during the day.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" arrived Brisbane 1740 yesterday, Wednesday.

Auxiliary M/S Vessels - From 23rd to 26th April Group 50 ("GOOLGWAI", "TONGKOL" and "NAMEBUCCA") will exercise from Newcastle with Group 77 ("UKI" and "BERMACUI"). The following week both Groups will exercise from Sydney.

"PARRAMATTA" She will not now escort Norwegian vessels to Fremantle and has requested 48 hours for ship repairs.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

Air Reconnaissance indicates that there are probably no German surface forces now in Norwegian Waters with the possible exception of Oslo.

H.M.S. "SUN" Pocket Battleship "ADMIRAL SCHERER" is reported to have been towed into Frederickshaven on 11th April and to have passed through the Belts on the 13th and was down by the stem, crippled and heavily damaged.

TRANSPORTS.

X.1 arrived Sydney at 1612 yesterday, Wednesday.

GENERAL.

H.M.S. "GLASGOW" reported at Sussos - operation "Henry". The B.B.C. announce the probable loss of H.M. submarine "THISTLE".

German troops are said to have been landed in Telegraph Bay on SCANDINAVIAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

SCANDINAV The following movements have taken place in the previous 24 hours:-

The following movements have taken place:-

"MIDDLEFJORD" departed Port Pirie for Fremantle.
 "ELSA" and "ALDEN" left Melbourne last night for Fremantle
 "GAUSDAAL" and "SINGAR" Sydney en route Thursday Island
 "SKOTAAS" Brisbane " "

"PAN EUROPE" sailed yesterday from Brisbane for Thursday Island

The Admiralty have ordered that the Norwegian Tanker "OSTHAV" is to be sailed from Fremantle for Singapore for orders with an Armed Guard.

"VELOX" is ready to sail from Sydney for Sussos and Pili.

The Norwegian Tanker "ROECH GIANT" is due at Thursday Island today en route to Wellington and will probably join the convoy of 3 ships which are being escorted to Brisbane by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

"CHILLIAN KEEPER" (DANISH) Bound for New Zealand and ordered to Fremantle has not acknowledged instructions.

"ELSA" Arrived Melbourne en route Fremantle.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

2.

To 0900 Wednesday, 17th April, 1940.

X.1 passed Wilsons Promontory 2325K last night due Sydney, 1630W
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS Sydney yesterday and expects to arrive Wellington 19th April.

"MORESBY" escorting Norwegian "FALKEFJELL" left Brisbane 1435K yesterday for Sydney.

"MANOORA" expects to arrive Booby Is. 2330K tomorrow 18th April with Norwegian "HARBOR" and "THORDIS".

Convoy U.S. 2 was provided with an Air A/B Patrol during daylight
"DOOMBA" intends cleaning boilers and remaining at 4 hours' ahead and to notice from 18th to 24th April inclusive.

The approximate position of convoy at 1700K yesterday was
"CANBERRA" satisfactorily completed partial repair trial for one hour at full power of port inner L.P. Turbine.

"PARRAMATTA" arrived Melbourne today and is refuelling. She will not now escort Norwegian vessels to Fremantle and has requested 48 hours for ship examination and to make good defects.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "SUNFISH" sank four merchant vessels totalling 17,700 tons during patrol.

H.M.S. "SNAPPER" attacked a convoy off the Skaw 15th April obtaining two hits and possibly four.

H.M.S. "PENELOPE" is to be beached to aid salvage operations in conjunction with a Norwegian tug in Vest Fiord when weather moderates.

H.M.S. "GLASGOW" reported at Namsos - operation "Henry" successful.

German troops are said to have been landed in Telegraph Bay on South side of Tromso Is.

SCANDINAVIAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following movements have taken place:-

"BRAMORA" and "ALCIDES" left Melbourne last night for Fremantle and Singapore in charge of armed guard.

"PAN EUROPE" sailed yesterday from Brisbane for Thursday Island in charge of armed guard. She is also giving passage to armed guard for "SKARAAS".

"VELOX" is ready to sail from Sydney for Samoa and Fiji.

"ARAMIS" sailed from Fremantle yesterday for Singapore in charge of armed guards.

"CHILLIAN REEFER" (DANISH) Bound for New Zealand and ordered to Fremantle has not acknowledged instructions.

"ELSA" Arrived Melbourne en route Fremantle.

16/4/40

DAILY TRANSPORTS.

X.1 passed Wilsons Promontory 2325K last night due Sydney, 1620K today. *11.256*

"CABERERA" carried out firings off Sydney yesterday. *11.206*

X.2. left Sydney yesterday and expects to arrive Wellington 19th

"SYDNEY" ret. April. to Fremantle from patrol Sunday, 14th April.

"MANOORA" departed Darwin yesterday escorting the loaded Norwegian tankers "THORDIS" and "HAYBOR" to

Thurs. AIR OPERATIONS U.S.2. been ordered to arrange for the passage of these tankers and also "ANDERS"

Convoy U.S.2 was provided with an Air A/S Patrol during daylight hours yesterday. In addition Air reconnaissance was carried out ahead and to the Southward of U.S.2 with negative results.

The approximate position of convoy at 1700K yesterday was given 38° 42S 139° 12'E. steaming in following formation.

"PARRAMATTA" at "ADELAIDE" 10 miles ahead of about 60' SW. of Cape Repulse. "RAMILLIES" making good 3 knots against heavy weather. Y.5 the Y.4 likely to be considerably late on her Y.2. A. P. Y.1 Phillip at 1800 today.

"DOONBA" } having carried out searching sweep in Port Phillip
"ORARA" } approaches preparatory to "U.S.2" sailing returned to
GROUP 54 } Port Melbourne last night.

"KOALA" } On arrival Darwin will come under orders of
"COOKABURRA" } N.O.I.C. Darwin.

CONVOY.

"U.S.2", comprising H.M. Transports Y.1, Y.2, Y.4 and Y.5 escorted by H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" sailed from Port Phillip 1700K yesterday for Fremantle and at 13 knots expects to arrive during forenoon Sunday 21st April.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will join ocean escort in Long. 130°E.

AIR OPERATIONS.

An Air A/S patrol is being provided for "U.S.2" during daylight hours until convoy has reached meridian 139° 30'E. An air search to a depth of 250' from Cape Northumberland (ahead and to the southward of convoy) commenced at 0700 this morning by 9 Laverton aircraft operating from Mount Gambier.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH VESSELS.

Out of a total of 28 Norwegian and Danish ships, 25 are now under Naval control and of this latter number, 7 are now proceeding between ports on Australia Station and arrangements have been made for a further 11 to sail.

1 Swedish ship is in harbour and 1 approaching the Station.

16/4/40

DAILY NARRATIVE.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A. SHIPS

According to intercepted messages, British "CANBERRA" carried out firings off Sydney yesterday, including Narvik, Alesund and Haugesund covered by powerful Naval units. "SYDNEY" returned to Fremantle from patrol Sunday, 14th April.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cork (short title "MANOORA" departed Darwin yesterday escorting the loaded capture Norwegian tankers "THORDIS" and "HAVBOR" to Thursday Island. She has been ordered to arrange for the passage of these tankers and also "ANDERS" to Narvik "JAHRE" under escort or armed guard from Thursday Island to Brisbane with minimum delay.

"MORESBY" arrived Brisbane 1300K yesterday escorting Norwegian tanker "SKOTASS".

"PARRAMATTA" at 1800K yesterday in a position about 60' SW. of G. in C. Gabo reported she was making good 3 knots against battleships heavy weather. She is likely to be considerably late on her E.T.A. Port Phillip at 1800 today.

"DOOMBA" } having carried out searching sweep in Port Phillip
"ORARA" } approaches preparatory to "U.S.2" sailing returned to
GROUP 54 } Port Melbourne last night.

"KOALA" } On arrival Darwin will come under orders of
"KOOKABURRA" } N.O.I.C. Darwin.

CONVOY.

"U.S.2", comprising H.M. Transports Y.1, Y.2, Y.4 and Y.5 escorted by H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" sailed from Port Phillip 1700K yesterday for Fremantle and at 13 knots expects to arrive during forenoon Sunday 21st April.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will join ocean escort in Long. 120°E.

AIR OPERATIONS.

An Air A/S patrol is being provided for "U.S.2" during daylight hours until convoy has reached meridian 138° 30'E. An air search to a depth of 250' from Cape Northumberland (ahead and to the southward of convoy) commenced at 0700 this morning by 9 Laverton aircraft operating from Mount Gambier.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH VESSELS.

Out of a total of 29 Norwegian and Danish ships, 25 are now under Naval control and of this latter number, 7 are now proceeding between ports on Australia Station and arrangements have been made for a further 11 to sail.

1 Swedish ship is in harbour and 1 approaching the Station.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

To 0800 Monday, 15th April, 1942.

According to intercepted messages, British Forces have been landed at several points in Norway including Narvik, Aalesund and Namsos covered by powerful Naval units.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cork (Short title F.O. Narvik) is in command of Naval side of expedition to capture Narvik. Today, Monday. The weather forecast indicates that strong west to S.W.ly winds and rough seas will be experienced.

A tug and salvage vessel are being despatched to Narvik presumably to salvage H.M. Destroyers "COSSACK" and "HARDY" which ran aground during the recent operations. yesterday, Sunday.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" arrived GENERAL from Patrol at 1100 yesterday, Sunday.

An intercepted signal from Admiralty to C. in C. South Atlantic states it may be assumed all pocket battleships are in German Home Waters. 1000 today Monday for Thursday Island.

H.M.A. SHIPS "KOALA" and "KOOKABURRA" departed Brisbane at 1040 yesterday, Sunday for Townsville.

CONVOY.

H.M. Transports, Y.1, Y.2 and Y.3 embarked troops and proceeded to anchorages in Port Phillip yesterday Sunday.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH VESSELS.

The following movements are reported during the last 24 hours.

"HAVTOR" arrived Darwin 3245 Saturday 13th April under escort by H.M.A.S. "HASCORE".

"THORDIS" arrived Darwin 1823 Saturday 13th under an Armed Guard.

"ALCIDES" and "BRANORA" to be moved from Hobsons Bay to inner Examination anchorage Port Phillip to await arrival of "PARRAMATTA".

"SOLHEIM" arrived Gage Roads 0800 yesterday Sunday escorted by "SWAN".

"ELSA" sailed from Newcastle under an Armed Guard and is expected to arrive Melbourne tomorrow Tuesday.

"HINLEFJORD" due to arrive Port Pirie yesterday Sunday from Adelaide under Armed Guard.

"HEARNAAS" has arrived Thursday Island ^{and} is detained pending the arrival of an Armed Guard.

All the above ships are Norwegian.

"ANGLO NAERSE" (Swedish) arrived Fremantle 2115 Sunday 14th April.

GENERAL.

The Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic Station has asked the Admiralty "Can it be assumed Pocket Battleships are in German Home Waters?".

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 15th April, 1940.

To 0900 Sunday, 14th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" resumed her passage to Melbourne at 0445 Sunday 14th and expects to arrive Port Phillip at 1800 today, Monday. The weather forecast indicates that strong west to S.W'ly winds and rough seas will be encountered on rounding Gabo Island.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" departed from Fremantle on patrol at 1100 yesterday, Sunday.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" arrived Fremantle from Patrol at 1100 yesterday, Sunday.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived Darwin 2245 Saturday 13th April and is expected to sail at 1030 today Monday for Thursday Island.

H.M.A. SHIPS "KOALA" and "KOOKABURRA" departed Brisbane at 1040 yesterday, Sunday for Townsville.

CONVOY.

H.M. Transports, Y.1, Y.2 and Y.5 embarked troops and proceeded to anchorages in Port Phillip yesterday Sunday.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH VESSELS.

The following movements are reported during the last 24 hours.

"HAVEBOR" arrived Darwin 2245 Saturday 13th April under escort by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

"THORDIS" arrived Darwin 1823 Saturday 13th under an Armed Guard.

"ALCIDES" and "BRANORA" to be moved from Hobsons Bay to inner Examination anchorage Port Phillip to await arrival of "PARRAMATTA".

"SOLHEIM" arrived Gage Roads 0800 yesterday Sunday escorted by "SWAN".

"ELSA" sailed from Newcastle under an Armed Guard and is expected to arrive Melbourne tomorrow Tuesday.

"HIDLEFJORD" due to arrive Port Pirie yesterday Sunday from Adelaide under Armed Guard.

"SKARAAS" has arrived Thursday Island ^{and} is detained pending the arrival of an Armed Guard.

All the above ships are Norwegian.

"ANGLO MAERSK" (Swedish) arrived Fremantle 2115 Sunday 14th April.

GENERAL.
The Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic Station has asked the Admiralty "Can it be assumed Pocket Battleships are in German Home Waters?"

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 13th April.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M.A. & H.N.A. SHIPS.

To 0900 Sunday, 14th April, 1940.

"RAMILLIES" - on arrival from Sydney berthed Princes Pier, Port Melbourne at 1730 yesterday. She reports one 15 inch gun condemned provisionally owing to a defective condenser on arrival at Brisbane.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"H.M.A. SHIPS" - is now at 4 hours' notice.

"SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle yesterday from Patrol.

"KOALA" and "KOOKABURRA" arrived Brisbane yesterday en route to Darwin.

"PARRAMATTA" left Sydney yesterday for Melbourne to carry out escort duties but returned at night owing to Brisbane heavy southerly weather and anchored off Shark Island. She has a good defective condenser on arrival at Brisbane.

H.K.S. "HECTOR" sailed from Auckland noon K yesterday and expects

"PARRAMATTA" - to arrive Brisbane 1400K 17th April. She has been ordered to proceed Port Phillip to escort the Norwegian tankers "BRAMORA" and "ALCIDES" to Western Australia.

CONVOY.

"DOONBA" - will sail from Williamstown P.M. tomorrow to H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" intends leaving Princes Pier at 0745K tomorrow and anchoring in Hobson's Bay for H.A. Firing. She will pass Hovell Light at 1300K, "ADELAIDE" doing so at 1245K.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.K.S. "HECTOR" - from New Zealand Station will arrive off Brisbane Wednesday, 17th April, to co-operate with H.N.A. Ships GENERAL control of Scandinavian and Danish Merchant Ships.

ADMIRAL EVANS has been appointed to "PRESIDENT" for special service outside Admiralty, 1st April.

TRANSPORT.

Able Seaman R.E. Bampton, R.A.N. is missing and believed killed "X.1" - arrived in H.M.S. "GLOUCESTER" yesterday and will be sailed at 0600 Sunday, 14th April, arriving Sydney about 1800 Wednesday, 17th April.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH VESSELS.

"X.2" - arrived Sydney at 1000 yesterday. H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" reports having seized loaded Norwegian Tanker "X.7" - arrived "HAVBOR" which was steering N.E. when stopped by aircraft with difficulty although bound from Balikpapan to Sydney. After refuelling at Darwin, "MANOORA" will escort this vessel to Thursday Island with loaded tanker "THORDIS" seized earlier and sent to Darwin under Armed Guard. The Master of "THORDIS" disclosed probable position of "HAVBOR" to "MANOORA". The New Zealand Naval Board, "X.1" will be vice Commodore's Ship.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" escorting "SKOTAAS" sailed from Newcastle yesterday and expects to arrive Moreton Bay 0600K tomorrow 15th April.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" reports having contacted Norwegian "SOLHEIM" which had not acknowledged N.B. instructions and expects to arrive at Fremantle with her today.

An intercepted message from Danish ship "ANGLO MAERSK" states she is calling at Adelaide to place ship at disposal of British Government.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SCANDINAVIAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

OST SECRET.

In addition to the tankers to be escorted by H.M.A. To 0900 Saturday, 13th April. orders have been given to sail the following ships with armed guards:

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS.

- "RAMILLIES" - on arrival from Sydney berthed Princes Pier, Port Melbourne at 1730 yesterday. She reports one 15 inch gun condemned provisionally owing to damaged bore after firing.
- "CANBERRA" - is now at 4 hours' notice.
- "AUSTRALIA" - arrived Sydney from Westernport yesterday.
- "ADELAIDE" - after oiling at Williamstown berthed Princes Pier at 2030 yesterday.
- "MORESBY" - was ordered last night to proceed Newcastle to escort the Norwegian tanker "SKOTASS" to Brisbane C.C.S. has requested "MORESBY" be given 24 hours to make good defective condenser on arrival at Brisbane.
- "PARRAMATTA" - expects to be ready for sea this morning and has been ordered to proceed Port Phillip to escort the Norwegian tankers "BRAMORA" and "ALCIDES" to Western Australia.
- "DOOMBA". } - will sail from Williamstown P.M. to-morrow to
"ORARA" } carry out a searching sweep at entrance to Port
GROUP 54. } Phillip the following morning.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "HECTOR"- from New Zealand Station will arrive off Brisbane Wednesday, 17th April, to co-operate with H.M.A. Ships in the control of Scandinavian and Danish Merchant Ships.

TRANSPORT.

- "X.1" - arrived Fremantle 0945 yesterday and will be sailed at 0600 Sunday, 14th April, arriving Sydney about 1600 Wednesday, 17th April.
- "X.2" - arrived Sydney at 1000 yesterday.
- "X.7" - arrived Port Lytleton yesterday.

Captain J.W.A. Waller, R.N. Commodore of Convoy "U.S.3" accompanied by his Secretary will take passage in "AWATEA" arriving Wellington, Saturday, 27th April.

- "X.3" - has been selected as Commodore's Ship and, subject to the concurrence of the New Zealand Naval Board, "X.1" will be vice Commodore's Ship.

SCANDINAVIAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

MOST SECRET.

In addition to the tankers to be escorted by H.M.A. ships "MORESBY" and "PARRAMATTA", orders have been given to sail the following ships with armed guard:-

"THERMOPYLAE" (C) - Adelaide to Geelong.

"HIDLEFJORD" (T) - Adelaide to Port Pirie.

"SEIRSTAD" (T) - Adelaide to Fremantle in charge of armed guard if practicable (D.N.O. S.A. has provided two guards and a third may be beyond his resources)

"NORDEN" (T) - Brisbane to Thursday Island.

"CAUSDAL" (C) - Port Phillip to Sydney. (Sailed 2245 last night)

"SKARASS" - is to be detained at Thursday Island on arrival from Townsville.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is expected to arrive at Sydney today.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived at Twofold Bay at 1130 yesterday

GENERAL.

N.O.I.C. Darwin reports all coal was discharged from "MONTORO".

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" is to be completed to full complement

Admiralty has broadcast a warning that Skaggerak and Kattegat are mined to Swedish waters, also North Sea along German coast to Dutch waters.

SCANDINAVIAN AND DANISH MERCHANT SHIPS.

The Chief of the Naval Staff New Zealand has suggested that H.M.S. "HECTOR" be sent to co-operate with the Australian Forces. Proposed "HECTOR" proceed Brisbane.

H.M.A. Ships "MORESBY" and "PARRAMATTA" may be used for escort purposes.

Two Norwegian ships on this Station to date have failed to acknowledge the W/T instructions to return to port. They are both tankers.

"Evita" en route to N.Z. and whose position yesterday was 800' N.E. of Fremantle.

"Solheim" en route to Tarakan and whose position yesterday was 100' S.E.W. of Hottentot Island.

GENERAL.

S.S. "WANNON" 560 tons gross owned by the Holyman Steamships Pty. struck a rock when approaching Ulverston (Tasmania) about 2300 yesterday Thursday. A motor launch from Ulverston took off the crew and the steamers "Hairana" and "Kooyong" which previously had been ordered to her assistance were instructed to resume their respective voyages.

S.S. "ZELANDIA" - the crew have given notice on account of the steamer having been bunkered with "black" coal. This ship usually trades between Sydney and Hobart and is owned by Huddart Parker Ltd.

H.M.S. "GLOWWORM" - according to the Confidential Navy List the Engineer Officer was Engineer Lieut.-Commander J.K. Macleod R.A.N. (retd.)

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE:

DAILY NARRATIVE.
To 0900 Friday, 12th April, 1940.

To 0900 Thursday, 11th April, 1940.

To 0900 Wednesday, 10th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" will dry dock at 1330 Sunday 14th April.

H.M.A. SHIPS

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" is expected to berth at Port Melbourne at 1730 today.

"MORESBY" sailed from Sydney yesterday and is expected to

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" is expected to berth at Port Melbourne at 1730 today.

"SYDNEY" will not now cover X.I. She left Fremantle

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is expected to arrive at Sydney today.

"MORESBY"

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived at Twofold Bay at 1130 yesterday

"ADELAIDE" with "Thursdays" and has been ordered to proceed to Brisbane with despatch.

arrive Port Phillip 1330K tomorrow 12th April.

H.M.A.S. "PARAMATTA" is to be completed to full complement "YARRA" and "YARRA" and will be ready for sea on Sunday 14th April.

by day's dispatches ordered to Fremantle.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" arrived Fremantle at 1900 yesterday Thursday.

SCANDINAVIAN AND DANISH MERCHANT SHIPS.

1.2. sailed from The Chief of the Naval Staff New Zealand has suggested that H.M.S. "HECTOR" be sent to co-operate with the Australian Forces. Proposed "HECTOR" proceed Brisbane.

H.M.A. Ships "MORESBY" and "PARAMATTA" may be used for escort purposes.

Two Norwegian ships on this Station to date have failed to acknowledge the W/T instructions to return to port. They are both tankers.

"Evita" en route to N.Z. and whose position yesterday was 860' N.W. of Fremantle. and one Danish vessel ordered to "Solheim" en route to Tarakan and whose position yesterday was 100' S.S.W. of Rottnest Island.

Admiralty states Danish vessels are not technically of enemy character. GENERAL. to German occupation of Denmark and those creating any difficulty should be seized in prize.

S.S. "WANNON" 560 tons gross owned by the Holyman Steamships Pty. struck a rock when approaching Ulverston (Tasmania) about 2300 yesterday Thursday. A motor launch from Ulverston took off the crew and the steamers "Nairana" and "Kooyong" which previously had been ordered to her assistance were instructed to resume their respective voyages.

S.S. "ZELANDIA" - the crew have given notice on account of the steamer having been bunkered with "black" coal. This ship usually trades between Sydney and Hobart and is owned by Huddart Parker Ltd.

H.M.S. "GLOWWORM" - according to the Confidential Navy List the Engineer Officer was Engineer Lieut.-Commander J.K. Macleod R.A.N. (retd.)

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 11th April, 1940.
To 0800 Wednesday, 10th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" sailed from Port Phillip yesterday for Sydney.

"MORESBY" sailed from Sydney yesterday and is expected to arrive Twofold Bay at 1100K today.

"KOSLA") Departed Sydney yesterday for Brisbane en route
"SYDNEY" will not now cover X.1. She left Fremantle yesterday to intercept the Norwegian vessel "OSTHAV".

"ADELAIDE" with "RAMILLIES" sailed from Sydney yesterday for Melbourne expecting to arrive Port Phillip 1330K tomorrow 12th April.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" have left Fremantle to intercept Norwegian ships by Germany yesterday, ordered to Fremantle. originated by the Admiralty was received early this morning:-

"All Norwegian and Danish shipping is to be taken under British protection. TRANSPORTS should be detained in British Harbours or sent there from high seas."

X.3. sailed from Port Melbourne yesterday and expects to arrive Wellington Sunday, 14th April. 0800K this morning there were 10 Norwegian vessels in harbour and 10 at sea on the Australia Station and 4 approaching the Station. There is only one Danish vessel at sea (en route to Hauru) on the Australia Station, and none in harbour.

GENERAL.

German radio announced last night that Germany has mine The passage of Captain Sir P. Bower Smyth of has been arranged in "STRATHMORE". are fronting the Skagerrak.

Two Norwegian and one Danish Vessel ordered to port have arrived. Five vessels have failed to acknowledge orders to proceed to ports as directed.

Admiralty states Danish vessels are now technically of enemy character owing to German occupation of Denmark and those creating any difficulty should be seized in prize.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 10th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sailed from Port Melbourne at 0820 today for Phillip and will later proceed to Westernport where her expected time of arrival is 1000 tomorrow Wednesday.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" will sail from Westernport p.m. today for Sydney.

"KOALA") Departed Sydney yesterday for Brisbane en route
"KOOKABURRA") to Darwin.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" commissioned at Sydney yesterday, Monday, under the command of Lieut.-Commander J.F. Walker, R.A.N.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" is at 36 hours' notice for Steam as from GENERAL. for a period of approximately 4 to 5 days while the Port Inner L.P. Turbine is

Following the invasion of Norway and Denmark by Germany yesterday, the following signal originated by the Admiralty was received early this morning:-

"All Norwegian and Danish shipping is to be taken under British protection and should be detained in British Harbours or sent there from high seas."

One Pocket battleship was located by Aircraft reconnaissance in According to our records, at 0600K this morning there were 10 Norwegian vessels in harbour and 10 on at sea on the Australia Station and 4 approaching the Station. There is only one Danish vessel at sea (en route to Nauru) on the Australia Station, and none in harbour. age gives the positions of 3 minefields which have been laid in Norwegian waters.

German radio announced last night that Germany has mined all important ports along the west coast of Norway and also a number of harbours fronting the Skagerrak.

TRANSPORTS. Naval Board has advised the Admiralty that merchant ships will be degaussed at Sydney when supplies of cable are available.bourne at 0800 today.

N.O.I.C. Darwin reports that labour conditions on both wharf and railway are now normal but Unions will not permit members to work overtime. today Tuesday.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 9th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sailed from Port Melbourne at 0830 today Tuesday for exercises in Port Phillip and will later proceed to Westernport where her expected time of arrival is 1000 tomorrow Wednesday.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" intends to sail from Fremantle at 0930 tomorrow Wednesday, for Exercises and to provide close cover for X.1.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" commissioned at Sydney yesterday, Monday, under the command of Lieut.-Commander J.F. Walker, R.A.N.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" is at 36 hours' notice for Steam as from yesterday for a period of approximately 4 to 5 days while the Port Inner L.P. Turbine is being lifted and examined.

TRANSPORTS.

GENERAL.

One Pocket battleship was located by Aircraft reconnaissance in German Waters on Saturday 6th April whilst according to a report graded C 3 the other was at Stettin on the same day.

An Admiralty WZ message gives the positions of 3 minefields which have been laid in Norwegian waters.

GENERAL.

TRANSPORTS.

Y.4. arrived Port Melbourne at 0800 today.

Y.5. is expected to berth at Port Melbourne this afternoon.

X.3. entered Port Phillip at 0733 today Tuesday.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 MONDAY 8th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"WESTRALIA" departs Port Melbourne 0830K Tuesday, 9th April, and arrived Darwin at 0300K and sailed at 1830K yesterday for Macassar via Wetar Strait to relieve "MANCOORA".

"DOOMBA", "ORARA", "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed Williamstown 1430K yesterday to commence searching sweep in approach to Port Phillip today completing Wednesday 10th April.

"ADELAIDE" is now to sail from Sydney with H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" for Melbourne arriving 12th April in order to escort U.S.2 to Fremantle.

"KOALA"

Will depart Sydney Tuesday, 9th April and call

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

"KOOKABURRA"

arriving not later than 1st May.

French Sloop "DUMONT D'URVILLE" sailed from Auckland yesterday for New Hebrides.

H.M.S. "FAIMOUTH" C. in C. China, intends to retain on D.E.I. Patrol.

TRANSPORTS.

X.2. Sailed from Fremantle 0920K yesterday and expects to arrive Sydney 0945K Friday 12th April.

X.4. Sailed from Honolulu 5th and is due Sydney on Sunday 14th April.

Y.4 and Y.5. Sailed from Sydney yesterday for Melbourne and expect to arrive Point Lonsdale at 0230K and 0530K respectively tomorrow 9th April.

GENERAL.

S.S. "MONTORO". Sailed from Darwin at 0320K yesterday for Sydney. Discharge of coal being complete.

N.O.I.C. Darwin reported at 2030K last night that all coal had been discharged from "MONTORO" but that this vessel was unable to sail, for navigational reasons, until 1130K today.

A report graded A.I. received by the Admiralty from Holland stated that the attachment on 14 German Merchant Vessels will be lifted today and they may sail shortly.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TO 0900 SUNDAY 7th APRIL.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" departs Port Melbourne 0830K Tuesday, 9th April, and after exercising in Port Phillip will arrive Westernport 1000K Wednesday, 10th April, and sail for Sydney P.M. the same day.

"SYDNEY" departs Fremantle this morning to provide cover for "X.2" and will return to Fremantle Monday, 8th April.

"WESTRALIA" - arrival at Darwin not yet reported - has been instructed by F.O.C. Singapore to sail as soon as possible to relieve "MANOORA" on patrol off Makassar. When relieved, "MANOORA" will proceed Darwin.

"KOALA") Will depart Sydney Tuesday, 9th April and call
"KOOKABURRA") at Brisbane, Townsville and Thursday Island en
route to Darwin arriving not later than 1st May.

"PARRAMATTA". Acceptance trials were completed and ship taken over from contractors on 4th April. Working up programme will be carried out in Port Phillip.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrived Auckland yesterday.

H.M.S. "FALMOUTH" with Admiralty consent may be retained on China Station until the situation regarding German Merchant Ships in D.E.I. is clear.

FRENCH SLOOP "DUMONT D'URVILLE" sails from Auckland today.

GENERAL.

N.O.I.C. Darwin reported at 2030K last night that all coal had been discharged from "MONTORO" but that this vessel was unable to sail, for navigational reasons, until 1130K today.

A reported graded A.I. received by the Admiralty from Holland stated that the attachment on 11 German Merchant Vessels will be lifted today and they may sail shortly.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 6th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived at Williamstown at 1005 yesterday, Friday, and later shifted berth to Port Melbourne.

H.M.A.S. "MORSEBY" A/S training cruise programme has been amended. Leaves Sydney Wednesday, 10th April for Twofold Bay; leaves Twofold Bay Thursday 18th for Jervis Bay; returns to Sydney Wednesday 24th April.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" passed Thursday Island at 0900 yesterday, Friday, and expects to arrive Darwin p.m. today, Saturday.

GENERAL.

Darwin - the entire shipment of 735 tons of coal in the "Montoro" will be discharged by Service personnel. As this coal has now acquired properties which will turn the Railway Engines black it has been requisitioned for Naval use. In addition to delays from industrial trouble the weather has delayed work and "Montoro" is not now expected to sail on Tuesday 9th April.

CONVOY AND TRANSPORTS.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES." Subject to work being completed will arrive Port Melbourne about 1700 Friday 12th April.

X3. Departed Fremantle at 2305Z Thursday 4th April for Port Melbourne.

X2. Arrived Fremantle at 0040Z yesterday, Friday.

X1. Sailed from Capetown on Thursday 4th April and expects to arrive Fremantle Friday 12th April.

The Prime Minister has authorized the discharge of cargo from H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" at Darwin by Service labour if Union labour is not offering. The Argentine Naval Squadron left East Africa 2nd April for reconnaissance and patrol.

Reports A.S. state that large quantities of rubber and copper for Germany are being transhipped in Japan to Russian vessels bound for Vladivostok.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

1. 0900 Friday, 5th April, 1940.

To 0900 Thursday, 4th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" entered Port Phillip 0618 today.

"ADELAIDE" is to arrive Melbourne 12th April and escort U.S.2 to Fremantle where she will relieve "SYDNEY" as S.O. Force 22.

"H.M.S. RAMILLIES" proposes to leave Sydney 1700K Monday, 8th for Melbourne and requests a ship be detailed for night encounter exercise.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

"DUMONT D'URVILLE" (French Sloop) arrived Auckland yesterday.

TRANSPORTS.

X.1 arrived Capetown 3rd April and is expected to sail 6th April for Fremantle.

GENERAL.

The Prime Minister has authorised the discharge of cargo from S.S. "MONTORO" at Darwin by Service labour if Union labour is not offering. The Argentine Naval Squadron left Mesa Melado 2nd April for manoeuvres and patrol.

Reports A.S. state that large quantities of rubber and copper for Germany are being transhipped in Japan to Russian vessels bound for Vladivostock.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 4th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA") departed Sydney yesterday for patrol and
"ADELAIDE") returned later in the day.

"AUSTRALIA" departed Sydney for Melbourne yesterday.

"PERTH" proposed docking date Monday, 15th April.

"MORESBY" will carry out following A/S training cruise:-

Leave Sydney Monday, 8th April. At Twofold Bay
9th to 16th April and Jervis Bay from 17th to
21st April, returning Sydney 22nd April.

"DOOMBA") having returned from exercises in the approaches
"ORARA") to Port Phillip are now berthed at Williamstown.
GROUP 54)

"WESTRALIA" stopped off Point Archer yesterday morning to land
a skiff. On arrival Darwin Saturday, 6th April
she will be available to join Malaya Force as
ordered by F.O.C. Singapore. N.B. has expressed
the desire that "MANOORA" continue her programme
in Solomon Islands area when relieved by
"WESTRALIA".

TRANSPORTS.

X.3. arrived Fremantle from Colombo yesterday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "DORSETSHIRE" at present refitting Capetown and having
been abroad continuously for 2½ years will
probably exchange stations next month with
H.M.S. "SUSSEX" from 1st Cruiser Squadron, Home
Fleet.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 3rd April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sails from Sydney today for Melbourne and has been ordered to return to Sydney by p.m. Friday 12th April.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" arrived at Fremantle a.m. yesterday, Tuesday.

H.M.A. Ships "KOALA" and "KOOKABURRA" will sail from Sydney on Tuesday, 9th April, and are expected to arrive Darwin not later than Wednesday, 1st May.

AUX.M/S Vessel "ORARA" returned from Exercises and berthed at Williamstown 1805 yesterday Tuesday.

AUX.M/S Vessel "DOOMBA" and Group 54 anchored at Portsea at 1800 yesterday Tuesday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" is at Trincomali

H.M. Ships "CERES" and "COLOMBO" are at Singapore. The former will proceed to sea on Friday 5th April to relieve "DANAE" off Sourabaya; the latter has developed serious leaks in oil fuel tanks and is being docked for repairs the estimated date of completion of which is 15th April.

GENERAL.

DARWIN - Work on the waterfront has ceased owing to a strike of Railway Employees. Defence Department stores in S.S. "MONTORO" now in the port will be discharged by the Services but no commercial cargo will be handled.

D.G. Equipment - Mr. Poulton, Admiralty Representative leaves Sydney today Wednesday by air for Singapore.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 8th April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.V.A. SHIPS

"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" departed Port Melbourne yesterday for exercise in approach to Port Phillip with

"BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI"

"CANBERRA" Naval Board proposes work should commence lifting 1.P. Turbine Monday, 8th April.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

"DUMONT D'URVILLE" (French Sloop) sailed yesterday from Akaroa and is due Auckland 4th April.

TRANSPORTS.

Y.1. berthed at Port Melbourne 1100K yesterday.

X.6. arrived Wellington yesterday.

GENERAL.

Capt. G.C. Muirhead-Gould, D.S.C., R.N., assumed appointment of Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 1st April, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. SHIPS.

"PERTH" on arrival Sydney yesterday was accorded an enthusiastic reception.

"ADELAIDE" will be sailed from Sydney so as to arrive Melbourne not later than Friday, 12th April and will come under operational orders of H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" from 0900K Saturday, 13th April.

TRANSPORTS.

Y.L. arrived Port Phillip 0700 this morning.

GENERAL.

Intercepted messages emphasize the activity of enemy merchant vessels in South American and D.E.I. Ports. S.O.(I) Callao in an immediate signal addressed to C. in C. A. & W.I. reported that the German M.V.'s "FRANKFURT" and "OSORNO" of 5,500 and 6,800 tons respectively were to sail from Talcahuano on the W.Coast of South America yesterday.

French submarines to be based on Narwich will be known as 10th Submarine Flotilla.

The Admiralty yesterday was unable to give the usual daily estimated "U" boat dispositions owing to lack of reports from which deductions are made. This seeming inactivity may presage a large scale attack by enemy submarines on shipping in Home Waters.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Sunday 31st March, 1940.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA." The Naval Board has approved of the lifting of the Port Inner L.P. Turbine at the next docking about the 6th April. As a result ship will be at 36 hours' notice for steam for a period of 4 or 5 days provided no serious defects are found.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" Intends to sail from Fremantle at 0300Z today Sunday to provide cover for 'Memunda' X2 and X3 returning to Fremantle Friday 5th April.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" E T A Darwin A.M. 6th April.

H.M.A.S. "MANCORA" Entered the China Station at 0600 yesterday Saturday.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" Arrived Sydney at 0700 today Sunday.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" Will enter Sydney Harbour at 1000 today Sunday and berth at Garden Island at 1030.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. SHIPS "GERES" AND "COLOMBO." On completion of their boiler cleaning and refit, about Friday 5th April, F.O.C. Singapore proposes to C. in C. China to employ these two cruisers on China Station in order to maintain continuous patrol off the Dutch E.I. Coast. They are to relieve "DURBAN" and "DANAE" respectively. "PALMOUTH" is to be released on 12th April for onward passage to Abouki. The period for which they will be required is indefinite but may be "for a few weeks." These cruisers were to have arrived at Fremantle on Friday 12th April.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" sailed yesterday for Akaroa, Picton and Wellington.

GENERAL

German Merchant Ships in Netherlands East Indies - a report graded 2 received from Batavia states that it is expected that the attachment on the Hamburg America Line ships will be lifted by 1st April.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 30th March, 1940.

(All times are K.)

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

- "MORESBY" reports boilers are distorted. Sailing will be delayed for about one week. Proposal to jack back furnaces has been approved by N.B.
- "CANBERRA" defective turbine now considered satisfactory. F.O.C.A.S. suggests turbine may be lifted when docking 9th April.
- "MANOORA" sailed from Darwin 1800 yesterday for Macassar via Wetar Strait.
- "WESTRALIA" sailed from Sydney direct to Darwin at 0625 today.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

- H.M.S. "HECTOR" arrived Auckland yesterday.
- "DUMONT D'URVILLE" (French Sloop) arrived Akaroa N.Z. yesterday.
- FAR EASTERN FLEET SHIPS MALAYA FORCE consists of H.M.S.'s "DAUNTLESS", "DURBAN", "DANAE", "PALMOUTH", "PERSEUS", "RAINBOW", "MANOORA", "TENELOS" and "STRONGHOLD". Disposed to intercept German Merchant vessels sailing from Dutch East Indies.

TRANSPORTS U.S.3.

- X.4. sailed from Balbao 27th March for Honolulu.
- X.6. sailed from Sydney 1600 yesterday for Wellington the owners having instructed the agents to meet demands of Chinese crew. Estimated time of arrival 0830 1st April.

GENERAL.

The Admiralty desires to order 10 vessels and requests Commonwealth Government to obtain tenders on their behalf.

5 Ships have been arranged to carry bullion from Capetown during April.

ORIENT LINER "ORONSAY" was attacked West of Portugal by a submarine yesterday. H.M.S. "DOUGLASS" is investigating.

Further reports confirm activity of German Merchant Vessels a number of which are ready to sail from Dutch East Indies and South American ports.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 29th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"WESTRALIA" sails from Sydney today for Darwin direct arriving Saturday 6th April. Further movements will depend upon situation in East Indies.

"MANOORA" will be placed under operational orders of F.O.C. Singapore on departure from Darwin today. N.E. has expressed the desire that "MANOORA" continue her programme in Solomon Islands area when "WESTRALIA" arrives Darwin on 6th April if the situation in East Indies permits.

"ADELAIDE" sails from Westeraport 1800K today arriving Sydney Sunday, 31st March.

"MORESBY" will leave Sydney Monday, 1st April for Twofold Bay, whence A/S exercises will be carried out until 9th April. She will not visit Devonport as originally intended.

A/S GROUP 51 - ("St.GILES" Arrived Sydney yesterday from
("HEROS" - Port Kembla where they have been
("BINGERA" exercising since Tuesday last.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS

H.M.A.S. "PERTH's" arrival Sydney Sunday, 31st March, is to be broadcast for propaganda purposes. To meet the convenience of the public, her arrival at the Heads is to be delayed by 4 hours until 1000k.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 28th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" proposed sailing from Sydney p.m. Friday, 5th April for Melbourne but owing to congestion of shipping in the Port her arrival here is to be arranged for Wednesday, 10th April.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "ADELAIDE" - R.A.C.A.S. intended that these ships should sail from Sydney on Friday 5th April for Night Exercises with "RAMILLIES" on passage; "CANBERRA" to return to Sydney a.m. Saturday, 6th April. In view of the later arrival of "RAMILLIES" at Melbourne this programme will require amendment.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" The Commander-in-Chief China would be grateful if the Naval Board would place this A.N.C. under the orders of F.O.C. Singapore until the completion of the operation against German Merchant ships if they leave the D.E.I. The intention is that the ship shall proceed towards Macassar.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" has submitted the following amended programme.

Leave Sydney Monday, 1st April Arrive Twofold Bay Tuesday 2nd April.
" Twofold Bay Thursday 4th Arrive Devonport Friday 5th April.
" Devonport Monday 8th April Arrive Jervis Bay Wednesday 10th April
" Jervis Bay Sunday 14th " Sydney Monday 15th April.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed from Suva yesterday, Wednesday for Sydney.

GENERAL.

D.N.I. Ottawa reports that the movements of U.S.A. warships are not now published in the American press.

TRANSPORTS.

X.2. from Capetown is due to arrive at Fremantle on Friday 5th April
Y.2. entered Port Phillip at 0615 today Thursday.

Z.1. expects to arrive Capetown 2nd April.

Job 11 proposes to sail from Sydney p.m. Friday 5th April arriving Port Melbourne 1400 Sunday 7th April.

Work on "HMAS" will be completed Saturday 30th March.

"HMAS" and "HMAS" General Staff Officers' Messes are capable of 20 beds.

U.S.A. at Darwin continues reports activity of German merchant ships at Darwin and elsewhere.



TELEPHONE: GLOBAL 4780 RET.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DAILY NARRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE,

MELBOURNE,

To 0900 Wednesday, 27th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

(All times are K)

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" sailed Port Melbourne yesterday and arrived Hans Inlet 1650.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" sailed Port Melbourne yesterday for Fremantle expecting to arrive 2nd April.

"BINGERA" and "HEROS" A/S arrived Port Kembla yesterday.

"CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" "PENGUIN" are intended to dock 6th, 18th and 1st April, respectively.

"KOOKABURRA" and "KOALA" are intended to dock 4th April.

"MORESBY" N.O.C.S. proposes Anti submarine training cruise beginning 1st April visiting Twofold Bay, Devonport, Burnie, Jervis Bay and returning to Sydney 15th April.

"PERTH" Arrived Suva yesterday, 25th and will sail for Sydney early on 27th.

"HECTOR" Depart OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. Auckland.

"COLOMBO" and "CERES" leaving Colombo 27th March for Singapore.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" will arrive Garden Island 0730 Sunday, 31st March.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" sailed from Suva 25th March and is due Auckland Friday 29th March.

H.M. SHIPS "CORNWALL" and "CUMBERLAND" (Force H) "DECOY" and "DEFENDER" sailed 25th March to provide cover for whale factory ships bound from South Georgia to Freetown.

Commander Garcia will act as Commodore of U.S.S. owing to the illness of Captain Blackwood.

CONVOY U.S.2. and U.S.3.

Y.1. arrived Fremantle 0720 yesterday 26th and sailed for Melbourne expecting to arrive Monday, 1st April.

X.3 and Y.3. due Fremantle 3rd and 6th April respectively.

X.1. Expects to arrive Cape Town 2nd April.

Job 55 Proposes to sail from Sydney p.m. Friday 5th April arriving Port Melbourne 1400 Sunday 7th April.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" Boiler repairs will be completed Saturday 30th March.

"SCHARNHORST" and "GNEISENAU" German Battle Cruisers Admiralty states are capable of 30 knots.

CAPTAIN HUSSEY Q.E.A. at Darwin confirms reported activity of German merchant ships at Batavia and Sourabaya. Date of departure uncertain. Information graded B.O.

POST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 26th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION
(All times are "K")

"MANOORA" Arrived Townsville 0800 yesterday, and after embarking fuel, water, and provisions expected to leave for Darwin at 1000. Owing to weather conditions, she doubted being able to arrive by 0600 on 29th.

"WESTRALIA" Will sail for Moreton Bay and Brisbane after completion of full calibre on 1st April.

"SYDNEY" Arrived Gage Roads 0100 this morning.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"PERTH" Arrived Suva yesterday, 25th and will sail for Sydney early on 27th.

"HECTOR" Departed Suva yesterday for Auckland.

CONVOYS U.S.2. and U.S.3.

"X.2." Arrived Capetown yesterday.

"X.6." Will not sail for Wellington at 0600 this morning as anticipated owing to trouble with the Chinese crew. Trouble also exists in "X.5.", and crews of both ships demand increases in pay.

COMMODORE Commander Garsia will act as Commodore of U.S.2., owing to the illness of Captain Blackwood.

D.E.M.S. The Admiralty desired "X.1." to be armed as proposed by Naval Board, and subject to there being no other delays wishes H.A. guns to be mounted in X.4., X.2., Y.2., Y.5., and Y.3. in that order.

Doubt exists as to there being sufficient depth in the West channel, Port Jackson for "X.1."

GENERAL.

NAVAL MARCH. Approximately 1200 men, under the command of Captain H.A. Showers will take part in the march in Sydney on 1st April.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

0900 Monday, 25th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

- "SYDNEY" - sailed from Fremantle 1121K yesterday to provide cover for "DUNTRON" carrying troops due to arrive Fremantle tomorrow, tuesday.
- "ADELAIDE" - intends sailing 0900 tomorrow for Western Port arriving 1630K the same day. Aircraft will be made available at 1000K for exercise.
- "MANOORA" - is proceeding to Darwin in view of the reported probable sailing of German Merchant Vessels from Dutch East Indies ports 29th March. Her expected time of arrival is 0600K Friday 29th.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

- "DUMONT D'URVILLE" - French Sloop arrived Wellington 1800K Saturday, 23rd March.

G E N E R A L.

MASTERS OF TRANSPORTS - on East Indies Station may use own discretion regarding opening of scuttles and ventilators above the bulkhead deck at night but ships must be internally darkened so that no light is visible at a distance of 3 miles.

REPORT OF POCKET BATTLESHIP - Having left Germany early March is graded as B3 information.

N.O.I.C. DARWIN - states report of imminent sailing of German Merchant Vessels from Dutch East Indies Ports is formed on rumour only - information graded B.O.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER N.R. READ, R.A.N. - has assumed command of H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA".

To C Sunday, 24th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" - intends to sail from Fremantle at 0300Z today Sunday to provide cover for "DUNTRON" carrying approximately 375 troops, due to arrive Fremantle Tuesday, 26th March.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Following on the report that German Merchant ships in the Dutch East Indies are preparing to depart on the 29th March, F.O.C., Singapore has ordered the following dispositions:-

H.M.S. "DANAE" - departed 21st March to show off Batavia then patrol of Sourabaya refuelling at sea on March, 28th.

H.M.S. "DURBAN" - arriving 24th March, ^{is} to sail to patrol off Padang the following day and to remain on patrol from the 28th March onwards.

H.M.S. "RAINBOW" - sails on 25th March for Sunda Strait Patrol.

H.M.S. "PERSEUS" - sails on 27th March to reinforce "RAINBOW".

H.M. Ships "TENEDES" and "STRONGHOLD" sail on 26th March for patrol off Sabang and will be based on Penang.

Naval Board has informed C.O.I.S. that "MANOORA" could be despatched to Darwin and intermittent patrol by R.A.A.F. Darwin-Timor could be arranged.

POCKET BATTLESHIPS - An Admiralty report states that the possibility of a raider being abroad cannot be ignored and that it is possible that a Pocket Battleship and a tanker of "ALTMARK" class left Germany during the first week in March.

As a result of the foregoing the Admiralty have ordered any ships engaged in the whaling industry which have not yet sailed from South Georgia to remain there until further orders and have suggested for the consideration of the C. inC. South Atlantic that an endeavour should be made to divert to Monte Video or other South American port the whale Factory ships which have already sailed.

From intercepted signals the disposition of forces on the South Atlantic appears to be two A.M.C's in the Rio de Janeiro area supported by Force H. (Cornwall and Cumberland). Force G (Dorsetshire, Shropshire and probably Hawkins) are at Capetown and on 21st March C in C S.A. informed R.A.S.A. Div A. & W.I. that owing to refit of this Force being extended he would be unable to send Force H to operate under his orders as early as was hoped.

There is no recent information of the composition of the Forces based on Freetown and Dakar.

GENERAL -

Navy Office have reported to the Admiralty that inflatable Life Belts have been manufactured in New Zealand and that no supplies from Australia are required.

Loop Laying Fremantle. - D.N.O. reports that this has been completed.

D.G. Equipment - Mr. Poulton, the Admiralty Engineer, sent out in connection with the Denagnetising of ships, arrived in Melbourne, yesterday, ~~Monday~~ *Saturday*

today Sunday

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TO 0900 SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH, 1940.

To 0900 Friday, 22nd March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships -

"ADELAIDE" having oiled at Williamstown proceeded alongside Princes Pier at 2000K yesterday.

(Tel.Nos. :- MX5542 and MX3500)

20th H.S.P. arrived Port Melbourne last night.

"GOOLGWAI"
"TONGKOL"
"NAMBUCCA" } arrived Sydney 22nd March.

"BERYL II"
"GOORANGAI" } arrived Williamstown this morning.

"UKI"
"BERMAQUI" } arrived Newcastle 23rd March.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

A French S/M. Division consisting of 4 Submarines with Depot Ship is to be based on Harwich and another division on Portsmouth under the command of Rear-Admiral (S).

"GERES" and "COLOMBO" according to programme should leave Aden today.

GENERAL.

Until further orders Merchant Vessels on the Australia Station (Area 5) may burn dimmed navigation lights and a modified routing system is to be introduced.

D.S.T. enquires whether one of the tugs with reduced fore-castle is still available and in a suitable condition for passage to HONG KONG.

According to reliable information a number of German Merchant Vessels will sail from D.E.I. Ports on March 29th. "ALTMARK" now at Sandefjord is reported to have received instructions from Norwegian Authorities to prepare to leave at 24 hours notice.

Rear-Admiral A.T.B. Curteis appointed second-in-command 1st Cruiser Squadron to date 30th May.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 22nd March, 1940.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is to sail from Sydney on Wednesday, 3rd April for Port Melbourne and it is intended that the visit shall occupy about 10 days. R.A.C.A.S. considers it advisable that the ship shall be dry docked for "cleaning and painting" on a date to be arranged between the 18th and 24th April.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA". R.A.C.A.S. considers it advisable to dock for "cleaning and painting" on a date to be arranged during the week commencing 8th April.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" are expected to arrive at Melbourne tomorrow, Saturday, and are to sail on Tuesday, 26th March, for Fremantle, arriving there not later than 0400Z, Tuesday, 2nd April, when both ships are to come under the orders of D.N.O., W.A.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" expects to arrive Williamstown at 1500 today, Friday.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" departed from Auckland yesterday, Thursday, for Wellington.

GENERAL.

The Minister for Customs is giving a "General Consent" to the docking and repairing of British and Allied ships by Australian Shipyards. It will still be necessary to obtain consent from the Minister before docking or repair to any neutral ships is undertaken.



TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 4780.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE,

To 0900 Wednesday, 20th March, 1940.

MOST SECRET.

MELBOURNE,

DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M.A. SHIPS

To 0900 Thursday, 21st March, 1940.

"AUSTRALIA" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"MANOORA" departed Brisbane for Townsville yesterday.

"RAMILLIES" will now remain in Sydney until Wednesday, 10th April, (approx.). Refit period has consequently been extended to 5th April.

"ADELAIDE" E.T.A. Hanns Inlet 1700K today Thursday.

FRANCE BLOOD "D'UMONT D'URVILLE" departed Sydney 19th March for Wellington.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" Admiralty consider recent reports of German warships in South Atlantic to be without foundation.

NEW HEBRIDES. The appointment of an A.R.O. to Noumea will probably take place in the near future.

H.M. SHIPS
"CEBUS" and "COLOMBO" were at Suez on 18th March and expected to leave the following day for Aden.

GENERAL.

Loop laying at Fremantle should be completed by Friday, 22nd March.

S.O.(I) Montevideo has reported to Admiralty that according to information graded S.O. the pocket battleships "DEUTSCHLAND" and "AMIRAL SCHEER" left Cuxhaven on 23rd and 26th February respectively with a view to operating in South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 20th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" flying flag of F.O.C.A.S. arrived Sydney Tuesday, 19th March from Twofold Bay.

"AUSTRALIA" departed Sydney 19th March for firing and returned later in the day.

"ADELAIDE" departed Sydney, 19th March for Westernport.

A/S GROUP 51 - "St. GILES") Will operate from Port Kembla
 "HEROS") from Tuesday, 26th March, until
 "BINGERA") Thursday, 28th March inclusive.

"MANOORA" departs Brisbane today for Townsville, Port Moresby and N.E. Area.

FRENCH SLOOP "D'UMONT D'URVILLE" departed Sydney 19th March for Wellington.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" will adjust speed so as to arrive Sydney, Sunday, 31st March.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" at Colombo 18th March.

H.M. SHIPS

"CERES" and "COLOMBO" were at Suez on 18th March and expected to leave the following day for Aden.

GENERAL.

Loop laying at Fremantle should be completed by Friday, 22nd March.

S.O.(I) Montevideo has reported to Admiralty that according to information graded ^SB.O. the pocket battleships "DEUTSCHLAND" and "ADMIRAL SCHEER" left Cuxhaven on 23rd and 26th February respectively with a view to operating in South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 19th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" on completion of night firing tonight Tuesday sails for Westernport and expects to arrive at 0800 Thursday 21st.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" sails at 0930 today, Tuesday for Exercises and Patrol returning to Fremantle a.m. Thursday, 21st March.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" departed from Brisbane yesterday, Monday, for Moreton Bay.

FRENCH SLOOP "D'UMONT D'URVILLE" cancelled the sailing arranged for yesterday and now intends to depart p.m. today, Tuesday, for Wellington.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" arrived at Papeete on Sunday, 17th March, and is expected to sail tomorrow Wednesday and to arrive at Suva on Tuesday, 26th March.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" arrived Suva Sunday, 17th March.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 18th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" departed Sydney yesterday for Twofold Bay.

"SYDNEY" intends sailing for exercises and patrol in Southern area on Tuesday, 19th and returning on Thursday 21st.

20th M/S FLOTILLA arrived Twofold Bay a.m. yesterday.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

POCKET BATTLESHIP It is possible that a ship sighted off De Bahia on 15th March was the "ADMIRAL SCHEER".

"KANIMBLA" Admiralty has congratulated on successful interception of Russian ship V. MAIAKOVSKY.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

SOUTH ATLANTIC. C. in C. South Atlantic has ordered routing scheme now in force between South American ports and Freetown to be discontinued and one substituted that will divert ships not more than 50 miles. The present routes have in some instances taken ships as much as 800 miles from the direct route.

GENERAL.

NAVAL MARCH. Landing party will take place on 1st April from "CANBERRA", "PERTH", "AUSTRALIA", "ADELAIDE" for a march through Sydney.

to 0900 Sunday, 17th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships.

"ADELAIDE" - will arrive Western Port by 0800K Thursday, 21st March, and may visit Melbourne during Easter week-end if not required by C.S.T.

"WESTRALIA" - will not be docked tomorrow, Monday, as arranged - Fresh docking arrangements may be anticipated.

"MANOORA" - arrived Brisbane Saturday, 16th March.

20th M.S.F. - departed Sydney 16th March for Twofold Bay.

R.A.F.A.

"KURUMBA" - arrived Fremantle 16th March.

GENERAL.

S.S. "KAHIKA" - of the Union Steam Ship Co., on passage from Strahan to Melbourne laden with 1500 tons of iron pyrites was reported at 2100K last night to be ashore and sinking 10 miles to the southward of West Point on the West Coast of Tasmania. S.S. "TAROONA", broke W/T silence to report she was proceeding to the position where she arrived at 0600K this morning and is waiting for the weather to clear.

The Melbourne Manager of the Union Steam Ship Co., has now telephoned that advice has been received from Strahan that the crew have landed one mile south of Green Point Reef.

"TAROONA" at request of agents is, therefore, being ordered by Navy Office to proceed on her voyage to Melbourne.

"SYDNEY MARU" - Grounded on Western Banks ("MORETON BAY") at 2200K last night but was refloated and proceeded on her voyage to Sydney an hour later.

SABOTAGE - According to N.S.H. OTTAWA, careful investigations have failed to confirm the discovery of a plot to blow up troopships sailing from Australia to New Zealand.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 16th March, 1940.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" will be docked at Cockatoo at 0800K Monday, 18th March.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived in Moreton Bay on Tuesday, 13th March and is expected to sail on Tuesday 20th March for Townsville.

20th M.S. FLOTILLA. are to arrive at Melbourne not later than Saturday 23rd March. H.M.A. SHIPS "SWAN" and "YARRA" will sail for Fremantle on Tuesday 26th March.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" arrived Sydney at 1330K yesterday, Friday.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle at 0915K yesterday Friday from patrol and exercises.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" R.A.C.A.S. has been requested to despatch "ADELAIDE" for Westernport on conclusion of full calibre firing on Tuesday, 19th March and return to Sydney by Sunday, 31st March.

GENERAL.

SHIPBUILDING. In view of the urgent need it is anticipated that the Admiralty will order 10 Australian type A.S./M.S. vessels and desire that the first four now under construction should be allocated to the Royal Navy.

OBSERVERS. The three Midshipmen (A) Brian, Jackson and Davies on loan from the R.N. should reach Australia early in May. Brian and Jackson have been promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenants (A) to date 10th February.

MARCH THROUGH SYDNEY, on 1st April on the occasion of the arrival of H.M.A.S. "PERTH" proposed by the Naval Board has been concurred in by R.A.C.A.S.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. During the prevalence of these (chiefly measles and mumps) at Flinders Naval Depot, instructions have been issued with a view to preventing their spreading to ships particularly to "RAMILLIES", U.S.2 and U.S.3.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 15th March, 1940.

To 0900 Thursday, 14th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"BERYL II" "GOORANGAI" departed Melbourne yesterday for Twofold Bay.

"ADELAIDE" It is proposed that "ADELAIDE" be based on Melbourne and stationed near Flinders Naval Depot for the next fortnight for training purposes. She would be available for trade defence if necessary.

"CANBERRA" expects to leave Sydney for Twofold Bay p.m. Sunday 17th and leave Twofold Bay on Tuesday 19th. "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" and "ADELAIDE" will carry out full calibre firing on 19th March.

"PERTH" 18 days' refit commences on April 2nd. 14 days' leave will be given all hands except West Australians who will be given leave later. Ship will be at extended notice during the refit.

NAVAL MARCH Naval Board proposes that a march of troops in Sydney take place on 1st April to mark the return of "PERTH". It is proposed that "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", "ADELAIDE", "PERTH" and possibly "RAMILLIES" will participate.

"UKI" } Arrived Sydney from Newcastle 13th March.
"BERMAGUI" }

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"COLOMBO" The docking of this ship can be undertaken at Singapore and in consequence her programme will not be delayed.

"D'URMONT D'URVILLE" will leave Sydney on 18th March for Wellington, thence to Akaroa, Auckland, New Caledonia and New Hebrides, where she is due on 22nd April.

GENERAL.

PAY The recent review of service conditions has resulted in increased pay generally. Increase for ratings will range from 2d. to 6d. per diem in certain instances, and Warrant Officers and officers promoted from Warrant rank will be increased by 1/- per diem.

MULTIPLE POM POMS It is proposed to mount 2 pdr. Mk.VIII 8 barrelled pompoms in "CANBERRA" to replace single 2 pdrs. now in position.

SABOTAGE. S.O.(I) Sydney has "Very reliable information" that ship fumigation contractors are involved

[Handwritten initials]

MOST SECRET.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 14th March, 1940.

To 0900 Wednesday, 13th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", "ADELAIDE" and "SWAN"
FORCE "YY" and "SWAN" arrived Sydney Wednesday, 13th March,
after taking part in STE 2 the previous day.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" is at 12 hours' notice for steam until
0800K tomorrow to make good minor defects.

"SYDNEY" departed Fremantle 13th March for Busselton (120'
South of Perth) returning tomorrow.

"WESTRALIA" completion date will be delayed by 14 days to
29th March owing to congestion of work in Sydney
Dockyards.

"SWAN") Will be sailed from Sydney so as to arrive Fremantle
"YARRA") by Tuesday, 2nd April where they will probably be
retained for five weeks under the operational
orders of D.N.O. W.A. "SWAN" will visit Melbourne
before departure for Fremantle.

"DOOMBA") are to carry out searching sweeps in Bass Straits
"ORARA") under orders of D.N.O. Victoria from about
Saturday 6th April.

"UKI") Arrived Sydney from Newcastle 13th March.
"BERMAGUI")

"JOB 55" On arrival Sydney p.m. tomorrow will be at 14 days'
notice decreasing by one day for each day of refit

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "COLOMBO" has a damaged bilge keel and will be delayed
three days if docked at Malta. If docking is
undertaken at Singapore, as proposed by C.-in-C.
Mediterranean, her date of arrival at Fremantle will
not be affected.

H.M.S. "HECTOR". departed Apia 12th March, for Friendly Islands.

GENERAL.

Dimmed navigation lights may be shown by British
merchant ships in Pacific Areas. (NO II)

Commander A.V. Knight, R.N.R., appointed to Naval
Staff, left Auckland for Sydney per "AWATEA" 12th March.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0800 Tuesday, 12th March, 1940.

To 0900 Wednesday, 13th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", "ADELAIDE" and "SWAN" are expected to arrive at Sydney at 0730K today.

H.M.A.S. "MANCORA" was expected to arrive at Brisbane at 0700 today. 0730K tomorrow on completion of S.T.R.2.

Job 55 expects to arrive at Sydney at 1330K Friday, 15th March, returning on Friday.

"MANCORA" departed Sydney for Brisbane and cruise yesterday.

"COLOMBO", "CERES" It has been decided that these ships will sail for Australia from Singapore West about and not via Torres as intended originally.

GENERAL.

OILER "OLCADES" N.L.O. advises that this ship can sail for The Admiralty are enquiring if a further 7200000 inflatable life belts can be supplied from Australia. that she can be permitted to depart not later than 7th April.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"PARRAMATTA" will undergo trials during the period 18th/27th March.

"St. OLAVES" Tug taken up on behalf of the Admiralty arrived in U.K. on 8th March.

"MOBESBY" Repairs to No.1 boiler will occupy 18 days.

R.C. SQUADRON Flag was transferred yesterday from "HOOD" to "RENOUN".

"MICHAEL LIVANOS" Owing to the unforeseen and unavoidable occupancy of Wort's Dock, N.O.C.S. asks that Naval Board now permit this ship to dock at Cockatoo.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 12th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" departed Melbourne yesterday for exercises and Sydney.

"CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", "ADELAIDE", "SWAN" expect to arrive Sydney 0730K tomorrow on completion of S.T.E.2.

"SYDNEY" will leave Fremantle for Busselton and patrol tomorrow 13th returning on Friday.

"MANOORA" departed Sydney for Brisbane and cruise yesterday.

"COLOMBO", "CERES" It has been decided that these ships will sail for Australia from Singapore West about and not via Torres as intended originally.

OILER "OLCADES" N.L.O. advises that this ship can sail for Singapore to arrive in Fremantle with 10000 tons of oil about 4th April, conditionally that she can be permitted to depart not later than 7th April.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"PARRAMATTA" will undergo trials during the period 18th/27th March.

"St. OLAVES" Tug taken up on behalf of the Admiralty arrived in U.K. on 6th March.

"MORESEY" Repairs to No.1 boiler will occupy 12 days.

B.C. SQUADRON Flag was transferred yesterday from "HOOD" to "REOWN".

"MICHAEL LIVANOS" Owing to the unforeseen and unavoidable occupancy of Mort's Dock, N.O.C.S. asks that Naval Board now permit this ship to dock at Cockatoo.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 11th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"SWAN" will take "WESTRALIA's" place in exercise STE tomorrow.

"WESTRALIA" will be docked on Monday, 18th March and "PENGUIN" 25th March.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

"CERES") C. in C. Mediterranean proposes the following programme:-
"COLOMBO")

Malta sail	16th March
Port Said	18th March
Suez	19th March
Aden	22nd-23rd March.
Colombo	28th March to 1st April boiler cleaning.
Singapore	5th - 6th April.
Darwin	10th April.

The French Force based on Dakar will maint in a permanent patrol off the Brazilian Coast consisting of one A.M.C. and one Submarine.

GENERAL.

British Consul General at San Francisco reports the discovery of a plot to blow up troop ships sailing from Australia and New Zealand and to sabotage the steamship "NIAGARA" at Vancouver.

Until further orders dim navigation lights may be shown in Red Sea.

See.

To 0900 Sunday 10th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" will sail from Port Melbourne at 0930 tomorrow Monday.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" will not now take part in S.T.E.2 on account of work in connection with the stowage of her aircraft having been taken in hand.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" entered Port Phillip at 1846 yesterday Saturday in order to land a case of suspected appendicitis and proceeded at 1930 for Fremantle.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" departed from Fremantle at 1145K yesterday Saturday for Sydney.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" arrived at Fanning Island at 0030Z Wednesday 6th March and sailed at 0400Z the following day for Apia.

GENERAL.

The Boom Course at Singapore will be completed at the end of March. Passages for the Officers and Petty Officers who will have completed this course have been booked to Darwin sailing from Singapore on March 31st.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, March, 9th, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "WESTRALIA" arrived Sydney yesterday from Melbourne.
- "SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle from patrol yesterday.
- "ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney from Jervis Bay yesterday.
- "BERYL II" will act as torpedo target ship in Port Phillip for Canberra on Monday 11th.
- S.T.E. 2. An exercise embracing all available ships will take place commencing noon Tuesday 12th.

CONVOY AND ESCORT U.S.2.

- JOB 55. arrived Fremantle yesterday about 1900K.
E.T.A. Sydney 1330K/15th. Naval Board approval is asked to give 48 hours leave to each watch in Sydney.

GENERAL.

MARCH IN SYDNEY, which was to take place on 21st March will not now take place.

EDEN A supply of 100 tons of coal in bags will be stored for emergency naval purposes.

SCAPA FLOW Exercises to be held in Scapa have been cancelled on account of mining activities.

The press features the uneventful crossing of the Cunard ship "QUEEN ELIZABETH" on her maiden voyage to New York.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 8th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S. arrived Westernport 0700K Thursday, 7th March. F.O.C.A.S. having inspected Flinders Naval Depot, the Flagship sailed for Port Melbourne and berthed Princes Pier at 0630 this morning. Telephone No. M.X. 5524 - 5527 inclusive.

"ADELAIDE" will sail from Jervis Bay at 0900K this morning for Sydney.

"SWAN" departed Newcastle yesterday for Sydney arriving early this morning.

"HEROS") Arrived Sydney 7th March having carried out A/S
"St. GILES") exercises from Newcastle for the past ten days.

"BERMAGUI") N.O.C.S. seeks approval to dock these Auxiliary
"UKI") M/S vessels based on Newcastle during their present visit to Sydney.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" departed Sydney 7th March for Fremantle.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

It would appear "ALTMARK", escorted by Norwegian destroyers, has reached Danish territorial waters. H.M. Submarine "UNITY" stationed off Hantsholm has been recalled.

GENERAL.

Flag of F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron has been transferred from H.M.S. "GLOUCESTER" to H.M.S. "KENT".

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 7th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed from Sydney 1520 Tuesday, 5th March and expects to arrive at Westernport a.m. today Thursday. Arrangements have been made for "WESTRALIA's" aircraft and crew to be exercised in hoisting in and out in Westernport p.m. today.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Sydney 0650 yesterday, Wednesday.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" arrived Jervis Bay 0053 yesterday Wednesday.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" departed Port Phillip 0743 yesterday Wednesday for Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" arrived Sydney 1625 yesterday Wednesday.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" approval has been given to remain at 36 hours' notice for steam for approximately 12 days in order to carry out boiler repairs.

M/S GROUP 54 - "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II" the former vessel has been detailed for depth charge firing outside Port Phillip Heads today both will dock at Williamstown tomorrow Friday for one day both will sail at 0900 Wednesday 14th March and expect to arrive Twofold Bay Friday 16th March, for combined exercises.

AUX. A/S VESSELS "St. GILES" and "HEROS" expect to arrive at Sydney at 1700 today Thursday: they have been exercising from Newcastle since 27th February.

Admiralty tanker "WAR KRISNA" arrived at Darwin at 1336 yesterday, Wednesday.

GENERAL.

The German tanker "ALTMARK" has sailed from Josing Fiord and is reported to have passed Lister Light at 1010Z yesterday Wednesday escorted by 2 Norwegian Destroyers "UNITY" has been ordered to proceed to a position 10 miles north of Hantsholm (N.W. Corner of Denmark), in case of a break across after dark. Assuming this will be her action it will entail a passage of approximately 60 miles before reaching the shelter of Denmark's territorial waters.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 6th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Jervis Bay yesterday. She departed p.m. for exercises, and was to return on completion.

MINESWEEPERS The 20th M/S together with "GOOLGWAI", "TONGKOL", "NAMBUCCA", "UKI" and "BERMAGUI" will rendezvous at Towfold Bay on March 16th for combined exercises.

"DOOMBA" Will dock on 13th March.

"ORARA" Will dock at the same time as "DOOMBA".

"TONGKOL" Will dock on 7th March.

"GOOLGWAI" Will dock at the same time as "TONGKOL".

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"NEPTUNE" Departs Freetown 5th March for Simonstown, and will give leave. During her stay she will form part of Force "G".

"HOBART" Due Colombo 9th March, is at present escorting "APHIS" and "LADYBIRD" from Penang.

"PERTH" Departed Panama for Tahiti March 3rd.

GENERAL.

R.A.C.A.S. will attend a conference at Navy Office on 8th March.

Intelligence reports state that Germany is possibly building at least 8 vessels similar to "ALTMARK" with a speed of 36 knots, and numerous vessels of 1,000 tons of shallow draft and capable of a speed of over 60 knots.

A.M.C.'s. will carry a surveying motor boat, together with a specialist officer for the purpose of carrying out sketch and running surveys in unfrequented waters.

Considerable enemy aerial-cum-minelaying activity appears to be taking place in the North sea.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 5th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"CANBERRA" departs Sydney today for Westernport arriving Thursday, 7th March when R.A.C.A.S. will inspect Flinders Naval Depot. "CANBERRA" will then proceed to Port Melbourne arriving 0630K Friday, 8th March.

"AUSTRALIA" sails with Flagship today returning to Sydney Wednesday, 6th March.

"ADELAIDE" departed Sydney yesterday for exercises and Jervis Bay.

"WESTRALIA" will sail from Port Phillip tomorrow arriving Sydney 1000K Friday, 8th March.

"MANOORA" is to be docked tomorrow and will sail for an extended cruise on Monday, 11th March.

"MORESBY" arrived Sydney 4th March from Hobart.

"YARRA" departed Melbourne yesterday. E.T.A. Sydney 1600K Wednesday, 6th March.

"PENGUIN" is to be docked Monday, 18th March.

"TONGKOL")
"GOOLGWAI") Proposed these vessels be docked 7th March.

"ORARA")
"DOOMBA") Proposed these vessels be docked during their present refit.

CONVOY U.S.2.

"EMPRESS of JAPAN" on arrival Australia Station requires 6 days for boiler cleaning and making good minor defects.

GENERAL.

The funeral of the late Lieutenant-General E.K. Squires will take place today commencing with a service at St. Paul's Cathedral at 1000 and terminating at Springvale Crematorium.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 5th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"CANBERRA" departs Sydney today for Westernport arriving Thursday, 7th March when R.A.C.A.S. will inspect Flinders Naval Depot. "CANBERRA" will then proceed to Port Melbourne arriving 0630K Friday, 8th March.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 4th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" intends to leave Fremantle at 0900K on Tuesday 5th March for patrol and exercises returning p.m. on the 7th March.

H.M.A. SHIPS "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" and "ADELAIDE" are to rendezvous off Kiama light at 1930K on Tuesday 5th March. "ADELAIDE" will be detached subsequently and is to proceed to Jervis Bay and later return to Sydney arriving there on Thursday 7th or Friday 8th March as convenient.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "HAWKINS" is visiting Monte Video for 24 hours commencing p.m. today, 4th March, but will not fuel.

H.M.S. "ALCANTARA" is to visit Monte Video on Friday 5th March and will fuel. This arrangement follows very shortly on the signal of H.M. Minister at Monte Video dated 1st March in which he stated that no discourtesy was intended by the Uruguayan Government when permission to fuel the former ship was refused.

H.M.S. "UNITY" is maintaining the patrol off Josing Fiord. The instructions to torpedo "ALTMARK" outside territorial waters are confirmed.

GENERAL.

In future the position of all vessels sunk by enemy action or otherwise is to be buoyed immediately by H.M. Ships in the vicinity. The important factor being the position of the wreck as it affects the navigation of other ships.

Included in a long list, received from the Admiralty of Warrant Officers eligible for promotion to Lieutenant (E) are the names of Mr. Tuersley and Mr. Redfern, both of whom are on loan to the R.A.N. - Full reports are to be forwarded.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 4th March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" intends to leave Fremantle at 0900K on Tuesday 5th March for patrol and exercises returning p.m. on the 7th March.

H.M.A. SHIPS "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" and "ADELAIDE" are to rendezvous off Kiama light at 1930K on Tuesday 5th March. "ADELAIDE" will be detached subsequently and is to proceed to Jervis Bay and later return to Sydney arriving there on Thursday 7th or Friday 8th March as convenient.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

TO 0900 SUNDAY MARCH 3RD. 1940.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION

"SWAN" arrived Newcastle 1100 yesterday

"UKI"; "BERMAGUI" departed Sydney for Newcastle yesterday and arrived 0544 this morning.

Note: All times "K".

OPERATIONS ABROAD

"WAR KRISHNA" departed Singapore for Darwin 27th February.
ETA 6/3.
She has 7783 tons of fuel on board.

"SCALARIA" departed Balik Papan for Melbourne 24th February
with 7737 tons of fuel. She is to complete
discharge at Sydney.

"WAKAMA" "DORSETSHIRE" reports the expenditure of
ammunition in the capture of this ship as
follows :- 8"

8" SAP	10
4" HE	36
½"	800

Reports, since denied by the captain of the
"WAKAMA" have been circulated that the "WAKAMA'S"
crew were machine gunned in the boats. It
might appear, from apparent discrepancies in
the numbers of survivors that there were some
casualties during the attack.

GENERAL INTEREST.

COAL STOCKS? EDEN. R.A.C.A.S. PROPOSES TO have 100 tons of
coal stocked at Eden. Commercial stocks
amount to 70 tons, but it is desired to have
naval stocks.

GENERAL E.K. SQUIRES died last night.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 2nd March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"CAMBERRA")
"AUSTRALIA") Arrived Sydney Friday, 1st March after taking
"ADELAIDE") part in the strategical and tactical exercise
"MANOORA") conducted during the day in conjunction with
the Air Force.

"MANOORA" will be docked on Wednesday, 6th March.

"WESTRALIA" arrived Port Melbourne 1st March from exercises in Port Phillip.

"SWAN" arrives Newcastle a.m. today.

"MORESBY" departed Hobart Friday, 1st March E.T.A. Sydney 1800K. Monday 4th March.

"BINGERA" arrived Sydney 1st March after working up in Jervis Bay.

"DOOMBA") Arrived Sydney Friday, 1st March and will give 10
"ORARA") days' leave from noon today.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" subject to satisfactory engine trials will, according to a proposal from C.C.S., leave Sydney Thursday, 7th March arriving Fremantle 17th March ready to accept cargo oil fuel.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "ALCANTARA's" visit to Rio de Janeiro has been cancelled owing to American oil companies revoking their promise to supply oil fuel. There is now no fuel available in Brazil to H.M. Ships until supplies are sent in British tankers.

GENERAL.

According to the weight of evidence, Admiralty considers both Pocket Battleships are at present in Home Waters but it is possible that several raiders, disguised as merchant ships, have broken out.

Three Observers are to be loaned to the R.A.N. as soon as possible.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 1st March, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" departed from Sydney at 1915K Wednesday 28th February for exercises and Broken Bay.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" departed from Sydney at 1054K Thursday 29th for firing and patrol and will return to Sydney at 1415K today.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" departed from Port Melbourne at 1430K Thursday February 29th for exercises in Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed from Sydney at 2114 for Patrol and intends returning so as to arrive at 1415K today.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" expects to arrive Sydney at 1415K today.

STRATEGICAL AND TACTICAL EXERCISE.

The above exercise in which H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", "ADELAIDE" and "MANOORA" will take part and the R.A.A.F. will co-operate commenced at 0600K today. On completion of the exercise all ships will return to Sydney arriving there at 1415K the same day.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" refit will be completed at Auckland by p.m. Friday 8th March until which time she will be at 24 hours' notice. It is proposed to keep the vessel in dry dock until a.m. 12th March for the purpose of carrying out tilt test of 4" guns.

GENERAL.

In today's Press is a cable from Tokio stating that on Thursday an Australian warship transferred to the Japanese Authorities 9 of the 21 Germans seized from the "ASAMA MARU".

See

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 29th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"AUSTRALIA" departed Brisbane for patrol on 28th February.

"YARRA" Intends to leave Melbourne for Sydney on 4th March.

"D'URMONT D'URVILLE" will leave Sydney on 13th March for Tahiti.

"ADELAIDE" departed Port Phillip for patrol 28th February.

A strategical and tactical exercise, with the R.A.A.F. co-operating will commence at 0600K Friday, 1st March.

"KURUMBA" is to be sailed for Fremantle in ballast as early as convenient where she will complete with fuel from a tanker or naval stocks.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"COLOMBO" will sail from U.K. for Gibraltar and Malta on 2nd March.

"ALTMARK" A submarine patrol is being maintained in the vicinity of Josing Fjord.

GENERAL INTEREST.

PORT MORESBY It is the Naval Board's intention to reopen the port at night if practicable.

HERR NESSERSCHMIDT. The designer of German Fighting planes is at present employed by K.N.I.L.M. at Singapore.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

FREMANTLE. The Admiralty ask that the possibility of placing routing instructions on board ships at Rottnest Island to save time and expense be considered by the Naval Board.

TRANSPORTS.

"EMPRESS of JAPAN" Is to be routed to Sydney for fitting out and loading cargo before proceeding Wellington.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle Tuesday, 27th February from Shark Bay.

"ADELAIDE" departed Port Melbourne 27th February for exercises in Port Phillip.

"WESTRALIA" berthed Princes Pier yesterday. C.N.S. will walk round the ship at 1000 today.

"MANOORA" departed Sydney 27th February for exercises and returned later in the day.

"ORARA" } Departed Melbourne 1800K 27th February for Sydney.
E.T.A. Friday, 1st March.

"DOOMBA" }

"HEROS" } Departed Sydney and arrived Newcastle 27th
February whence they will carry out A/S
"St. GILES" } exercises returning to Sydney 7th March.

"BINGERA" arrived Jervis Bay 26th February for working up and will return to Sydney 1st March.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" commissions on Friday 1st March. She will proceed to sea on 4th March and pump out water from cargo tanks and should then be ready to receive oil cargo but she will not be available to fuel "Job 55" on arrival at Fremantle on 8th March.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

An intercepted message originated by C. in C. Rosyth yesterday reports enemy air activity on East Coast.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" sails from Colombo for Fremantle today where she should arrive on 8th March.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed Auckland 27th February for Fanning Island and cruise.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" was at Colombo on 26th February.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 27th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived at Auckland at 1400 Monday, 26th February. It is expected that her refit will occupy 10 to 12 weeks.

GENERAL.

It has been decided that Cockatoo Dockyard will not tender the docking of the Greek ship "Michael Lituanos".

[Handwritten mark]

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 26th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SWAN" Proposed programme. Is to sail for Broken Bay on 28th February. Departs for Newcastle on 2nd March, from whence she will exercise as necessary and leave to arrive Sydney on 8th March.

"MORESBY" arrived Hobart p.m. Saturday 24th February.

GENERAL INTEREST.

DE-MAGNETISING An Admiralty expert, Mr. C.A. Poulton, will be sent to advise the R.I.N., R.A.N., and N.Z. Navy on this matter within the next six weeks. Mr. Poulton will explain the methods to be employed so that an organisation may be set up and before returning will satisfy himself that satisfactory arrangements have been made.

"VENDETTA" Lieutenant Smallwood has assumed temporary command owing to the removal to hospital of Lieutenant-Commander Cant with acute appendicitis.

MOST SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 SUNDAY, 25th February.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" arrived BRISBANE Saturday, 24th February.

"SYDNEY" arrived SHARK BAY (400' to the Northward of FREMANTLE) Friday, 23rd February, and will sail for FREMANTLE at 1800K today.

"MANOORA " completes working up 1st March. During the following week, F.O.C.A.S. proposes she should dock and make good minor defects.

"MORESBY". arrived HOBART Saturday 24th February.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "COLOMBO". expected to leave DEVONPORT 26th February for AUSTRALIA, will not be ready to sail before 1st March at the earliest and it is proposed she remain at MALTA for a week to carry out exercises. Notwithstanding this delay, the Admiralty proposes to adhere to the original plan for sailing "CERES" and "COLOMBO" from MALTA in company and asks for the concurrence of the Naval Board.

GENERAL.

At midnight last night "ALTMARK" was reported to be still aground in JOSING FIORD with no steam up.

An enemy submarine is suspected of being in HOXA SOUND and in consequence H.M. Ships have been ordered not to approach PENTLAND FIRTH until further orders.

CEYLON Government desires to purchase or build 2 trawlers for M/S and A/S duties at COLOMBO. C. in C. EAST INDIES has asked Naval Board if suitable vessels are available for purchase in AUSTRALIA.

Efforts were made yesterday morning to locate and remove the trot of military targets from the RIP but owing to adverse weather conditions operations were abandoned until tomorrow, Monday morning when a further attempt will be made. In the meantime, a navigational warning has been issued.

For the purpose of demagnetising merchant ships approximately 360 miles of cable of various sizes will be despatched to AUSTRALIA from U.S.A. and the same amount to SOUTH AFRICA. Advice as to shipments will be communicated later.

British summer time comes into force at 0200Z on Sunday, 25th February when clocks will be advanced one hour.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

ST SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 24th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived SYDNEY at 1800K Friday, 23rd February.
- H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" arrived PORT PHILLIP at 1757K Friday, 23rd February.
- H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived SYDNEY at 1950K Friday, 23rd February.
- R.A.F.A. "KURUMB/A" will undock a.m. today.
- H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" entered PORT PHILLIP at 0512K and is berthed at NELSON PIER, WILLIAMSTOWN at 0800K today, and will shift to PRINCES PIER at 1130K.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived at AUCKLAND at 0700K Friday, 23rd February.

GENERAL.

The Military Authorities advise that the trot of 3 B.P. Targets lost by the tug "KEERA" on the evening of the 22nd has not been recovered. A further attempt will be made to recover them at 0700K today.

"ALTMARK" is reported as having been refloated and ship appears undamaged and will probably leave JOSING FIORD tonight. Norwegian Naval leave has been stopped.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday 23rd February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"AUSTRALIA" departed Sydney for patrol and Brisbane yesterday.
"ADELAIDE" " " " Melbourne "
"CANBERRA" " " " yesterday.
"SYDNEY" " Fremantle for patrol and Carnarvon yesterday.
"MORESBY" having completed repairs, departed Twofold Bay
yesterday and expects to arrive Hobart 0900K 24/2.

FORCE YY will co-operate today with R.A.A.F. in an exercise.
"SWAN" undocks 1000 today.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

HIGH SEAS FLEET. Units of the German Navy recently at sea and reported by "SALMON" were "SCHARNHORST" "GREISENAU" "ADMIRAL HIPPER" "KONIGSBERG" and three destroyers.

"ALTMARK" Arrangements are reported to have been made to refloat the ship.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"ORARA") It is proposed to give 10 days' leave from Sydney
"DOOMBA") during week commencing 26/2.

"ACHILLES" is due this morning in Auckland. An elaborate reception is planned. Free transport on trams and admittance to cinemas will be given until the end of February.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 22nd February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" will berth Port Melbourne 0800 Saturday, 24th February.

"MANCOORA" departed Port Melbourne for Sydney 0900 Wednesday, 21st February.

"WESTRALIA" departed Sydney 1700 Wednesday, 21st February
E.T.A. Port Melbourne 1500 Friday, 23rd February.

"MORESBY", having anchored in Twofold Bay at 1130 yesterday to make good a defective boiler tube, will probably resume her passage to Hobart this morning.

"YARRA" arrived Williamstown 1545 Wednesday, 21st February.

"DOOMBA")
"ORARA") Arrived Port Melbourne 1530 Wednesday, 21st February. When berthing at Princes Pier yesterday "ORARA" sustained slight damage as did the pier.

GROUP 54 arrived Williamstown 1500 Wednesday, 21st February.

"HEROS") Will leave Sydney on Tuesday, 27th February to
"St. GILES") carry out A/S exercises from Newcastle and Broken Bay until 6th March returning to their base the following day.

"BINGERA" will proceed Jervis Bay for working up on Monday, 26th February returning to Sydney, Friday, 1st March.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

An intercepted message from R.A.(S) to submarines on patrol states "ALTMARK" is reported afloat and will probably be docked at Stavanger about 50' to the northward of Josing Fiord.

An enemy cruiser and two destroyers off Heligoland were bombed on Tuesday night but no hits were registered.

H.M.S. "EDINBURGH" yesterday morning made contact with and carried out an attack with depth charges on a submarine in a position 35' to the eastward of Orkney Islands.

Two 8-inch cruisers - possibly Force "H" ("CORNWALL" and "CUMBERLAND") - now proceeding from Simonstown to South America will be based on Falkland Islands for at least 6 months.

GENERAL.

GENERAL.

No 0800 Wednesday, 15 February, 1940.

S.O.(I) Monte Video has informed the Admiralty that according to a local newspaper, a pocket battleship is in those waters. Efforts are being made to check the veracity of this report.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" will carry out a full calibre firing commencing at 1200 Friday 16th February.

N.O.I.C., Port Moresby reports there is no fresh water available for ships.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" will carry out a full calibre firing commencing at 1200 Friday 16th February.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" will not work until 5.30 Friday 16th February being overhauled by the mechanics for re-stalling both "A" brackets.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" will be dry docked today Wednesday.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" on completion of RYO on Friday 16th February will proceed to Melbourne and will return to Melbourne to be arranged off Sydney on Friday 1st March.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" on completion of RYO on Friday 16th February will proceed to Melbourne and will return to Melbourne off Sydney on Friday 1st March.

U.S.S. "PENNAC" is to proceed to Melbourne to work up after the completion of RYO on Friday 16th February, and to arrive back in Sydney on Friday 21st March.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

There is some activity on the part of the enemy in the North Sea.

Air reconnaissance after dark on Monday 14th February revealed a enemy ship to the N. of Heligoland. Destroyers "SINKER" and "SINKER" were instructed to keep well clear of these ships during dark and dark hours to avoid damage by bombs from our own aircraft.

The following morning (Tuesday 15th) Capt. (C) 2nd Submarine Flotilla instructed "SINKER" to close and attack, diving under ice at discretion but to keep to the Northwest of a line approx. 50° from centre of enemy ships to give "SINKER" and "SINKER".

At 0810Z Tuesday 15th "SINKER" reported that the enemy battleship was in a position 10 miles 50° from Heligoland steering South but at 0807Z Tuesday Rear-Admiral (C) ordered "SINKER" and "SINKER" the position of the enemy ships as being probably 2 miles N. of Heligoland and that ice conditions exist only a few miles east of the island thus tracking N.E.

The British ship "SINKER" (5,000 tons) which on the 15th February reported that she was in position 12° 15' N 22° 45' W also has engines disabled and unable to proceed (presumably due to subsidence) and has been taken in tow by H.M.S. "SINKER" and both ships are proceeding to Fremantle.

The French submarines are proceeding to Fremantle and about the the vessel never is being pursued by the French battleship "SINKER" and the French destroyer.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 21st February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will sail from Fremantle at 0900K Thursday 22nd February for exercise and patrol returning to Fremantle on Tuesday 27th.

H.M.A.S. "MANCOORA" will carry out a full calibre firing commencing at 1800 Friday 23rd February.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" will not undock until p.m. Friday 23rd the delay being occasioned by the necessity for remetalling both "A" Brackets.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" will be dry docked today Wednesday.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" on completion of OY6 on Friday 23rd February will proceed to Brisbane and will return to rendezvous to be arranged off Sydney on Friday 1st March.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" on completion of OY6 on Friday 23rd February will proceed to Melbourne and will rendezvous for exercises off Sydney on Friday 1st March.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" is to proceed to Melbourne to work up after the completion of O.Y.6 on Friday 23rd February, and is to arrive back in Sydney on Friday 8th March.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

There is some activity on the part of the enemy in the North Sea.

Air reconnaissance after dark on Monday 19th February revealed 4 Enemy ships to the N.W. of Heligoland. Submarines "SALMON" and "SUNFISH" were instructed to keep well clear of these ships during dusk and dark hours to avoid damage by bombs from our own aircraft.

The following morning (Tuesday 20th) Capt.(S) 3rd Submarine Flotilla instructed "SUNFISH" to close and attack, diving under ice at discretion but to keep to the Northward of a line approx. 290° from centre of heavy ships to give "SALMON" sea room.

At 0810Z Tuesday 20th "SALMON" reported that the enemy battlefleet were in a position 50 miles 290° from Heligoland steering South but at 0907Z Tuesday Rear-Admiral (S) passed to "SALMON" and "SUNFISH" the position of the enemy ships as being probably 2 miles N.W. of Heligoland and that ice conditions exist only a few miles West of the island then trending N.E.

The British ship "HARTISMERE", (5,500 tons) which on the 15th February reported that she was in position 13° 2'S 22° 45' W with her engines disabled and unable to proceed (presumably due to sabotage) has now been taken in tow by H.M.S. "JERVIS BAY" and both ships are proceeding to Freetown.

Two French submarines are proceeding to rendezvous and escort the tow whilst cover is being provided by the French battleship "PROVENCE" and two French cruisers.

GENERAL.

Admiralty concur with the Naval Board's suggestion that H.M.S. "COLOMBO" and H.M.S. "CERES" shall visit Singapore, Darwin, Thursday Island Townsville and Brisbane whilst on passage to Sydney.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA ENTERED

H.M.S. "COLOMBO"

Departed Port Melbourne for Melbourne 11/2/1914.

En route to Hobart (arriving 17/2)

Left Hobart (19/2) - 1st Lt. Phillips this morning and went out to sea at 10/15 AM.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA ENTERED

H.M.S. "CERES"

Admiralty and Naval Board have proposed to proceed to Sydney via Singapore, Darwin, Thursday Island, Townsville and Brisbane.

GENERAL.

Admiralty has informed Captain Superintendent of Training that he intends to inspect Fleet Reserve Naval Dept on 7th March.

Press reports state that the Admiralty have announced that the destroyer has been damaged and there are only five survivors (one Officer and four crew).

"FLORINA" was one of the destroyers ordered to rendezvous with auxiliary off Sydney Roads on Saturday 6 March Captain (R), 1st Destroyer Flotilla.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, Tuesday, 20th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" - departed Port Melbourne for exercises
1100/19th.

"MORESBY" - on passage to Hobart (Training cruise)

20th M.S.F. (less "SWAN") - leave Flinders this morning
and carry out exercises en route Port
Phillip.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. SHIPS.

"CERES" and "COLOMBO" - Naval Board have proposed to
Admiralty that these cruisers should
proceed to Sydney via Singapore, Darwin,
Thursday Island, Townsville and Brisbane.

GENERAL.

R.A.C.A.S. has informed Captain Superintendent of Training
that he intends to inspect Flinders Naval
Depot on 7th March.

H.M.S. "DARING" - Press reports state that the Admiralty
have announced that this destroyer has
been torpedoed and there are only five
survivors (one Officer and four men).

"DARING" was one of the destroyers ordered
to rendezvous with cruisers off Josing Fiord
on Saturday to support Captain (D), 4th
Destroyer Flotilla.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SI

To 0900 Monday, 19th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE"
"SWAN" } Will be docked in Sydney today.

"YARRA" and presumably "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" expect to arrive Port Melbourne, p.m. Tuesday, 20th February.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

German ship "ALTMARK" was believed to be still in Josing Fiord at noon on Sunday, 18th February. If this vessel leaves territorial waters, she is to be torpedoed at sight.

Destroyers, co-operating with aircraft from the Northern Bases, are conducting an intensive search for a submarine apparently in the vicinity of Orkney Islands. Captain (D), Third Destroyer Flotilla, has been ordered by C. in C. Home Fleet to continue the hunt until the submarine has been destroyed.

To 0900 Saturday, 17th DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To. 0900 Sunday, 18th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived FREMANTLE at 0915K Saturday, 17th February.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" has been informed by the C. in C. A.&W.I. Station that if there is any doubt as to endurance the date of leaving KINGSTON should be advanced by one day to February 28th and fuel should be taken from the oiler "BISTOPDALE" which will be retained if necessary in the vicinity of CHINCHA ISLAND off PERU until about 5 th March. The next fuelling would then be at SUVA about 26th/27th March.

H.M.S. "CERES" will arrive at MALTA about 22nd February.

H.M.S. "COLOMBO" is to leave DEVONPORT on the 26th February and proceed to MALTA. Both "CERES" and "COLOMBO" are to carry out any urgent practices required after which they are to proceed to the AUSTRALIA Station in company.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" - her arrival at AUCKLAND at 0700 Friday, 23rd February will probably be broadcast.

GERMAN "ALTMARK" was in JOSING FIORD (about 30 miles N.W. by W. of the NAZE) at 0625Z Saturday, 17th February and reported to be in an unseaworthy condition. Our force consisting of "ARETHUSA" and CAPTAIN (D) 4th Destroyer Flotilla with five destroyers left the FIORD at 0100Z/17th with the recovered prisoners, the actual number is not stated - there were approximately 400 onboard. Two NORWEGIAN destroyers were also present in the FIORD. The cause of the unseaworthiness is not indicated.

It is of interest to note that this ship has about 400 British prisoners onboard and the Commanding Officer is reported to have threatened to sink the ship, with the prisoners, if threatened by a British War-of-War.

GENERAL.

"BERYL II" - the 12 pdr. gun supplied when this vessel fitted out developed a defect and has been replaced. Gun trials will be carried out a.m. Wednesday 21st.

Burns Philp steamer "MACDHUI" arrived at PORT MORESBY 0830K Saturday 17th - this was 3 days later than her E.T.A., the delay being due to adverse weather conditions.

Commodore Horn struck his flag in London at sunset yesterday on commencing 31 days leave.

[Handwritten initials]

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 17th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- H.M.A.S. "Canberra" - returned from patrol yesterday at 1630.
H.M.A.S. "Sydney" - is due at Fremantle, from Bunbury, this morning.
H.M.A.S. "Manoora" - arrived Port Melbourne and berthed at Princes Pier at about 1800 yesterday.
20th M.S.F. (less "Swan") - arrived Westernport about 2000 yesterday.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

- H.M.S. "Achilles" - will arrive Auckland about 0700 on 23rd February.
Detached Forces. - Admiralty have announced the allocation of new Force letters and composition of Forces as follows:-

<u>Force</u>	<u>Composition.</u>
G	H.M.S. "Dorsetshire" and H.M.S. "Hawkins".
H	H.M.S. "Cornwall" and H.M.S. "Cumberland".
I	H.M.S. "Sussex"; H.M.A.S. "Hobart" and H.M.S. "Eagle"
K	In abeyance.
M	H.M.S. "Kent" and "Suffren".
X	French Cruisers "Foch" and "Dupleix".
Y	"Bertin" and "Duquesne". & Battleship "PROVENCE"

GENERAL

ALTMARK. - The German Tanker-Supply Ship "Altmark" is apparently making good progress southward along the coast of Norway. An Admiralty message (T.O.O. 1114/16) states that the vessel would be passing VAEDEREN REV (cannot identify but presumably south of Bergen) at noon on 16th February.

It is of interest to note that this ship has about 400 British prisoners onboard and the Commanding Officer is reputed to have threatened to sink the ship, with the prisoners, if threatened by a British Man-of-War.

ADEN - The Boom Defence Gate is moored permanently open. Evidently there is no fear of submarine activity in this area.

FLINDERS NAVAL DEPOT - R.A.C.A.S. has been requested by the Naval Board to carry out an inspection of the Depot at the first convenient opportunity.

CC.N.Z.S. - Commodore Horan struck his flag in Leander at sunset yesterday on commencing 21 days leave.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 16th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

20th M.S.F. less "SWAN" with "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip Thursday, 15th February for Western Port.

"BERMAGUI")
"UKI") Auxiliary M/S group 77 returned to Newcastle from exercises Thursday, 15th February.

AIR OPERATIONS - Searches were carried out yesterday in specified areas by aircraft from Richmond and Laverton. All aircraft had returned to their bases by 2100K.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH", subject to concurrence by Naval Board, will carry out the following programme:--

<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Depart</u>
-	Kingston (Jamaica)	29th February
End March	Panama	3rd March
18th "	Tahiti	20th "
26th "	Suva	28th "
1st April	Sydney	-

There is no stock of oil fuel available at Tahiti.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" is to receive a reception on a large scale from the New Zealand Government and City of Auckland on arrival. She will probably adjust her speed so as to arrive Auckland a.m. Saturday, 24th February instead of the previous day.

H.M.S. "EXETER", according to press reports, has reached Plymouth.

TRANSPORTS.

"STRATHAIRD" departed Port Said Wednesday, 14th February for Australia calling at Aden and Colombo.

GENERAL.

Coonawarra, D/F Station at Darwin, will commence operations Monday, 26th February.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 15th February, 1940.

To 0900 Wednesday, 14th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" - proceeds on patrol p.m. today. by p.m. and

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" will now dock on Monday, 19th February, as the dry dock will not be available until sometime on Saturday next.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" proceeds to sea for exercises and patrol from Fremantle at 0830K today and will visit Bunbury.

H.M.A.S. "UKI") It is proposed that these Auxiliary M/S
"BERMAGUI") Vessels, stationed at Newcastle, shall visit Sydney, on Monday, 19th remaining there about one week which will be occupied in making good minor defects and exercising with Sydney Auxiliary M/S Vessel.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "DORSETSHIRE" located the German ship "WAKAMA" by aircraft at 1615 G.M.T. Monday, 12th February. Crew set ship on fire and abandoned ship which was later sunk by Gunfire to prevent her becoming a danger to navigation.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" expects to arrive at Auckland on Friday, 23rd the February.

REAR ADMIRAL T.S.V. PHILLIPS has been granted rank of Acting Vice Admiral from February, 7th and re-appointed.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Were not carried out yesterday as was first intended but will be carried out today. Air searches will be carried out in two areas - one North of Sydney and the other in the vicinity of Gabo Island. construction of vessels of this type in Australia for the Admiralty.

PARLIAM. REFERENCE. The Admiralty has been informed that owing to the expense and to present requirements, the Naval Board do not propose to lay a controlled minefield or A/S Boats at Darwin. Admiralty concurrence is asked.

Admiralty 21 Weekly Telegram advises "Another submarine crew surrendered this morning."

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 14th February, 1940.

To 0900 OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" Intends to proceed on patrol Thursday p.m. and return to Sydney Friday, p.m. Combined air operations will be postponed from today Wednesday to tomorrow.

"WESTRALIA" returned to Sydney from trials yesterday, Tuesday.

"AUSTRALIA" arrived Sydney at 1030 Monday, 12th February.

"ADSLAINE" docks at Sydney p.m. today.

"MANCORA" sailed OPERATIONS ABROAD.

German ships "SCHARNHORST" and "GNEISENAU" are reported in Wilhelmshaven. (A.I.).

"ZEMMANNI" } Forming auxiliary M/S Group 77, based on Newcastle
"DEI" } exercises in Port Stephens

GENERAL INTEREST

"St.OLAVES" The dispute with the crew which has held the ship up at Port Said has been settled upon the payment of a war bonus of £3 per man to each of the crew.

B.P. TARGET. F.O.C.A.S. concurs in the proposal to convert the B.P. target to a high speed target.

REAR ADMIRAL T.S.V. PHILLIPS has been granted rank of Acting Second A.I.F. Vice Admiral from February, 7th and re-appointed.

AUSTRALIAN BUILT M/S and A/S VESSELS. N.L.O. has been instructed to do everything possible to ensure the early decision of the Admiralty on the proposed construction of vessels of this type in Australia for the Admiralty.

DARWIN DEFENCES. The Admiralty has been informed that owing to the expense and to present requirements, the Naval Board do not propose to lay a controlled minefield or A/B Boom at Darwin. Admiralty concurrence is asked.

Admiralty Bi Weekly Telegram advises "Another submarine crew surrendered this morning."

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 (X), Tuesday, 13th February, 1940.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

REPORT OF A SEARCH OFF PORT AUSTRALIA.

To 0900 Tuesday, 13th February, 1940. That the Master of the Norwegian tanker "KARAS" sighted 9 or 10 ships in company about 2100 (Local Time) 8th February in a position approximately 900 miles N.W. of Fremantle. All vessels were proceeding in a N.W. direction. The type of vessel was indistinguishable.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"AUSTRALIA" arrived Sydney at 1030 Monday, 12th February.

"ADELAIDE" docks at Sydney p.m. today.

"MANOORA" sailed from Port Melbourne at 1330 Monday, 12th February for exercises in Port Phillip.

"WESTRALIA" commences trial programme today.

"BERMAGUI" } Forming auxiliary M/S Group 77, based on Newcastle
"UKI" } will sail today to exercise in Port Stephens returning on Thursday, 15th February.

AIR OPERATIONS. will be carried out to seaward p.m. tomorrow in from areas North of Sydney and off Gabo Phillip.

12th N.S.F. 12th N.S.F. 12th N.S.F. with "BENIC II" and "BENIC III" used for exercises in Port Phillip. An amendment to the programme for

CONVOY U.S.1.

The Prime Minister announced yesterday that the Second A.I.F. and New Zealand Expeditionary Force have begun to arrive at Suez.

GENERAL.

Ratings returning to Australia from the Mediterranean Station will take passage in "DUCHESS OF ATHOLL" leaving Marseilles 1st March.

Suggested by N.O.I.C., Fremantle that a steam lighter ("AGNES") be hired for loop laying at Fremantle.

"SUNOVAL". Completion date may be deferred as a result of Cruisers' refit.

"VECTOR" will sail from Auckland about 15th February for Fanning Island with reliefs for garrison, returning to N.Z. in time to join the Escort for U.S.1.

GENERAL (U.S.1) U.S. Government consider "THASER" should remain in N.Z. waters until "SUNOVAL" is again ready for service.

GENERAL INTEREST.

SLAVE TARGETS. C.G.S. reports that slave targets will

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900(K), Monday, 12th February, 1940., 14th February.

WIRE. The supply mines previously referred to by the REPORT OF A "CONVOY" OFF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. have now been laid. Further fields of supply mines will be laid. D.N.O. (W.A.) reports that the Master of the Norwegian tanker "SKARAAS" sighted 9 or 10 ships in company about 2100 (Local Time) 6th February in a position approximately 900 miles N.W. of Fremantle. All vessels were burning Navigation lights and were proceeding in a N.Wy. direction. The type of vessel was not distinguishable. Masters of Merchant ships are to be impressed with the importance of not abandoning D.N.O. (W.A.) who is endeavouring to obtain further information from the "SKARAAS" now in Fremantle, considers the report reliable. to be permanently abolished for all allied ships.

Admiralty, C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S. and S.O. Force ZZ have been informed in the sense of the above. continue to be used.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"AUSTRALIA". Expected to arrive off Sydney where she will carry out sub-calibre practices before entering harbour at approximately 1000 today Monday.

"MANOORA". It is understood that "MANOORA" will proceed from Princes Pier today for exercises in Port Phillip.

20th M.S.F. 20th M.S.F. less "SWAN", with "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" will proceed for exercises in Port Phillip. An amendment to the programme for these vessels includes a visit to Westernport by 20th M.S.F. on Thursday and Friday next: the Trawlers will return to Williamstown p.m. Thursday next.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"LEANDER" was taken in hand by dockyard on 8th February and is expected to be ready to proceed overseas by 7th March. It is not known at what notice she will be during this period.

"ACHILLES" will proceed direct to Auckland where she will be taken in hand on arrival.

"MONOWAI". Completion date now deferred as a result of Cruisers' refit.

"HECTOR" will sail from Auckland about 28th February for Fanning Island with reliefs for garrison, returning to N.Z. in time to join the Escort for U.S.2.

GENERAL (N.Z.) N.Z. Government consider "LEANDER" should remain in N.Z. waters until "ACHILLES" is again ready for service.

GENERAL INTEREST.

SLEEVE TARGETS. C.C.S. reports that sleeve targets will

DATE. NARRATIVE.

again be available from Wednesday, 14th February.

To 0800 Sunday 11th February 1945

MINES. The dummy mines previously referred to by the Admiralty for the East Coast Barrier have now been laid. Further fields of dummy mines will be laid in other sections of the Barrier.

ABANDONING MERCHANT SHIPS. (mentioned are "K".)

AUSTRALIAN. The Admiralty state that several cases have recently occurred in which ships have been abandoned without justification, and that consequently, Masters of Merchant Ships are to be impressed with the importance of not abandoning ship before it is essential.

DECK IDENTIFICATION MARKS. are to be permanently abolished for all allied ships.

SECTION: Identify letters and national markings will continue to be used.

EXETER: is due in U.K. this week.

GENERAL INTEREST.

DE-MAGNETISING OF SHIPS: The Admiralty advise that it is hoped that every important man-of-war will be de-magnetised within a few months.

ABANDONMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS: Admiralty direct that all Allied ships should be informed of the importance of not abandoning a ship unless absolutely necessary. Cases have occurred where ships have been abandoned unnecessarily.

DARWIN MOON DEVICES: N.L.C. advises that a simple type of detecting apparatus is being fitted in all R.N. gate vessels, and Admiralty suggest similar action at Darwin.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.
DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, Sunday, 11th February, 1940:

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

R.N.A. SHIPS. OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CAMBERRA" (N.B. All times mentioned are "K".) February.

"AUSTRALIA": passed Cape Otway yesterday at 1100. She will carry out sub-calibre firing off Sydney tomorrow (Monday). The R.A.A.F. will also be carrying out bombing practices in the same locality.

"MANOORA", and proceeded alongside Princes Pier, Port Melbourne, at 0800 this morning.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"HECTOR": reported Jarvis Bay and arrived Sydney Friday, arrived at Auckland yesterday. Admiralty wishes to know if these vessels are fitted with is due in U.K. this week. depth charge armament only.

"EXETER":

"DOORANGAI" forming GENERAL INTEREST. N/S vessels, will come under orders of S.O. 20th M.S.F. on Monday.

DE-MAGNETISING OF SHIPS: The Admiralty advise that it is hoped that every important man-of-war will be de-magnetised within a few months.

ABANDONMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS: Admiralty direct that all Allied ships should be informed of the importance of not abandoning a ship unless absolutely necessary. Cases have occurred where ships have been abandoned unnecessarily.

DARWIN BOOM DEFENCES: N.L.O. advises that a simple type of detecting apparatus is being fitted in all R.N. gate vessels, and Admiralty suggest similar action at Darwin.

A.M.C.'s.

Naval Board having decided that "MANOORA" and "AUSTRALIA" are to be provided with aircraft, the Admiralty has been requested to make available at once three R.N. Observers owing to the extreme shortage on Australia Station.

Admiralty concurs that Commonwealth Government shall retain responsibility for manning Australian A.M.C.'s serving on China Station. Any urgent vacancies will be filled from the Station pool.

OILERS.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" will be at 24 hours' notice for five days for boiler cleaning and making good minor defects at Sydney.

"SAR KRISHNA" arrived Darwin Friday, 9th February to discharge cargo of 7,500 tons oil fuel.

"SEALAHIA", due Fremantle 12th February to discharge 7,500 tons oil fuel. This vessel will then be directed to return to Singapore to load for Admiralty and await sailing orders.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 10th February. Friday, 9th February.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. will be released for the use of the three Services after submission of a report in Sydney representing the three Services to the Admiralty.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"CANBERRA" arrived Sydney at 1000K Friday, 9th February.

"MORESBY" will leave Sydney Monday, 19th February for A/S training cruise to Hobart instead of 17th February as previously arranged.

"MANOORA", anchored off Williamstown last night, proceeded alongside Princes Pier, Port Melbourne, at 0800 this morning.

"HEROS") reported Jervis Bay and arrived Sydney Friday,
"St. GILES") 9th February from A/S exercises. Admiralty wishes to know if these vessels are fitted with asdic equipment or gun and depth charge armament only.

"GOORANGAI") forming Group V Auxiliary M/S vessels, will come
"BERYL II") under orders of S.O. 20th M.S.F. on Monday, 12th February. They will be detached a.m. Tuesday, 13th February and proceed to Williamstown to embark ammunition for gunnery school firings the following day, rejoining 20th M.S.F. at entrance to South Channel at 1000K, Thursday, 15th February.

"WARREGO" will be launched at 0940 this morning at Cockatoo Docks by Mrs. R.G. Menzies, wife of the Prime Minister, in the presence of a distinguished company including the 1st Naval Member, Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin.

A.M.C.'s.

Naval Board having decided that "MANOORA" and "WESTRALIA" are to be provided with aircraft, the Admiralty has been requested to make available at once three R.N. Observers owing to the extreme shortage on Australia Station.

Admiralty concurs that Commonwealth Government shall retain responsibility for manning Australian A.M.C.'s serving on China Station. Any urgent vacancies will be filled from the Station pool.

OILERS.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" will be at 24 hours' notice for five days for boiler cleaning and making good minor defects at Sydney.

"WAR KRISHNA" arrived Darwin Friday, 9th February to discharge cargo of 7,500 tons oil fuel.

"SCALARIA", due Fremantle 12th February to discharge 7,800 tons oil fuel. This vessel will then be directed to return to Singapore to load for Admiralty and await sailing orders.

CONVOY "U.S.1."

Arrived Aden Thursday, 8th February.

Photographs taken in Sydney will be released for publication in the near future after submission to a committee in Sydney representing the three Services and the Publicity Censor.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

From an intercepted message, originated by C. in C. A. & W.I., it would appear H.M.A.S. "PERTH", will remain in the Caribbean Sea and sail from Kingston (Jamaica) for Australia early in March instead of relieving H.M.S. "DESPATCH" off Callao on 19th February.

H.M. Ships "DORSETSHIRE" and "CHESHIRE" will be formed into Force "G" on 14th February.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 9th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"YARRA" E.I.A. Millmaston 1700Z/8. After completing with oil fuel she will shift to Port Melbourne.

"SYDNEY" - arrived Fremantle 0100Z/8.

"ORARA" E.I.A. Port Melbourne 1730K/8.

"YARRA" }
"DOOMBA" } - arrived Port Melbourne from exercises 0800Z/8.
"ORARA" }

"MORESBY" A/S Training Cruise proposed by N.O.C.S.

Leave Sydney Saturday, 17th February

Arrive Hobart Thursday, 22nd February

Leave Hobart Friday, 1st March

H.S.I. C.O.I.S. Arrive Sydney Monday, 4th March. that the
convoy is due here today Friday. The escort
consists of "BRILLIANT", "SUBSAX", "EAGLE",
"ROBERT", "WESTCOTT".

GENERAL INTEREST.

"PARRAMATTA" - Full power and circle trials completed satisfactorily. S.H.P. 2355. Speed 17.3 knots.

D.F. BEARING - Gunnery equipment trials of equipment available will be carried out on 14th February (Second like 4" gun was shipped from U.K. on 7th January - date of arrival unknown.)

"MANOORA" - If berthing can be arranged, 2nd N.M. will walk and round 0930K tomorrow Saturday, C.O. attending and at Navy Office subsequently. the despatch of interpreters.

SLEEVE TARGET TOWING WIRE - R.A.A.F. have despatched 20,000 feet to Sydney.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 7th February, 1940.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

To 0900 Thursday, 8th February, 1940.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"CANEER" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. will sail from Melbourne p.m. today and run torpedoes in Port

"YARRA" E.T.A. Williamstown 1730K/8. After completing with oil fuel she will shift to Port Melbourne.

"DOOMBA", "ORARA" E.T.A. Port Melbourne 1730K/8. Friday, 9th February.

"MANOORA" arrived Port Phillip yesterday.

"SINK" arrived Albany Tuesday, 8th February, and will sail for Fremantle today arriving a.m. Thursday, 8th February.

"MANOORA" is 4 hours late on her E.T.A. and will now arrive OPERATIONS ABROAD. 1800K today.

U.S.I. C.O.I.S. weekly disposition signal states that the convoy is due Aden today Friday. The escort consists of "RAMILLIES", "SUSSEX", "EAGLE", "HOBART", "WESTCOTT".

H.M.S. "EXETER" on arrival at Freetown was accorded a magnificent reception by all H.M. Ships present. She is expected to resume her passage to U.K. today escorted by "ARK ROYAL" and "BENOWN".

H.M.A.S. "PER" GENERAL INTEREST. include a visit to Suva, in addition to Tahiti and Wellington, in her

D.F. BEARINGS Admiralty advises as bearing DIE from Ararua pass through Japan, and as German ships are not likely to use W/T to such an extent, it is considered that the traffic is Japanese.

AUXILIARY "ST. CLAYES", having departed from Sydney 28th December and Aden 5th February on passage to U.K., is

LOOP - FREMANTLE. Admiralty has been advised that the loop and station should be completed early in March and have been asked to expedite the despatch of integrators.

ADMIRALTY.

Has issued a warning that reluctance on the part of a German Merchant Vessel to scuttle itself when encountered by a British Warship may indicate that a submarine is in company. The suggested procedure is to make the M.V. proceed on a course at maximum speed for a period before boarding.

GENERAL.

Such is the severity of the winter in Europe the Admiralty has issued a "Summary of ice conditions" to ships in Area 'A'. According to this statement Kiel is probably closed and only powerful ships can navigate the Elbe above Cuxhaven.

By the end of this year, production capacity in Australia for mines will be 3000 per annum. H.L.O.

4/11/40 J.S.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

has been instructed to ascertain if Admiralty intends to
To 0900 Wednesday, 7th February, 1940.

D.N.O.'s S.A. and Q. will report at Navy Office
tomorrow OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"CANBERRA", wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S., will sail from
Melbourne p.m. today and run torpedoes in Port
Phillip - "DOOMBA" acting as target.
During the passage to Sydney, A.A. firings will
be carried out at sleeve targets towed by aircraft
from Richmond. Due to arrive Sydney a.m.
Friday, 9th February.

"SYDNEY" arrived Albany Tuesday, 6th February, and will
sail for Fremantle today arriving a.m. Thursday,
8th February.

"MANOORA" is 4 hours late on her E.T.A. and will now
arrive Port Phillip at 1200K today.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "EXETER" on arrival at Freetown was accorded a
magnificent reception by all H.M. Ships present.
She is expected to resume her passage to U.K.
today escorted by "ARK ROYAL" and "REOWN".

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" will probably include a visit to Suva,
in addition to Tahiti and Wellington, in her
programme on passage to Australia.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

TUG "St.OLAVES", having departed from Sydney 29th December
and Aden 5th February on passage to U.K., is
experiencing trouble with members of the crew on
Australian articles who refuse to take the ship
onwards from Port Said unless they are paid
War risk bonus.

ADMIRALTY.

Has issued a warning that reluctance on the
part of a German Merchant Vessel to scuttle itself when
encountered by a British Warship may indicate that a
submarine is in company. The suggested procedure is to
make the M.V. proceed on a course at maximum speed for a
period before boarding.

GENERAL.

Such is the severity of the winter in Europe
the Admiralty has issued a "Summary of ice conditions"
to ships in Area 'A'. According to this statement Kiel
is probably closed and only powerful ships can navigate
the Elbe above Cuxhaven.

By the end of this year, production capacity
in Australia for mines will be 3000 per annum. N.L.O.

2.
DAILY NARRATIVE.

has been instructed to ascertain if Admiralty intends to utilize this capacity.

To 0900 Tuesday 5th February 1940.
D.N.O.'s S.A. and Q. will report at Navy Office tomorrow Thursday.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "ADRIAN" departed from Fremantle at 1800 Monday, 5th February, and expects to arrive at Sydney at 1000 Monday 18th February.

H.M.A.S. "MANGONA" departed from Sydney at 1530 Monday, 5th February, and expects to arrive in Port Phillip at 0800 Wednesday, 7th February.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed from Port Melbourne at 0700 Monday 5th February and expects to arrive at Auckland on Saturday, 10th February.

H.M.A.S. "MORSEY" arrived at Sydney at 0615 Monday, 5th February, from Port Phillip.

H.M.A. BRIGS "YARRA", "DOONAN" and "ORARA" departed from Port Melbourne at 0700 Monday, 5th for exercises.

H.M.A. AUXILIARY A/S VESSELS "HEROS" and "ST. GILES" departed from Sydney at 0700 Monday, 5th February, for Jervis Bay.

H.M.A.S. "KOALA" will commission on Wednesday, 7th February.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "LEADER" departed from Auckland on Monday, 5th February for the Bay of Islands.

H.M.A.S. "SPRING" in connection with the proposed visit to Tahiti in March the C. in C. A. & N.I. has asked New Zealand if fuel is obtainable there.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "DINGEE" - Auxiliary A/S Vessel - commissioned at Sydney, Monday, 5th February.

H.M.A.S. "BONTHORPE" - Auxiliary M/S Vessel commissioned at Fremantle Monday, 5th February.

The Motor Launch "SARATON" at Port Moresby has been purchased by the Government.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 5th February, 1940.

To 0900 Tuesday, 6th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" arrived Port Melbourne at 1800

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" departed from Fremantle at 1500 Monday, 5th February, and expects to arrive at Sydney at 1000 Monday 12th February.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" departed from Sydney at 1530 Monday, 5th February, and expects to arrive in Port Phillip at 0600 Wednesday, 7th February.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" departed from Port Melbourne at 0700 Monday 5th February and expects to arrive at Auckland on Saturday, 10th February.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived at Sydney at 0615 Monday, 5th February, from Port Phillip.

H.M.A. SHIPS "YARRA", "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" departed from Port Melbourne at 0700 Monday, 5th for exercises.

H.M.A. AUXILIARY A/S VESSELS "HEROS" and "St. GILES" departed from Sydney at 0700 Monday, 5th February, for Jervis Bay.

H.M.A.S. "KOALA" will commission on Wednesday, 7th February.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" departed from Auckland on Monday, 5th February for the Bay of Islands.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" in connection with the proposed visit to Tahiti in March; the C. in C. A. & W.I. has asked New Zealand if fuel is obtainable there.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "BINGERA" - Auxiliary A/S Vessel - commissioned at Sydney, Monday, 5th February.

H.M.A.S. "BONTHORPE" - Auxiliary M/S Vessel commissioned at Fremantle Monday, 5th February.

The Motor Launch "BARETO" at Port Moresby has been purchased by the Government.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 5th February, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" will berth alongside Princess Pier at 1000 this
"CANBERRA" arrived Port Melbourne yesterday.

"DOOMBA" will act as target ship for "CANBERRA" torpedo
practices on Wednesday. C.A.S. Saturday, 3rd February,
for Fremantle where she expects to arrive at 0500
7th February.

"AUSTRALIA" will leave Fremantle as to pass "SIDNEY" near
Albatross and proceed to Sydney arriving
1000 Monday, 5th February.

GENERAL INTEREST.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" completed trials at 500 S.H.P. and
"HECTOR" after stopping, starting and astern trials satisfactorily

S.S. "KAPARA" which grounded in Spencer Gulf on Saturday has been
refloated without damage.

CONVOY MOVEMENTS. The Admiralty consider that the names and
types of ships comprising the escort, names of
ships in convoy, and ports of call, should not
be released for general information.

The principal reason given is that similar
movements will take place again shortly.
Friday, 3rd February on passage to New Zealand.

D/F BEARINGS. Latest bearings give a cut in Lat. 29°N 172°E.
C.O.I.S. appreciation of the position is that
the antipodal point - namely 29°S 8°W is more
likely.

BRITISH TUG "CORI" sailed from Darwin, 3rd February for
Batavia arriving 10th February, thence to United
Kingdom calling at Colombo.

D.N.O. Brisbane (Commander R.C. Rhodes, R.A.N.) is to
visit Melbourne arriving Thursday, 8th February.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Sunday 4th February, 1940.
H.M. AND H.M.A.S. SHIPS.

"CANBERRA" will berth alongside Princes Pier at 1000 this morning.

"SYDNEY" having been inspected at "action" stations by F.O.C.A.S. sailed from Portland at 1000 Saturday, 3rd February, for Fremantle where she expects to arrive at 0500 7th February.

"AUSTRALIA" will leave Fremantle so as to pass "SYDNEY" near Albany on 7th February and proceed to Sydney arriving 1000 Monday, 12th February.

"HECTOR" after adjusting compasses will leave Melbourne at 1100 Monday, 5th February, for Auckland arriving 10th February.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH", is to relieve "DESPATCH" off Calloa on the Coast of Peru about 19th February.

H.M.A.S. "ACHILLES" sailed from Port Stanley (Falkland Isles) Friday, 2nd February on passage to New Zealand.

GENERAL.

BRITISH TUG "CORINGA", sailed from Darwin, 3rd February for Batavia arriving 10th February, thence to United Kingdom calling at Colombo.

D.N.O. Brisbane (Commander E.C. Rhodes, R.A.N) is to visit Melbourne arriving Thursday, 8th February.

GENERAL.

The 20th Mine Sweeping Flotilla is to come under the orders of R.A.C.A.S. at 1200 Monday, 5th February.

To 0900 Friday, 2nd February, 1940.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

"PERTH" It is proposed to C.-in-C. A. & N.I. that "PERTH" spends two days at Tahiti and four at Wellington To 0900 Saturday, 3rd February, 1940. the passage be made at 15 knots; fuel permitting.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" departed from Port Melbourne at 1400 Friday 2nd February; 26 1715 anchored inside the Heads off Rye and proceeded at 0600 today to Sydney. yesterday for Portland where she will rendezvous with "CANBERRA".
"CANBERRA" and "SYDNEY" are at Portland where Sydney is being inspected by R.A.C.A.S. and aircraft were despatched from Richmond and Canberra p.m.
AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS "NAMBUCCA", "GOOLGWAI" and "TONGKOL" returned to Sydney yesterday afternoon from Jervis Bay. searches were negative.

"ADELAIDE" will refit between 1st February and 15th February
AUXILIARY A/S VESSELS "St. GILES" and "HEROS" will proceed from Sydney on Monday 5th February to Jervis Bay for working up practice, returning to Sydney Friday 9th February.
 to delay "ADELAIDE" docking until 14th February.

"R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" arrived at Sydney 1400 Friday 2nd February. Articles will be closed and the crew paid off.

H.M.S. "NECTOR", Imperial A.N.C., arrived Melbourne yesterday
 Sail OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. New Zealand.

"H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrived at Auckland on Friday 2nd February.
H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived at Port Stanley on Thursday 1st February.
 staff will not be necessary. The simultaneous refit of "ADELAIDE" and "SEAN" would necessitate the temporary employment of 150 men.

GENERAL.

"MILVA" Gun and acceptance trials will be carried out on 7th
 The 20th Mine Sweeping Flotilla is to come under the orders of R.A.C.A.S. at 1200 Monday, 5th February.
 classes on 15th February.

GENERAL INTEREST.

JAPANESE SHIPS C.-in-C. A. & N.I. has issued instructions to ships under his command that no Germans are to be rescued from Japanese ships until further orders.

DARWIN BOOM DEFENCES. Admiralty concur in Naval Board proposals to improve the boom defences at Darwin, and recommend that they be extended to high water mark with boom and connection towers.

SIGNAL TRAFFIC. Admiralty consider that although some reduction has been made in the quantity of signal

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 2nd February, 1940.

traffic in response to its instruction, there are unnecessary signals still. OPERATIONS ABROAD. A further reduction in signals is necessary.

"PERTH" It is proposed to C.-in-C. A. & W.I. that "PERTH" spends two days at Tahiti and four at Wellington on passage to Sydney, and that the passage be made at 15 knots; fuel permitting.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"DUMONT D'URVILLE" French Sloop; arrived Sydney yesterday for her annual refit.

"SYDNEY" departed Sydney yesterday for Portland where she will rendezvous with "CANBERRA".

With "SYDNEY" at sea opportunity was taken for combined operations with R.A.A.F. and aircraft were despatched from Richmond and Canberra p.m. for searches in Sydney and Gabo area. All aircraft had returned over the coast by 2100K and the searches were negative.

"ADELAIDE" will refit between 1st February and 10th February during which time she will be at 48 hours' notice. It was originally intended to dock on 7th but owing to arrangements having been made by agents to dock British ship "COPTIC", C.C.S. now proposes to delay "ADELAIDE" docking until 14th February.

"MORESBY" returned alongside Princes Pier yesterday to land a cot case, and will remain alongside until 1400 today.

H.M.S. "HECTOR", Imperial A.M.C., arrived Melbourne yesterday Sails Saturday 3rd for New Zealand.

"SWAN" arrived Sydney yesterday. C.C.S. proposes that "SWAN's" refit should be deferred until completion of "ADELAIDE" on 10th February, so that large fluctuations in dockyard staff will not be necessary. The simultaneous refit of "ADELAIDE" and "SWAN" would necessitate the temporary employment of 150 men.

"KOALA" Gun and acceptance trials will be carried out on 7th February and on completion, N.O.C.S. proposes to commission and commence seamanship training classes on 12th February.

GENERAL INTEREST.

JAPANESE SHIPS C. -in-C. A. & W.I. has issued instructions to ships under his command that no Germans are to be removed from Japanese ships until further orders.

DARWIN BOOM DEFENCES. Admiralty concur in Naval Board proposals to improve the boom defences at Darwin, and recommend that they be extended to high water mark with boom and connection ashore.

SIGNAL TRAFFIC. Admiralty consider that although some reduction has been made in the quantity of signal

traffic in response to its instruction, there are unnecessary signals still being made, and that a further reduction in signals is necessary.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS -

"SYDNEY" leaves Sydney for Portland at 0900K today.
 "SEAN" is ahead of schedule and should arrive Sydney at noon today Thursday instead of 1530K tomorrow Friday.

"TONGKOL" } joined "RAMBUCCA" at Jervis Bay on Tuesday,
 "BOOLGWAI" } 30th January, for M.S. exercises. These Auxiliary vessels will return to their base, namely Sydney, about 6 days hence.

"PARRAMATTA" preliminary trial report by W.O.C.S. as satisfactory.

"WARREGO" Arrangements have been made for the launching ceremony to be held at Cockatoo Docks on 10th February.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"KING BAY", a new auxiliary ketch, can be acquired at Fremantle and it has been suggested to Naval Board that this vessel would improve the port facilities and examination services.
 D.N.O. Western Australia, will examine and report upon the proposal.

"BARETO", having carried out satisfactory trials, was commissioned on 31st January for duty as examination vessel at Port Moresby.

"PARATINA" has been returned to the Papuan Government.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

According to intercepted messages, a powerful escort of H.M. Ships, including the battleships "VALAYA" and "VALIANT", sailed from Halifax on 30th January possibly covering another convoy of Canadian troops or ships laden with aeroplanes from America.

H.M.S. "LEANDER", wearing broad pendant of C.C. New Zealand Squadron, sailed from Wellington, p.m. 31st January, for Auckland.

H.M. Destroyer "WATCOTT" on passage from Singapore to Colombo, has been ordered by Admiralty to proceed with despatch and to anticipate further instructions.

GENERAL.

Captain G.C. Muirhead-Gould, D.S.C., R.N., has been appointed DAILY NARRATIVE, in-Charge, Sydney and it is proposed that he leave H.M.S. "STRATHALLAN" sailing 17th To 0900 Thursday, 1st February, 1940.

C.-in-C. China, proposes to call up OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. to command H.M.S. "VALIANT" at Hong Kong.

H.M.A. SHIPS -

"SYDNEY" leaves Sydney for Portland at 0900K today. "WILLIS" "SWAN" is ahead of schedule and should arrive Sydney at noon today Thursday instead of 1530K tomorrow Friday.

"TONGKOL" and "GOOLGWAI" joined "NAMBUCCA" at Jervis Bay on Tuesday, 30th January, for M.S. exercises. These Auxiliary vessels will return to their base, namely Sydney, about 6 days hence.

"PARRAMATTA" preliminary trial report by N.O.C.S. as satisfactory.

"WARREGO" Arrangements have been made for the launching ceremony to be held at Cockatoo Docks on 10th February.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"KING BAY", a new auxiliary ketch, can be acquired at Fremantle and it has been suggested to Naval Board that this vessel would improve the port facilities and examination services. D.N.O. Western Australia, will examine and report upon the proposal.

"BARETO", having carried out satisfactory trials, was commissioned on 31st January for duty as examination vessel at Port Moresby.

"PANAWINA" has been returned to the Papuan Government.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

According to intercepted messages, a powerful escort of H.M. Ships, including the battleships "MALAYA" and "VALIANT", sailed from Halifax on 30th January possibly covering another convoy of Canadian troops or ships laden with aeroplanes from America.

H.M.S. "LEANDER", wearing broad pendant of C.C. New Zealand Squadron, sailed from Wellington, p.m. 31st January, for Auckland.

H.M. Destroyer "WESTCOTT" on passage from Singapore to Colombo, has been ordered by Admiralty to proceed with despatch and to anticipate further instructions.

GENERAL.

Captain G.C. Muirhead-Gould, D.S.C., R.N., has been appointed Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney and it is proposed that he leave U.K. in "STRATHALLAN" sailing 17th February.

C.-in-C. China, proposes to call up Commander Reginald Greer, R.A.N. (Retd.) to command H.M.S. "TARANTULA" at Hong Kong.

When the French Sloop "DUMONT D'URVILLE" enters Sydney harbour on 1st February, no salutes will be fired.

Lieutenant-Commander Travis arrives Fremantle on Monday, 5th February, to select a vessel suitable for loop laying - D.N.O. Western Australia, will report by signal the estimated cost for hire and alterations to the vessel selected, also the time required for laying operations.

Following Admiralty decision to de-magnetise merchant ships, Admiral ~~X~~ Commanding Malaya has asked Naval Board if any cable can be supplied for use at Singapore. Owing to the extreme shortage in Australia and our requirement being 500,000yards, we shall be unable to comply with his request.

C.-in-C. A. & W.I. has instructed a number of H.M. Ships on his Station, including "PERTH", not to remove Germans from Japanese ships until further orders.

D/F Outfit at Coonawarra W/T Station, Darwin, has been calibrated and is now ready to operate.

U.S.S. "TRISTLE" has been ordered to try to seize a German or neutral vessel carrying iron ore and if successful to send her in to Kirkwall. A later signal from the Admiralty indicates that the steamer to be intercepted is the German "GEM" (5,800 tons gross 11 kts.) which departed from Darwin during the night of the 28th January.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

U.S.1 arrived at Colombo at 1000 Tuesday, 30th January.

U.S.2 - H.M.S. "BAMILLIA" is to refit at Sydney - should it be found necessary at a later date for a battleship escort to be provided across the Yaman Sea the sailing of convoy will have to be adjusted accordingly.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 31st January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" wearing Flag of F.O.C.A.S. departed from Fremantle at 0915K Tuesday 30th January and expects to arrive at Portland at 0900K Saturday 3rd February.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" intends to sail from Sydney at 0900K ^{Monday} 31st January for Portland where R.A.C.A.S. will embark at 0930K Saturday 3rd February for the purpose of making an inspection of "Action Stations" which will be done while the ship is under way.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" entered Port Phillip at 1913 Tuesday, 30th January and secured at Nelson Pier Williamstown at 2200 the same day.

H.M.A. AUX. M/S VESSELS "TONGKOL" and "GOOLGWAI" departed from Sydney at 0900 Tuesday 30th for Jervis Bay.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" departed from Sydney at 0900 Tuesday 30th January for firing and returned to harbour at 1130 the same day.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" was at Trincomali on Monday 29th January. Will form part of the escort of U.S.1 departing from Colombo, Thursday, 1st February.

H.M.S. "THISTLE" has been ordered to try to seize a German or neutral vessel carrying iron ore and if successful to send her in to Kirkwall. A later signal from the Admiralty indicates that the steamer to be intercepted is the German "ODIN" (5,800 tons gross 11 kts.) which departed from Narvik during the night of the 29th January.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

U.S.1 arrived at Colombo at 1000 Tuesday, 30th January.

U.S.2 - H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" is to refit at Sydney - should it be found necessary at a later date for a battleship escort to be provided across the Tasman Sea the sailing of convoy will have to be adjusted accordingly.

REMARKS H.E. RICHARDS, R.A.N. commandant of H.M.S. "VALERIE" on 1st February.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 30th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" Departed Sydney a.m. yesterday for throw off full calibre firing with "MANCOORA" as target ship. The War Cabinet and press representatives were on board. Both ships returned to harbour p.m.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney yesterday from Melbourne.

"MORESBY" departed from Port Melbourne yesterday for exercises, presumably in Port Phillip.

"MANCOORA" will leave Sydney 5th February and exercise in Port Phillip from 7th February to 14th February, spending week end alongside at Port Melbourne, and will return to Sydney on Friday 16th February, carrying out full calibre shoot on arrival.

"CANBERRA" E.T.A. Melbourne 2030Z, 3rd February. A vessel of the 20th M/S Flotilla is required as a torpedo target.

"CORINGA" arrived Darwin 28th January.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"LEANDER" departed Dunedin 28th ^{January} February for Wellington.

"PERTH" C. in C. A. & W.I. concurs in proposal that "PERTH" should replace "DESPATCH" on West Coast until necessary to leave for Australia. It is not considered necessary to dock "PERTH" before departure. "PERTH" will leave Kingston about 10th February, and rendezvous with "DESPATCH" in Pacific.

H.M.A. DESTROYERS. C.-in-C. Mediterranean requests Admiralty approval to land H.S.M.S. equipment and make addition to D.C. stowage etc., and communications.

GENERAL INTEREST

SOLOMON ISLANDS. A "reliable native report" states that on 11th January one three funnel and one four funnel ship were seen off Malaita. On the 15th one grey vessel two funnels off Cape Zelee, Malaita.

CONTRABAND CONTROL. President Roosevelt considers that should American vessels be attacked by being forced into combatant area, American anger would be directed against Britain and not Germany.

DE-MAGNETISATION OF SHIPS. Equipment consists of a coil around the hull and is supplied with D.C. The cable is to be fitted externally on each side, and secured by metal clips 8 to 12 feet apart which must not totally enclose the cable with iron. In addition cable is to be parcelled and lashed as convenient.

COMMANDER H.J. BUCHANAN, R.A.N. assumes command of H.M.S. "VALENTINE" on 1st February.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Monday, 29th January.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "Sydney" at sea for G.G. and War Cabinet firing.
Target ship H.M.A.S. "Manoora".

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships "HAWKINS" (replacing "SHROPSHIRE") and "DORSETSHIRE" are to form Force "G".

H.M. Ships "ALCANTARA" and "QUEEN OF BERMUDA", A.M.Cs, will be employed in patrolling the Rio de Janeiro and Rio de la Plata routes.

ADMIRALTY.

All N.C.S. officers are again reminded that "Q" messages must be treated with the greatest secrecy - On no account is the purport of these messages to be communicated to Masters of neutral merchant vessels or other persons in neutral countries.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" - The provisional trial programme provides for the completion of contractors work and Engine Trials on the 12th February.

GENERAL.

It is anticipated that the Oil Fuel Tanks at Darwin will be completed on the 2nd February.

In future the control of the supply and distribution of Commercial Oil Stocks will be arranged by the Ministry of Shipping and the Oil Companies.

[Handwritten signature]

To 0900 SUNDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1940.

"SYDNEY" Returned Sydney from patrol yesterday.

"ADELAIDE" is to sail OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. Monday.

"SAMBUCUS" departed Sydney for Jervis Bay yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" departed from Port Melbourne at 0915 Saturday 27th January, and expects to arrive Sydney at 0430 Monday 29th January, and will again proceed to sea to carry out firing at 0900 Tuesday 30th.

"ACHILLES" H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed from Fremantle at 1100 Saturday 27th January, and expects to arrive at Port Melbourne at 1900 Thursday 1st February.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" - In view of the arrangement to return to the Australia Station on 1st April, the Admiralty have passed to C. in C. A. & W.I. instructions for her, whilst on passage, to temporarily replace H.M.S. "DESPATCH" on the S.W. Coast of South America. If it is considered necessary a quick docking is to be arranged at Bermuda before departure.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will replace "PERTH" in the Imperial disposition as from the 1st April and will join the East Indies Station.

"PERTH" will not now dock at Bermuda before sailing for Australia. She will sail from Kingston for Australia about middle February A.M.C.'s.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" - The provisional trial programme provides for the completion of contractors work and Engine Trials on the 12th February.

"MANGORAY" H.O.C.A. GENERAL.

It is anticipated that the Oil Fuel Tanks at Darwin will be completed on the 2nd February.

In future the control of the supply and distribution of Commercial Oil Stocks will be arranged by the Ministry of Shipping and the Oil Companies.

has been not approved, and she is to remain at 24 hours notice.

The Naval Board has informed Admiralty that it will be pleased to co-operate with scheme for offering R.A.N.R. organisation to the French.

GENERAL INTEREST.

Admiralty intend to make a daily disposition signal for the information of ships in home waters and the North Atlantic Command. The information will be propagated for one month on trial, as its usefulness is doubtful. (Note. The first signal places two in the West India Dock).

Admiralty require ships to keep and forward monthly, a log diary giving concise chronological records of activities on stations. Routine reports of proceedings now rendered can be discontinued, but special reports are to be rendered of particular operations or happenings of importance.

gkr
[Signature]

U. BOATS.
MANGORAY.

TO 0900 SATURDAY 27th JANUARY, 1940.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" Returned Sydney from patrol yesterday.

"ADELAIDE" is to sail 0915K today. E.T.A. Sydney 1430K Monday.

"NAMBUCCA" departed Sydney for Jervis Bay yesterday.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"ACHILLES" N.Z.N.B. intend, if practicable, to defer refit for a period of about eight weeks in order to proceed with the fitting out of A.M.C's. In the meantime "ACHILLES" will visit N.Z. ports. "LEANDER" will probably be refitting until about March 7th.

"EXETER" ^{escorted by} ~~will escort~~ "RENOWN" and "ARK ROYAL" will leave Freetown on 7th February. "ARK ROYAL" will proceed unescorted from a rendezvous near the Azores to the Western Approaches where she will pick up an A.S. escort, and proceed to Devonport. "HERMES" will use the same escort and sail from Devonport for Freetown. Destroyers "DEFENDER" "DECOY" "HASTY" "HEROS" (temporarily known as Force DH) will escort "RENOWN" and "EXETER" into Gibraltar. After a refit of four days, these ships will leave for U.K. Flag of R.A. Aircraft Carriers will remain in "ARK ROYAL".

"PERTH" will not now dock at Bermuda before sailing for Australia. She will sail from Kingston for Australia about middle February, and will embark "DESPATCH's" prize crew who will be disembarked into the oiler "BISHOPDALE" on the West Coast of South America.

A.M.C's.

"MANOORA" N.O.C.S. proposes to transfer "MANOORA" to administration of F.O.C.A.S. on 5th February by which time ship should be ready in all respects to proceed. Gun and paravane trials have been satisfactorily carried out.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"ORARA" Dockyard repairs will probably take one week. A request to revert to seven days' notice in order to clean one boiler has been not approved, and she is to remain at 24 hours notice.

D.E.M.S.

The Naval Board has informed Admiralty that it will be pleased to co-operate with scheme for offering D.E.M.S. organisation to the French.

GENERAL INTEREST.

U. BOATS. Admiralty intend to make a daily disposition signal for the information of ships in home waters and the North Atlantic Command. The information will be promulgated for one month on trial, as its usefulness is doubtful. (Note. The first signal places two in the West India Docks).

WAR DIARY. Admiralty require ships to keep and forward monthly, a war diary giving concise chronological records of activities on stations. Routine reports of proceedings now rendered can be discontinued, but special reports are to be rendered of particular operations or happenings of importance. /

DAIRY NARRATIVE

"MORESBY" asks for an officer of the Works Department to survey damage done to Princes Pier while berthing alongside.

FUEL TANKS, FREMANTLE. D.N.O. advises that tanks are now ready for reception of oil.

AUSTRALIA STATION

WAR RISKS. Main hearing of claims of waterside workers in connection with war risks will be heard in Sydney commencing 6th February.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown advises that "reliable information" has been received of the existence of a supply dump for submarines in vicinity of Kosi Bay, Portuguese East Africa. Further investigations are being made.

"MORRIS" arrived Melbourne yesterday and will proceed alongside Princes Pier p.m. today Friday.

"MANOCHA" sailed from for gun trials Thursday, 25th January, and returned to harbour.

CONVOY AND ESCORT

In a message to the Admiralty, the New Zealand Government urges that H.M.S. "SMITHIES" visit the Dominion before departure of U.S.S. unless it is essential for her to refit at Sydney.

OPERATIONS OFFICERS

H.M.S. "EXETER", escorted by Force "G", sailed from Falkland Islands on Sunday, 21st January, for Freetown. Force "K", reinforced by H.M. Destroyers "DAISY" and "DIAMOND", will take over escort duties on 29th January and arrive Freetown 3rd February.

Force "G" is to receive the flag of R.A., S.A. Div. A. & S.L. Squadron.

Naval Attache, Rio de Janeiro, reports that according to reliable information "a surprise in the form of submarines is being staged in South Atlantic shortly".

GENERAL

S.S. "PARTHENIA" on passage from Australia to the United Kingdom arrived Colombo Thursday, 23th January, six days overdue.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 26th January.

To 0900 Thursday, 25th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HECTOR", en route to New Zealand Station, arrived Fremantle Thursday, 25th January.

"SYDNEY" sailed from Sydney for patrol 25th January.

"MORESBY" arrived Melbourne yesterday and will proceed alongside Princes Pier p.m. today Friday.

"MANOORA" sailed from Sydney for gun trials Thursday, 25th January, and returned to harbour.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

In a message to the Admiralty, the New Zealand Government urges that H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" visit the Dominion before departure of U.S.2 unless it is essential for her to refit at Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "EXETER", escorted by Force "G", sailed from Falkland Islands on Sunday, 21st January, for Freetown. Force "K", reinforced by H.M. Destroyers "DAINTY" and "DIAMOND", will take over escort duties on 29th January and arrive Freetown 3rd February.

Auxiliary Force "G" is to rejoin the Flag of R.A., S.A. Div. A. & W.I. Squadron.

Naval Attache, Rio de Janeiro, reports that according to reliable information "a surprise in the form of submarines is being staged in South Atlantic shortly".

The Admiralty intend offering the services of this organisation to the French, but before doing so request information from the GENERAL. as to their wishes regarding inclusion in this arrangement.

S.S. "PERTSHIRE" on passage from Australia to the United Kingdom arrived Colombo Thursday, 25th January, six days overdue.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 24th January, 1940.

To 0900 Thursday, 25th January, 1940. STATION.

"KAMBUCCA" It is proposed should proceed to Jarvis Bay
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. 24th January.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" arrived at Williamstown at 1400 Wednesday
24th January, and will move to Port Melbourne this
morning, where she will remain until a.m. Saturday,
27th when it is proposed to proceed to Sydney,
carrying out a full calibre firing a.m. Tuesday,
30th and commencing 10 days' leave on Friday 2nd
February. The War Cabinet will be present.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" on passage from Sydney to Melbourne has been
sheltering in Twofold Bay since 0530 Wednesday 24th
January. The weather has moderated and she now
expects to arrive at 1800 Thursday 25th January.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" departed from Fremantle at 0915 Wednesday 24th
and expects to arrive at Sydney at 1530 Friday 2nd
February.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" departed from Fremantle at 0915 Wednesday 24th
January and expects to enter Port Phillip at 0230
Thursday 1st February.

H.M.A. Ships "ORARA" and "DOOMBA" arrived at Port Melbourne at
1250 and 1410 respectively, Wednesday, 24th January.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" arrives at Fremantle at 0700 today Thursday.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "BINGERA" - it is intended to commission this
Auxiliary M/S vessel at Sydney on Monday, 5th
February. completion will sail for Australia via
Panama. The light type catapult will not now
be fitted.
D.E.M.S.

The Admiralty intend offering the services of
this organisation to the French, but before doing so request
information from the Dominions as to their wishes regarding
inclusion in this arrangement.

"AUSTRALIA" Trial programme will be arranged and
communicated as soon as possible.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

"PERTSHIRE" is apparently overdue at Colombo since 19th
January.

GENERAL INTEREST.

DUTCH EAST INDIES. To avoid complications, officers and
ratings in ships calling at N.E.I. ports are
to wear plain clothes, and passages are to be
booked under title of Mr. On no account
is personnel to land in Dutch Territory.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SUBMARINES A report assessed B2, of a submarine in 240 2012 250 50' East on 20th January has been To 0900 Wednesday, 24th January, 1940. "BRYNJE".

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "NAMBUCCA" It is proposed should proceed to Jervis Bay for 7 days working up on 26th January.
- "TONGKOL" "GOOLGWAI" are proposed should join "NAMBUCCA" on 30th January, the three vessels returning in company to Sydney. report may be identical with the "BORNVILLE" reported by the press
- "SYDNEY" Full calibre firing is to take place on 29th January using "MANOORA" as throw off target. The War Cabinet will be present.
- "MORESBY" Departed Sydney about 2330Z/22. E.T.A. Port Phillip 0500Z/25 is likely to be delayed on account of heavy weather.
- "CANBERRA" Proposes to sail from Fremantle 30th January and will rendezvous with "SYDNEY" at Portland on 2nd February. After inspection at action stations, "CANBERRA" proceeds to Melbourne and "Sydney" to West.
- "AUSTRALIA" Departs West so as to pass "Sydney" near Albany on 7th February.
- "ADELAIDE" Proposed should commence 10 days leave on arrival Melbourne today.
- "CORINGA" Departed Townsville 22nd January.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

- "PERTH" Should dock at Bermuda about 8th February and on completion will sail for Australia via Panama. The light type catapult will not now be fitted.

A.M.C.'s.

- "MANOORA" Trial programme as follows: 25th January Gun and Paravane trials, 26th January Aircraft, depth charge, W/T and V.S. Equipment trials.
- "WESTRALIA" Trial programme will be arranged and communicated as soon as possible.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

- "PERTHSHIRE" is apparently overdue at Colombo since 19th January.

GENERAL INTEREST.

DUTCH EAST INDIES. To avoid complications, officers and ratings in ships calling at N.E.I. ports are to wear plain clothes, and passages are to be booked under title of Mr. On no account is personnel to land in Dutch Territory.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SUBMARINES A report assessed B2, of a submarine in 24° 20'S, 35° 50' East, on 20th January has been received from Norwegian ship "BRYNJE".
 To 0900 Tuesday, received from Norwegian ship "BRYNJE".
 A report assessed A1 of a Submarine off Pernambuco has also been received.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

A.M.C.'s. Admiralty have agreed that Commonwealth H.M.A.S. "COOLE" retain responsibility for manning "ARAWA", where she "MORETON BAY" and "KANIMBLA". S. Duties.

H.M.S. "EXMOUTH" Admiralty report loss with all hands, either by torpedo or mine. This report may be identical with the "GRENVILLE" reported by the press recently.

ESCORT AND CONVOY.

H.S.I. expects to arrive Colombo Tuesday, 30th January.

A.M.C.'s.

H.M.A.S. "MANGORA" subject to satisfactory equipment trials, will carry out gun and paravane trials on Thursday, 25th January.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"WONGALA" is to be laid up for the present due to difficulties which would arise if manned by a Naval crew. Essential cargo for Darwin will now be shipped per commercial freight.

"KURUNDA" is to sail from Fremantle as soon as convenient and proceed to Sydney direct to pay off and commission as a R.A.F.A. with Naval crew. She will remain in Sydney to be available as required.

GENERAL.

C.-in-C. America and West Indies Station has proposed to Admiralty that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" be docked at Bermuda about 6th February and that catapult be fitted. This work should occupy about 10 days when she would probably leave for East Indies Station.

Admiralty advises that searched channels throughout the Empire may be compromised owing to the loss of a Confidential book and it may be necessary to bring new channels into force.

Burns Philp steamer "MERKUR" was refloated early yesterday morning and proceeded alongside jetty at Darwin for examination by a diver.

British tanker "SCALABIA" is due Fremantle from Balikpapan (Borneo) on 4th February with 7,500 tons oil fuel for the Naval installation.

Admiralty requires the estimated requirements of oil fuel for the next 6 months and information as to the port of discharge.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 23rd January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "COOLEBAR" arrived Brisbane Tuesday, 22nd January, where she will be based for auxiliary M.S. Duties.

"DUMONT D'URVILLE", French sloop, left Vila (New Hebrides) for Noumea Wednesday, 17th January, en route to Sydney.

ESCORT AND CONVOY.

U.S.1. expects to arrive Colombo Tuesday, 30th January.

A.N.C.'s.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" subject to satisfactory equipment trials, will carry out gun and paravane trials on Thursday, 25th January.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"WONGALA" is to be laid up for the present due to difficulties which would arise if manned by a Naval crew. Essential cargo for Darwin will now be shipped per commercial freight.

"KURUMBA" is to sail from Fremantle as soon as convenient and proceed to Sydney direct to pay off and commission as a R.A.F.A. with Naval crew. She will remain in Sydney to be available as required.

GENERAL.

C.-in-C. America and West Indies Station has proposed to Admiralty that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" be docked at Bermuda about 8th February and that catapult be fitted. This work should occupy about 10 days when she would probably leave for East Indies Station.

Admiralty advises that searched channels throughout the Empire may be compromised owing to the loss of a Confidential book and it may be necessary to bring new channels into force.

Burns Philp steamer "MERKUR" was refloated early yesterday morning and proceeded alongside jetty at Darwin for examination by a diver.

British tanker "SCALARIA" is due Fremantle from Balikpapan (Borneo) on 4th February with 7,500 tons oil fuel for the Naval installation.

Admiralty requires the estimated requirements of oil fuel for the next 6 months and information as to the port of discharge.

DAILY NARRATIVE
DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 31st January, 1940

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" will be inspected at Action Stations by R.A.C.A.S. at Fremantle tomorrow Tuesday, 23rd January.

H.M.A. Ships "ORARA", "DOOMBA" and Aux. M/S "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" sail at 0830 today Monday for M/S Exercises today and tomorrow.

CONVOY U.S.I. "ORARA" and "DOOMBA", after embarking ammunition at Swan Island on Wednesday, return to Port Melbourne, preparatory to carrying out gunnery school firings on Thursday and if necessary Friday.

"HECTOR" Arrived Cocos Islands 19th January from Colombo.

FORCE "G" Arr OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. 18th January and intends

H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed from Cocos Island on Friday 19th January and is due to arrive Fremantle Wednesday

"LEANDER" 24th January.

Admiralty reports that German Cruisers "LEIPZIG" and "NUREMBURG" were expected to sail from Borkum on Saturday after GENERAL. an operation. Dispositions to intercept the enemy have been made accordingly.

Burns Philp steamer "MERKUR" - the Harbour Master at Darwin reports that no structural damage is apparent, all passengers except 9 male volunteers have been landed, the weather conditions are deteriorating and that an abortive attempt to lay out ground tackle was made on Saturday. The Tug "CARLOCK" has been sent from Brisbane and is due at Townsville on the 23rd.

C.C.S. asks H.M.S. "RAJPUTANA" has been ordered to proceed forthwith to the vicinity of Rio Esmeraldas and establish a patrol with the object of capturing the German ships "QUITO" and "BOGOTA" who are reported to be at Esmeraldas should they sail. (Esmeraldas - West Coast S. America Lat. 0°50'N).

"RISORRA" W.O.C.M. requests permission to ballast holds with 500-40 gallon drums to improve buoyancy.

A.M.C.'s.

"MANOORA" Probably commences working up 1st February. Probably ready for service in all respects 28th February.

"WESTRALIA" Probably commences working up 18th February. Probably ready for service in all respects 5th March. A Seaplane aircraft will probably be available for each ship, and ships will probably be initially employed as follows:-
"MANOORA" in New Guinea - Solomon Island Area
"WESTRALIA" on North West Coast.

GENERAL INTEREST.

H.P. TARGET It is proposed to convert the present target to high speed target.

C.-in-C. MALAYA. This title has been altered to "Rear-Admiral Malaya". The abbreviation R.A.M.Y. is authorised.

DAILY NARRATIVE

A/S VESSELS. Admiralty are considering the purchase of
To 0900 Sunday, 21st January, 1940. vessel now building in lieu
of Admiralty type whale catchers. This is because
of difficulty in supply being made of guns,
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. on the United
Kingdom.

"CORINGA" D.N.O. Queensland is despatching 6 members of
crew to Townsville by train, as they refuse
to fly. It is hoped to sail the vessel
a.m. today. hurried of a ship being lost
through this cause.

CONVOY U.S.1. Departed Fremantle for Colombo yesterday.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"HECTOR" Arrived Cocos Islands 19th January from Colombo.

FORCE "G" Arrived Falkland Islands 18th January and intends
to depart with "EXETER" in company on 21st
January.

"LEANDER" Arrived Dunedin 20th January.

Admiralty reports that German Cruisers
"LEIPZIG" and "NUREMBURG" were expected to sail from Borkum
on Saturday afternoon for an operation. Dispositions to
intercept the enemy have been made accordingly.

D.E.M.S.

C.C.S. advises of an intercept from
Director of Sea Transport to Admiral Superintendent,
Gibraltar, which states that 8-4" guns have been shipped in
"ORONSAY" on 30th December for Sydney. In view of this,
C.C.S. asks permission to utilise two Commonwealth 4" mountings
on Imperial ships before fitting 12 pounders.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"BINGERA" N.O.C.S. requests permission to ballast holds with
500-40 gallon drums to improve buoyancy.

A.M.C.'s.

"MANCOORA" Probably commences working up 1st February.
Probably ready for service in all respects
26th February.

"WESTRALIA" Probably commences working up 28th February.
Probably ready for service in all respects
25th March. A Seagull aircraft will probably
be available for each ship, and ships will
probably be initially employed as follows:-
"MANCOORA" in New Guinea - Solomon Island Area;
"WESTRALIA" on North West Coast.

GENERAL INTEREST.

B.P. TARGET It is proposed to convert the present target to
high speed target.

C.-in-C. MALAYA. This title has been altered to "Rear-Admiral
Malaya". The abbreviation R.A.M.Y. is
authorised.

DAILY NARRATIVE

SECRET

A/S VESSELS. Admiralty are considering the purchase of Australian type of A/S vessel now building in lieu of Admiralty type whale catchers. This is because of difficulty in supply being made of guns, generators and steering gear from the United Kingdom.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA

H.M. SHIPS

NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS. Admiralty advise against accepting warnings broadcast by foreign powers, as a case has recently occurred of a ship being lost through this cause.

"YARRA" } accompanied by Auxiliary M.S. vessels "GOORANGAI"
"BOOMBA" } and "BERYL 2" returned to Port Phillip at 1300
Friday, 19th January, from exercises.

"DEI" } arrived Newcastle Friday, 19th January, where they
"BERMAGUI" } will be based for auxiliary M.S. duties.

"GOOLEBAR" sailed from Sydney for Brisbane, Friday 19th
January.

H.A.F.R. H.C.C.S. now reports this vessel is suitable for
"BERGALA" a Store Carrier but he still considers she should
be "paid off" and commissioned with a Naval crew.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

"DEI" will sail from Fremantle at 1300H today Saturday,
escorted by H.M. Ships "RAMILLIES" and "KRMT" and the
French Cruiser "SUFFREN".

For two hours prior to sailing a searching sweep
will be carried out by H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" on com-
pletion of which they will return to Harbour.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships engaged in the recent action with "GRAF
SPEE" are to be refitted as follows:-

- "EXETER" at Devonport.
- "AJAX" " Chatham.
- "ACHILLES" " Auckland N.Z.

Admiralty reports considerable air activity in
North Sea.

GENERAL.

H.P. Target was refloated yesterday and will be
docked at Sydney for examination.

From an Admiralty intercept it would appear the
German Merchant ships "HANAU" and "OLDBERG" of 6000 and 8,500
tons respectively have been captured in Northern waters.

DAILY NARRATIVE

SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 20th January.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

- "ADELAIDE" sailed from Fremantle Friday, 19th January, and expects to arrive Melbourne at 1100 Wednesday 24th January.
- "ORARA" }
"DOOMBA" } accompanied by Auxiliary M.S. vessels "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL 2" returned to Port Phillip at 1300 Friday, 19th January, from exercises.
- "UKI" }
"BERMAGUI" } arrived Newcastle Friday, 19th January, where they will be based for auxiliary M.S. duties.
- "COOLEBAR" sailed from Sydney for Brisbane, Friday 19th January.
- R.A.F.R. N.O.C.S. now reports this vessel is suitable for
"WONGALA" a Store Carrier but he still considers she should be "paid off" and commissioned with a Naval crew.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

- "USI" will sail from Fremantle at 1200H today Saturday, escorted by H.M. Ships "RAMILLIES" and "KENT" and the French Cruiser "SUFFREN".

For two hours prior to sailing a searching sweep will be carried out by H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" on completion of which they will return to Harbour.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. Ships engaged in the recent action with "GRAF SPEE" are to be refitted as follows:-

"EXETER" at Devonport.
"AJAX" " Chatham.
"ACHILLES" " Auckland N.Z.

Admiralty reports considerable air activity in North Sea.

GENERAL.

B.P. Target was refloated yesterday and will be docked at Sydney for examination.

From an Admiralty intercept it would appear the German Merchant ships "HANAU" and "OLDENBERG" ^{of} at 6000 and 8,500 tons respectively have been captured in Northern waters.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

assistance he can in this matter. Baynes Philp are most anxious for to order tugs from Sourabaya.
To 0900 Friday, 19th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

is reported to be moving slightly higher at each tide; Ground tackle is being laid out to prevent this.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" }
H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" } Arrived Fremantle at 1735k
H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" } Thursday, 18th January.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" returned to Sydney from the vicinity of Long Reef at 1715 yesterday.

H.M.A. Ships "ORARA", "DOOMBA" together with the Auxiliary M/S Vessels "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed from Port Melbourne at 1215 yesterday for exercises in Port Phillip.

Auxiliary M/S Vessels "GOOLGWAI" and "TONGKOL" arrived Sydney at 1630 yesterday from exercises and Broken Bay.

French Sloop "DUMONT D'URVILLE" sailed from the New Hebrides for Noumea at 1800 Wednesday, 17th January.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" will be relieved by H.M.S. "HAWKINS" in the Plate Area on Sunday, 28th January, the former will then according to present intentions, proceed to New Zealand to refit.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

Arrived at Fremantle on the afternoon of Thursday, 18th January.

GENERAL INTEREST.

D/F Bearings from Auckland and Awarua indicate the possibility of an enemy vessel in the Southern Tasman.

The German "BAHIA BLANCA" is reported to have sunk on the 8th January in the Denmark Strait as the result of a collision with an iceberg. The last report of this ship was that of her sailing from Rio de Janeiro on the 6th December last.

POCKET BATTLESHIP

The Admiralty's signal that G.A.S. "ADMIRAL SCHEER" may have left Germany on the 14th December last for an extended cruise still holds good.

The German Merchantship "AYSBURG" has been transferred to the Netherlands Flag; the transfer is recognised by H.M. Government.

B.P. TARGET. An attempt to tow off at high water yesterday failed and a further attempt will be made this morning.

TUG "CORINGA"

Is now at Townsville and arrangements have been made for her to embark heavy towing gear and proceed to the assistance of "MERKUR" as soon as the crew trouble is settled. D.N.O. Queensland has been instructed by telephone to give all

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

assistance he can in this matter. Burns Philp are most anxious for the tug as their only alternative is to order tugs from Sourabaya.

To OROO Thursday, 13th January, 1940.

"MERKUR" is still aground and is reported to be moving slightly higher at each tide. Ground tackle is being laid out in an endeavour to prevent this.

R.A.N. & R.A.F. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" It has now been decided that "SYDNEY" will not be taken in hand for straightening and fairing of plates at stern.

"AUSTRALIA" Commissioned yesterday 17th January under command of Commander A.G. Rosenthal, R.A.N.

"ORARA" Naval Board has arranged a programme for "ORARA", "EDCOMBA" and Group 54 H.S. Ships will sail p.m. today.

"OLIVER" sailed from East Falkland yesterday without submitting a OPERATIONS REPORT. She has recalled to the Falklands for repairs.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. R.A. S.A.D. S. & W.I.S. considers that the transfer of stores from "OLIVER" in any exposed anchorage is impracticable, and recommends that a shore base be established in the Falklands.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS It is indicated that six Japanese destroyers and two submarines are in Mandated Island area.

"KENT" "SUFFERN" arrived Fremantle yesterday. They will be sent to the coast of Australia and New Zealand. Details will accept the inclusion of a letter to the effect that the subject of the passage of GENERAL INTEREST.

A/S COURSE. Nine Officers R.A.N.V.R. and 12 R.A.N.S. ratings are to be mobilised for seven weeks' training commencing 23rd January.

B.P. TARGET. C.C.S. reports that the B.P. target is ashore off Long point in heavy breakers. "SYDNEY" stood by during the night and salvage action will be taken today if practicable.

"MERKUR" At the request of Burns Philp, the "CORINGA", now at Townsville, will be made available to give assistance, and to transport gear from Townsville. W.O.I.C. Darwin reports that Harbour Master Darwin considers that situation is not yet critical, but that certain to become so if ground tackle is not available before springs to prevent ship becoming fast.

GENERAL.

"YARRA", a Burns Philp vessel of 3,000 tons, ran ashore at Darwin early yesterday morning. R.C. "KARILLA" has been ordered by Burns Philp to proceed to her assistance.

F.O.C., North Island, reported to the Admiralty yesterday that "HIGHLAND PRINCE", a passenger ship of 1,000 tons, sailing from S.A. to South American ports, was sighted in vicinity Gwary Islands.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 18th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

R.E. & H.M.A. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" It has now been decided that "SYDNEY" will not be taken in hand for straightening and fairing of plates at stern.

"WESTRALIA" Commissioned yesterday 17th January under command of Commander A.S. Rosenthal, R.A.N. and will leave for Fremantle shortly afterwards.

"ORARA" Naval Board has arranged a programme for "ORARA", "ABRAHADE" and "DOOMBA" and Group 54 M.S. Ships will sail p.m. today. Melbourne not later than Wednesday, 24th January.

"ORARA" sailed from Port Melbourne yesterday without submitting a OPERATIONS ABROAD. exercises. She was recalled and is now alongside Princess Pier awaiting

FALKLAND ISLANDS. R.A. S.A.D. A. & W.I.S. considers that the transfer of stores from "OLWEN" in any exposed anchorage is impracticable, and recommends that a shore base be established in the Falklands.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS It is indicated that six Japanese destroyers and two submarines are in Mandated Island area.

"KENT" "SUFFREN" arrived Fremantle yesterday. Navy before second convoy sails provided Australia and New Zealand Naval Boards will accept the exclusion of a battleship from the escort during passage of GENERAL INTEREST.

A/S COURSE. Nine Officers R.A.N.V.R. and 12 R.A.N.R. ratings are to be mobilised for seven weeks' training commencing 23rd January.

B.P. TARGET. C.C.S. reports that the B.P. target is ashore off Long point in heavy breakers. "SYDNEY" stood by during the night and salvage action will be taken today if practicable.

"MERKUR" At the request of Burns Philp, the "CORINGA", now at Townsville, will be made available to give assistance, and to transport gear from Townsville. N.O.I.C. Darwin reports that Harbour Master Darwin considers that situation is not yet critical, but that certain to become so if ground tackle is not available before springs to prevent ship becoming fast.

GENERAL.

S.S. "MERKUR", a Burns Philp vessel of 8,000 tons, ran ashore near Darwin early yesterday morning. S.S. "MARELLA" has been ordered by Burns Philp to proceed to her assistance.

F.O.C., North Atlantic, reported to Admiralty yesterday that "HIGHLAND PRINCESS", a passenger ship 14,000 tons running from U.S. to South American Ports, has been "runned" in vicinity Canary Islands.

Handwritten initials

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Tuesday DAILY NARRATIVE. 1940.

To 0900 Wednesday, 17th January.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "NO OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. des for departure from Sydney on Tuesday, 23rd January

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS frequently carrying out exercises in Port Phillip.

"LEANDER", wearing broad pendant of C.C.N.Z. Squadron, sailed from Sydney for Dunedin p.m. Tuesday, 16th January

"SYDNEY" is to be taken in hand forthwith to remove "bump" in her stern. She is to be available for War Cabinet firing from Monday, 29th January, and will leave for Fremantle shortly afterwards.

"ADELAIDE" will leave Fremantle Friday, 19th January, so as to arrive Melbourne not later than Wednesday, 24th

"ORARA" sailed from Port Melbourne yesterday without submitting a programme for M.S. exercises. She was recalled and is now alongside Princes Pier awaiting Naval Board approval of programme.

H.M.S. "BULOLO" has been ordered to intercept the Portuguese ship CONVOY AND ESCORT. on 11th January with a number of German agents onboard.

H.M.S. "KENT" } Due Fremantle today Wednesday.
FRENCH CRUISER "SUFFREN" }

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" will probably refit at Sydney before second convoy sails provided Australia and New Zealand Naval Boards will accept the exclusion of a battleship from the escort during passage of Tasman Sea.

AUXILIARY VESSELS. The "CORINGA" departed from Brisbane at 1000 Friday 14th

"CORINGA" arrived Townsville Tuesday, 16th January. "paid off" and Articles closed and that if required for future employment a Naval Crew be supplied.

D.E.M.S.

H.M.A.S. "St. GILES" was commissioned at Sydney on Monday 15th Jan. Since the commencement of hostilities, the following vessels have been armed:--

A.M.C.'s	3
Fast liners	116
D.E.M.S.	
Auxiliary Vessels	14
Total.	133

GENERAL.

S.S. "MERKUR", a Burns Philp vessel of 6,000 tons, ran ashore near Darwin early yesterday morning.

S.S. "MARELLA" has been ordered by Burns Philp to proceed to her assistance.

F.O.C., North Atlantic, reported to Admiralty yesterday that "HIGHLAND PRINCESS", a passenger ship 14,000 tons running from U.K. to South American Ports, has been "gunned" in vicinity Canary Islands.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Tuesday, 16th January, 1940.

To 0900 Monday 15th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" proposed programme provides for departure from Sydney on Tuesday, 23rd January and subsequently carrying out exercises in/on at Port Phillip. /1.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" sails at 1330 today from Sydney for that exercises with H.M.S. "LEANDER". On completion of which ship will proceed to vicinity of Newcastle for dawn exercises with the Fort. /2

H.M.S. "LEANDER" on completion of exercises returns to ward Dunedin where she expects to arrive p.m. Saturday, 20th January. /3

H.M.A. AUXILIARY MINESWEEPERS "UKI" and "BERMAGUI" departed from Port Phillip yesterday and expect to reach Newcastle on the morning of the 19th January. /4

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. 14 days at Sydney and then visit N.Z. would mean leaving Aden the 11th

H.M.S. "BULOLO" has been ordered to intercept the Portuguese ship "QUANZA" from Lobito on 11th January with a number of German Agents onboard. /5

H.M.S. "EXETER" It appears that the present arrangements provide for departure from the Falkland Is. about the 21st/22nd January escorted by "SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE". /6

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

Tug "CORINGA" departed from Brisbane at 1800 Friday 12th January. /7

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" - C.C.S. recommends that the crew be "paid off" and Articles closed and that if required for future employment a Naval Crew be supplied. /8

H.M.A.S. "St. GILES" was commissioned at Sydney on Monday 15th January. /9

SOUTH PACIFIC MILITARY DEFENCES. Discussions are proceeding between the Fiji and N.Z. Governments relative to the dispatch of troops to the South Pacific, particularly FIJI. /10

This was recommended at the Pacific Conference

WFB
AKB

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday ^{15th} ~~14th~~ January, 1940.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" will shift to Australian W/T Organisation at 0800/19/1.

JOB 55 C.-in-C. East Indies proposals to Admiralty are that if ship be required for U.S.2, it should -

(a) Leave Aden area 15th February, rest Colombo 5 days, Fremantle 5 days, and Auckland or Wellington 7 days on outward passage.

Alternatively

(b) If these rest periods are too short for se refits and it is not necessary to call at N.Z., she should arrive Sydney 15th March, after visiting Fremantle and Colombo as in (a)

CONVOY ESCORT.

The Admiralty has i Naval Boards that public withheld until disembark steaming at high speed until arrival in Sydney on 3rd March.

Escort for U.S.1 from COLOMBO to ADEN the following ships: ADMIRAL SCHEER C.O.I.S. now reports that previous intelligence of this ship being in area between Java and Formosa between 3rd and 10th January are discounted by the Admiralty who state that there are no indications of any German warships being at large at present.

GENERAL INTEREST.

EGYPTIAN SHIPS Admiralty advise that same convoy facilities are being offered Egyptian ships as allied ships.

CONTRABAND Admiralty have made arrangements to have certain goods, now in German ships in neutral ports, discharged and shipped to U.K.

SOUTH PACIFIC MILITARY DEFENCES. Discussions are proceeding between the Fiji and N.Z. Governments relative to the dispatch of troops to the South Pacific, particularly Fiji. This was recommended at the Pacific Conference

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 14th January.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships

"ORARA" and "DOOMEA" are at 8 hours notice for steam until a.m. Tuesday, 16th January and p.m. Wednesday, 17th January respectively.

"BERMAGUI" } Will sail from Melbourne tomorrow Monday for
"UKI" } Newcastle where they will be based for auxiliary
M/S Duties.

CONVOY ESCORT.

The Admiralty has intimated to Australia and New Zealand Naval Boards that publication of news of the convoy should be withheld until disembarkation is complete.

Escort for U.S.1 from COLOMBO to ADEN will be provided by the following ships :-

H.M. Ships "SUSSEX", wearing flag of F.O., 4th Cruiser Squadron, "EAGLE", and H.M.A.S. "HOBART" to be known as Force "I" and H.M.S. "RAMILLES".

Admiralty messages indicate that the enemy mine laying operations off the EAST COAST have been numerous in the last 48 hours - seven Areas having been proclaimed "Dangerous".

H.M.S. "CORNWALL" has been ordered by the C.-in-C., SOUTH ATLANTIC, to provide cover for the first 48 hours of passage from CAPE TOWN to AUSTRALIA of the bullion ships "DOMINION EDWARD" and "SUSSEX" and "GILBERT", the two former sailing on the 19th and 22nd January respectively.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "HEBOS" commissioned at SYDNEY Friday, 12th January.

H.M.A.S.

The Admiralty have instructed the Admiral Superintendent GIBRALTAR to ship to SYDNEY by the first opportunity 4-4.75 guns and 18 additional 4" Gun Mounts together with half outfits of ammunition.

GENERAL.

To avoid confusion in operations the use of "X Day" is to be discontinued as from 2359 Sunday, 14th January, after which the day on which an operation is to start will be referred to as "Day One" written D.1. the prefix plus and minus will be used as heretofore.

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MOST SECRET.

CONVOY AND ESCORT. DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M. Transport "EXPRESS OF JAPAN" passed through
To 0900 Saturday, 13th January, 1940. January and joined the
convoy in a position 50' South (approx.) of the Heads at 1230
the same day.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

The Convoy was reported by the S.S.S. CAPE OTWAY as
having passed at 1700 Friday, 12th January.

H.M.A.S. "COOLEBAR" - Aux. M/S Vessel - returned to SYDNEY yester-
day afternoon from JERVIS BAY where seven days have been
spent working up preparatory to her departure from BRISBANE
about the 17th January. Fuel was provided by Aircraft during
the day and is being maintained today until 1100 at which time

H.M.S. "LEANDER" departed from SYDNEY at 1430 Friday, 12th January
for Gunnery Firing and returned to port, at 2000 the same day

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" departed from JERVIS BAY on Friday 12th to rendezvous with "LEANDER" also returned to SYDNEY at 2000 the same day.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" } Arrived at FREMANTLE on the afternoon of
H.M.A.S. "YARRA" } Friday, 12th January.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" } Returned from sweeping operations and berthed at
H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" } PORT MELBOURNE at 1811 Friday, 12th January.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

An intercept to the Admiralty from the C.-in-C. A. & W.I. based on information received from PANAMA reports that the GERMAN Steamer "TANNENBERG" accompanied by submarines U51., 53., 64., and 65. are approaching TRINIDAD; one, or possibly more of the submarines has engine trouble but is able to dive - PANAMA has been directed to check the reliability of this report.

Admiralty "QZ" Messages indicate that the enemy mine laying operations off the EAST COAST have been numerous in the last 48 hours - seven Areas having been proclaimed "Dangerous".

H.M.S. "CORNWALL" has been ordered by the C.-in-C., SOUTH ATLANTIC, to provide cover for the first 48 hours of passage from CAPE TOWN to AUSTRALIA of the bullion ships "DOMINION MONARCH", "SUSSEX" and "CLIONA", the two former sailing on the 19th and 22nd January respectively.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "HEROS" commissioned at SYDNEY Friday, 12th January.

D.E.M.S.

The Admiralty have instructed the Admiral Superintendent GIBRALTAR to ship to SYDNEY by the first opportunity 4-4.7" guns and 16 additional 4" Gun Mounts together with half outfits of ammunition.

GENERAL.

To avoid confusion in operations the use of "X Day" is to be discontinued as from 2359 Sunday, 14th January, after which the day on which an operation is to start will be referred to as "Day One" written D.1. the prefixes plus and minus will be used as heretofore.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

CONVOY AND ESCORT.

12 0930 Friday, 12th January, 1940.

H.M. Transport "EMPRESS OF JAPAN" passed through PORT PHILLIP HEADS at 0930 Friday 12th January and joined the convoy in a position 50' South (approx.) of the Heads at 1230 the same day.

The Convoy was reported by the W.S.S. CAPE OTWAY as having passed at 1700 Friday, 12th January.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Continuous A/S patrol was provided by Aircraft during the day and is being maintained today until 1100 at which time the convoy will be too far to the WESTWARD for the patrol to be maintained.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"ACHILLES" is to refit at Auckland.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"CORINCA" D.N.O. Brisbane advises owners are experiencing difficulty in training crew and vessel will probably sail today Friday.

"St.GILLES" N.O.C.B. proposes commissioning 18/1.

GENERAL INTEREST.

BULLION SHIPMENTS Admiralty advise movements of next five bullion ships from Capetown. The first "Huntington" sailed on 6/1. The first shipment from Sydney to Vancouver will be "AGRANGI" on 18/1.

FOOD RATIONING. In U.K. does not affect H.M. Ships and Establishments.

MAGNETIC MINES New experimental magnetic mines have proved successful.

INDICATOR LOOPS G.C.S. reports loop station Sydney now functioning satisfactorily.

BARREN. Owing to severe floods the telegraph service is temporarily dislocated.

AIR OPERATIONS are being carried out today from Laverton over Bass Strait.

TRANSPORT U.L. departed Port Melbourne yesterday and anchored in Port Phillip.

A/S

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 12th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"WONGALA" arrived Sydney 11/1.

"SYDNEY" Jervis Bay 11/1. Is to rendezvous with "LEANDER" today Friday.

Tug "St.OLAVES" departed Fremantle for Colombo. E.T.A. 25/1

"SWAN" "YARRA" Will arrive Fremantle tomorrow.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"ACHILLES" is to refit at Auckland.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"CORINGA" D.N.O. Brisbane advises owners are experiencing

difficulty in obtaining crew and vessel will probably sail today Friday.

"St.GILES" N.O.C.S. proposes commissioning 15/1.

GENERAL INTEREST.

BULLION SHIPMENTS Admiralty advise movements of next five bullion ships from Capetown. The first - "Huntington" sailed on 3/1. The first shipment from Sydney to Vancouver will be in "AORANGI" on 18/1.

FOOD RATIONING, In U.K. does not affect H.M. Ships and Establishments.

MAGNETIC MINES New experimental magnetic sweeps have proved successful.

INDICATOR LOOPS C.C.S. reports loop station Sydney now functioning satisfactorily.

DARWIN. Owing to severe floods the telegraph service is temporarily dislocated.

AIR OPERATIONS are being carried out today from Laverton over Bass Strait.

TRANSPORT U.1. departed Port Melbourne yesterday and anchored in Port Phillip.

GENERAL.

According to rumors, Berlin short wave station has broadcast that convoy with Australian and New Zealand contingents sailed on 10th January.

S.O.(I) Wellington and A.C.S.S. will arrive here by "Spirit of Progress" this forenoon.

Ellis

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Thursday, 11th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "LEANDER", wearing broad pendant of C.C. New Zealand Squadron, arrived Sydney at 1700 Wednesday, 10th December.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived Sydney from patrol at 1600 Wednesday, 10th December.

ESCORT AND TRANSPORTS.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S., arrived Sydney Wednesday, 10th December and sailed again at 1500 to rejoin convoy at rendezvous.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and "EMPRESS OF CANADA" arrived Sydney at 0700 Wednesday, 10th December.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", escorting "EMPRESS OF CANADA" (Z.I.), sailed from Sydney at 0930 Wednesday, 10th December, to join convoy.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" with transports U2 to U5 sailed from Sydney at 1410 for 1600 rendezvous.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" remains with escort until 0400 today Thursday and then returns to Sydney, assumes responsibility as S.O. Force "YY", and will co-operate with "LEANDER" as previously arranged.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Commencing at 0500 this morning air operations will be carried out over Victorian waters by aircraft from Canberra and Richmond to provide additional protection for convoy.

Following yesterday's operations, one Anson was lost in vicinity of Maitland, near Newcastle, when returning to Canberra.

The crew jumped and according to present information, the pilot is safe but the other two members of the crew have not yet been located.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"NAMBUCCA" commissioned Wednesday, 10th January, at Sydney where she will be based for M.S. duties.

GENERAL.

According to rumour, Berlin short wave station has broadcast that convoy with Australian and New Zealand contingents sailed on 10th January.

S.O.(I) Wellington and A.C.N.S. will arrive here by "Spirit of Progress" this forenoon.

About 1330 - H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" leave Sydney to rendezvous with "LEANDER" at 1600.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

2.

To 0900 Wednesday 10th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" departed from Sydney at 1100 Tuesday, 9th for patrol.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" departed from Jervis Bay at 1730 Tuesday 9th for patrol.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" carried out gunnery firing off Sydney on Tuesday 9th and returned to harbour in the evening.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" anchored in Waterloo Bay at 2030 Tuesday 9th January.

H.M.A.S. "KOOKABURRA" arrived at Sydney on Monday 8th January from Darwin.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Commencing at 0500 this morning Aircraft from Richmond and Laverton will carry out as arranged, Air Searches and Anti-submarine patrols during the day off the New South Wales Coast for the purpose of providing protection for Convoy U.S.1.

FAST LINERS - Union S.S. Co.'s "NIGARA" and "GORANI" will be the OPERATIONS OVERSEAS. Pacific liners to be defensively equipped.

H.M.S. "HYPERION" and "HOTSPUR" are returning to their respective Home ports from the South Atlantic. They will refit and give seven days' leave to each watch before joining the Home Fleet.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" is expected to arrive at Colombo today.

H.M.S. "KENT" together with the French Cruiser "SUFFREN" departed from Colombo on Monday 8th January for Fremantle.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" departed from Bombay on 5th January for Colombo en route to Fremantle where she is due on the 24th January.

H.M.A.S. "STUART" arrived Haifa on 9th January.

H.M.S. "GLORIOUS" left Aden 7th January for Suez.

CONVOY AND TRANSPORTS.

Anticipate following programme today Wednesday.

About 0600 - H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and "EMPRESS OF CANADA" arrive Sydney. General Freyberg disembarks.

About 0700 - H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" and "EMPRESS OF CANADA" leave Sydney to rendezvous with U.S.1.

1130 - H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" when relieved by "AUSTRALIA" proceeds Sydney.

About 1330 - H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.S. "RAMILLIES", U2, 3, 4, 5 leave Sydney to rendezvous with U.S.1 at 1600.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

2.

To 0900 Tuesday, 5th January, 1940.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" on patrol has orders to rendezvous at 1600 also, and subsequently will be detached.

p.m. - H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrives Sydney (unconfirmed - programme for Friday 12th January - Sub-Calibre firing - H.A. firing at sleeve target - Night shadowing exercise) S.O.(I) Wellington proceeds to Melbourne.

"BERNAGUI" will sail for Newcastle on 15th January.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

Tug "CORINGA" is expected to depart from Brisbane today for the United Kingdom and will call at Darwin for bunkers.

"AJAX" left the Plate p.m. on 5th January and proceeded at 35 knots on patrol in the Rio area. She will enter Rio on 11th January and call the following day for Freetown. "SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE" fuelled in the Plate area on 6th January and then left to join "AJAX". "ACHILLES" is patrolling in the Plate area.

"SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE" are to remain in vicinity of the Rio until Saturday, 13th January, and will proceed to Falkland Islands arriving 18th January.

D.E.M.S.

FAST LINERS - Union S.S. Co.'s "NIAGARA" and "AORANGI" will be the first of the trans Pacific liners to be defensively equipped.

GENERAL INTEREST.

ANGLO SWEDISH TRADE AGREEMENT. Admiralty advise that this has been extended to cover 180 vessels. The signal further states that westbound vessels of 14 shipping companies enumerated, are not to be delayed longer than necessary to establish identity.

Three neutral vessels have been voyage chartered by the Admiralty on account of the Ministries of Food and Supply, two of which will load in Australia for the U.K. and one in Java; presumably late this month.

FALKLANDS. C. in C. S.A. considers it essential to maintain adequate supplies of 8" and 6" ammunitions for two cruisers of each type at the Falkland Islands.

"WONG ALA" It is proposed to despatch this ship for Darwin after her return to Sydney with a full cargo of stores for all services, as soon as they are available.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 9th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"DOOMBA" "ORARA" departed Port Phillip yesterday for operations Bass Strait.

"SYDNEY" departed Sydney for Jervis Bay and patrol.

"BERMAGUI" "UKI" will sail for Newcastle on 15th January.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

SOUTH AMERICA -

"AJAX" left the Plate p.m. on 5th January and proceeded at 25 knots on patrol in the Rio area. She will enter Rio on 11th January and sail the following day for Freetown. "SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE" fuelled in the Plate area on 6th January and then left to join "AJAX". "ACHILLES" is patrolling in the Plate area.

D.E.M.S.

FAST LINERS - Union S.S. Co.'s "NIAGARA" and "AORANGI" will be the first of the trans Pacific liners to be defensively equipped.

GENERAL INTEREST.

ANGLO SWEDISH TRADE AGREEMENT. Admiralty advise that this has been extended to cover 180 vessels. The signal further states that westbound vessels of 14 shipping companies enumerated, are not to be delayed longer than necessary to establish identity.

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FALKLANDS. C. in C. S.A. considers it essential to maintain adequate supplies of 8" and 6" ammunitions for two cruisers of each type at the Falkland Islands.

"WONG ALA" It is proposed to despatch this ship for Darwin after her return to Sydney with a full cargo of stores for all services, as soon as they are available.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 8th January.

To 0900 Sunday, 7th January, 1940.
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS - OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"AUSTRALIA" will be undocked at 1300 today Monday and proceeds to sea tomorrow to carry out firings.

"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" sail at 0900 and 1200 respectively today to carry out a programme as detailed in Daily Narrative for Saturday, 6th January.

SYDNEY on Tuesday, 8th January and Wednesday, 10th January.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

REAR-ADMIRAL S.A.D., A. & W.I.S. Flag has been transferred from H.M.S. "AJAX" to H.M.S. "ACHILLES".

H.M.S. "AJAX" is to leave Rio de Janeiro Friday, 12th January, and will proceed to Freetown in company with Force "K", "NEPTUNE" and 2 Destroyers arriving 19th January.

FORCE "G" ("SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE") are to remain in vicinity Rio de Janeiro until Saturday, 13th January, and will then proceed to Falkland Islands arriving 18th January. This Force will escort H.M.S. "EXETER", badly damaged in action, to Freetown whence she will sail for U.K. on 7th February escorted by Force "K" for the first part of passage and subsequently by Force "X".

GENERAL.

ADMIRALTY.

In view of urgent requirements for merchant tonnage it has been decided, for the present, no further vessels will be requisitioned for conversion to armed merchant cruisers. 49 Imperial A.M.C.'s are now in commission and of this total 18 are to be employed on the Northern Patrol and 10 for the Sierra Leone convoy escort force.

The arming of fast liners on trans Pacific Service is approved.

RABAU. This port which was closed at night by the Administrator's orders on the 8th November last has now been re-opened.

~~MOST SECRET~~

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 6th January, 1940.

To 0900 Sunday, 7th January, 1940.

"HYDREY" sails for Jervis Bay and patrol in connection with OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" will be undocked p.m. Monday 8th January and will proceed to sea the following day to carry out firings.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" will carry out an A/S Patrol off SYDNEY on Tuesday, 9th January and Wednesday, 10th January.

H.M.A. Auxiliary M/S "COOLEBAR" has arrived at JERVIS BAY where a few days will be spent working up before proceeding to BRISBANE.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.
CONVOY.

"KARIS" will apparently shortly leave Falklands for Freetown.

The first NEW ZEALAND Contingent has sailed. H.M.S. "LEANDER" with transports "DUNERA II" and "SOBIESKI" departed from PORT LYTTLETON on the afternoon of Friday 5th and H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" with transports, "ORION", "EMPRESS OF CANADA", "STRATHAIRD" and "RANGITATA" from WELLINGTON on the morning of Saturday the 6th.

"ROTHESAY CASTLE" A.R.C. is aground off Islay, West Coast of Scotland.

GENERAL.

POTENTIAL ENEMY A.R.C.'s.

Gunnery Officers - In order to meet the progressive shortage Their Lordships have approved of the withdrawal of these officers from certain Cruisers and of the Second Gunnery Officers from Battleships and Battle-cruisers.

Included in the Admiralty Bi-Weekly Summary is that reports received confirm that Pocket Battleship "DEUTSCHLAND" and a Cruiser of the "KONIGSBERG" Class have been damaged externally, probably on one of their own minefields.

RABAUL. This port which was closed at night by the Administrator's orders on the 9th November last has now been re-opened.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

ROBERT. D.W.S. seeks permission to place "MAPANA" and "KUSARA" on trial for essential bottom cleaning. He estimated that the resulting saving in fuel costs will be 25 weekly.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"BONGALA" N.O.C. reports this vessel unsuitable for laying at Fremantle, and proposes to send Lieutenant-Commander Travis to Fremantle, to select and fit a suitable local craft.

TRIP

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 6th January, 1959.⁴⁰

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" sails for Jervis Bay and patrol in connection with convoy US1 on Monday 8th January.

"ORARA", "DOOMBA" (4th. Sub) to sail Monday 8th. Will sweep in vicinity of Wilsons Promontory on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after disembarking medical officer at W.S.S. at dawn on Tuesday. Patrol is to be carried out in swept channels during the night Thursday/Friday. The medical officer is to be reembarked, and after the convoy has passed, ships will return to Melbourne.

"BERMAGUI" "UKI" Sail for Newcastle on 15/1 where they will be stationed.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"EXETER" Will apparently shortly leave Falklands for Freetown.

"ACHILLES" Will be repaired and refitted at Malta.

"D'URMONT D'URVILLE" French escort vessel, departed Papette on 3/1 for Suva and Sydney where she will refit. E.T.A. 1/2.

"ROTHESAY CASTLE" A.M.C. is aground off Islay, West Coast of Scotland.

POTENTIAL ENEMY A.M.C.'s.

"WINDHUK" is unarmed according to an official declaration.

A.M.C.'s.

"WESTRALIA" is to commission 17/1.

D.E.M.S.

TRANS PACIFIC SHIPS. The question of arming these ships has again been referred to the Admiralty.

A/S VESSELS.

"HEROS" is to commission 12/1.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

HOBART. D.N.O. seeks permission to place "MARANA" and "MOGANA" on slip for essential bottom cleaning. He estimated that the resulting saving in fuel costs will be £3 weekly.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"HONGALA" N.O.C.S. reports this vessel unsuitable for loop laying at Fremantle, and proposes to send Lieutenant-Commander Travis to Fremantle, to select and fit a suitable local craft.

N.O.I.C. DARWIN. Captain Thomas has assumed duty.

OBSERVERS' COURSES Admiralty advise courses will commence 29/1 and at regular intervals of 8 weeks. Duration of course 32 weeks.

"PARRAMATTA" Guns and mountings will be shipped from U.K. this week.

ENEMY SUBMARINE?? A report of a submarine has been received from for a position about 30 miles north of Auckland.

"ADMIRAL SCHEER" A report assessed CS from C.O.I.S. states this ship may be expected between Java and Formosa between 3/1 and 10/1

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 5th January.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS -

"AUSTRALIA" will be docked p.m. today Friday.

"SWAN", having completed searching sweep is proceeding with "YARRA" in company to Fremantle.

"BERMAGUI" and "UKI" will complete working up programme 12th January. D.N.O. Victoria, proposes to sail these auxiliary M.S. vessels on Monday, 15th January. Their ultimate destination, according to present intention, is Newcastle.

R.F.A. "WAR KRISHNA" left Port Phillip 4th January. Steaming at 9½ knots, she expects to arrive Singapore 23rd January to embark oil fuel for Darwin.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

D.N.O. Queensland has been instructed by N.B. to make arrangements for the despatch of tug "CORINGA" to U.K.. According to Lloyds' Surveyor this vessel is in good condition throughout.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. and H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" flying flag of F.O.C.A.S. arrived Wellington 4th January.

"LEANDER" escorting H.T. "DUNERA" left Wellington for Port Lyttleton 4th December.

"COLOMBO" and "CERES" are to be relieved from Northern patrol, refit and then proceed in company to Australia.

FORCE "G" ("SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE") will cover the departure of "ACHILLES" and "AJAX" from River Plate area today, Friday, as there is just a possibility of attack by "ADMIRAL SCHEER". Force "G" will then cover "AJAX" during her passage to Rio de Janeiro.

"EMPRESS OF CANADA" will proceed into Sydney with Job 55 to disembark General Freyberg and will rejoin convoy with "AUSTRALIA" in company.

ADMIRALTY.

Of particular interest is the following message quoted verbatim:-

"German submarines may use electric driven torpedoes running at 25 to 30 knots which would be trackless. Such torpedoes were actually used to sink H.M.S. "ROYAL OAK".

All Stations are required to report the number of minesweeping vessels and their present disposition. This information is required to enable the Admiralty to review world wide minesweeping defence measures.

GENERAL.

Commodore H.E. Horan, D.S.C., has assumed command of H.M.S. "LEANDER" and N.Z. Squadron, but he retains the office of C.N.S. and 1st N.M. of New Zealand Naval Board.

C. in C. East Indies, requests any special instructions for ships entering Fremantle.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 4th January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" will proceed on patrol from Fremantle at 0900 tomorrow.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" reports that the search of channel in the Bass Strait is completed. Both ships anchored in Oberon Bay last night.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" is scheduled to arrive at Fremantle 24th January, Melbourne on the 1st February and remains here for 2 days. This A.M.C. is proceeding to the N.Z. Station, leaving Bombay tomorrow.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" flying the flag of R.A.C.A.S. is due at Wellington this morning.

H.M.A.S. "WONGALA" sailed from Townsville at 4.00 p.m. Wednesday, 3rd January, for Sydney.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Force "G" - "DORSETSHIRE" and "SHROPSHIRE" are to rendezvous in a position approximately 300' S. of Rio de Janeiro, some difficulty apparently due to weather and poor visibility is delaying this operation. W/T silence is being broken by both ships.

The R.A.S.A. Div. A. & W.I. considers there is a possibility of "ADMIRAL SCHEER" being in the Monte Video area and informed C. in C., Sth. Atlantic, and the Admiralty accordingly - the reply from the latter being "The possibility certainly exists". The disposition of this Force is being arranged with a view to bringing the enemy to action should an attempt be made by him to attack "ACHILLES" and "AJAX" on their departure from Buenos Aires and Monte Video respectively tomorrow, the 5th January.

A signal from Captain (S) 3rd Submarine Flotilla to H.M.S. "SUNFISH" stated that there was a possibility of enemy M.T.Bs. operating in The Would on the night of the 2nd January.

A report from C. in C., China, states that he is satisfied that the contact which resulted in the port of Hong Kong being temporarily closed was not a submarine contact.

GENERAL.

Norwegian, Swedish and certain Yugo Slav ships are to receive similar treatment to British Vessels in respect to stores, bunkers, docking, minimum of delay, etc.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 3rd January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"KOOKABURRA" departed Townsville 2nd January. E.F.A. Sydney 10th January.

"WAR KRISHNA", Oiler, arrived Williamstown 2nd January.

"COOLEBAR". N.O.C.S. proposes should proceed to Jervis Bay for seven days working up on 5th January and sail for Brisbane about 17th January.

"SWAN" "YANRA" departed Port Phillip 2nd January for operations off Wilson's Promontory, and for Fremantle.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

R.A.N. DESTROYERS abroad are now constituted as 19th Division.

5TH CRUISER SQUADRON. All cruisers and A.M.Cs. on China Station will now form the 5th Cruiser Squadron.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS.

"TACOMA". S.O.I. Monte Video reports that this ship has now been interned.

SOUTH AMERICA. Reports assessed A2 have been received that a general attempt to run the Blockade regardless of consequences will be made by German Merchant Ships in Brazil during the week commencing 31st December.

GENERAL INTEREST.

HONG KONG. The port was temporarily closed yesterday due to a submarine contact inside territorial waters. Depth charges could not be dropped due to the proximity of junks, and contact was lost. The presence of a S/M is not confirmed.

A/S DEFENCE. C.C.S. advises that integrators have now been received and proposes to put Sydney system into operation forthwith; and that Commander Newcombe proceeds to Darwin to complete there after the sailing of convoy.

WEST AFRICAN FORCE. The despatch of the force from Lagos to Mombassa will not take place as previously advised.

THURSDAY ISLAND W/T. N.O.I.C. reports a breakdown of transmission again.

CONVOY.

USI. Admiralty has amended the title Z.A.I. to again read U.S.I.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 2nd January, 1940.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" departed Sydney for Wellington, flying flag of R.A.C.A.S.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

French "ACHERON" is reported as unable to dive and is proceeding to Casablanca on the surface.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

GERMAN M/Vs. Admiralty direct that, except on Home Station, W/T silence is to be broken by British ships to report immediately any German vessel whose identity is certain.

TASMAN SEA. Naval Board has concurred in N.Z. N.B.'s suggested routing proposals until convoy has crossed the Tasman Sea.

INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH A MERICA. Reports assesses Al now state that the suspected submarine near Ganchoo has been confirmed.

The press reports that the "Tacoma" has been interned by the Uruguyan Government.

GENERAL INTEREST.

BOOM DEFENCE, DARWIN. N.O.C.S. advises that only 102 barrels were shipped in "TULAGI" on 29th December. Burns Philp, however, have given assurance that balance, 918, will be shipped in "MONTORO" on 13/1.

R.N.R. SUB-LIEUTS. In response to Admiralty enquiry, all H.M.A. Cruisers are being asked whether any Sub-Lieutenants, R.N.R., can be accommodated for a training period of 4 to 8 months.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

0900, 1st January, 1940.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" is at 4 hours' notice.

"CANBERRA" has informed C.N.S. Wellington of his E.T.A. as 1745 G.M.T. 3rd January, 1940.

"SWAN", "YARRA" will sail for operations in Bass Strait and Fremantle 0600, 2/1.

"KOOKABURRA" passed Archer Point, Southbound 0130Z/31.

"AUTOMEDON" arrived Fremantle 1800(H) 30/12. Departed for Colombo 2200/31.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

SOUTH AMERICA. C.in C., South America, considers that in view of projected sailings of large number of German M.Vs in Rio Area, a raider is more likely to appear in that locality than in the Plate area. "DORSETSHIRE" and "SHROPSHIRE" have been disposed accordingly. A report assessed Al has been received that a large merchant vessel with probably a submarine in attendance was sighted Ganchoo. (27.S 48.W).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Admiralty reports indicate that this ship sailed from Germany on 14th December for an extended cruise.

JOB 55. Arrived Wellington 31/12.

GENERAL INTEREST.

SABOTAGE. Admiralty advise that reliable information has been received that a campaign of sabotage is to be commenced in the U.K. and that particular attention will be given to (a) Munition works, (b) Time bombs in ships leaving U.K. and Canada, (c) water supplies of the main cities. Attention is directed to C.A.F.O. 2514/39. (Steps to be taken to obtain security against sabotage.)

SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN. Admiralty advises a quiet week, in which no British ships were sunk by Submarines, and that total of 6600 tons were sunk otherwise. No mention is made of an attack recently reported in the press on a battleship.

A/S PERSONNEL. Admiralty gratefully accept offer of services of R.A.N.V.R. trained personnel, and requests details by air mail.

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