

DAILY NARRATIVES

1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 1941

TO

8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1941

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 8th May.

To 0900 Wednesday, 7th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"ADELAIDE" on arrival Sydney at 0530 tomorrow will dock at Cockatoo.

"MANOORA" arrived Rabaul yesterday afternoon and after fuelling proceeds to Nauru arriving 11th May.

20th M.S.F. will sail from Williamstown at 1700 today to complete searching sweep off Cape Otway.

"BURNIE" will sail from Port Melbourne so as to rendezvous with 20th M.S.F. off Otway at 0630 Saturday, 10th May.

"PANTHER" arrived Darwin p.m. 6th May for coal en route Darwin

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"PARAMITAS" arrived Suez 4th May and has joined Mediterranean

Naval Board has despatched a message, through C. in C. Mediterranean, congratulating officers and men in Australian Destroyers on their good work over a long period.

C. in C., East Indies, in a message to the Admiralty suggests H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE" be refitted at Singapore instead of Bombay as proposed by C. in C., Mediterranean.

AIR OPERATION.

S.S. "CITY OF GLASGOW" on arrival Sydney yesterday reported sighting the previous afternoon, in a position about 86 miles north of Newcastle, the skid lost by H.M.S. "PLATYPUS".

"JAVA" arrived Thursday Island 0630/8th May and will render with the object of locating this valuable equipment three aircraft from Richmond were to have commenced a search at 0700 this morning covering an area 30 miles in depth from Norah Head to Port Macquarie. The search has been postponed until later this morning owing to dense fog.

H.M.S. "BERMAGUI" sailed from Newcastle to co-operate with the air search.

F.O.C.A.S. has been informed.

SHIPPING.

Convoy U.S.10 B, comprising H.T.S. "AQUITANIA", "MAURETANIA" and "ILE DE FRANCE", escorted by H.M. Ships "LEANDER" and "DANAË" and later by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", departed Colombo a.m. Tuesday, 6th May for Suez.

SUSPICIOUS SIGHTING.

Battery Commander at Port Kembla reported last night that at 2130 a vessel, estimated speed 30 knots, was observed by a Military Observer, steaming south at a distance of 6000 yards and that when a defence searchlight was switched on she disappeared at high speed.

After careful investigation and discussions with R.A.C.A.S. duty Staff Officer, Naval Staff decided, in the circumstances, to take no action.

R.A.C.A.S. was kept informed.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 7th May, 1941.

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OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" with S.N.S. on board arrived at Darwin 0445 yesterday.  
H.M.A. SHIPS. For Townsville, E.T.A. 1100 on Saturday, 10th May.

"AUSTRALIA". On passage Darwin to Sydney. "CONLEURN", and "OMARA",  
arrived yesterday, the first three vessels at Williamstown, the latter

"SYDNEY". Departed Fremantle 0900H 6th May for Exercises and Patrol.

"PLATYPUS" Arrived Bowen p.m. 6th May for Coal en route Darwin

"PARRAMATTA". Arrived Suez 4th May and has joined Mediterranean  
Station.

"TOORIE". To return to Port Melbourne today to complete with coal and  
water.

"KYBRA". Arrived Sydney from Jervis Bay p.m. 6th May with A/S class  
on board.

H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE". C. in C. Mediterranean in a signal to Admiralty  
advices that "VAMPIRE" has reached a condition where an extensive  
refit is necessary if she is to be of further use; she has only two  
boilers in action. As repairs at Malta is likely, it is  
proposed that she proceed to GENERAL to refit.

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" arrived Thursday Island 0830K/6th May and will  
render assistance to Dutch "ZAANDAM".

It is anticipated H.M.A.S.'s "BOMBON" will commission on  
20th May and "BARANI" on 27th May.

H.M.S. "JERSEY" ... by mines on 2nd May.

119

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Handwritten signature and date "7/5".

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Handwritten signature and date "4/5".

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 5th May.  
To 0900 Tuesday, 6th May, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS. According to present intention will escort a modified  
"AUSTRALIA" with C.N.S. on board arrived at Darwin 0445 yesterday  
and departed for Townsville. E.T.A. 1100 on Saturday, 10th May.

20th M.S.F. Consisting of "WARREGO", "SWAN", "GOULBURN", and "ORARA",  
berthed yesterday, the first three vessels at Williamstown, the latter  
at Port Melbourne.

"ADELAIDE" Due at Sydney from Noumea 0530 Friday, 9th May.

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" has been ordered to Goede Island by C.Z.M.

"ADELAIDE", escorting H.T. "ZEALANDIA", arrived Noumea yesterday  
and will probably sail H.M.A. SHIPS - ABROAD. Free French troops  
from Tahiti will embark in "ZEALANDIA" before sailing.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" was due at Suez on 4th May to join  
Mediterranean Station.

H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE". C. in C. Mediterranean in a signal to Admiralty  
advises that "VAMPIRE" has reached a condition where an extensive  
refit is necessary if she is to be of further use; she has only two  
boilers in action. As risk of damage at Malta is likely, it is  
proposed that she proceed to Bombay to refit.

SHIPPING.

Master of H.T. "QUEEN GENERAL" has advised Mr. Dawson  
(United Kingdom Representative of Guard White Star Ltd. in Sydney)  
that his vessel is anticipated H.M.A.S.'s "BOMBO" will commission on  
20th May and "NARANI" on 27th May. "QUEEN GENERAL" was expected to  
arrive Suez. H.M.S. "JERSEY" was sunk by mines on 2nd May.

Hospital Ship "MANGANI" departed Fremantle Saturday, 2nd May,  
for Colombo. E.T.A. 13th May.

The Admiralty has broadcast a message warning enemy shipping  
that the ship is to stop and must now lower boats,  
scuttle or use W/T under penalty of being fired upon. Admiralty  
still insists that in the event of scuttling crews shall not be left  
to their fate.

Dutch vessel "MANGANI", having declined assistance offered by  
H.M.A.S. "MANGORA", arrived Thursday Island yesterday.

*Handwritten notes in red ink:*  
20/5  
6/5

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
6/5

*Handwritten letter:*  
A

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

TO 0900 MONDAY 4TH MAY DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 5th May.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.  
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" according to present intention will escort a modified convoy comprising "AORANGI" and "STIRLING CASTLE", to New Zealand, leaving Sydney 15th May. Gen. May, C.M.S., on board.

"SYDNEY" intends to depart Fremantle tomorrow, Tuesday morning, for exercises and patrol to N.W., returning 0900K Saturday, 10th May.

"MANOORA" passed Thursday Island 1030 yesterday for Rabaul arriving 7th May, thence to Nauru due 11th May.

20th M.S.F. will return to Port Melbourne on completion of sweeping this afternoon. The British Isles and Northern Ireland M.S.F. is to be brought into force today 4th May. M.S.F. is

"ADELAIDE", escorting H.T. "ZEALANDIA", arrived Noumea yesterday and will probably sail for Sydney this afternoon. Free French troops from Tahiti will embark in "ZEALANDIA" before sailing.

The Dutch ship "ZAANDAM" struck an uncharted obstruction "BENDIGO" will leave Sydney for Melbourne when ready for working up. On completion, she is to join 20th M.S.F. seriously damaged, leaking, and requires assistance. T.O.C.S. has been informed. "MANOORA"

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" having departed Brisbane on Thursday last, 1st May, passed Archer point yesterday afternoon northbound. Naval Board has not yet been advised as to her destination.

"PLATYPUS" reports ship drift in 030° E. 134° E. (off Solitary Island Light, 40') T.O.C.S. of signal was 1005K/3rd May.

SHIPPING.

Master of H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" has advised Mr. Dawson (United Kingdom Representative of Cunard White Star Ltd. in Sydney) that his vessel is unable to make requisite speed in convoy owing to foul bottom and suggests she be dry docked on return trip, presumably at Singapore. "QUEEN MARY" and "QUEEN ELIZABETH" were expected to arrive Suez Saturday last, 3rd May, having steamed at full speed from vicinity of Perim.

Hospital Ship "MAUNGANUI" departed Fremantle Saturday, 3rd May, for Colombo. E.T.A. 11th May.

The Admiralty has broadcast a message warning enemy shipping that the signal WBA in international code made by one of H.M. Ships signifies the ship addressed is to stop and must now lower boats, scuttle or use W/T under penalty of being fired upon. Admiralty still insists that in the event of scuttling crews shall not be left to their fate.

Dutch vessel "ZAANDAM", having declined assistance offered by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA", arrived Thursday Island yesterday.

*Handwritten red scribbles and initials, possibly "DVI" and "5/5".*

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*Handwritten letter 'A'.*

~~SECRET~~  
MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 3rd May.  
TO 0900 SUNDAY 4th MAY, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.  
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

H.M.A. SHIPS. En route with C.N.S. from Singapore via Darwin, E.T.A. Townsville a.m. Saturday, 10th May. Departed Singapore 2000 Sunday,

"AUSTRALIA" En route Singapore to Darwin E.T.A. 5th May and sailed yesterday via Townsville 10th May, C.N.S. on board. E.T.A. p.m. 7th May, leaving a.m. 8th May, E.T.A. Nauru a.m. 11th May.

"MANOORA" On passage from Rabaul to Nauru E.T.A. at Thursday Island 1000K this morning 4th May.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived Suez yesterday.

GENERAL.

H.M.S. "MONMOUTH" with Free French troops from Tahiti arrived Noumea on 1st May. In the British Isles and Northern Ireland Mid Summer Time (M.S.T.) is to be brought into force today 4th May. M.S.T. is 2 hours fast on G.M.T. British Summer Time (B.S.T.) is to be resumed on Sunday 10th August, 1941.

SHIPPING.

The Dutch Ship "ZAANDAM" struck an uncharted obstruction off Ince Point (N.E. extremity of Wednesday Island). Vessel is now anchored in 6 fathoms off Coode Island, is seriously damaged, leaking, and requires assistance. N.O.C.S. has been informed. "MANOORA" arrives Thursday Island this morning and will enquire whether assistance can be rendered. She is available at Suez about 6th May to carry 2000 prisoners of war to Australia ex Suez.

"PLATYPUS" reports Skid adrift in 030° S. 154° E. (off Solitary Island Light dist. 40') T.O.O. of signal was 1005K/3rd May. Valuable cargo, and special precautions will be taken for her safety whilst unloading.

GENERAL.

A signal from H.M.A.S. "PERTH" advises that S.E.N.O. Suda Bay reports her seagull ARL was shot down by enemy aircraft and subsequently lost on 26th April. There were no casualties and the crew are at Suda Bay. The seagull and crew had been landed at Gray to operate from there under the orders of the C. in C. "PERTH" previously advised she would not re-embark aircraft whilst on the Mediterranean Station.

The District Naval Officer, Queensland, is to proceed to Townsville prior to the arrival there of Admiral Colvin about Friday, 8th May, to make arrangements for Admiral Colvin to inspect possible sites for Naval activities.

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*[Handwritten red scribbles and markings]*

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 3rd May.

To 0900 Friday, 2nd May.

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OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" En route with C.N.S. from Singapore via Darwin, E.T.A. Townsville a.m. Saturday, 10th May. Departed Singapore 2000 Wednesday.

"MANOORA" arrived Darwin from Napier Broome Bay 1st May and sailed yesterday via China Strait at 13 knots for Rabaul. E.T.A. p.m. 7th May, leaving a.m. 8th May. E.T.A. Nauru a.m. 11th May. (RAW and one by "DOONBA") in a position approximately 7.3 miles south of Otway during clearing operations on Wednesday, 30th April. Sweeping was suspended at noon Yesterday. OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS. weather conditions.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived Suva yesterday. This morning and proceed to Millamston to report to orders of D.M.O., Victoria, on arrival.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" with Free French troops from Tahiti arrived Noumea on 1st May. The troops will embark for Sydney in H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" which, escorted by H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" will arrive at Noumea tomorrow.

"PLATYPUS" departed Sydney SHIPPING. Friday for Bowen en route to Darwin.

HOSPITAL SHIP "MAUNGANUI" arrived at Fremantle 0645 yesterday.

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" departed Brisbane on 1st May.

H.M.S. "QUEEN MARY" will be available at Suez about 6th May to carry 2000 prisoners of war to Australia ex Suez. 15,000 Australian and 2,000 New Zealand reinforcements, together with 2,000 R.A.A.F. personnel.

AMERICAN SHIP "QUAKER CITY" in Brisbane en route for Sydney has very valuable cargo, and special precautions will be taken for her safety whilst unloading. Arrived at Darwin, expects to sail for Sydney 18th May.

GENERAL.

A signal from H.M.A.S. "PERTH" advises that S.B.N.O. Suda Bay reports her seagull A217 was shot down by enemy aircraft and subsequently lost on 28th April. There were no casualties and the crew are at Suda Bay. The seagull and crew had been landed at Crete to operate from there under the orders of the C. in C. vice "PERTH" previously advised she would not re-embark aircraft whilst on the Mediterranean Station.

The District Naval Officer, Queensland, is to proceed to Townsville prior to the arrival there of Admiral Colvin about Friday, 9th May, to make arrangements for Admiral Colvin to inspect possible sites for Naval activities.

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~~TOP SECRET~~  
315

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 2nd May.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

To 0800 Thursday, 1st May, 1945

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA", with C.N.S. embarked, departed Singapore 2000 Wednesday, 30th April for Darwin. E.T.A. 0545 Monday, 5th May.

20th M.S.F. Now reports two mines were swept up (one by "ORARA" and one by "DOOMBA") in a position approximately 7.5 miles south of Otway during clearing operations on Wednesday, 30th April. Sweeping was suspended at noon Yesterday owing to adverse weather conditions.

GROUP 58 will be detached from 20th M.S.F. this morning and proceed to Williamstown to revert to orders of D.N.O., Victoria, on arrival.

"WYRALLAH" }  
"BINGERA" } Group 53 Aux. A/S vessels based on Fremantle arrived  
"YANDRA" } Sydney 1945 yesterday for refit.

GENERAL.

"PLATYPUS" departed Sydney 1420 yesterday for Bowen en route to Darwin.

H.O.I.C. Thursday Island reports Norwegian S/V "TAKIPA" 7000 tons bound from Hong Kong to Sydney is aground Swiss Reef between Point Cape Melville 60° N. and Island and needs assistance.

SHIPPING.

"U.S.11" is not expected to sail before the middle of June. The composition of this convoy has not yet been communicated by D.S.T. but shipping is urgently required to despatch 15,000 Australian and 5,600 New Zealand reinforcements, together with 2,000 R.A.A.F. personnel and 300 Naval ratings.

H.T. "KATOOMBA", delayed at Darwin, expects to sail for Sydney 12th May.

GENERAL.

Departure of Vice Admiral Royle from U.K. has been delayed until 17th May.

H.M.A.S. "PATERSON" commissioned yesterday at Williamstown for service as an auxiliary M/S vessel.

H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO" subject to satisfactory acceptance trials on Friday next, 9th May, will probably commission the following day.

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" departed Brisbane 1800 yesterday.

*[Handwritten marks: a large red scribble, the number '215' in red, a blue scribble, and a blue arrow pointing upwards.]*



MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 30th DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 1st May, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.                      OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

"HOBART" (Flag) is due in Sydney from Auckland at 1400 today.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

escorting H.M.F. "WESTRALIA" expects to arrive at the

"HOBART" (FLAG). Arrived Sydney 1500K/30th April.

"MANOORA" Departed Napier Broome Bay for Darwin E.T.A. 1730K/1st May, and thence to Nauru to reinforce "WESTRALIA".

"COOMBAR". Commissioned Wednesday 30th April at Sydney.

GENERAL.

N.O.I.C. Thursday Island reports Norwegian M/V "TARIFA" 7000 tons bound from Hong Kong to Sydney is aground Switzer Reef Barron Point Cape Melville 60° N.W. of Lizard Island and needs assistance. There is no immediate danger, portion of cargo has been jettisoned but ship remains fast. Norwegian "TEMERAIRE" has been requested to go to her assistance and E.T.A. Thursday night or Friday morning, 2nd May.

It is intended to dock H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" at Cockatoo Monday, 5th May and "GOOLGWAI" at Morts Dock 30th April.

One mine was swept up by "ORARA" in position 185° Cape Otway distant 7.4 miles on Wednesday, 30th April.

Vice Admiral Royle will sail from the United Kingdom on 5th May and appointment issued to R.A.N. is dated 21st April.

GENERAL.

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C. in C. East Indies, who has been at sea for a short period in H.M.S. "ALEXANDER", has returned to Colombo.

*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*  
~~DN~~ 115  
 30/4  
 2/5  
 2/5

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 30th April, NARRATIVE.

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To 0900 Saturday, 30th April, OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" (Flag) is due in Sydney from Auckland at 1400 today. ✓

"ADELAIDE" escorting H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" expects to arrive at the entrance to Bulari Passage Noumea at 0630 local time on Sunday, 4th May.

"AUSTRALIA" is due at Singapore today. ✓  
and sails a.m. tomorrow Sunday for Sydney.

"MANOORA" arrived at Napier Broome Bay 1001 yesterday.

"ADELAIDE", escorting H.T. "ZEALANDIA", arrived Rabaul 1530 yesterday.

SHIPPING.

"AUSTRALIA" reports she can remain at Hauru until middle of May provided water is obtained from S.S. "STANZA" now at Hauru.

Dutch Cruiser "JAVA" arrived in Brisbane yesterday.

CONVOY U.S.10 A. After passing Perim, H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" proceeds to Aden to fuel, the convoy then dispersing. "QUEEN MARY" and "QUEEN ELIZABETH" proceeding at full speed to arrive at Suez on Saturday, 3rd May.

HOSPITAL SHIP "MANUNDA" left Fremantle for Colombo at 1820 yesterday.

Dutch Cruiser "JAVA" escorting two Dutch vessels departed Suva 24th April for Brisbane due INTELLIGENCE. April.

C. in C. East Indies confirms that an RRRR message was made yesterday probably from "CLAN BUCHANAN", approximate position 005° 24' North 082° 46' East. (Roughly 1100 miles West of Colombo).

GENERAL.

C. in C. East Indies, who has been at sea for a short period in H.M.S. "LEANDER", has returned to Colombo.

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*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*  
30/4  
30/4  
30/4  
30/4

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 29th April.

To 0900 Saturday, 26th April.

OPERATIONS... AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS. Departed Colombo 2800 Sunday, 27th April for Singapore to embark G.S.S. for passage to Sydney calling at Darwin and Townsville.

"HOBART" (Flag) escorting "AWATEA", arrived Auckland 24th April and sails a.m. tomorrow Sunday for Sydney.

"ADELAIDE", escorting H.T. "ZEALANDIA", arrived Rabaul 1530 yesterday.

"WESTRALIA" reports she can remain at Nauru until middle of May provided water is obtained from s.s. "TRIENZA" now at Nauru.

20TH M.S.F. arrived Port Melbourne 1700 yesterday.

"BURNIE" on passage Sydney to Melbourne was sighted to the westward of Gabo at 1500 yesterday.

SHIPPING.

Following SHIPPING-American-Dutch Conference completed at Singapore on Sunday, 27th April, a proposal has been Dutch Cruiser "JAVA" escorting two Dutch vessels departed Suva 24th April for Brisbane due Tuesday, 29th April.

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

~~JNI~~ 29/4  
~~JNI~~ 29/4

MOST SECRET.

SECRET

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 28th April DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 29th April.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" escorting "Q.M. & "Q.E." from R.V. arrival Trincomalee 28th April, thence to Peris.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" (flag). Departed Auckland a.m. Sunday 27th April for Sydney. W.T.A. 1400K 30th April.

"AUSTRALIA". Departed Colombo 2200 Sunday, 27th April for Singapore to embark C.N.S. for passage to Sydney calling at Darwin and Townsville.

"AUSTRALIA" To sail from Colombo Sunday 27th April for Singapore. "SYDNEY" will be based on Fremantle for the present and escort selected ships when possible.

"MANOORA". Arrival Willismatown Sunday, 27th April. "MANOORA". Departed Darwin 1330 yesterday for Napier Broome Bay to land R.A.A.F. stores and will return to Darwin 2nd May.

"SWAN" at Apollo Bay by sunset. Clearing operations 20th M.S.F. Departed Port Melbourne 1300 yesterday and later anchored off Portsea. Clearing operations off Cape Otway commence tomorrow.

"BOONDA" Will carry out Gunnery School Firing Ship on Tuesday, 29th April, subsequently joining 20th M.S.F.

GENERAL.

"MANOORA" To sail for Napier Broome Bay today returning to Darwin and then to escort "KATONIV" to Sydney.

Following the British-American-Dutch Conference completed at Singapore on Sunday, 27th April, a proposal has been made to the Admiralty that Captain J. A. Collins, C.B., R.A.N. and Commander H. J. Buchanan, D.S.O., R.A.N. be appointed to the Staff of C. in C. China, Hong Kong and Trincomalee respectively 28th April escorted by "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA". They as W.S.10A sails Lieutenant-Commander Hunt, R.A.N. assumed command of H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" yesterday.

GENERAL.

The Burns Philp s.s. "\*\*\*\*\*" which grounded near Samarang is reported by N.C.S. Surabaya afloat and undamaged and expected to leave Surabaya 28th April.

H.M.S. "\*\*\*\*\*" is to arrive at Noumea a.s. 30th April, arrived Noumea a.s. 27th April.

~~Handwritten notes and signatures in red ink, including "29/4" and "28/4".~~

~~Handwritten notes and signatures in red ink, including "28/4" and "29/4".~~

Handwritten signature and date "28/4".

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

(28th April, 1941.)

To 0900 Monday, 28th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS. (Flag) Sails from Auckland a.m. today for Sydney.

"CANBERRA" escorting "Q.M." & "Q.E." from R.V. arrival Trincomalee 26th April, thence to Perim.

"HOBART" (Flag). Departed Auckland a.m. Sunday 27th April for Sydney. E.T.A. 1400K 30th April.

"SYDNEY". Arrived Fremantle from Singapore 1100H 27th April.

"AUSTRALIA" To sail from Colombo Sunday 27th April for Singapore E.T.A. 30th April.

"BURNIE". Arrival Williamstown Sunday, 27th April.

20TH M.S.F. }	WARREGO	To sail Tuesday, 29th April so as to arrive
	SWAN	at Apollo Bay by Sunset. Clearing operations
	ORARA	to commence Wednesday 30th April.
	GOULBURN.	

"DOOMBA" Will carry out Gunnery School Firing Ship on Tuesday, 29th April, subsequently joining 20th M.S.F.

"MANOORA" To sail for Napier Broome Bay today returning to Darwin 2nd May and then to escort "KATOOMBA" to Sydney.

TRANSPORTS.

U.S.10 arrived at Colombo and Trincomalee respectively 26th April escorted by "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA". Then as U.S.10A sails Sunday 27th April onward to Suez.

GENERAL.

The Burns Philp s.s. "MARELLA" which grounded near Samarang is reported by N.C.S.O. Sourabaya afloat and undamaged and expected to leave Sourabaya 27th April.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" is to arrive at Noumea a.m. 30th April, arrived Suva a.m. 27th April.

Singapore Conference: Commodore Parry, Air Commodore Saunders of New Zealand and Commander Nichols will leave Singapore on their return journey by Q.A.N.T.A. flying boat tomorrow.

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- 28/4
- 28/4
- 28/4

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

0900 Friday, 25 (To 0900 Sunday, 27th April, 1941.)

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS: [unclear] for Westport E.T.A. noon 28th April.

"HOBART": (Flag) Sails from Auckland a.m. today for Sydney. E.T.A. 1400 30th April.

"SYDNEY": Due at Fremantle at 1100 today from Singapore.

"ADELAIDE": Intends sailing for Noumea from Rabaul at 1700 tomorrow, escorting H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA".

"MANOORA": Proceeds from Darwin to Napier Broome Bay with R.A.A.F. stores and petrol tomorrow, returning to Darwin on 2nd May.

"DUMESQVSKIY": sailed 1850K/24th April for Wellington. E.T.A. midnight 28th April.

GENERAL SHIPPING.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES": Arrived at Auckland yesterday. [unclear] for Solomon [unclear] stern Pacific

U.S.10: on board. Personnel for Australia should embark in "QUEEN MARY" at Suez about 6th May. 1st May.

H.T. "KATOOMBA": Provisional date of sailing from Darwin [unclear] for Sydney 7th May.

H.M.A.S. "VIGILANT": will proceed to Darwin from Thursday Island in company of "PLATYPUS" in due course.

The wives of four [unclear] of HIRSHI in Sydney including the newly arrived [unclear] manager have decided to

Passage for Australia for Vice-Admiral Sir Guy Royle has been arranged in "AUSTRALIA STAR", sailing from U.K. early in May to New Zealand via Panama, and thence to Melbourne by first available opportunity.

The floating dock built in Brisbane for Darwin was successfully launched yesterday.

It is intended to commission H.M.A.S. "COOMBAR" on Wednesday, 30th April.

Singapore Conference: Commodore Parry, Air Commodore Saunders of New Zealand and Commander Nichols will leave Singapore on their return journey by Q.A.N.T.A.S. flying boat tomorrow.

Handwritten red mark: 27/4

Handwritten blue mark: [unclear]

Handwritten blue mark: [unclear]

DAILY NARRATIVE  
DAILY NARRATIVE.

T SECRET. Thursday, 24th April.

To 0900 Friday, 25th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS

"DOOMBA" arrived Port Melbourne 2000K/24th April.

"BURNIE" departed for Westernport E.T.A. noon 26th April.

"TOLGA" } arrived Brisbane a.m. 24th April.

"TERKA" }

TRANSPORTS

"KATOOMBA" provisional sailing date from Darwin to Sydney  
7th May.

HOSPITAL SHIPS

"SOMERSETSHIRE" sailed 1650K/24th April for Wellington. E.T.A.  
midnight 28th April.

GENERAL

H.M. FIJIAN SHIP "VITI" left Suva 20th April for Solomon  
Islands with High Commissioner for the Western Pacific  
on board.

H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS" for Darwin, has been delayed until 1st May.

H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO". Full Power trial completed satisfactorily.  
Mean speed 15.34 knots.

H.M.A.S. "VIGILANT" will proceed to Darwin from Thursday Island  
in company of "PLATYPUS" in due course.

The wives of four Executives of MITSUI in Sydney  
including the newly arrived General Manager have decided to  
return to Japan and sail in a few days graded A2. from  
S.O.(I) Sydney.

~~D.N.I.~~  
25/4

PPB

25/4

DAILY NARRATIVE

SECRET.

To 0900 Thursday, 24th April.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"SYDNEY" departed from Singapore for Fremantle yesterday.  
E.T.A. 1100 27th April.

"VIGILANT" is to proceed to Darwin from Thursday Island in  
company with "PLATYPUS".

SHIPPING

"U.S.10" - H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" leaves Colombo today and  
proceeds to rendezvous with "U.S.10" escorted by H.M.A.S. and  
"AUSTRALIA". Subsequently she will escort H.M.T's  
"QUEEN MARY" and "QUEEN ELIZABETH" first to Trincomalee  
to arrive on 26th April, thence to Perim.

"HOSPITAL SHIP SOMERSETSHIRE" sails at 1800 today from Sydney -  
for Wellington. E.T.A. 0030 29th April.

"DUTCH CRUISER JAVA" arrived at Suva today.

GENERAL

A signal from Admiralty states that French  
territorial waters may be entered for the purpose of  
intercepting enemy shipping. The French Government has  
given notice that any of H.M. Ships which approach within  
20 miles of French coasts render themselves liable to attack.

Provision of an examination service at Townsville  
is under consideration.

"MAHURU" departed today yesterday for Fremantle arriving  
Tuesday, 25th April, and will proceed thence to  
Hobart.

"MAURER" departed Wellington yesterday for Fremantle  
(route through Bass Strait), thence to Colombo

~~2.1.1.~~

24/4

Floating Dock No. 1, Building at Brisbane  
will be launched on Saturday, 25th April, and completed 15th  
June, ready for towing to Darwin. It will lift vessels up  
to 1000 tons.

2.1.1. 24/4



DAILY NARRATIVE

DAILY NARRATIVE

Thursday, 23rd April, 1941.

SECRET

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

To 0900 Wednesday, 23rd April.

"MANUNDA" arrived at Darwin 2200/21st April escorting "KATOWRA".

"HOBART" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION "AVATEA" to S.E.

H.M.A. SHIPS. Arrived Fremantle 12th April.

"HOBART" (Flag) escorting "AVATEA" departed Sydney at noon yesterday for Auckland arriving 0300 Friday, 25th April. Present intention is for the Flagship to leave Auckland a.m. Sunday next arriving Sydney p.m. Wednesday, 30th April.

"AUSTRALIA" on completion of escort of "U.S.10" to Colombo will proceed to Singapore - arriving probably 1st May - to embark Admiral Colvin for passage to Sydney calling at Darwin and Townsville.

"SYDNEY" is to proceed from Singapore to Fremantle where she will be based temporarily.

"GOULEURN" entered Port Phillip Heads yesterday and later proceeded to join 20th M.S.F. in Bass Strait.

"BURNIE" is to sail for Middle East via Fremantle when refit will be sailed from Sydney for Melbourne p.m. tomorrow Thursday, and will work up in Port Phillip prior to joining 20th M.S.F.

GENERAL

HOSPITAL SHIPS

"MANUNDA" departed Sydney yesterday for Fremantle arriving Tuesday, 29th April, and will proceed thence to Middle East.

"MAUNGANUI" departed Wellington yesterday for Fremantle (routed through Bass Strait), thence to Colombo and Suez.

GENERAL

Floating Dock No. 1. building at Brisbane will be launched on Saturday, 26th April, and completed 12th June, ready for towing to Darwin. It will lift vessels up to 1000 tons.

~~2.7.1~~  
23/4

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE

0900 Tuesday, 22nd April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MANOORA" arrived at Darwin 2200/21st April escorting "KATOOMBA".

"HOBART" (Flag) to sail today escorting "AWATEA" to N.Z.

"GUNBAR" arrived Fremantle 19th April.

"WYRALLAH" } A/S Group 53 departed Fremantle 1700, 21st April  
"BINGERA" } for Sydney. E.T.A. 1st May.  
"YANDRA" }

TRANSPORTS

"KATOOMBA" arrived Darwin escorted by "MANOORA".

HOSPITAL SHIPS

"SOMERSETSHIRE" departed Port Phillip 1720K/21st April.  
E.T.A. Sydney, 0700K/24th April.

"MANUNDA" is to sail for Middle East via Fremantle when refit is completed.

GENERAL

It is proposed to launch the Floating Dock being built at Brisbane at 1000K Saturday, 26th April.

H.M.S. "WESTRALIA" at Ocean Island at 1720Z/20th April (approx 0500K 21st April) heard QQQQ call repeated three times then jammed probably by atmospheric, signal strength three (International or Naval not known).

Tug "WATO" has been requisitioned and will be taken over a.m. today, Tuesday, 22nd April for fitting out reported by D.N.O. S.A.

~~22/4~~  
-----  
D.N.O. 22/4

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 21st April.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"GOULBURN" departed Sydney yesterday to rejoin 20th M.S.F. E.T.A. 1230 tomorrow 22nd April.

"ORARA" departed Port Melbourne for Bass Strait yesterday to rejoin 20th M.S.F.

"TOLGA" ) left Sydney yesterday for Brisbane en route to  
"TERKA" ) Cairns and Darwin.

SHIPPING

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" arrived at Vila at 1100 yesterday and after fuelling from tanker "PENDOPO" sailed escorting her convoy towards Fiji.

"CERAMIC" with service personnel and Free French volunteers on board arrived at Capetown yesterday.

"MARELLA" Burns Philp & Co. Ltd. passenger ship wirelessly that she was ashore on Norowelang Point near Samarang yesterday and requested that a tug be sent.

HOSPITAL SHIP "SOMERSETSHIRE" arrived at Port Melbourne last evening.

INTELLIGENCE

C.Z.M. reported that information has been received from the Netherlands military commander in Timor that an aerodrome is being constructed by Japanese in Port Timor near Kampong Lamsana.

~~2/14~~  
2/14

20/4

2/14

To 0900 Sunday, 20th April, 1944.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" on completion of escort of "U.S.10" to Ceylon will be sailed for Fremantle escorting a modified convoy if available.

"WESTRALIA" arrived Nauru Friday, 19th April, and departed later for Ocean Island.

"MANOORA" will escort "KATOOMBA" on return from Darwin to Sydney.

20th M.S.F. ("WARRECO", "SWAN" and "DOOMBA") departed Port Melbourne 1400 yesterday and were anchored off Portsea last night. The Flotilla will commence sweeping operations in Bass Strait today.

"GOULEURN" will leave Sydney at noon today to rejoin 20th M.S.F.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived Colombo Friday, 16th April.

and departing at Outer East Station Pier at 0800Z today, 21st April.

SHIPPING

"U.S.10" escorted by H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", departed Fremantle 1100 yesterday for Ceylon. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" will be detached in a position about 120 miles south of Sunda Strait at 2130 Tuesday, 22nd April, whence she will proceed to Singapore escorted by H.M.S. "DURBAN".

HOSPITAL SHIP "MANUNDA" will complete bridge protection and be ready for sea by 1700 Tuesday, 22nd April.

DUTCH TANKER "PAULA" - overdue since 14th April - arrived Suva yesterday.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including a large red '19/4' and a signature 'S.K.S.' with '20/4' and '19/4' written nearby.

DAILY NARRATIVE

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 20th April, 1941.

To 0900 Friday, 18th April, 1941. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" sailed Sydney 1145K/18th carrying out Firing Exercises with "HOBART" (Flag) later proceeding to Rabaul escorting "ZEALANDIA". E.T.A. 1300K/25th April.

"WARREGO" } Are to sail at 1400K today 19th April and returned  
"SWAN" } for M/S operations.  
"DOOMBA" }  
"ORARA" }  
} There are "ADELAIDE" will sail from the Dutch Harbor  
} thence as a modified convoy to Noumea arriving  
} 4th May.

TRANSPORTS.

"KATOOMBA" for Darwin departed Cairns 0100K 18th April. E.T.A. 0600K 22nd April.

"ZEALANDIA" sailed from Sydney to Rabaul and Noumea yesterday 18th April escorted by "ADELAIDE".

HOSPITAL SHIPS

"SOMERSETSHIRE" arrives off Gellibrand Sunday 20th April, and berths at Outer East Station Pier at 0900K Monday, 21st April.

GENERAL

Reported from Scarborough, Western Australia, at 1500H/18th that a large object was seen to submerge. Air search failed to locate and S.O.(I) H.A. does not place confidence in report as the Swanborne Battery saw a small boat in the vicinity at the same time.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" (Flag) proceeded to sea off Sydney yesterday, Friday 18th, for firing exercises and returned to Harbour later.

~~DN~~  
~~19/4~~ MB

20/4

19/4

DAILY NARRATIVE

OST SECRET.

0900 Thursday, 17th April, 1941.

To 0900 Friday, 18th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Auckland from Sydney Tuesday, 15th April. "ADELAIDE" carried out firing off Sydney yesterday and returned to Harbour. She will escort H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" to Rabaul (where "ADELAIDE" will fuel from the Dutch tanker "PENDOPO") thence as a modified convoy to Noumea arriving 4th May.

"TOLGA" } Their sailing for Darwin via Brisbane and Cairns has  
"TERKA" } been delayed until a.m. Sunday, 20th April. today whilst "KATOOMBA" is watering.

TRANSPORTS

H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" will sail escorted by H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" from Sydney to Rabaul and thence to arrive in Noumea on Saturday, 4th May. 600 Free French volunteers will be embarked for conveyance to Sydney.

H.T. "KATOOMBA" arrived at Cairns at midnight on Wednesday at noon 16th April.

GENERAL

The Conference at Singapore has been postponed until Monday 21st April. N.E.I. delegates with Commander Kennedy now intend proceeding today to Singapore.

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~  
13/4

To 0900 Thursday, 17th April, 1941.  
To 0900 Wednesday, 18th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A. SHIPS.

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS.

- "ACHILLES" arrived Auckland from Sydney Tuesday, 15th April. are to carry out Gunnery and other exercises in
- "ADELAIDE" on completion refit carried out trials off Sydney yesterday and returned to harbour. Later are to proceed to carry out searching sweep off Cape
- "SYDNEY" departed Fremantle for Singapore 1730 Tuesday, 15th April. E.T.A. 1640 Sunday, 19th April.
- "MANCORA" expected to anchor off Cairns at midnight yesterday whilst "KATOOMBA" is watering.
- "BURNIE" commissioned at Sydney 18th April.
- "BENDIGO" Basin tri SHIPPIING ly completed.

Convoy "U.S.10" escorted by H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Fremantle at noon yesterday.  
 "U.S.10" should arrive Fremantle today, Wednesday.  
 Hospital Ship "SOMERSETSHIRE" is due Melbourne at noon 20th April from Fremantle.

GENERAL

"GRARA", "WARNECO" and "SWAN" are intended to carry out 14 days' refit in succession and in that order commencing early in May.

~~2/1~~ ~~17/1A~~  
 17/1A  
 17/1A

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TOP SECRET.

To 0900 Wednesday, 16th April, 1941.

To 0900 Tuesday, 15th April, 1941. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

"SYDNEY" at Fremantle noon, Tuesday, 15th April.

"WARREGO" } are to carry out Gunnery and other exercises in  
"ORARA" } Port Phillip tomorrow, Thursday, 17th April,  
"SWAN" } returning alongside the same day. Later are to  
proceed to carry out searching sweep off Cape  
Otway accompanied by "BERYL II", "DURRAWEE", "KOROWA",  
and "DOOMBA".

"WESTRALIA" arrived Ocean Island 0800K/15th April.

"BURNIE" commissioned at Sydney 15th April.

"BENDIGO" Basin trials satisfactorily completed.

"CANTERBURY" is on passage from Seychelles to Colombo.

TRANSPORTS

"WHEAT" and "WAL" on passage from Fremantle to

"U.S.10" should arrive Fremantle today, Wednesday.

"YARRA" is escorting a convoy from Karachi to the Persian Gulf.

GENERAL

"ORARA", "WARREGO" and "SWAN" are intended to carry out 14 days' refit in succession and in that order commencing early in May.

H.M.S. "MOEKOWAI" arrived at Suva on 14th April.

*Handwritten notes:*  
17/4  
18/4  
19/4  
A large diagonal line is drawn across the bottom half of the page.



DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET  
SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 15th April, 1941.

11/19

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MANOORA" intends anchoring off Cairns at 1100 tomorrow whilst "KATOOMBA" is watering.

"SYDNEY"

AIR OPERATIONS

Air searches to locate and clear ahead of Convoy U.S.10 are operating from Pearce today.

"AUSTRALIA"

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"CANBERRA" is on passage from Seychelles to Colombo.

"NIZAM" and "NAPIER" are on passage from Freetown to Simonstown.

"YARRA" is escorting a convoy from Karachi to the Persian Gulf.

On passage to Fremantle. E.T.A. 0615K, 18th April.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" arrived at Suva on 14th April.

R.O.I.C. Newcastle reports through R.O.C.S. that an explosion was seen and heard by two residents of Newcastle who were fishing from the beach near Flat Island, which is 7' north of North Head. The position of the explosion was estimated to be on a bearing 130° from Flat Island distant 4', which is in the vicinity of the area. No ships were seen in the vicinity before the explosion. A requesting instruction has been signalled to R.O.C.S. and R.O.I.C.S. informed.

A report states a drifting mine was seen off the coast of Newcastle (N) distant 18.5' in 75 fathoms water at 11.15h. The mine was north-westerly set at the time, which would carry the mine ashore. Ship had S.V.'s streamed, and it is considered mine was cut by them as the mine was first observed 25 feet from the ship on the starboard beam.

A mutilated message received by Broome Radio indicating that all was not well with the Australian ship "ROSEBAY", C.Z.M. has now reported the ship has been intercepted in 11° 18'S 123° 40'E and is being taken into Sourabaya.

DNI  
18/4

20/4

△

19/4

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, Monday, 14th April, 1941.

Handwritten red initials: *AKIA*

To - 0900 Monday, 14th April OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS -

"AUSTRALIA"

"SYDNEY"

"HOBART" (Flag)

"MANOORA"

"WESTRALIA"

"ADELAIDE"

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA AT A GLANCE.

As for 13th April.

At Sydney. Leave expires 15th April.

TRANSPORTS.

U.S. 10:

On passage to Fremantle. E.T.A. 0815K, 16th April.

GENERAL.

N.O.I.C. Newcastle reports through N.O.C.S. that an explosion was seen and heard by two residents of Newcastle who were fishing from the beach near Flat Island, which is 7' north of Norah Head. The position of the explosion was estimated to be on a bearing 135° from Flat Island distant 4', which is in the Nimbin Minefield Area. No ships were seen in the vicinity before the explosion. A routing instruction has been signalled to N.O.C.S., and P.O.C.A.S. informed.

A report from the S.S. "INNESMOOR" states a drifting mine was seen off Cape Nelson bearing 045° 30'(T) distant 15.5' in 75 fathoms water at 0905K/13th April. Strong north-easterly set at the time, which should carry the mine inshore. Ship had P.V.'s streamed, and it is considered mine was cut by them as the mine was first observed 20 feet from the ship on the starboard beam.

A mutilated message received by Broome Radio indicating that all was not well with the Hungarian Ship "NYUGAT", C.Z.M. has now reported the ship has been intercepted in 11° 18'S 123° 44'E and is being taken into Sourabaya.

Handwritten blue initials: *MM*

DAILY NARRATIVE

MOST SECRET. Sunday, 15th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A. SHIPS.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

"SYDNEY" arrives Port Phillip at 1200 today, and after embarking Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin, Paymaster Captain Foley and Commander Nichols at Portsea, proceeds arriving at Fremantle To - 0900 Sunday, 15th April. Will and Singapore 15th April.

"MANOORA" will leave Sydney 22nd April, escort "WARREGO" to S.W. and return, escorting a modified convoy.

"AUSTRALIA" escorted OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. at 0800 yesterday 1st Fremantle.

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS. in Sydney from Jarvis Bay at 2031 yesterday.

"ACHILLES" departed Sydney 1228 yesterday for Auckland arriving noon Tuesday, 15th April.

"SYDNEY" having embarked Admiral Colvin off Portsea cleared Port Phillip Heads at 1006 yesterday and expects to arrive Fremantle 1000 Tuesday, 15th April en route to Singapore.

"MANOORA" escorting "KATOOMBA", departed Sydney 1400 yesterday for Darwin.

20th M.S.F. ("WARREGO", "SWAN", & "ORARA") arrived Port Melbourne this morning and berthed at Princes Pier.

"GOULBURN" will proceed to Melbourne to rejoin 20th M.S.F. when leaking oil tank has been repaired.

"BURNIE" when ready will be sailed from Sydney for Melbourne to work up prior to joining 20th M.S.F. left Sydney at 1105 yesterday, and sails at 0800 today to rendezvous with, and escort convoy to Suva area; she will take 300 tons of fuel from the shore fuel installation at Suva on arrival.

H.M. "KATOOMBA" sails for Darwin today escorted by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA"

HOSPITAL SHIP "MANOORA" is due at Fremantle at 1200 today.

HOSPITAL SHIP "PROTECTOR" is due at Fremantle on Tuesday next 15th April, and arrives at Melbourne on 22nd April, thence to Sydney

Handwritten red mark: A large 'A' with '13/4' written vertically through it.

R.L.C. advises that the type of craft which torpedoes H.M.S. "EDON" recently, was a one man motor boat with an explosive charge in the bow to fire on contact, or hydrostatically if the boat is set to sink and function as a depth charge. Boat is set to run at target and detonate 300 ft. below on a 10 ft. The speed is believed about 35 knots. Exceptionally calm weather is needed for any success, as the boats are only about 15 feet long and low in the water.

GENERAL

R.L.C. advises that the Admiralty are building an improved design of Corvette of greater size (1750 tons) and higher speed (30 knots) with an endurance range of 3000 miles at 15 knots; he is obtaining plans and information at an early date.

To 0900 Friday, 11th April.

To 0900 Saturday, 12th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATIONH.M.A. SHIPS.

"SYDNEY" departed 0730 this morning and will proceed so as to arrive Port Phillip at 0900 today, and after embarking Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin, Paymaster Captain Foley and Commander Nichols at Portsea, proceeds arriving at Fremantle to fuel on 15th April and Singapore 19th April.

"HOBART" will leave Sydney 22nd April, escort "AWATEA" to N.Z. and return, escorting a modified convoy.

"AUSTRALIA" escorting convoy "U.S.10" left Sydney at 0830 yesterday for Fremantle.

"ACHILLES" arrived in Sydney from Jervis Bay at 2031 yesterday.

"MANOORA" sails today escorting H.T. "KATOOMBA" to Darwin.

"BURNIE" completed her trials satisfactorily and was taken over yesterday.

(5) Commencing H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD. Search from Montague Island to a depth of 205 miles.

"YARRA" and "PARRAMATTA" } The Minister for the Navy has given provisional approval to the Admiralty's request that these ships be transferred from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean area; he anticipates that Cabinet will officially approve next week.

SHIPPING

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" arrived at Port Moresby at 1105 yesterday, and sails at 0800 today to rendezvous with, and escort convoy to Suva area; she will take 900 tons of fuel from the shore fuel installation at Suva on arrival.

H.T. "KATOOMBA" sails for Darwin today escorted by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA"

HOSPITAL SHIP "MANUNDA" is due at Sydney at 1300 today.

HOSPITAL SHIP "SOMERSETSHIRE" is due at Fremantle on Tuesday next 15th April, and arrives at Melbourne on 22nd April, thence to Sydney

INTELLIGENCE.

Admiralty advise that the type of craft which torpedoed H.M.S. "YORK" recently, was a one man motor boat with an explosive charge in the bow to fire on contact, or hydrostatically if the boat is set to sink and function as a depth charge. Boat is set to run at target and coxswain drops off astern on a raft. The speed is believed about 30 knots. Exceptionally calm weather is needed for any success, as the boats are only about 12 feet long and low in the water.

GENERAL

N.L.O. advises that the Admiralty are building an improved design of Corvette of greater size (1325 tons) and higher speed (20½ knots) with an endurance range of 5000 miles at 15 knots; he is obtaining plans and information at an early date.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Friday, 11th April.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS.

"SYDNEY" departed 0730 this morning and will proceed so as to arrive inside Port Phillip Heads by 0900 tomorrow Saturday. Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin and two other officers having embarked "SYDNEY" will sail for Singapore at 24 knots fuelling at Fremantle en route.

"ACHILLES" will be sailed from Sydney so as to arrive Auckland p.m. 15th April.

AIR OPERATIONS.

For the protection of Convoy "U.S.10", the following operations have been arranged for today:-

- (1) Outer A/S patrol ahead of Convoy from 0800 to 1400.
- (2) Outer A/S patrol ahead of "QUEEN MARY" sailing from Jervis Bay from 1100 to 1400.
- (3) Commencing 1345, a parallel track search from Montague Island to Flinders Island to a depth of 205 miles.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "CAPETOWN", torpedoed by an "E" boat 40 joles north of Masawa on the night of 7th April, was expected to arrive Port Sudan last night towed by H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA".

SHIPPING

The Admiralty has decided that since the German pocket battleships were located in their home waters and the battle cruisers at Brest on 8th April, the strength of major convoy escorts can be reduced to one cruiser south of Freetown.

H.M.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM", escorted by H.M.A. Ships "HOBART" and "AUSTRALIA", arrived Sydney 1000 yesterday from Wellington.

Convoy "U.S.10" comprising "QUEEN ELIZABETH" "MAURETANIA", "NIEUW AMSTERDAM", and "ILE DE FRANCE", escorted by H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sailed from Sydney at 0730 this morning and will be joined by "QUEEN MARY" from Jervis Bay. The convoy, with 16,700 Australian and 6,500 New Zealand military personnel embarked, will proceed at 20 knots through Bass Strait to Fremantle arriving 0815 Wednesday, 16th April.

Hospital Ship "MAUNDA", with the first large contingent of battle casualties to return to Australia, arrived Port Melbourne yesterday and later sailed for Sydney where she is due 1300 tomorrow Saturday.

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 <sup>10</sup>th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" (Flag) } Due today at 0830 from New Zealand escorting  
"AUSTRALIA" } "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM".

"SYDNEY" to return Sydney from Jervis Bay at 1430K/10th April.

"GOULBURN" at Jervis Bay.

"MORESBY" arrived Sydney 1100/9th April.

AIR OPERATIONS

An air search commencing at 0800K to 0930K today 10th April is being carried out as outer A/S patrol ahead of "HOBART" (Flag) "AUSTRALIA" and "ACHILLES" escorting "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM".

TRANSPORTS

"MAURETANIA" } will be } Friday, 11th April, to provide A/S protection for convey  
"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" } To arrive Sydney today at 0800K.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" at Sydney

"QUEEN MARY" at Jervis Bay.

GENERAL

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" reports ship considered to be unseaworthy due to hole in Carboard Strake (Starboard) and concrete round Magazine Flood Valve cracked and lifted probably due to Hull corrosion and has requested examination and work required be taken in hand.

C. in C. East Indies reports all Italian Destroyers which were in MASSAWA with the exception of (2) are now sunk. All Merchant Ships except one Hospital Ship, are scuttled but three were reported by Air Reconnaissance 7th April to be afloat in ASSAB.

N.L.O. reports Commander S.H.K. SPURGEON was among the survivors landed at TENERIFFE from the torpedoed S/S Britannia.

~~DN!~~ 11/A

RP

9/A P

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

GENERAL

To 0900 Wednesday, 9th April.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A. SHIPS

Upon Captain J. Burnett assuming command of H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" Captain J.A. Collins will relieve Captain R. Ross Stewart. Escorting H.M.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" will arrive at Sydney tomorrow at 0830.

"SYDNEY" departed from Sydney escorting "QUEEN MARY" 0600 today escorting her to Jervis Bay at 20 knots E.T.A. 1300. On arrival will anchor to seaward of "QUEEN MARY", remain at half an hour's notice for steam and provide motor boat patrol during dark hours. H.M.A.S. "ACHILLES" will relieve H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" of this duty at 1001 tomorrow, "SYDNEY" then returning to Sydney.

"MORESBY" will carry out an A/S patrol off seaward end of searched channel at Sydney this morning for departure of "QUEEN MARY" (0600) and arrival of "QUEEN ELIZABETH" (0615). H.M.A.S.'s "ST. GILES" and "HEROS" will be searching the vicinity from 0300 today.

"KYBRA" } will be at Jervis Bay from p.m. yesterday until p.m. Friday, 11th April, to provide A/S protection for convoy while in harbour.  
"GOULBURN" }

TRANSPORTS

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" arrived Sydney at 0615 today.  
"QUEEN MARY" left Sydney for Jervis Bay, today at 0600, E.T.A. 1300.  
"MAURETANIA" } will arrive at Sydney at 0800 tomorrow.  
"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" }  
"ZEALANDIA" arrived at Sydney from Newcastle at 1706 yesterday.

HOSPITAL SHIP

"MANUNDA" is due in Port Phillip at 0600 tomorrow; she will be sailed Sydney on completion of disembarkation.

AIR OPERATIONS

An A/S patrol from Port Jackson to Jervis Bay to a depth of 30 miles, for "QUEEN ELIZABETH" and "QUEEN MARY" will take place today from 0545 to 0830.

An A/S and A/A patrol for "QUEEN MARY" will be carried out today from 1000 to 1800 off Jervis Bay.

INTELLIGENCE

Air reconnaissance showed "ADMIRAL SCHEER" at Kiel on 7th April.

*Handwritten:* D.A.S. 9/4 B

GENERAL

Tuesday, 8th April.

Captain Getting arrived in Darwin by air yesterday and will proceed on 14 days' leave on arrival in Melbourne.

Upon Captain J. Burnett assuming command of H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY", Captain J.A. Collins will relieve Captain R. Ross Stewart in command of H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", who will return to England. yesterday.

It is anticipated Captain H.B. Crane (Acting 2nd Naval Member) will sail for England early in June after the arrival of Admiral Sir Guy Royle.

H.P. "COURTNEY" at Jervis Bay. New Zealand Naval Board has also agreed that "ACHILLES" shall escort freight ship "AGATHA", sailing from Sydney about 17th April, from a rendezvous 200 miles off Australian coast.

"AUSTRALIA" departed Sydney 2240 yesterday for Cook Island arriving 15th April.

"WARRIOR" will sail from Sydney at 1800 this morning to join "WYVERN" at Jervis Bay and provide A/S protection for convoy.

"WARRIOR" on passage to Fremantle arrived Adelaide yesterday.

TELEGRAMS

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" departed Hobart 1845 yesterday for Sydney.

"WALLANDIA" arrived Newcastle yesterday from Port Kembla.

AIR OPERATIONS

To provide cover for "QUEEN ELIZABETH", proceeding from Hobart to Sydney, a clearing search by 3 Liberator aircraft operating from Bairnsdale to a depth of 200 miles commenced at 0800 this morning.

GENERAL

New Zealand Naval Board has requested that 600 mines be manufactured in Australia.

A German mine of 15 star type washed ashore near North Head (40 miles north of Sydney) and found yesterday and detonated last night.

H.C.C.S. has requested arrangements proposed on 4 days' leave commencing Tuesday, 12th April and during his absence his broad pendant will be struck for that period.

Handwritten notes: 2/2, 9/10, 4



DAILY NARRATIVE.

OST SECRET.

To 0900 Tuesday, 8th April.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" (Flag R.A.C.A.S.) } Escorting H.T.S. "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW  
"AUSTRALIA" } AMSTERDAM" departed Wellington 1530 yester-  
"ACHILLES" } day. E.T.A. Sydney 0830 Thursday,  
10th April.

"ACHILLES" will be available to relieve "SYDNEY" for protection of H.T. "QUEEN MARY" at Jervis Bay. New Zealand Naval Board has also agreed that "ACHILLES" shall escort Freight Ship "AWATEA", sailing from Sydney about 19th April, from a rendezvous 200 miles off Australian Coast.

"WESTRALIA" departed Sydney 0940 yesterday for Ocean Island arriving 15th April.

"GOULBURN" will sail from Sydney at 1000 this morning to join "KYBRA" at Jervis Bay and provide A/S protection for convoy.

"GUNBAR" on passage to Fremantle arrived Adelaide yesterday.

TRANSPORTS

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" departed Hobart 1845 yesterday for Sydney.

"ZEALANDIA" arrived Newcastle yesterday from Port Moresby.

AIR OPERATIONS

To provide cover for "QUEEN ELIZABETH", proceeding from Hobart to Sydney, a clearing search by 6 Laverton aircraft operating from Bairnsdale to a depth of 300 miles commenced at 0620 this morning.

GENERAL

New Zealand Naval Board has requested that 400 mines be manufactured in Australia.

A German mine of IX star type washed ashore near Norah Head (40 miles north of Sydney) was found yesterday and detonated last night.

N.O.C.S. has requested approval to proceed on 4 days' leave commencing Tuesday, 1st April and proposes his broad pendant shall be struck for that period.

*Handwritten marks:*  
A red checkmark and scribble.  
A red '9/4' with a diagonal slash.  
A blue scribble.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Monday 7th April, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" (Flag). } arrived Wellington, N.Z. Sunday, a.m.  
"AUSTRALIA" }

GENERAL

"AUSTRALIA" reports accident to her Seagull Aircraft A2-24 Pegasus VI.P 16672 owing to catapult failure resulting in Lieutenant (A) J.J. Hoath, R.N. being killed and body not recovered. Acting Petty Officer (Air) R. Clark FX76524 (Observer)

and

Leading Airman (Temporary) G.A.S. Stephenson FX77482 (Telegraphist Air Gunner) both seriously injured. Aircraft has not been recovered. Accident occurred 6' east of Stephens Island 70' from Wellington.

Lat 040° 40' S.  
Long 174° 9' E.

The Minister for the Navy desires Navy should be represented at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney, which though difficult, N.O.C.S. reports he will endeavour to meet his wishes.

It is noted that the possibility of two German surface ships being in the South Eastern Indian Ocean.

A U.S. aircraft reported sighting at 0030 local time two large dark hulls 120 miles from Sydney, N.S.W. from Cape Horn at Santa Island.

~~DN!~~ **ASA**

H.M.A. "AUSTRALIA" as speed merchant cruiser (Capt. J. J. Hoath, R.N. (Ret.)), according a convoy in which two large dark hulls were torpedoed earlier in the night, was reported on 2nd April about 000 miles from Sydney, N.S.W. She proceeded N.S.W. at slow speed.

Captain J. J. Hoath, R.N. (Ret.) will relieve Commander Irvine in command of H.M.A. "AUSTRALIA" on Sunday, 7th April for one voyage.

**6/19**

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To OROO Sunday, 8th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships.

"HOBART"

"AUSTRALIA"

Due at Wellington at 1430K today.

"ADELAIDE"

Is expected to leave Sydney on 18th April escorting H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" to Rabaul, Noumea, and Sydney, leaving Noumea about Sunday, 4th May.

"HANGORA"

proposed to escort "KATONBA" to Darwin leaving Sydney on Saturday, 18th April.

SHIPPING.

Dutch Cruiser "JAVA", which sailed from Ambo on 4th April, will rendezvous on 15th April in position 15° S. 150° E. with merchant ships, which she will escort to 20° S. 150° E. (vicinity of Fiji).

"AWATEA"

is expected to sail from Sydney about 18th April with 200 Air Force personnel embarked New Zealand. Naval Board has been requested to make H.M.S. "ACHILLES" available for escort duty from Sydney, or from rendezvous about 200 miles from the Australian coast.

H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" expects to leave Sydney on Friday, 18th April with troops for Rabaul, and from Noumea about Sunday, 4th May, with Free French troops for Sydney.

H.M.T. "KATONBA" anticipates sailing for Darwin on Saturday, 18th April.

HOSPITAL SHIP "SOMERSETSHIRE" left Colombo on 3rd April for Fremantle, arriving 18th April.

INTELLIGENCE.

C. in C. East Indies reported yesterday that indefinite D/F. bearings indicated the possibility of two German surface units being in the South Western Indian Ocean.

A R.N.I.L.N. aircraft reported sighting at 0830 local time yesterday a Japanese tanker motionless 127 miles from Keopang aerodrome 27 miles N.E.W. from Savu Island and 47 miles East of Sumba Island.

GENERAL.

H.M.S. "WORCESTERSHIRE" an armed merchant cruiser (Capt. F.A.N. Russel, R.N. (Ret.)), escorting a convoy in which three ships were torpedoed earlier in the night, was herself torpedoed on 3rd April about 680 miles W.N.W. of Cape Blanco. She proceeded W.N.E. at slow speed.

Captain E.V. Fall, D.S.C., R.N.R. will relieve Commodore Irvine in command of H.M.T. "QUEEN MARY" on Monday, 7th April for one voyage.

6/4

DAILY NARRATIVE

MOST SECRET.

To 0200 Friday, 4th April, 1941.

To 0900 Saturday, 5th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" (Flag). } departed Sydney 1000 yesterday for Wellington.  
"AUSTRALIA" } E.T.A. 1430 tomorrow Sunday.

20th M.S.F. after departure of "QUEEN ELIZABETH" from Hobart will search a route through Bass Strait and the Eastern Approaches thereto prior to passage of "U.S.10" on 12th April. Flotilla will then proceed to Melbourne.

"SWAN" is proceeding to Hobart this morning to renew defective brickwork in both boilers estimated to require 36 hours.

"MORESBY" E.T.A. Sydney 0500 Wednesday, 9th April.

SHIPPING.

H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" will be sailed from Hobart so as to arrive Sydney high water a.m. Wednesday, 9th April.

FREIGHT SHIP "CERAMIC", with 150 Service personnel and 77 Free French seamen embarked, departed Fremantle yesterday. E.T.A. Durban 21st April.

AUXILIARY SCHOONER "GERARD" of 194 tons is to be requisitioned at Adelaide and despatched to Melbourne for fitting out as examination vessel Port Kembla.

HOSPITAL SHIP "MANUNDA" arrived Fremantle yesterday and later sailed for Melbourne direct arriving 0600 Thursday, 10th April.

On the occasion of the Flagship from Sydney until return on Thursday 10th April, E.T.A. S. has instructed E.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" to assume duty as Senior Military Force "Y.Y".

N.L.O. reports E.M.A.S. "MORNING" expected to leave U.S. for Mediterranean about the end of April. E.M.A.S. "MORNING" due to complete in June while E.M.A.S. "MORNING" not expected to complete before January, 1942.

E.M.A.S. "MORNING" (Flag) U.S. cruiser "PORTLAND" and "CASSIN" left Suva on 2nd April for destination unknown.

Handwritten notes and signatures in red and blue ink, including the number "5/4" and the letters "H A T".

DAILY NARRATIVE

SECRET.

To 0900 Friday, 4th April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" arrived Sydney 0700K 3rd April escorting "KATOOMBA" and will probably sail 12th April for Darwin escorting same ship with troops on board.

"HOBART" (Flag). ) sails at 0920K today Friday 4th April with  
"AUSTRALIA" ) Australia in company for Wellington returning Sydney a.m. Thursday, 10th April.

"GOULBURN" arrived Sydney 1700K 3rd April.

"WESTRALIA" expected to sail for Ocean Island 7th April after carrying out Full Calibre firing off Sydney and to arrive 15th April.

AIR OPERATIONS

Diverging Search between bearings 060° and 120° from Cape Moreton Light to a depth of 300' is being carried out this morning commencing at 0615. Objective Surface Vessels as a routine operation.

TRANSPORTS

"ILE-DE-FRANCE" arrived Sydney 1230K 3rd April.

GENERAL

During the absence of the Flagship from Sydney until return on Thursday 10th April, F.O.C.A.S. has instructed H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" to assume duty as Senior Officer Force "Y.Y".

N.L.O. reports H.M.A.S. "NESTOR" expected to leave U.K. for Mediterranean about the end of April, and H.M.A.S. "NORMAN" due to complete in June while H.M.A.S. "NORSEMAN" not expected to complete before January, 1942.

The United States cruiser "CHICAGO" (Flag) U.S. cruiser "PORTLAND" and U.S. Destroyers "CLARK", "CUNNINGHAM", "DOWNES", "CASSIN" and "REID" left Suva a.m. 3rd April for destination unknown.

~~D.M.I.~~

~~HA4~~

The employees at Garden Island at a mass meeting yesterday passed a resolution demanding that the management guarantee ferry transport from Garden Island to leave at official times. A reply has been asked for for Friday next, and failing a guarantee, they will refuse to work overtime. The special ferry for workmen has apparently been frequently late on leaving; steps are being taken by Naval Board and F.O.C.A.S. to remedy the cause for complaints.

The U.S. Squadron under Rear-Admiral J.H. Norton arrived at Suva on 1st April.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Wednesday, 2nd April, 1941.

To 0900 Thursday, 3rd April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MANOORA" escorting "KATOOMBA" is due in Sydney this morning.

"GROUP 58" ("KOROWA" and "DURRAWEE") after negative results in their search for the mine reported east of Cape Otway are returning to Port Phillip.

AIR OPERATIONS

An outer anti-submarine patrol ahead of H.M.T. "ILE DE FRANCE" will be carried out, commencing at 0700 this morning.

TRANSPORTS

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" arrived at Hobart at 1706 yesterday.

"ILE DE FRANCE" is due at Sydney this afternoon.

"KATOOMBA" is due at Sydney this morning.

INTELLIGENCE

A signal from C. in C. China states he was informed by the Shipping Controller, Singapore, that the local manager of the Nippon Yeiten Kaisha Line called on him after the Mediterranean naval action, and after congratulating him effusively on the British Mediterranean victory announced that the N.Y.K. were to accept the British Navycert System. The Shipping Controller believed that the Osaka Syosen Kaisha and M.B.K. were also accepting.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

The Captain, 9 officers, and 300 ratings were saved from H.M.S. "BONAVENTURE".

SUSPICIOUS SIGHTING

The unidentified vessel sighted on 1st April during the air search for cover for H.M.S. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" was identified yesterday as the "MONTFERLAND" en route from Sydney to Fremantle.

GENERAL

The employees at Garden Island at a mass meeting yesterday passed a resolution demanding that the management guarantee ferry transport from Garden Island to leave at official times. A reply has been asked for for Friday next, and failing a guarantee, they will refuse to work overtime. The special ferry for workmen has apparently been frequently late on leaving; steps are being taken by Naval Board and N.O.C.S. to remedy the cause for complaints

The U.S. Squadron under Rear-Admiral J.H. Newton arrived at Suva on 1st April.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To.0900 Wednesday, 2nd April, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

H.A. SHIPS.

"SYDNEY" having escorted Convoy "V.K.9" ("MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM") across Tasman returned to Sydney at 1100 yesterday.

"WESTRALIA" will be sailed from Sydney so as to arrive Ocean Island Tuesday, 15th April where she will remain about a month to protect shipping in vicinity of Ocean Island and Nauru.

20th M.S.F. ("WARREGO", "SWAN" and "ORARA") arrived Hobart 1330 yesterday where they are required to sweep approaches and provide A/S protection for H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" due this afternoon.

"GOULBURN" instead of joining 20th M.S.F. at Hobart departed Williamstown 1320 yesterday for Sydney arriving 1700 tomorrow where she is required to provide A/S protection for Convoy "U.S.10".

GROUP 58. ("KOROWA" and "DURRAWEE") were despatched from Bass Strait yesterday afternoon to investigate the report of a submerged mine in a position approximately 35' east of Cape Otway. They were unable to locate the mine before dark but the search was resumed this morning. Meantime a W.F. message has been originated declaring a danger area within 5 miles of the vicinity.

"BURNIE" subject to successful acceptance trials on Thursday, 10th April will probably commission 15th April.

TRANSPORTS

"QUEEN MARY" arrived Sydney 1108 yesterday.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" departed Sydney 1058 yesterday for Hobart E.T.A. 1700 today.

"ZEALANDIA" departed Port Moresby 0600 yesterday for Newcastle. E.T.A. 0600 April, 7th.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

According to press reports this morning H.M.A. Ships "PERTH" and "STUART" participated in the action to the eastward of Sicily on Friday last, 28th March, when at least three Italian 8-inch cruisers and two destroyers were sunk.

H.M.S. "BONAVENTURE", a new cruiser of the "DIDO" class mounting 10 5.25-inch guns was torpedoed and sunk by a U. boat when escorting a convoy to the southward of Crete on 31st March. H.M.A.S. "STUART" is reported to have hunted the U. boat.

~~SECRET~~ 2/4

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SUSPICIOUS SIGHTING.

0800 Tuesday. During the air search yesterday afternoon carried out to provide cover for "QUEEN ELIZABETH" proceeding from Sydney to Hobart a vessel was sighted off Eden. This was wrongly identified as a small coastal vessel proceeding to Eden. When the error was discovered there was not sufficient light remaining and an air search was deferred until this morning. During this search another unidentified vessel was sighted similar to that seen the previous afternoon and the necessary action is now being taken.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" departed Thursday Island for Sydney 1300Z/21st March.

"SYDNEY" having escorted "QUEEN ELIZABETH" and "NEW AMSTERDAM" to New Zealand returns to Sydney.

AIR OPERATIONS

- R.1. - An outer 1/2 patrol for "QUEEN ELIZABETH" will be carried out from 0800/1.
- R.2. - A parallel track search from South Head Light to Cape Broadway to a depth of 120' will be carried out today at 1400Z. Cover for "QUEEN ELIZABETH".

TRANSPORTS

"MAURETANIA" }  
 "NEW AMSTERDAM" } Arrived Wellington 0600Z/21st March.

HOSPITAL SHIPS

"ORANGE" Dutch arrived Sydney 0800Z/21st March for cooperation to Hospital Ship Duty.

REMARKS

Rear-Admiral Corbridge is proceeding to Singapore via U.S.A. and Australia to take up appointment as Rear-Admiral, Malaya, and is due to arrive Australia about the end of May.

The towing of the a.s. "HULL" by a tug from Port Lincoln to Adelaide was successfully carried out, the vessel having arrived a.m. Sydney, 21st March.

*Handwritten signature in red ink, possibly "C.A.H."*



DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Tuesday, 1st April, 1941.

From 0900 Monday, 31st March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA NAUTICAL.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MORESBY" departed Thursday Island for Sydney 1933K/31st March.

"GOULBURN" expects to sail 1300K today Tuesday for Sydney.

"SYDNEY" having escorted "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" to New Zealand waters is on passage to Sydney.

AIR OPERATIONS

R.1. - An outer A/S patrol for "QUEEN MARY" will be carried out from 0600/1.

R.2. - A Parallel track search from South Head Light to Cape Dromedary to a depth of 120' will be carried out today at 1400K. Cover for "QUEEN ELIZABETH".

TRANSPORTS

"MAURETANIA" } Arrived Wellington 0600/31st March.  
"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" }

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

"ORANJE" Dutch arrived Sydney 0630/31st March for conversion to Hospital Ship Duty.

GENERAL

Rear-Admiral Dorling is proceeding to Singapore via U.S.A. and Australia to take up appointment as Rear-Admiral, Malaya, and is due to arrive Australia about the end of May.

The towing of the s.s. "HERTFORD" by 2 tugs from Port Lincoln to Adelaide was successfully carried out, the vessel having arrived a.m. Monday, 31st March.

31/3  
DA  
174

SECRET.

To 0900 Monday, 31st March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MORESBY" arrived at Thursday Island at 1215 yesterday.

"SCULMURY" expects to complete repairs to fuel tank Tuesday next, 1st April, when she will proceed to Sydney direct to join 80th S.S. INTELLIGENCE

Wellington radio advised at 1815 last evening having intercepted a QQQQ message from the "PORT WAIKATO" reporting a suspicious vessel off Pitt Island 390 miles E.S.E. of Wellington.

HOSPITAL SHIPS

"ORANJE" is expected to arrive in Sydney today; the work of fitting her out as a hospital ship will be commenced immediately.

Proceeding to Sydney via Fremantle 1400 Friday, 30th March. Sydney is 1100 GENERAL

GENERAL

In view of the successful attack on H.M.S. "YORK" in Suda Bay by six one man submarines (human torpedoes) the Admiralty has instructed that A/S patrols should be maintained as far to seaward as possible in approaches to important harbours, so as to increase the distance at which human torpedoes must disembark from their parent submarine. Constant boat patrols within the anchorage are also considered desirable as the period a human torpedo can remain submerged is probably limited.

The King has approved of the award of the D.S.M. to Able Seaman H. Langton, Fremantle, 21370 R.A.N.

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~  
31/3

117

117 1/4

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 29th March, 1941.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 SUNDAY, 30TH MARCH.

"EXETER" departed Sydney 1000/20th March, escorting "MAURITANIA" and "WIMBORNE" to New Zealand waters.

"BATHURST" } Arrived OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"LIGNORE" "GOULBURN" expects to complete repairs to fuel tank Tuesday next, 1st April, when she will proceed to Hobart direct to join 20th M.S.F.

"ADELAIDE", now refitting at Sydney, is giving 18 days' leave, expiring Tuesday, 15th April.

"WELLSBORO" arrived Port Moresby 28th/29th March.

"MAURITANIA" } Departed Sydney for New Zealand 10th/11th March, escorted by "EXETER".

"WIMBORNE" }

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN MARY" departed Fremantle 1400 Friday, 28th March. Proceeding at 26 knots, routed through Bass Strait, her E.T.A. Sydney is 1100 April 1st.

"WATSON" Completed discharging at Hobart and has returned to Sydney.

"VILE DE FRANCE" departed Fremantle 1500 Friday, 28th March. Proceeding at 20 knots, routed south about Tasmania, her E.T.A. Sydney is 0900 April 3rd.

Navy Office Wellington has been informed by the U.S. Navy that the U.S. Force under command of Rear-Admiral Newton, which recently visited Sydney and Brisbane will visit Suva from April 1st to April 3rd.

The American S.S. "HERTFORD", damaged by mine to the southbound of Neptune Island on 7th December last, was taken in tow by two tugs yesterday afternoon at Port Lincoln, making for Port Adelaide. Upward passage to Washington, Alaska as Liaison Officer to relieve Commander Durrell.

Captain W.L.G. Adams, U.S.N., "WATSON" has received command of H.M.S. "RAMBLER".

H.M.S. "GOULBURN" is now at sea. Fuel tank leaking into Engine Room. She is returning to Harbour (Williamstown) and has arrived.

Handwritten in red: 30/3, 29/3

Handwritten in black: 30/3, 29/3

Handwritten initials: JFB

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TOP SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 29th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"SYDNEY" departed Sydney 1000K/28th March, escorting "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" to New Zealand waters.

"BATHURST" }  
"Arrived Singapore 26th March.

"LISMORE" }  
"Arrived at ..."

"MANOORA" departed Rabaul for Sydney escorting "KATOOMBA" 1239K/28 March.

TRANSPORTS

"ZEALANDIA" arrived Port Moresby 0900K/28th March.

"MAURETANIA" }  
"Departed Sydney for New Zealand 1000K/28th March, escorted by H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" }

"AGUITANIA" F.O.C. Malaya reports 18th April as the earliest date ship can be expected to sail.

"KATOOMBA" Completed discharging at Rabaul and has sailed escorted by "MANOORA" for Sydney.

GENERAL

Navy Office Wellington have made arrangements to transfer 300 Tahitian Troops from Tahiti to Noumea leaving Tahiti about 19th April for Noumea via Suva arriving 29th April. Escorted by H.M.S. "MONAWAI".

Captain GETTING is to leave Calcutta for Sydney by air 2nd April.

The American Squadron under Rear-Admiral J.H. NEWTON departed Brisbane 0945K/28th March.

Commander HARRIES has proceeded to Halifax N.S. for onward passage to Washington, U.S.A. as Liaison Officer to relieve Commander Burrell.

Captain W.L.G. ADAMS from H.M.A.S. "PERTH" has assumed command of H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA". Vice Captain Getting 25th March, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "GOULBURN" reports Port Diesel oil fuel tank leaking into Engine Room Bilge at rate of 100 gallons per day, apparently damaged by Full Calibre Firing. Owing to danger of fire she is returning to Harbour (Williamstown) and has arrived.

*Handwritten red ink:*  
DAN  
29/3

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

Thursday, 27th March.  
To 0900 Friday, 28th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"SYDNEY" left Sydney at 0925 yesterday for scene of explosion reported by s.s. "TAMBUA" and returned to Sydney at 2025 last evening.

"MANCOORA" arrived at Rabaul at 1027 on 26th March escorting H.M.T. "KATCOMBA".

AIR OPERATIONS.

Air searches in connection with explosion heard by s.s. "TAMBUA" were carried out yesterday. Results are summarised in report below.

SINKING OF "MILLI MUMUL"

Early last night near Newcastle, five survivors of the Red Funnel trawler "MILLI MUMUL", who had drifted there in a boat, were taken on board the collier "MORTLAKEBANK" and brought to Sydney. A moored mine foul of the forward otter, exploded when the trawl was being hauled in and the trawler sank within a minute. Seven of the crew are missing.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" are expected to sail from Sydney for New Zealand at 0900 this morning.

H.T. "ILE-DE-FRANCE" arrived at Fremantle at 1000 yesterday.

INTELLIGENCE

The assistant Naval Attache at Tokio identified the Italian merchant vessel which arrived at Kobe 22/23rd March as "RAMB" class; she apparently arrived with the Italian sloop "ERITREA".

GENERAL

A floating mine was sighted by s.s. "BAROSSA" in position 38°25' south 149°13' east at 0630 yesterday.

The American Squadron under Rear-Admiral J.H. Newton sails from Brisbane this morning.

~~DW~~  
~~27/3~~  
27/3

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Thursday, 27th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

20th M.S.F. ("WARREGO", "SWAN" and "ORARA") departed Port Melbourne yesterday afternoon to sweep a route for "QUEEN MARY" expected to pass through Bass Strait Monday, 31st March. The Flotilla will then proceed to Hobart.

"MORESBY" after fuelling at Thursday Island 1st April intends to sail for Sydney.

"GOULBURN" will depart Port Melbourne so as to rendezvous with 20th M.S.F. at 0800 tomorrow off Wilson's Promontory.

"TOOWOOMBA" was successfully launched at Maryborough yesterday.

SHIPPING

S.S. "TAMBUA", a C.S.R. vessel of 3,300 tons proceeding from Sydney to Newcastle, at 1940 yesterday reported that when in a position about 40' N.E. of Sydney outside 100 fathom line she heard a violent explosion and that the navigation lights of a ship visible prior to the explosion had disappeared.

No ship other than "TAMBUA" was known to be in the vicinity and since the explosion might have been caused by an enemy minelayer, N.B. directed R.A.C.A.S. to sail H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" as soon as possible so as to support an air search by six aircraft from Richmond which commenced at 0600 this morning between bearings of 050° and 164° from Barrenjoey to a depth of 300 miles.

H.T. "QUEEN MARY" arrived Fremantle 1700 yesterday.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" departed Thursday Island 1330 yesterday for Port Moresby arriving a.m. tomorrow.

H.T. "KATOOMBA", escorted by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA", arrived Rabaul from Port Moresby 0700 yesterday.

GENERAL.

Vice Admiral Arbuthnot appointed C. in C. East Indies to date 22nd April.

Admiralty advises casualties to Naval personnel and families resulting from air raids at Plymouth on 20th March were very small.

D.N.O. Tasmania will visit Navy Office tomorrow, Friday.

*J.M.*  
~~27/3~~  
27/3

*MB*

DAILY NARRATIVE

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET. Tuesday, 25th March, 1941.

To 0900 Wednesday 26th March, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MANCOORA" On passage Port Moresby to Rabaul escorting Transport "KATOOMBA".

"ADELAIDE" Arrived Sydney 1700K Tuesday, 25th March.

OPERATIONS - AIR

Clearing Search commencing at 0700 p.m. Pearce, W.A. for Transports "QUEEN MARY" and "ILE-DE-FRANCE".

TRANSPORTS

"MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" expected to sail from Sydney for Wellington a.m. Friday 28th March.

"ZEALANDIA" is expected to sail from Thursday Island at 1100K today, Wednesday, for Port Moresby.

"ZEALANDIA" is due to sail from Port Moresby at 1100 tomorrow.

GENERAL

United States Cruiser "CHICAGO" (Flag) of Rear-Admiral J.H. Newton accompanied by "PORTLAND" (Cruiser) and Destroyers "CLARK", "CUNNINGHAM", "DOWNES", "CASSIN" and "REID" arrived Brisbane 1800K Tuesday, 25th March.

"BRITANNIA" probably Anchor Line (9,000 tons) in 7°24' N. 24°24' W. reports being gunned by warship raider.

as the 4/8 loop indicator is present in message, she is now making for Bermuda.

~~SECRET~~ 26/3

Embassador Tokyo that it had been secretly established had during his recent visit to Australia, the authorities granted a gratia was by the British Consul at Tokyo without reference to...

In view of the danger from Japanese area of "RAMB I", "RAMB II" and the sloon "RAMB III" and their subsequent movements the Naval Board has under consideration the instituting of a patrol in the Timor area.

~~SECRET~~ 25/3

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Tuesday, 25th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA"  
"HOBART"  
"SYDNEY" } Arrived in Sydney at 1400 yesterday.

"ADELAIDE" Is due back in Sydney today from escorting "AORANGI"

"BURNIE" Full power (reaching 15.4 knots) and other steam trials were completed satisfactorily yesterday.

AIR OPERATIONS.

A clearing search ahead of H.M.S. "ILE DE FRANCE" will take place from Pearce, W.A. today at 1330H.

TRANSPORTS.

H.M.T. "QUEEN MARY" sailed Singapore for Sydney 22nd March.

H.M.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" expects to arrive at Hobart on Wednesday, 2nd April.

H.M.T. "ZEALANDIA" is due to sail from Thursday Island for Port Moresby at 1100 tomorrow.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "MALAYA" in approximate position 020° North 035° West yesterday morning, reported that she was proceeding to Trinidad, had reduced to 14 knots, and the ship was standing it well. She had no casualties. A subsequent signal from C. in C. America and West Indies to "MALAYA" suggests that as the A/S Loop Indicator at Trinidad is damaged, she is now making for Bermuda.

INTELLIGENCE.

C.O.Y.S. Singapore advises in a signal to H.M. Ambassador at Tokyo that Major S. Hashida, whom it had been secretly established had engaged in espionage work during his recent visit to Australia, was according to the Australian Authorities granted a gratis visa by the British Consul at Tokyo without reference to them.

GENERAL.

In view of the escape from Massawa area of "RAMB I", "RAMB II" and the sloop "ERITREA", and their subsequent movements the Naval Board has under consideration the instituting of a patrol in the Timor area.

~~SECRET~~  
25/3



MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

0900 MONDAY, 24th MARCH, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" docks at Cockatoo on arrival Sydney this afternoon.

"AUSTRALIA" on arrival Sydney this afternoon will give long leave and be ready for sea 4th April.

"MANOORA" escorting H.T. "KATOOMBA" departed Port Moresby 2015 yesterday for Rabaul.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "ILE DE FRANCE" departed Singapore 22nd March for Fremantle, arriving Wednesday, 26th March.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" arrived Suva yesterday.

GENERAL.

U.S. Force under Rear Admiral Newton departed Sydney 1600 yesterday for Brisbane, arriving 0730 this morning. *25/3/41*

Italian Sloop "ERITREA" (2,172 tons, 4-4.7 inch guns, speed 20 knots) arrived Kobe 0500 yesterday. This may be the warship reported by Dutch C. in C. as being sighted by Dutch aircraft on March 11th to S.E. of Timor, and again on March 12th near Dilli. Vessel was described as flying Portuguese flag, one funnel and twin turrets fore and aft.

*DN1*  
*PA 24/3*  
*W*

Captain Wishart departed Sydney yesterday 23rd March, for return to Navy Office.

Rear Admiral Vivian appointed to command HMAS Sydney 24th March.

*25/3*

MOS. SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TO 0900 SUNDAY 23rd MARCH, 1941.

To 0900 Saturday 22nd March 1941  
OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART" (Flag) } Arrived Melbourne 1255K/22nd March and are to sail  
"SYDNEY" } today at 0915K Sunday, for Sydney, E.T.A. 1400K Monday  
24th March.

"AUSTRALIA" To rendezvous with Flag at 1300K today, Sunday 23rd March,  
20' off Point Lonsdale and proceed to Sydney in Company.

"ADELAIDE" Escorting "AORANGI" will rendezvous with "ACHILLES" in  
Tasman Sea today Sunday, at 1600K, returning to Sydney E.T.A.  
Tuesday 25th March.

AIR OPERATIONS.

A report to Darwin from apparently a Dutch Civil Aircraft  
bearing Darwin and Koepang states having sighted a submarine on surface  
bearing West from Darwin 287' Submarine submerged on sighting. Captain  
of aircraft also states dark patch on surface 150 yards in diameter  
30' North-West of submarine sighting. 3 aircraft from Darwin carried  
out search with negative result, visibility being good (30') and sea  
calm. cover of H.M.S. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" yesterday was completed with  
negative result.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" arrived Sydney, noon 22nd March.

H.T. "MAURETANIA" Departed Port Phillip 2200K/22nd March for Sydney  
E.T.A. 0545K 24th March.

Proposed these two ships sail for Wellington not later than 26th March  
escorted by "SYDNEY".

HOSPITAL SHIP.

Dutch "ORANJE" departed Batavia 22nd March, for Sydney, where conversion  
to Hospital Ship requirements will be taken in hand.

GENERAL.

Engineer Captain Wishart departed Singapore, Saturday 22nd March, for  
return to Navy Office.

Rear Admiral Vivian appointed to command Reserves 26th March.

23/3

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET. Day, 21st March, 1941.

To 0900 Saturday, 22nd March, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS                      OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"HOBART" } Expected to arrive Port Phillip at 0800 this  
"SYDNEY" } morning.

"ADELAIDE" Left Sydney at 1825 yesterday escorting "AORANGI"  
to rendezvous with H.M.S. "ACHILLES" in Tasman.  
Expects to return to Sydney 1800K on Tuesday  
25th March.

"MANCOORA" Arrived at Port Moresby yesterday escorting <sup>Local Transport</sup> H.M.A.S.  
"KATOOMBA".

"BATHURST" } Expected to enter China Station 0300 today.  
"LISMORE" }

"MORESBY" Anticipates completing survey of Great N.E. Channel  
about 30th March.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Air search from Barrenjoey Head to Cape Howe for  
cover of H.M.S. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" yesterday was completed with  
negative result.

TRANSPORTS.

H.M.T. "MAURETANIA" arrived in Melbourne yesterday.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.T. "MALAYA" (Capt. A.F.E. Palliser D.S.C.)  
was torpedoed yesterday in position 020° 02' North 025° 55' west  
(about 480 miles west of Cape Blanco). Two "P" class destroyers  
and H.M.S. "DELPHINIUM" were ordered to assist; three hours  
after she was torpedoed, "MALAYA" signalled that she was  
steering 0850 at 7 knots. S.O. Force H. advised that the  
German Battle Cruisers "SCHARNHORST" and "GNEISENAU" were in  
position 048° 50' North 021° 25' West 000° 20 knots, yesterday and  
that the position course and speed of H.M.S. "RENOUN" and H.M.S.  
"ARK ROYAL" were 045° 00' North 019° 45' West, 350° 27 knots.

~~D.I.I.~~  
22/3  
19

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 21st March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" will dock at Cockatoo on arrival Sydney p.m. Monday next, 24th March.

"ADELAIDE" escorting S.S. "AORANGI" is expected to leave Sydney about 2000 today to rendezvous with H.M.S. "ACHILLES" in Tasman.

20th M.S.F. arrives Port Melbourne 0900 this morning and will berth at Princes Pier.

"BATHURST" )  
"LISMORE" ) arrived Darwin from Torres Strait Wednesday, 19th March.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Commencing at 0630 this morning four aircraft are searching an area from Barrenjoey Head to Cape Howe extending 300 miles to seaward to provide cover for H.T. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" proceeding to Sydney.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "MAURETANIA" will berth outer west Station Pier about 1030 this morning. As soon as passengers are disembarked she will proceed to Sydney.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Thursday Island 0830 yesterday and will probably require seven days to discharge 700 tons cargo.

GENERAL.

U.S. Cruisers "CHICAGO" flying flag of Rear Admiral J.H. Newton and "PORTLAND" together with five destroyers arrived Sydney 0900 yesterday.

U.S. Force visiting departed Auckland yesterday forenoon for an unstated destination.

~~J.N.I.~~ 21/3

117

SECRET  
SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0800 Wednesday  
To 0800 Thursday, 20th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" from Fremantle arrived and sailed Albany 1300K/19 March  
having landed W.A. Leavemen.  
To R.V. 20' from Pt. Lonsdale at 1300K/23rd March  
with "HOBART" and "SYDNEY" thence to Sydney E.T.A. p.m.  
24th March.

"SYDNEY" } Departed Fremantle for Port Phillip E.T.A. 0800 22nd  
"HOBART" } March thence to Sydney E.T.A. p.m. 24th March.

"GUNBAR" departed Sydney for Melbourne 1330K 19th March. E.T.A.  
0800 22nd March.

"MANOORA" due Thursday Island 0900 today escorting "ZEALANDIA" and  
"KATOOMBA" (ZK1).

CONVOY U.S.C. arrived at base on 19th March.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

Diverging Search commencing 0630K/20th March today  
will be carried out as cover for "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM".

Parallel Track Search from Port Stephens to  
Port Kembla to a depth of 120' commencing 0530K/20th March today.

GENERAL.

H.C.C.S. reports "COOMBAR" and "BOMBO" will be ready  
for commissioning about the middle and end of April respectively  
and consequently requires drafting arrangements accordingly.

The American Red Cross Ship "EXMOUTH" sailed from  
New York for Marseilles p.m. 17th March.

H.M.S. "RODNEY" sighted a warship raider and probable  
tanker in area about 700' WNW from Azores, but lost touch in  
darkness.

H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" will probably be required to  
proceed to Nauru early in April for about a month.

~~D.N.~~

21/3

SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 19th March, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" (FL. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION).

H.M.A. SHIPS

"AUSTRALIA" to be sailed for Sydney as soon as convenient.

"ADRIAN" Will give leave on arrival to a.m. 4th April.

"SYDNEY" to be sailed for Sydney as soon as convenient.

Leave to retard party to p.m. 8th April.

"HOBART" to be sailed for Sydney as soon as convenient.

Will dock on arrival.

"MANOORA" escorting "KATOOMBA" expects to arrive at Port Moresby at 0900 on Friday 21st March.

CONVOYS.

CONVOY U.S. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  arrived at Suez on 15th March.

SHIPPING.

The oil lighter "ROCKLEA" from Brisbane in tow of tug "CARLOCK" arrived at Sydney yesterday.

DUTCH WARSHIPS

The Flotilla Leader "TROMP" left Port Moresby for Sourabaya on 17th March E.T.A. p.m. 23rd March.

U.S. WARSHIPS - AUSTRALIAN VISIT.

After remaining in Sydney from Thursday 20th March to Sunday 23rd March, the force under Rear Admiral Newton will visit Brisbane from Tuesday 25th March to Friday 28th March.

GENERAL.

Commander Salm, Netherland Indies Naval Liaison Officer, travelling by air to Melbourne, was due in Darwin yesterday.

Naval Board has despatched a message to Rear Admiral Newton in U.S.S. "CHICAGO" suggesting that the force under his command should re-leave off Sydney at 0600 Thursday, 20th March and that in the absence of the occasion, salutes be exchanged.

Admiral Sir Roger Caspin will arrive Sydney tomorrow to represent Naval Board at the reception the following day.

~~D.M.~~  
A  
19/3

DAILY NARRATIVE.

Tuesday 16th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" (FLAG) } departed Fremantle 1050 yesterday to escort  
"AUSTRALIA" } H.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" clear  
"SYDNEY" } of S.W. focal area. The escort will return to  
Fremantle arriving p.m. tomorrow Wednesday.

"ADELAIDE" escorting S.S. "AORANGI" will leave Sydney so as to rendezvous with H.M.S. "ACHILLES" at 0800 Sunday, 23rd March in a position approximately 450 miles N.W. of Auckland. H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" on return to Sydney will be taken in hand for essential repairs estimated to require three weeks.

"BATHURST" } having completed sweeping operations in Great N.E.  
"LISHORE" } Channel are now proceeding to Darwin whence they will proceed to Singapore for service on China Station.

"GOULBURN" departed Port Melbourne yesterday for working up exercises in Port Phillip.

CONVOYS AND TRANSPORTS.

CONVOY "U.S. 91" which left Bombay 12th March escorted by H.M.S. "CAPETOWN" expects to pass Aden today and arrive Suez 22nd March.

"MAURETANIA" departed Fremantle 1000 yesterday for Melbourne arriving 0900 Friday, 21st March.

H.T. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" departed Fremantle 1030 yesterday for Sydney arriving 0600 Saturday, 22nd March routed through Bass Strait.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

H.M.A.S. "WONGALA" completed engine room repairs and docking Saturday, 15th March. She went off station 24th January since when H.M.A.S. "COOLEBAR" has carried out the duties of Examination Vessel at Adelaide.

"SOUTHERN CROSS" (Melanesian Mission Ship) on passage to Sydney has arrived Cairns and has been granted permission to remain for 48 hours to caulk decks and effect repairs to W/T installation.

VISIT U.S. FORCE TO SYDNEY.

Naval Board has despatched a message to Rear Admiral Newton in U.S.S. "CHICAGO" suggesting that the force under his command should rendezvous off Sydney at 0630 Thursday, 20th March and that, in view of the importance of the occasion, salutes be exchanged.

Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin will arrive Sydney tomorrow to represent Naval Board at the reception the following day.

18/3

OST 8 T.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 17th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

20th M.S.F. departed Port Phillip at 0240K today for Bass Strait.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

A clearing search will be carried out from S.W. Area at 1330H today.

GENERAL.

Enemy Raiders are known to be in position 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ °N 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ °W through the shelling of the British Tanker "SIMNIA" at 1842/15 G.M.T.. An Admiralty signal to "TALISMAN" ordering her to operate to the limit of endurance before proceeding to Halifax N.S. also states that "KING GEORGE V" among other ships is in the vicinity.

A U.S.A. detachment consisting of 2 Cruisers, "CHICAGO" (FLAG) and "PORTLAND" accompanied by 5 Destroyers "CLARK" "CASSIN" "CONYNGHAM" "DOWNES" and "REID" under command of Rear Admiral J.H. Newton, U.S.N. have left Samoa and are E.T.A. Sydney, 20th March.

A separate U.S.A. Detachment comprising 2 Cruisers and 4 Destroyers are arriving at Auckland today.

In both cases Announcements will be made in due course that these visits constitute a Training Cruise.

~~SECRET~~  
17/13



MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

(To 0900 Sunday, 16th March, 1941.)

H.M.A. SHIPS

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS:

"AUSTRALIA"  
"SYDNEY"  
"HOBART"

Arrived at Fremantle yesterday, escorting "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM". Will remain in the South-West Area until required for escort of U.S.10. It is not anticipated that they will be required to sail from Fremantle before 24th March.

"ADELAIDE"

Escorting "ACRANGI", arrived in Sydney yesterday.

"MANOORA"

Left Brisbane yesterday, escorting Convoy "ZK1" ("ZEALANDIA" and "KATCOMBA") to Thursday Island: E.T.A. 2300z, 19th March.

SHIPPING.

E.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" after finishing at Fremantle will proceed to Melbourne and Sydney respectively.

INTELLIGENCE.

C.-in-C. Netherlands East Indies described yesterday a warship sighted from the air on 11th March, and later sighted again near Dilli, as "flying Portuguese flag, one funnel, two masts, two double turrets forward, two double turrets aft, six inch, clipper bow". As the Governor at Dilli advised that no Portuguese warship was in that vicinity, the C.-in-C., who says there are strong suspicions that the vessel is either German or Italian, has made various dispositions of the Dutch cruiser "DE REUYTER", 4 destroyers, and 2 submarines accordingly.

C.O.I.S., however, states that from censorship it appears as if the Portuguese Sloop "GONCALO VELHO" is expected at Dilli from Macao. On 14th March C.O.I.S. advised having received a report that a vessel similar to that described by C.-in-C. N.E.I. was at Dilli on that date.

H.M.S. "MINILON" arrived Wellington yesterday.

REMARKS.

C.O.I.S. has received a report from Dutch C. to S. that the Italian Government Vessel "MILITIA" is expected to arrive in Indian Ocean by E.T. on 19th March. It was sighted by air patrol on Wednesday, 14th March, 1941, about 100 miles South of the Strait and is now at Dilli, the Portuguese Capital of Timor.

GENERAL.

C.O.S. (Commodore [unclear], C.B.) who has been in Melbourne for some days left for [unclear] by train yesterday.

The four escort vessels sailing in Australia for the Royal Indian Navy are "MILITIA", "MILITIA", "MILITIA" and

Handwritten red scribble and numbers "11/13".

Handwritten signature or initials.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 15th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS, 14th March, 1941.

"MANOORA" escorting H.T. "KATOOMBA" arrived Brisbane from Sydney 0900 yesterday and was expected to sail at 0800 this morning escorting Convoy "ZK1" ("KATOOMBA" and "ZEALANDIA") to Thursday Island. Their anticipated departure yesterday was delayed by rain.

"MORESBY" reported yesterday three full working days are required to complete sweeping operation in Great N.E. Channel but as weather is very bad date of completion cannot be forecast.

"MORESBY" departed Thursday Island 1340/41 for Great N.E. Channel.  
20th H.S.F. arrived Port Melbourne 0730 this morning.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Commencing 0930K this morning aircraft from Pearce will provide A/S patrol for Convoy CFI ("MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM") approaching Fremantle.  
Surface Vessels.

SHIPPING.

H.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" after fuelling at Fremantle will proceed to Melbourne and Sydney respectively.

The Hospital Ship "MANUNDA" departed Suez for Colombo Thursday, 13th March. She has on board 5 officers and 246 other ranks for Australia, also 50 Military personnel for New Zealand.

McDonald Hamilton Company tug "CARLOCK" with oil lighter "ROCKLEA" in tow departed Brisbane yesterday afternoon for Sydney. E.T.A. noon Monday, 17th March.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "SCARBOROUGH" (Commander N.V. Dickinson) on the night of 13th March intercepted in a position approximately 560 miles west of Cape Finisterre two Norwegian Whalers which had been taken in prize by a German Cruiser in the South Atlantic. One whaler scuttled herself and the other was being chased. It was suspected seven more whalers were in the vicinity.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived Wellington yesterday.

INTELLIGENCE.

C.O.I.S. has received a report from Dutch C. in C. that the Italian Government Vessel "RAM 2", sister ship to "RAM 1" recently sunk in Indian Ocean by H.M.S. "LEANDER", was sighted by air patrol at 1930K on Wednesday, 12th March, in a position 150 miles South of Sunda Strait and is now at Dilli, the Portuguese Capital of Timor.

GENERAL.

C.C.N.Z. (Commodore W.E. Parry, C.B.) who has been in Melbourne for some days left for Sydney by train yesterday.

The four escort vessels building in Australia for the Royal Indian Navy are to be named "MADRAS", "BENGAL", "BOMBAY" and "PUNJAB".

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

To 0900 Thursday, 13th March DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 14th March, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"WANGORA" left 8 OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" Tasman Sea escorting "AORANGI" to Sydney, E.T.A. 2130K today, being 29 hours late on original E.T.A.

"MORESBY" departed Thursday Island 1840K/13 for Great N.E. Channel.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

Search to be carried out from Lakes Entrance Area between 095° and 175° to a depth of 180' at 0700K this morning, object Surface Vessels.

GENERAL.

The previously reported Condo Hirvia Class Cruiser sunk by H.M. Submarine "UPRIGHT", has been identified as "ARMONDO DIAZ" 5,000 tons 8-6 in. together with 2 Troopships of 18,000 and 2,500 tons respectively with heavy loss of life.

~~D.N.I.~~ ~~14/13~~

~~D.N.I.~~ ~~14/13~~

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 10th March, 1941.  
DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 13th March, 1941.

Subsequent to the "MALAYA" message intercepted from H.M.S. "MALAYA" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. Battlecruisers "SCHANNOCK" class) in sight retiring westwards, and later signalled H.M.A. SHIPS retiring on the survey.

"MANOORA" left Sydney yesterday for Brisbane escorting H.M.T. "KATOOMBA" and to take H.M.S. "REPULSE" and H.M.S. "PERICLES" under his orders. "GOULBURN" arrived Melbourne last night. H.M.S. "VANGUARD" and H.M.S. "ARCTURUS" screened by H.M.S. "VANGUARD" and H.M.S. "ARCTURUS" were proceeding at 24 knots towards the Azores Islands, and that he intended H.M.S. "REPULSE" to refuel and proceed to rendezvous with his east of the Azores on 11th March, H.M.S. "PERICLES" remaining at Gibraltar.

CONVOY Z.K.1. "MALAYA" that "SCHANNOCK" had made a signal on 2nd March. "ZEALANDIA" having to discharge 350 tons of cargo at Thursday Island, "KATOOMBA" will proceed from there to P.M. escorted by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA", and "ZEALANDIA" will follow later, with air protection only. 20 knots.

H.M. Submarine "URRIDGE" on 25th February torpedoed and sank an Italian cruiser of INTELLIGENCE. "ITALIA" class.

The Italian vessel "CARIGNANO" with 5000 tons of cargo on board arrived at Kobe from Formosa on 10th March.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" escorting Convoy C.F.1 left Colombo at 0800Z on Saturday, 25th February.

GENERAL.

The Dutch Naval Supply vessel "JANSSEDS" passed Thursday Island eastbound yesterday. at Nauru yesterday and departed the same day for Ocean Island.

After escorting a convoy eastwards towards Panama, the Dutch warship "TROMP" will return to Port Moresby on 17th March.

H.M. Transport "ZEALANDIA" sailed from Sydney for Brisbane on Saturday 8th March en route to Thursday Island, Port Moresby and Rebeul. She will, with H.M. Transport "KATOOMBA", form Convoy Z.K.1, which will be escorted from Brisbane onwards by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

~~D.N.I.~~ 1313

The Ministry provides battleship escorts of escort for Sierra Leone Convoy, Gibraltar and outward-Gibraltar Convoys relying on submarine force.

~~D.N.I.~~ 1113

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 10th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Subsequent to the "emergency" message intercepted from H.M.S. "MALAYA" yesterday, she reported two German Battlecruisers ("SCHARNHORST" class) in sight retiring westwards, and later signalled that she was retiring on the convoy.

The Admiralty then ordered S.O. Force H to proceed to sea and to take H.M.S. "REPULSE" and H.M.S. "FURIOUS" under his orders. S.O. Force H signalled that H.M.S. "RENOWN", H.M.S. "ARK ROYAL" and H.M.S. "ARETHUSA" screened by H.M.S. "VELOX" and H.M.S. "WRESTLER" were proceeding at 25 knots towards the Canary Islands, and that he intended H.M.S. "REPULSE" to refuel and proceed to rendezvous with him east of the Azores on 11th March, H.M.S. "FURIOUS" remaining at Gibraltar.

Admiralty advised H.M.S. "MALAYA" that "SCHARNHORST" had made a signal on U-boat frequency evidently reporting "MALAYA's" position.

The German Battle Cruisers were last seen at 1829Z/8 steering 245° at 20 knots.

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H.M. Submarine "UPRIGHT" on 25th February torpedoed and sank an Italian cruiser of the "CONDOTTIERIA" class.

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H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" escorting Convoy C.F.1 left Colombo at 0600Z on Saturday, 8th February.

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H.M.S. "MONOWAI" having escorted the "NORDNES" and "EKAGGERAK" to Ocean Island, arrived at Nauru yesterday and departed the same day for Ocean Island.

H.M. TRANSPORTS.

H.M. Transport "ZEALANDIA" sailed from Sydney for Brisbane on Saturday 8th March en route to Thursday Island, Port Moresby and Rabaul. She will, with H.M. Transport "KATOOMBA", form Convoy Z.K.1, which will be escorted from Brisbane onwards by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

GENERAL.

The Admiralty intend to provide Battleship scale of escort for Sierra Leone Convoys, Home-Gibraltar and Outward-Gibraltar Convoys relying on submarine escort.

*[Handwritten signature and date]*  
11/3

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 12th March, 1941.

1000 Tuesday, 11th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOEART" } were expected to rendezvous with "MAURETANIA" and  
"SYDNEY" } "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" (Convoy CF1) at 0600 this morning  
for escort to Fremantle.

"MORESBY" arrived Thursday Island yesterday and departed last night  
to tow Carpentaria light vessel to Thursday Island.

"LISMORE" arrived Thursday Island 0830 yesterday and sailed during  
the afternoon for Great N.E. Channel.

"ADELAIDE" will rendezvous with S.S. "AORANGI" in Tasman at 1700  
today and escort her to Sydney.

"KYBRA" with A/S training classes embarked arrived Jervis Bay  
from Sydney yesterday.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "QUEEN MARY" was intended to leave Singapore for Sydney today.

At the request of Naval Board her departure has been  
deferred until further information concerning U.S.10  
is received from D.S.T.

Repairs are being carried out on U.S.10. U.S.10  
Vladivostok are occupying with submarine construction.

A report from the S.S.U. Patrol via Naval Government  
Station on New Ireland states a Chinaman from the Tangi Group  
(43' SW of Anir) reports a sea mine at anchor off Tafa Island  
(Southwest Island of Tangi Group) on 2nd March but no one disbarbed.  
Cannot identify but report from S.S.U. (1) Port Moresby considers possibility  
to be Reliability

~~Handwritten: 221~~  
in G.P. (1) signalled that the Dutch Auxiliary  
Supply Vessel "JANSEN" (1000 tons) will arrive at Port Moresby  
about 14th March.  
~~Handwritten: 12/13~~

~~Handwritten: 221~~  
~~Handwritten: 11/13~~

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 11th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"AUSTRALIA" departed Colombo escorting Convoy CP1 towards Fremantle.

"BATHURST" arrived Thursday Island 1900K 10th March.

"GOULBURN" departed Sydney for Melbourne E.T.A. noon 12th March.

"WARREGO"  
"SWAN"  
"ORARA" } are to sail from Sydney at 0930K 11th March for Melbourne carrying out searching sweeps on passage.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Brisbane at 1630 10th March to embark troops for Thursday Island and Port Moresby.

GENERAL.

S.O.(I) Esquimalt, states that Russian shipmasters report repairs are being carried out at Esquimalt because all shipyards at Vladivostock are occupied with Russian submarine construction.

A report from the A.R.O. Rabaul via Namatanai Government Station on New Ireland states a Chinaman from the Tanga Group (45' NW of Anir) reports a man of war at anchor off Tefa Island (Southmost Island of Tanga Group) on 3rd March but no one disembarked. Cannot identify but report from S.O.(I) Port Moresby considers grading to be Reliability D.

The C. in C. N.E.I. has signalled that the Dutch Auxiliary Supply Vessel "JANSSENS" (2000 tons gross) will arrive at Port Moresby about 14th March.

~~AM~~ 1113

DAILY NARRATIVE.

T S E A T.

To 0900 Sunday, 9th March.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"HOBART", flying flag R.A.C.A.S. and "SYDNEY" departed Fremantle 1815 Friday, 7th March, to rendezvous with Convoy C.F.1. at 2000 Tuesday, 11th March.

"ADELAIDE" will rendezvous with s.s. "AORANGI" (20 officers and 169 ratings for H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" embarked) in the Tasman at 1100 Wednesday, 12th March, and escort her to Sydney.

"SWAN" ) departed Sydney yesterday for sweeping between Sydney  
"ORARA" ) and Newcastle.

"GOULBURN" sails from Sydney 2200 tomorrow Monday for Melbourne to work up.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

The Admiralty desires news of the sinking of the Italian Merchant Ship "RAMB I" by H.M.S. "LEANDER" to be released in New Zealand at 1900 N.Z. time tomorrow, Monday. Publicity concerning the sinking of "COBURG" and "KETTY BROVIC" will be withheld for the present.

An "emergency" message originated at 0900 this morning was intercepted from H.M.S. "MALAYA" reporting one large vessel, either a battleship or battle cruiser, had been sighted between Cape Verde and Canary Islands.

According to the last weekly state of dispositions received from C. in C. South Atlantic H.M. Ships "MALAYA", "BIRMINGHAM", "PHOEBE" and four Destroyers, escorting Convoy W.S.6. were expected to arrive Freetown 2nd March and had presumably resumed the voyage towards U.K.

GENERAL.

Commodore W.E. Parry from New Zealand will arrive Melbourne today by train from Sydney for discussion with Naval Board and he will stay at Menzies until Friday next.

9/13

117

9/13



TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 8th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" (FLAG) } Ships expected to leave Fremantle at 2200H last  
"SYDNEY" } night for rendezvous with "AUSTRALIA" and Convoy  
C.F.1.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"AUSTRALIA" leaves Colombo today at 0230Z escorting Convoy C.F.1  
"MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" for rendezvous  
with "HOBART" and "SYDNEY" en route Fremantle.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" should arrive at Nauru PM/Z today escorting "NORDNES"  
and "SKACERAK".

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "KYBERA" will proceed from Sydney to Jarvis Bay Monday 10th  
March with A/S Classes on board for Seamanship  
Training.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" reports that the Norwegian Tanker "KETTY BROVIC"  
which she sank on 4th March, was captured by a  
disguised raider named "TAMESIS" on 2nd February in  
4½°S 50°E. This tanker fuelled a Pocket Battleship  
about 16th February south of Saya-de-Malha Bank.  
Owing to the occurrence of Bubonic Plague in New  
Caledonia Naval Board have directed that ships should  
not visit Noumea or other Ports in New Caledonia  
unless for urgent necessity and H.M.A. Ships arriving  
from these Ports are to notify the Quarantine  
Authorities and obtain Clearance.

~~2/1~~ 8/3

TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 7th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANCORA" arrived in Sydney yesterday, and will act as escort for Convoy ZK 1 sailing from Sydney on Wednesday, 12th March for Brisbane, Thursday Island, Port Moresby and Rabaul.

"WESTRALIA" arrived in Sydney yesterday, and commences a 10 day refit today; long leave will be granted whilst refitting.

"BATHURST" ) Admiralty request they may be sailed for Singapore  
"LISMORE" ) on completion of operations in Great N.E. Channel.  
They will join China Station, and not proceed to the Mediterranean for the present.

"MORESBY" will proceed, on completion of fuelling on 11th March, to tow Carpentaria light vessel to Thursday Island.

AIR OPERATIONS.

An air search between Darwin and Timor yesterday for the Pocket Battleship had a negative result.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The Admiralty signalled yesterday that the Naval Board's action in placing H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA", "SYDNEY", and "HOBART" under their orders was very much appreciated, and enabled H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" to operate most efficiently in the Indian Ocean. To cover the possibility of the Pocket Battleship's appearance in the Tasman Sea, they have directed C. in C. East Indies to send H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" to Fremantle area, which would enable the Naval Board to move H.M.A. Ships "SYDNEY" and "HOBART" back to the Tasman Sea should they wish to do so.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" therefore, will leave Colombo tomorrow at 0230Z, escorting Convoy CF1, consisting of "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM", to Fremantle.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" will search Nazareth Bank and Cargados Carajos area today, arriving at Mauritius tomorrow. "CANBERRA" has 3 German Officers, 14 Ratings and 33 Chinese on board and "LEANDER" 15 German Officers, 33 Ratings and some Norwegian survivors.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI", escorting the Norwegian ships "NORDNES" and "SKAGERAK" from Suva, expects to arrive at Nauru p.m. tomorrow.

~~S.N.I.~~ 7/3

MOST SECRET.DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 6th March, 1941.

Flag of H.M.A.S. was transferred at 1300  
yesterday OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" } Arrived Fremantle 0840 yesterday. They will sail  
"HOBBART" } so as to rendezvous with H.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and  
"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" in Indian Ocean and take over  
Ocean Escort from H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA".

"ADELAIDE" arrived Brisbane yesterday and will sail today to  
escort a modified convoy to New Zealand waters.

"TOORIE" yesterday joined Group 54 Auxiliary W/S vessels based on  
Port Melbourne.

"WARREGO" } owing to boiler defects in "WARREGO" it has been  
"SWAN" } decided to defer the sailing of all three ships until  
"ORARA" } "WARREGO" is ready for sea about 11th February.  
In the meantime "SWAN" and "ORARA" will carry out  
searching sweeps between Sydney and Newcastle.  
All three ships will carry out searching sweeps on  
passage from Sydney to Melbourne.

AIR OPERATIONS.

The Admiralty considers the pocket battleship  
recently sighted in Indian Ocean may be proceeding to Far East  
by way of Timor Sea and assuming a speed of 15 knots she would  
pass through that area between 7th March and 9th March.

Commencing at 0900 today, an air search will be  
carried out daily until 10th March, covering an area between  
Darwin and Timor.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" reports that the merchant ship sunk by her  
on the night of 4th March was the unarmed Norddeutscher  
Lloyd "COBURG" (7,400 tons gross built in 1928 and  
reconstructed 1938) which, according to Lloyds'  
shipping list, had been at Massawa since August, 1939.  
She was accompanied by the Norwegian tanker "KJETTY  
BROVIG" (7000 tons gross built in 1918) last reported  
leaving Sourabaya December 28th, 1940, for Singapore  
and possibly captured by a German P.B. on 2nd February.  
When sighted the two vessels separated and steamed in  
opposite directions. "COBURG", engaged by "CANBERRA",  
was set on fire and sank two hours later whilst the  
tanker scuttled herself.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" picked up survivors. It is  
doubtful if this further success by Dominion cruisers  
could have been achieved had the Government declined  
to adopt Naval Board's recommendation to place H.M.A.  
Ships "SYDNEY" and "HOBBART" under orders of C. in C.  
East Indies as soon as the presence of a Pocket  
Battleship was reported in Indian Ocean.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived Colombo Tuesday, 4th March and is  
expected to sail today escorting H.T.'s "MAURETANIA"  
and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" towards Fremantle.

4/6/3  
D.N.I.

0900 Wednesday, 5th GENERAL.

Flag of R.A.C.A.S. was transferred at 1300 yesterday from "RUSHCUTTER" to H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

R.A.C.A.S. SHIPS On Tuesday, 4th March the 2nd Naval Member (Commodore J.W. Durnford, R.N.) took over the duties of 1st Naval Member owing to the temporary indisposition of Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin

"SECRET" Captain H.B. Crane, R.N., until recently in command of Flinders Naval Depot, will temporarily occupy 2nd Naval Member's chair.

"KIDNAP" at Jarvis Bay.

Consequent upon a report of a sighting of a vessel at 1800K/4 13 records... sea between... (Telephone Report...)

R.A.C.A.S. "FRANCONIA" ... plates, ... essential. ...

R.A.C.A.S. "TUDOR" will be ... 5th March.

on arrival at Sydney ... Port Moresby, ... sail 12th March.

R.A.C.A.S. "CANTON" ... by ... and by ... intention is ... of search ...

R.A.C.A.S. ...

*[Handwritten signature]*

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 5th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" arrives Brisbane today at 1030K

"SYDNEY" }  
"HOBART" } should have arrived at Fremantle.

"KYBRA" at Jervis Bay.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

A search is being carried out from Townsville consequent upon a report of 4 men on the beach at Mackay who saw at 2300K/4 12 rockets (Red and orange colour) fired about 40' out to sea between Dunduce and Bailey Islands, bearing 90° from Mackay. (Telephone Report from Townsville).

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" reports her Boiler Front Brickwork spectacle plate, Brick Tube, and Deflector bowls and repairs essential. Work is in hand and time required one week.

H.M.A.S. "TOORIE" will be ready to carry out M/S duties a.m. Thursday, 6th March.

S.S. "KATOOMBA" is to be requisitioned as a Transport on arrival at Sydney 6th March for one voyage to Thursday Island, Port Moresby, and Rabaul and is required to carry 696 Troops and to sail 12th March.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" sighted a raider accompanied by Tanker in position 8° 40' S 61° 25' E at 1205Z/4 and by 1225Z/4 both raider and tanker were on fire the latter sinking by the stern. C. in C. E.I. reports his intention is to suppress news for the present. Position is approximately 420' S.E. of Seychelles and in the area of search ordered by C. in C. E.I. for these two ships.

R.A.C.A.S. has arrived at Perth.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 4th March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"KYBRA" departed Sydney for Jervis Bay yesterday.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

In consequence of a sighting yesterday afternoon by a Sergeant Pilot and pupil from Amberley of an object near Point Cartwright (about sixty miles north of Brisbane) considered by them to be a submarine, an air search took place later with negative results.

A diverging search between 180° and 270° to a depth of 300 miles, will be carried out by S.W.A.C.H. in connection with the departure of "ULYSSES" this morning at 0700H.

INTELLIGENCE.

C.O.I.S. advises that Japanese combined fleet are exercising in vicinity 28°North 130°East. He also states that two French submarines escorted by the tanker "LOT" passed Sunda Strait on 1st March en route for Saigon.

POCKET BATTLESHIP.

A signal from Admiralty dated 1st March advises that the position of enemy unit is within 150 miles of 009°00'South 062°00' East.

GENERAL.

R.A.C.A.S. accompanied by S.O.(0) arrived at Perth yesterday by air.

Captain Getting will be relieved by Captain Adams about 15th March on arrival at Bombay, and his onward passage arranged as soon as possible after that date.

Captain Thomas will arrive in Sydney from Melbourne on 6th March and expects to return to Darwin on Saturday 15th March.

Commander Newman proposes to leave Singapore on 7th March for Batavia thence to Sydney on 10th March.

A small unofficial Free Italy Committee has recently been started in Italy under Signor Carlo Petrode. Other leaders of the movement outside Italy have emerged; their present policy is to encourage a spontaneous Free Italy movement and action on these lines in Egypt, U.S.A. and Latin America.

~~SECRET~~  
A13

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 2nd March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" } departed Port Phillip at 2000K 1st March on passage to  
"HOBBART" } Fremantle E.T.A. 1900H 4th March.

"GOULBURN" Naval Board have directed N.O.C.S. to sail "GOULBURN" for Melbourne when ready for working up practices in co-operation with N.O.C.F.N.D. and on completion ship is to join 20th M.S.F.

"DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip for Wilsons Promontory Area 0800K 1st March.

"ADELAIDE" sailed from Brisbane 25th February and has been ordered not to return to Sydney as previously directed, but to escort modified Convoy consisting of "THORDIS", "CLAN MACDONALD" and "ANATINA" from Brisbane about 6th March as far as position WNW 210' from Cape Maria van Dieman New Zealand, then to return to Sydney.

20th M.S.F. have been ordered to sail from Sydney on Friday, 7th March for Melbourne.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", "EMERALD" and "HERMES" are ordered by C. in C. E.I. to rendezvous in Position 69°E on the Equator at 0330Z/2nd March and proceed in Company to Colombo at 15 knots.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and "LEANDER" after making rendezvous in 1° 20'S 75° E at 1100Z/2 March are to proceed at 18 knots towards position 8°S 63°E.

GENERAL.

20th M.S.F. reports clearing of "NIMBIN" minefield completed.

H.M.A.S. "MORESEBY" reports Dutch Flotilla Leader "TROMP" passed through Great N.E. Channel Northbound, 0800K 29th February.

2/3

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 3rd March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"BATHURST" ) arrived Survey ground in Torres Strait at noon  
"LISMORE" ) yesterday.

20th M.S.F. arrived Newcastle Saturday, 1st March.  
*SYDNEY*

TRANSPORTS.

Subject to no further information of Pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", instead of H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", will escort H.T.'s "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" from Colombo sailing 6th March to a position midway between Colombo and Fremantle whence H.M.A. Ships "HOBART" and "SYDNEY" will escort them to Fremantle.

INTELLIGENCE.

French cruiser "LAMOTTE PICQUET" and French Sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" arrived Saigon 28th February.

Dutch Light cruiser "TROMP" escorting a tanker arrived Port Moresby yesterday.

GENERAL.

The aircraft in which R.A.C.A.S. is proceeding from Darwin to Perth has been delayed at Broome by bad weather and is expected to reach Perth late today or tomorrow Tuesday.

As was expected, a Balkans offensive began during the week-end when German troops along the Bulgarian frontier marched into Bulgaria.

Naval Staff and Head of "N" Department removed into new building fronting Coventry Street on Saturday, 1st March.

*Handwritten mark: a checkmark and the number 313.*



DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 1st March, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" arrived in Melbourne this morning and berthed Nelson Pier Williamstown.

"HOBART" " " " " " "

20th M.S.F. anticipates completion of clearing of "NIMBIE" minefield today, flotilla will return to Sydney for boiler cleaning.

"COULBURN" commissioned in Sydney yesterday under command of Lieut. E. Paul R.A.N.R. (S)

INTELLIGENCE.

The Dutch C. in C. reported that an unidentified black painted ship which apparently intended to enter Bulat Bay south of Soembawa, suddenly altered course and disappeared in a southerly direction. A seaplane reconnaissance will be made.

GENERAL.

The next two A.H.S. will sail from Australia to Colombo early in June.

Triangulation and preparation for sweepers in Great North East Channel has been completed.

*Handwritten red mark and number 113*

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 28th February, 1941. -

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" departed Sydney 0400 this morning for Melbourne arriving 0400 tomorrow Saturday. On completion fuelling, she will sail with "HOBART" in company for Fremantle proceeding at 22 knots. In view of presence of a Pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean, these two cruisers, together with "CANBERRA" will be placed under orders of C. in C. East Indies until required for escort of "U.S.10" towards the end of next month.

"BATHURST" } arrived Cairns Wednesday, 26th February and after  
"LISMORE" } fuelling departed to rendezvous with "MORESBY" in Torres Strait on Sunday, 2nd March.

"GOULBURN" having satisfactorily completed acceptance trials will commission at Sydney today.

TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Sydney at noon yesterday on conclusion of trooping trip to Darwin.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" (Captain R.H. Bevan, R.N.)

At 1619 yesterday in a position approximately 300 S.W. of Maldive Islands sighted the Italian motor vessel "RAMB I" (3,667 tons gross built in 1937) flying the Red Ensign and when ordered to stop she hoisted the Italian colours and opened fire. "LEANDER" replied with five salvos when "RAMB" struck her colours and sank an hour later after setting herself on fire. There are five Italian casualties and none in "LEANDER". 11 officers and 69 men were picked up and are being transferred to oiler "PEARLEAF".

H.M. Monitor "TERROR", built in 1916, sank off Derna on 24th February, having been near missed in two bombing attacks. There were no casualties.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" expects to leave Suva so as to arrive Nauru 7th March and during passage will escort phosphate ships "NORDNES" and "SKAGERAK" to vicinity Ocean Island.

GENERAL.

Rear Admiral Grace, returning from Singapore Conference, will proceed by plane to Fremantle leaving Darwin Sunday, 2nd March, so as to rejoin his flagship.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 27th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" on passage Auckland to Melbourne E.T.A. Saturday 1st March.

"ADELAIDE" sailed from Brisbane 25th February for Patrol E.T.A. Sydney 1400K Thursday, 6th March.

"WESTRALIA" } departed Sydney 0115K/27th February, escorting  
"MANCOORA" } "GABRIELLA" and "KAIRANGA" to a position thence patrol in Tasman.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Flying Boat A 18-12 (Port Moresby) will search Islands to north of New Ireland today 27th February and will sweep Anir Strait from the Northward p.m. today.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" reports Dockyard work affecting readiness for sea will be completed by noon today Thursday 27th February and when ready is to proceed to Melbourne to fuel with all convenient despatch.

H.M.A.S. "KUTTABUL" commissioned at 0800 Wednesday 26th February.

H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS" commissioned a.m. Wednesday 26th February.

N.O.C.S. reports "BOMBO" taken over 0900 22nd February and is to be converted for M/S duties.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" was ordered to proceed towards Colombo, if no further developments in Raider hunt, at 0030 this morning 27th February.

Rear Admiral Crace will arrive Sydney Monday, 3rd March.

*D. N. L.*  
*[Signature]*  
*27/2*

MOS: SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 26th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" en route to Melbourne from Auckland. E.T.A. a.m. Saturday 1st March.

"ADELAIDE" sailed from Brisbane yesterday for patrol.

"WESTRALIA" arrived in Sydney yesterday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is searching for the Pocket Battleship in the vicinity of Mauritius.

C. in C. East Indies intends sailing Convoy WS5BX from Bombay consisting of "EMPRESS of JAPAN" and "AQUITANIA" (latter subject to approval of D. of S.T. approving) to the Far East escorted by H.M.S. "ENTERPRISE". "MAURETANIA", "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" will proceed unescorted to Colombo, leaving about 6th March, thence to Fremantle escorted by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA".

GENERAL.

The employees of Hume Steel Port Moresby, at a stop work meeting held yesterday decided to strike next Friday unless Income Tax deduction from pay is stopped. The strike would mean cessation of work on oil tank and pipeline to wharf.

The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed strong displeasure to the Turkish Ambassador in Berlin at the attitude of the Turkish Press and Statesmen, and warned him that if Turkey ever obstructed German plans by force the Turkish Government would be fighting not only Germany, but also U.S.S.R. in the Caucasus.

~~2.11~~ ~~26/2~~ ~~119~~

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 25th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" will sail from Sydney when ready for sea - probably Thursday 27th February - to patrol in Tasman returning Thursday, 6th March. Men at present on leave have been recalled so as to be onboard by a.m. 27th February but leave may be granted to retard party subject to recall at 48 hours' notice.

"HOBART" is due to arrive Auckland today and on completion of fuelling will patrol in Tasman returning to Sydney 6th March.

"ADELAIDE" sails from Brisbane today for patrol returning to Sydney 6th March.

"MANOORA" } expect to sail from Sydney p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday,  
"WESTRALIA" } to escort British vessels "WAIPOHI" and "KAIRANGI" to a position about 250 miles west of Auckland. Both A.M.C.'s will then patrol in Tasman returning to Sydney 6th March.

20th M.S.F. swept up two mines yesterday during clearing operations in "NIMBIN" minefield.

SHIPPING.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Brisbane yesterday and sailed later for Newcastle arriving Wednesday, 26th February.

FREIGHT SHIP "ULYSSES", with 150 air personnel for South Africa embarked, departed Port Melbourne for Fremantle Sunday, 22nd February.

H.T. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" will be ready to leave Bombay 28th February for Fremantle.

H.T. "MAURETANIA" may be held at Bombay until 3rd March so as to embark a number of sick for Australia.

GENERAL.

Admiralty has enquired capacity of Australia to build wooden motor minesweepers to stated specification.

~~DVI~~

26/2

It is considered by Admiralty that General M.L. 24 attached  
ref the Annex was probably the "Lynx" which was returned to  
which has now returned to...

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 24th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" at Brisbane at 4 hours' notice for steam.

"HOBART" departed Sydney noon 22nd February en route Auckland escorting "AWATEA".

"MORESBY" departed Cairns 0900 23rd February for Surveying Ground.

H.M. SHIPS

"ACHILLES" arrived Auckland 0900 23rd February.

CONVOYS.

U.S.9 escorted by H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrived at Bombay 0400Z 22nd February.

"ZEALANDIA" escorted by H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" arrived and sailed from Bowen 0600/22nd February en route to Brisbane, "WESTRALIA" being ordered to cease escorting at entrance to Brisbane swept channel and proceed to Sydney.

"AQUITANIA" proposed by D.S.T. to C. in C. China that vessel should proceed to Singapore for dry docking and other work.

"AWATEA" escorted by H.M.A.S. "HOBART" for Auckland.

GENERAL.

Captain Boyd promoted to Acting Rear Admiral and to command Mediterranean Aircraft Carriers.

Captain Farquhar Smith D.N.O. W.A. will arrive Melbourne Tuesday 25th February.

Sabotage is suspected in a series of small fires in H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" and assistance has been requested to maintain Anti Sabotage patrol. A guard of 3 Petty Officers, 3 Leading Seamen and 48 ratings is requested by N.O.C.S. to augment present gangway guard.

French Commandant CASTREX recently Commanding Air Training School, Saigon, is proceeding to Batavia, Australia, Manila and United States en route to France for employment by Air France, is reported to be anti British and hopes to visit the De Haviland works in Australia.

A party of 20 officers and 169 ratings is taking passage in "AORANGI" for Australia en route to China Station, Lieut.H.S. Macneice R.C.N.V.R. being in charge.

It is considered by Admiralty that Convoy SL 64 attacked off the Azores was probably the German Cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER which has now returned to Brest.

Qantas Agent Dili (Timor) reports a Japanese 4 engined Dornier flying boat is due to arrive Dili 28th February remaining till 3rd March.

Two Fokker seaplanes from the Dutch Cruiser "JAVA" (patrolling in Timor Sea) were at Koepang 22nd February.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 - Sunday, 23rd February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships:

- "HOBART" Left Sydney yesterday for Auckland escorting "AWATEA", and expects to arrive on Tuesday next, 25th February.
- "MORESEBY" arrived in Cairns on Friday, 21st February.
- "WESTRALIA" arrived at Bowen on Friday, 21st February escorting "ZEALANDIA" and sailed for Brisbane and Sydney.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

A clearing search ahead of the "MACDHUI" takes place today near Rabaul.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

On 21st February H.M. Ships "GLASGOW", "EMERALD", "HERMES" and "CAPETOWN" were ordered by C. in C. East Indies Station to form Force V and to search for a raider which had been reported. "GLASGOW" reported at 1944 yesterday that a pocket battleship was sighted in position 008°30' South 051°35' East (about 370 miles South West of the Seychelles), also that "GLASGOW" was in pursuit with aircraft shadowing, and intended to shadow by day and attack by night. The British Ship "CANADIAN CRUISER" had reported being chased by a warship at 0200 on yesterday in the vicinity and the Dutch ship "RANTAU PANDJANG" reported being chased by a warship at 1515 yesterday in almost the exact position that to the pocket battleship was sighted by "GLASGOW". H.M.A.S. "CANNBERRA" at present between Colombo and Mahe has been ordered to a position roughly 600 miles E.N.E. of where the raider was sighted. H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" has also been ordered to proceed to a position 009° South 054° East at 27 knots and is now in Force V.

SHIPPING.

The British ship "KING LUD" and Norwegian "SKAGERAK" which were stranded in Suva during a hurricane on Thursday last have been refloated.

GENERAL.

The flag of F.O.C.A.S. has been transferred temporarily to "RUSHCUTTER".

2  
HAB.



DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 22nd February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" arrived Colombo Thursday, 20th February and will remain in Ceylon area until "U.S.9" transports return to Colombo from Bombay.

"HOBART" leaves Sydney for Auckland 1115 today to escort "AWATEA" with 226 Air Force personnel for Canada embarked.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Brisbane, where she will be based for the present, at 1730 yesterday.

"MANCORA" at Sydney was expected to undock at 0730 this morning.

"BATHURST" } departed Sydney for Cairns 1230 yesterday.  
"LISMORE" }

20th M.S.F. ("WARREGO" and "SWAN") departed Sydney 0830 this morning to clear "NIMBIN" minefield - "ORARA", on completion boiler cleaning, will sail tomorrow Sunday morning to rejoin Flotilla.

"GOONAMBBE" } departed Sydney 0600 this morning to operate  
"SAMUEL BENBOW" } under orders of S.O. 20th M.S.F. during the  
"HEROS" } clearance of "NIMBIN" minefield.

"TOORIE", having completed working up exercises in Port Phillip, arrived Williamstown yesterday.

"DOOMBA" detailed to maintain S.C.F.18 round Wilson's Promontory was anchored in Waterloo Bay last night.

"PLATYPUS" N.O.C.S. proposes to commission before proceeding to dock on Wednesday, 26th February and "KUTTABUL" (ex Sydney Ferry) as a tender to "PENGUIN" on the same date.

SHIPPING TRANSPORTS.

H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" having proceeded southabout Tasmania from Fremantle arrived Sydney and anchored off Bradley's Head at 1720 yesterday.

British Vessel "KING LUD" (5,224 tons) and Norwegian vessel "SKAGERAK" (4,244 tons), both directed from Ocean Island to Suva on 12th February, were stranded in the latter harbour during a hurricane on Thursday, 20th February. Efforts are being made to refloat them.

GENERAL.

Naval Conference opens at Singapore today.

According to present intentions, Naval Staff and Head of "N" Department will remove to the new building in Coventry Street on Saturday next, 1st March.

Lieutenant-Commander Gould, Naval representative on the mission proceeding to New Caledonia for discussions with the Free French, is still delayed at Auckland on account of bad weather and consequently his return will be delayed by at least a fortnight.

2312

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 21st February, 1941.

To 0900 Thursday, 20th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"DOOMBA" at anchor Waterloo Bay.

"BATHURST" } are expected to sail today from Sydney for Cairns and  
"LISMORE" } Aden, but carrying out sweeping operations in Great  
North East Channel, Torres Straits en route. E.T.A.  
Aden approximately 9th - 12th April.

"ADELAIDE" is expected at Brisbane today at noon.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A clearing search from Tathra Head (North of Twofold Bay) to Sydney to a depth of 200' by 4 aircraft is being carried out at dawn today. (0600K)

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" is due Sydney today 1440K.

CONVOYS.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" will escort the Awatea Convoy AV3 and is expected to arrive at Suva Sunday 2nd March.

GENERAL.

Subject to successful Acceptance Trials on 27th February "COULBURN" will be commissioned on Friday, 28th February.

A distress message was received from "TEKOA" on passage from Fremantle to Capetown in position approximately 600' west of Fremantle, at 1607Z/20th February reporting being followed by a suspicious ship, and having altered course 106° the suspicious ship was still following having apparently done the same to steer a 44° diverging course (i.e. 050°). Later a jumbled message would appear to read that "TEKOA" was losing contact with the suspicious sighting and later still Distress Message was cancelled.

*D.M.*  
*2/12*

~~SECRET.~~

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 20th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANCOORA" will dock at Cockatoo Island today.

"BATHURST" and ) will be delayed until 1500K Friday from  
"LISMORE" ) Sydney for Cairns and Aden.

"GUNBAR" is being retained in Sydney until "NIMBIN" minefield has been cleared.

DUTCH CRUISER

"JAVA" is patrolling in the Timor Sea between Timor and Australia until 28th February.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A diverging search to a depth of 180 miles from Moreton Bay was completed yesterday with negative results.

A diverging search from Sydney Heads will commence at 1530K today with objective surface vessels and possible minelayer.

CONVOYS.

U.S.9 "QUEEN MARY" escorted by H.M.S. "DURBAN" arrived at Singapore on 18th February.

INTELLIGENCE.

It is believed that the French ship "ERIDAN" left Dakar on 7th February for Indo China with Indo China troops.

GENERAL.

Air Chief Marshal Brocke-Popham has agreed to, and will attend a conference suggested by the Netherlands Consul General Sydney, which will be held tomorrow morning in Batavia.

H.M.S. "NORSEMAN" has been damaged by air attack, and date of completion will now be early in 1942.

The Holyman vessel "LUTANA" 900 tons ran aground off Rocky Cape, Tasmania yesterday, but was refloated and reached Stanley.

D.N.O. W.A. intends leaving Perth for Melbourne on Saturday next 22nd February.

OK 20/2

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 19th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. & H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" will leave Sydney Saturday, 22nd February to escort "AWATEA" to Auckland.

"ACHILLES" escorting S.S. "CALIFORNIA STAR" departed Sydney 1900 yesterday for New Zealand.

"WESTRALIA" escorting "ZEALANDIA" passed Thursday Island 1830 yesterday and expects to arrive Bowen Friday, 21st February.

"GOONAMBEE" } required for darning during clearance "NIMBIN"  
"SAMUEL BENBOW" } minefield will come under orders S.O. 20th M.S.F.  
"HEROS" } from 1600 tomorrow Thursday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M. SUBMARINE "SNAPPER" (Lieut.-Commander W.D.A. King, D.S.O.) is overdue and considered lost.

~~22~~  
~~AM~~  
19/2

"HOBART" at 0900 Wednesday, 19th February, 1941.

The submarine patrol off Ponta Del Garra (Azores) is to be discontinued.

~~22~~  
~~AM~~  
19/2

NOF

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 18th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" with "ACHILLES" sailed Sydney yesterday to carry out certain exercises.

"ADELAIDE" sailed Suva 0430K Monday, 17th February, E.T.A. Brisbane noon 21st February.

20th M.S.F. after completion of docking 19th February, clearing of "NIMBIN" Minefield area is to be carried out.

"WESTRALIA" on passage from Darwin to Sydney escorting "ZEALANDIA".

OPERATIONS AIR.

From S.W. Area Air Search commences at 0615H until 1215H today ahead of H.T. "QUEEN ELIZABETH".

From Port Moresby Air Search to investigate vicinity of Louisiade Archipelago to commence dawn today in consequence of Sunday's suspicious sightings.

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" sailed Fremantle yesterday at 1430K 17th February and is due at Sydney 1440K 21st February. Speed 26 knots routed south of Tasmania.

GENERAL.

R.A.C.A.S. intends to transfer his Flag to H.M.A.S. "HOBART" at 0600K Wednesday, 19th February, 1941.

The Submarine Patrol off Ponta Del Garda (Azores) is to be discontinued.

~~SECRET~~  
18/2

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 17th February, 1941. Previously reported.  
An attempt was made to locate the German ship, but efforts are being made to try and locate it.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" arrived in Sydney yesterday.

"ADELAIDE" arrived in Suva yesterday.

"WESTRALIA" left Darwin yesterday for Sydney escorting "ZEALANDIA".

H.M. SHIPS

"ACHILLES" arrived in Sydney yesterday.

OPERATIONS AIR.

An R.A.A.F. flying boat on passage from Samarai to Tulagi sighted a cargo ship of about 7000 tons and a tanker of 8000 tons about noon yesterday steaming south, 50 miles north of the Louisiade Archipelago. Neither vessel could be identified and an air search is taking place this morning.

A clearing search of shipping route Darwin to Thursday Island in connection with passage of H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" and "ZEALANDIA" will be carried out today and tomorrow.

A clearing search will begin at 0600H today from Fremantle prior to departure of "QUEEN ELIZABETH".

CONVOY U.S.9.

Five ships to lift 5000 troops will be ready to sail from Bombay on 26th February. H.M.S. "LEANDER" will relieve H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" on 20th February and escort U.S.9 to Bombay, "CANBERRA" proceeding to Colombo.

H.M. TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" arrived in Fremantle yesterday and will be ready to sail at 1400H today.

"ZEALANDIA" left Darwin yesterday for Sydney.

STRANDED MINE.

A mine was reported stranded east of Cape Otway 1½ miles east of Lion Head yesterday. A party from F.N.D. reached it last night; after rendering it safe this morning they will transport it to F.N.D. 2 horns were bent and 1 broken.

INTELLIGENCE.

It is believed that a whale factory ship and 11 catchers were taken by enemy raider on 15th January and about 700 men taken prisoner, whilst 150,000 barrels of whale oil and 10,000 tons of oil fuel were captured. It is thought the whale oil will be transferred to Japanese bottoms at Prince Edward, Crozet or Kerguelan Islands.

A further two Italians and one German merchant ship of an approximate total of 80,000 tons, were captured by

H.M.S. "HAWKINS" in addition to those previously reported.  
An attempt was made to scuttle the German ship, but efforts are being made to tow her into harbour.

NEWCASTLE - AUSTRALIA SHIPS

N.M.A.S. Ships -

- "CENTRALIA" arrived Newcastle yesterday from Admiralty Bay.
- "ADLAIDE", One Day, 1943, will sail for Adelaide after receiving refitted fuel for voyage, plus 400 tons.
- "BARROO" } returned to Sydney yesterday, having been at sea  
"OSIAN" } destroyed two mines in vicinity of the straits in  
"YARFA" } which U.S. "MINNIE" was sunk on the previous night.  
All three ships will be loaded loading dock, 15th February, and sent the following day.
- "BRANDBURY" } Departure from Sydney for Darwin scheduled for 16th  
"LINDSEY" } February, with 500 tons of stores and 100 tons of new propellers for the "LINDSEY".
- "PLATYPUS", now utilized as Base Depot Ship "PLATYPUS" is being, after undergoing minor fitting work, will proceed to Darwin as Base Depot Ship in accordance with additional personnel urgently required owing to deteriorating in Darwin situation.

INTELLIGENCE

The rubber schooner reported on 14th February, is identified by F.O.C., North Atlantic, as being a German cruiser of the "MAGNAN" class (10,000 tons, 3-4 inch guns) and his opinion seems to be confirmed by an immediate Admiralty message originated early this morning, stating that a cruiser of this class was located at Brest yesterday.

Maybe this is the same ship reported by S.M.A. "MILWICK" when escorting a convoy 500 miles north of the Arctic on Christmas Day.

C.O.I.A. states Germany is taking the reports on Japan and Japanese Consul-General at Singapore has issued instructions to prepare for an emergency. Mutual Bureau Tokyo's head office in Tokyo has warned their branches that crisis is coming in April or May and Singapore office is to decline any new business.

Two ships, yet to be identified, were reported to be approaching Ocean Island shortly after dark on Friday, 14th February.

GENERAL

Australian Naval Delegation to Singapore Conference, commencing 22nd February, will consist of S.A.C.A.S. and his staff officers, together with Commanders Rowan and Kennedy from Navy Office.

TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 16th February.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships -

- "WESTRALIA" arrived Darwin yesterday from Admiralty Gulf.
- "ADELAIDE", due Suva today, will sail for Brisbane after embarking sufficient fuel for voyage, plus 40% reserve.
- "WARREGO" } returned to Sydney yesterday, having swept up and  
"SWAN" } destroyed two mines in vicinity of the position in  
"YARRA" } which S.S. "NIMBIN" was sunk on 5th December last.  
All three ships will be docked Tuesday next, 18th February, undocked the following day.
- "BATHURST" } Departure from Sydney for Cairns scheduled for 19th  
"LISMORE" } February, will be delayed by a day or two so that new propellers may be fitted to "LISMORE".
- "PLATYPUS", now utilised as Depot Ship "PENGUIN" in Sydney, after undergoing minimum fitting out, will proceed to Darwin as Base Depot Ship to accommodate additional personnel urgently required owing to deterioration in Eastern situation.

INTELLIGENCE.

The raider which attacked Convoy S.L.S. 64 between Madeira and the Azores on 12th February, is considered by F.O.C., North Atlantic, to be a German cruiser of the "BLUCHER" class (10,000 tons, 8-8 inch guns) and his opinion seems to be confirmed by an immediate Admiralty message originated early this morning, stating that a cruiser of this class was located at Brest yesterday.

Maybe this is the same ship engaged by H.M.S. "BERWICK" when escorting a convoy 360 miles north of the Azores on Christmas Day.

C.O.I.S. states Germany is increasing pressure on Japan and Japanese Consul-General at Singapore has received instructions to prepare for an emergency. Mitsui Bussan Kaisya's head office in Tokyo has warned their branches that crisis is coming in April or May and Singapore office is to decline any new business.

Two ships, yet to be identified, were reported to be approaching Ocean Island shortly after dark on Friday, 14th February.

GENERAL.

Australian Naval Delegation to Singapore Conference, commencing 22nd February, will consist of R.A.C.A.S. and his staff officer, together with Commanders Newman and Kennedy from Navy Office.



TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 15th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" on passage Fremantle to Sydney E.T.A. 16th February.  
"ADELAIDE" after fuelling at Suva ordered proceed to Brisbane.  
"LISMORE" arrived Sydney 0800K Friday, 14th February.

OPERATIONS AIR.

Clearing Search to begin at 1330H today 15th February ahead of Transport "QUEEN ELIZABETH".

Clearing search will be made between Darwin and Thursday Island consequent upon H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" escorting "ZEALANDIA".

TRANSPORTS.

"ZEALANDIA" to be escorted by H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" from Darwin. It is hoped to complete loading and sail "ZEALANDIA" tomorrow Sunday, 16th February for Sydney.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" on passage Singapore to Fremantle E.T.A. 16th February.

CONVOYS.

U.S.9 on passage Fremantle to Bombay. E.T.A. 22nd February.

H.M. SHIPS

"ACHILLES" expected to arrive at Sydney tomorrow 1230K 16th February.

GENERAL.

The new Naval 12,000 ton tank at Port Moresby will be ready to receive oil fuel by end of April and H.L.O. London has been requested to arrange supply for filling as early as practicable after that date.

Air Intelligence Central Area reports that an individual from Darwin stated that rumours of large numbers of American warships were seen in vicinity of Timor. Qantas reconnaissance to and from Keepang disclose no shipping movements in the Timor Area.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" reports triangulation in Great North East Channel complete except for re-observing several stations. Aerial reconnaissance also carried out.

20th M.S.F. Report. 2 mines swept up in position

083° 17' 30 S

151° 47 E

This position is in the vicinity of the loss of

"NIMBIN".

15/2  
M

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900K Friday, 14th December, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" left Fremantle at 1827H on 12th February escorting U.S.9 to Bombay.

"MANGORA" arrived in Sydney yesterday from Ocean Island.

"WESTRALIA" due Darwin from Admiralty Gulf at 1030H 15th February.

20th H.S.F. left Sydney yesterday for sweeping operations south of Newcastle.

"MORESBY" arrives Cairns on Thursday, 20th February.

"DOOMBA" departed from Port Melbourne yesterday for sweeping operations near Clifty Island.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" is due in Sydney from Auckland at 1230K on 16th February.

CONVOYS.

U.S.9 is due in Bombay on Saturday, 22nd February.

H.M. TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" is due at Fremantle from Bombay on 16th February.

"ZEALANDIA" may complete loading at Darwin by 15th February.

INTELLIGENCE.

The French ship S.S. "COMMANDANT DORISE" left Casablanca on 27th January for Saigon with 900 Annamite and 300 Malagas troops.

GENERAL.

H.M.S. "HAWKINS" on 11th February captured three Italian merchant ships off Kismayu (Italian Somaliland) with a total tonnage of approximately 15,000 tons.

R.A.C.A.S. will be absent from Sydney from p.m. yesterday until a.m. Sunday, 16th February.

*Handwritten:* ~~2/11~~ 1572

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 13th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"WESTRALIA" is expected to leave Admiralty Gulf so as to arrive Darwin 1030 Monday, 17th February whence she sails the following day to escort "ZEALANDIA" to Sydney.

"ADELAIDE" when at Suva is requested by New Zealand N.B. to reduce her fuel requirements to a minimum as it is desired to conserve stocks.

"BATHURST" } Will sail from Sydney Wednesday, 19th February, arriving  
"LISMORE" } Cairns Monday 24th February for survey sweeping.  
On completion, they will leave for Aden in accordance with following programme:-

<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Depart.</u>
12th March	Darwin	13th March
20th "	Singapore	23rd "
29th "	Colombo	1st April
9th April	Aden	

"DOOMBA" departs Port Melbourne p.m. today to carry out searching sweeps in vicinity Cliffy Island.

On completion working up Auxiliary M/S vessels "TOLGA" and "TERKA" are to be sailed from Sydney for Darwin and "GUNBAR" for Fremantle.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" can be made available to escort a Tasman convoy leaving Sydney about 19th February but she is required at Auckland p.m. 22nd February.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI", according to present intentions, will arrive Nauru Wednesday, 5th March to land Military personnel from Australia to man 18-pounder guns. She will remain in vicinity Nauru and Ocean Islands until 19th March but is unable to prolong stay owing to other commitments.

CONVOY.

U.S.9 escorted by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" sailed from Fremantle 1827 yesterday for Bombay.

H.M.S. "DURBAN" will escort "QUEEN MARY" to Singapore.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

S.S. "BOMBO" (540 tons gross) has been requisitioned and is to be fitted out in Sydney for auxiliary M/S duties. Arrangements had been made for her to be turned over to N.O.C.S. on Saturday next, 15th February, but the owners have requested an extension of one week.

GENERAL.

At 2035K last night the "attacked by enemy warship" (RRR) distress message was broadcast by a ship in a position approximately 500 miles west of Lisbon stating convoy shelled and several ships sunk or sinking.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 12th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" ordered to Suva to refuel.

"HOBART" departed Fremantle 1000K 11th February for Sydney.

"DOOMBA" departed Williamstown for Gunnery Exercises in Port Phillip a.m. 11th February.

"TERKA" N.O.C.S. intends sailing "TERKA" p.m. today for Broken Bay for working up exercises returning to Sydney Tuesday 18th February.

AIR OPERATIONS.

An Air Operation carried out yesterday p.m. from Rabaul to investigate report as stated in General Remarks proved NIL sighted, visibility being good. Considered sounds heard were not gunfire but clearing search for departure of "MAETSUCKYER" is being carried out today.

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" departed Singapore 8 p.m. 11th February escorted by H.M.S. "DURBAN" for Fremantle.

CONVOYS.

U.S.9 is to be sailed as already arranged.

"MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" may be required to proceed Suez and are to be provisioned for extra six days fresh and dry before sailing.

"QUEEN MARY" must arrive Johore Shoal Buoy two to three hours before daylight high water. Proposed time and position for rendezvous with "DURBAN" is to be reported to Naval Board before sailing.

GENERAL.

The Runway at R.A.A.F. aerodrome Port Moresby is expected to be ready by the end of May.

The Secretary to the Government of India Defence Department has requested as an enquiry only what is the earliest date two "EGRET" Class sloops could be built if order placed now.

A report from Rabaul states that a European at Londip (4° 28'S 152° 22'E) South of Cape Gazelle, St. Georges Channel heard firing in the distance 6 double reports heard in less than 5 minutes and 3 more a few moments later. Nothing seen but appeared to come from round the Point beyond Iduna. Firing started 10 a.m. 11th February. Investigation has been ordered by Flying Boat which is at Rabaul pending result of which, vessels "MACDHUI" and "MAETSUCKYER" are being held at Rabaul as ordered by N.O.I.C. Port Moresby but as soon as result of investigation is known to be satisfactory these ships will be ordered to depart.

2.

As "BATHURST" will shortly be proceeding overseas proposed by N.O.C.S. to send ship's company on leave in two watches for 3 days each, commencing p.m. today Wednesday, 12th February.

Paravane trials in Transport "QUEEN ELIZABETH" reported from Singapore as not satisfactory and suggests modifications be effected at Fremantle.

"POLARIS" arrived at Fremantle yesterday at 0800 escorting  
Center 2400 and 2400 leaving at 1900 today for  
Sydney.

"MORNING" departed for Admiralty Gulf yesterday.

"MORNING" departed for Sydney yesterday ("MORNING", "SWAN",  
"MORNING" of "MORNING")

"MORNING" departed for Sydney a.s. on Friday, 14th February, for  
Sydney in connection with carrying of  
stores to Jarvis Bay.

"MORNING" at Sydney, will be closed for probably three weeks.

"MORNING" entered Port Phillip wharf this morning and sails at  
1200 for Western School Pirling.

SHIPS

"MORNING" arrived at Fremantle yesterday at 0800.

SEA TRANSPORT

"MORNING" will carry out surveys and gun trials and sail  
today from Singapore for Fremantle.

"MORNING" expects to sail from Darwin for Sydney via Bowen and  
Brisbane on Tuesday, 14th February.

AIR OPERATIONS

Air search and A/S patrols conducted by R.N.A.F. in  
connection with U.S.S. were completed yesterday with negative  
results.

INTELLIGENCE

The British Naval Attache at Tokyo reported that  
the Soviet has lately been extremely difficult regarding the  
issuing of visas for travel across Siberia, it was unlikely that  
prisoners in the raider "YOKO MARU" would be allowed transit by  
this route to Germany.

GENERAL

An E.S.A. and two Able seamen from H.M.A.S.  
"MORNING" were drowned when her motor boat capsized in Jarvis Bay  
yesterday.

Commander Collins, U.S. Navy, appointed as Naval  
Observer in Darwin, will arrive in Sydney by the "MORNING" on  
14th February. Commander Cuddy U.S. Navy, Naval Attache to  
Gosport, may arrive by this vessel also.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is to join the East Indies  
station.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday 11th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" arrived at Fremantle yesterday at 0925H escorting Convoy U.S.9, and intends leaving at 1030H today for Sydney.

"WESTRALIA" departed Darwin for Admiralty Gulf yesterday.

20th M.S.F. arrived in Sydney yesterday ("WARREGO", "SWAN", "ORARA" and "BATHURST")

"LISMORE" returns to Sydney a.m. on Friday, 14th February, for court of enquiry in connection with capsizing of motor boat in Jervis Bay.

"KOROWA" at Williamstown, will be docked for probably three weeks.

"DOOMBA" entered Port Phillip early this morning and sails at 1000 for Gunnery School Firing.

CONVOY.

U.S.9 arrived at Fremantle yesterday at 0925H.

H.M. TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" will carry out paravane and gun trials and sail today from Singapore for Fremantle.

"ZEALANDIA" expects to sail from Darwin for Sydney via Bowen and Brisbane on Tuesday, 18th February.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Air search and A/S patrols conducted by S.W.A.C.H. in connection with U.S.9 were completed yesterday with negative results.

INTELLIGENCE.

The British Naval Attache at Tokio reported that as the Soviet has lately been extremely difficult regarding the giving of visas for travel across Siberia, it was unlikely that prisoners in the raider "TOKYO MARU" would be allowed transit by this route to Germany.

GENERAL.

An E.R.A. and two able seamen from H.M.A.S. "LISMORE" were drowned when her motor boat capsized in Jervis Bay yesterday.

Commander Collins, U.S. Navy, appointed as Naval Observer in Darwin, will arrive in Sydney by the "MARIFOSA" on 25th February. Commander Causey U.S. Navy, Naval Attache to Canberra, may arrive by this vessel also.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is to join the East Indies Station.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~ SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 10th February, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"WATSON" On passage OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. Having been relieved by "WADSLAINE". E.T.A. 2 p.m. Thursday 12th February.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" arrived Sydney and anchored in Watsons Bay at 2340 yesterday and is now under orders R.A.C.A.S. Following a visit by the First Naval Member this morning, the ship will proceed alongside Circular Quay at 0945. Ship's company will be granted 14 days' leave commencing p.m. tomorrow Tuesday.

20th M.S.F. was sighted off Point Perpendicular yesterday afternoon.

"GOONAMEE" departed Brisbane yesterday for Sydney arriving 1800 Wednesday, 12th February.

"DOOMBA" should arrive Port Melbourne late tonight and sails at 1000 tomorrow Tuesday, with training classes embarked, for Gunnery School firings.

It has been decided to appoint a Naval Officer to Darwin for liaison duties.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

"ANIE" reported aircraft passed bearing west, drifting north at noon 8th Feb. At 1100 G.M.T. on 8th February, H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" from a position in mid-Atlantic reported she had a brief glimpse of the mast and top of a warship possibly of the "HIPPER" class distant 20 miles.

Sir Cyril Newall, Governor General (Elect) of New Zealand is on board U.S. "HARTONA", and left Los Angeles 8th February for Auckland.

On the evening of 8th February, H.M.S. "CAPETOWN" operating off the coast of Italian Somaliland observed two under water explosions, believed to have been fired from a dhow which was sighted close to the ship.

N.S.C.S. reports firings and drills on day work in harbour on board "WATSON" refused to work more than 4 hours a day and to perform any duty.

CONVOY U.S.9. on Friday, until Monday.

Wants have been notified by Master in accordance with Navigation Act Division 10, clause 1. Due Fremantle this morning, not stand further

unless after today Sunday 8th February, and if men refuse work on Monday, Master intends to discharge them without repatriation, in accordance with Articles Agreed by Ship's Owners and Union.

In letter case anticipate watch keeping firings will cease work in Sydney, and in this Captain Getting, H.M.S. "KANIMBLA", has been appointed to "CERBERUS" for duty at Navy Office, to relieve Captain J. Burnett, R.A.N. as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff.

United States Naval Observer has arrived at Auckland and similar appointments have been made to Canberra, Capetown and Singapore.

~~TOP SECRET~~  
10/2

TO 0900 SUNDAY 9th FEBRUARY, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"MANOORA" On passage from Ocean Island to Sydney having been relieved by "ADELAIDE". E.T.A. 9 p.m. Thursday 13th February.

"SYDNEY" On passage to Sydney, ordered to arrive there midnight tonight.

"BATHURST" has rejoined 20th M.S.F., escorting two merchant ships at

"DOOMBA" anchored Waterloo Bay.

"KOROWA" at Williamstown. part complement for trials under command Stewart, R.A.N., on 3rd February.

"GOULBURN" completed her full speed trial satisfactorily yesterday.

GENERAL.

S.S. "ALAGNA" (John Burke & Son) aground north of Cooktown, refloated 7th February with assistance of "BIDELIA".

U.S. Government has decided to appoint a Naval Officer to Darwin for liaison duties.

"ANIR" reported derelict passed bearing west, drifting north at noon 8th February, and also what appeared to be men in boat. Aircraft are searching.

Sir Cyril Newall, Governor General (Elect) of New Zealand is on board U.S. "MARIPOSA", and left Los Angeles 6th February for Auckland.

H.M.S. "KING GEORGE V" has returned home from America.

N.O.I.C. Darwin reports firemen and drillers on day work in harbour on board "ZEALANDIA" refused to work more than 4 hours a day, and to perform any duty whatever from noon, Friday, until Monday. Mulcts have been inflicted by Master in accordance with Navigation Act Division 12, Clause 100. Amount of pay due will not stand further mulcts after today Sunday 9th February, and if men refuse work on Monday, Master intends to discharge them without Repatriation, in accordance with Articles Agreement signed by Ships Owners and Union. In latter case anticipate watch keeping firemen will cease work in sympathy, and in this event I propose to maintain Auxiliary steam with Naval ratings in order to preserve refrigerated stores on board for troops. This trouble has been fomented by 5 men who were responsible for delay to ship in Sydney. N.O.C.S. has been requested to inform Minister for the Navy at 9 a.m. today, and the Minister for National Services (Mr. Holt), and the Agents, Messrs Huddart Parker (Mr. Phillips) have been informed.

GENERAL.

The anti-aircraft vessel "CHRISTIE" was torpedoed and sunk 625 miles west by North of Bloody Island on 3rd February, and S.S. "HUNTLEY" was bombed and sunk by S. Beinkeln West of Marsa Matruh on the same date.

*Handwritten signature and date: 9/2*



MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TO 0900 SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY, 1941.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M.A. SHIPS. Friday, 7th February, 1941.

"HOBART" escorting Convoy U.S.9 to Fremantle. After arrival will sail to arrive at Sydney p.m. 16th February.

"WESTRALIA" leaves Darwin 8.30 a.m. tomorrow, and pending sailing of "ZEALANDIA" will examine coast in the vicinity of Admiralty Gulf. "SYDNEY" leaving Sydney on 1st February, 1940, has steamed 77,340 miles. It will be recalled she sailed from Fremantle

"ADELAIDE" arrived at Ocean Island, escorting two phosphate ships at 0800K/7, to relieve "MANOORA". Long since when she has rendered distinguished service in the Mediterranean.

"NESTOR" commissioned with part complement for trials under command of Commander G.S. Stewart, R.A.N., on 3rd February. 5th February.

"GOULBURN" completed her full power trial satisfactorily yesterday.

"GOONAMBEE" leaves Brisbane for Sydney tomorrow. "NESTOR" reported yesterday further delay with triangulation owing

"BATHURST" ordered to anchor in Twofold Bay p.m. yesterday to investigate minor engine defect. Is expected to rejoin 20th M.S.F. today.

"WENLOCK" arrived Brisbane yesterday from Sydney.

"GOONAMBEE" leaves Brisbane CONVOYS. Sydney Sunday-next, 9th February.

U.S.9. P.S.T.O. Bombay requests that, owing to transport difficulties from Bombay onwards, U.S.9 sailing from Australia may be delayed until arrival dates of various U.S.8 ships at Bombay are known. Four vessels have been drifting off Ocean Island for some days waiting for the westerly weather to moderate.

U.S.10. The provisional sailing date from Sydney is now 22nd March. "CALIBERAK" and "MALOJA" which are being escorted to Ocean Island by H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE", should be dispatched on various dates between 8th and 28th February. H.M. TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" expects to arrive at Fremantle a.m. Sunday, 16th February.

"ZEALANDIA" at Darwin. Air search and A/S patrols for security of "ZEALANDIA" completed yesterday with negative results. There are no air operations asked for today.

INTELLIGENCE.

The Admiralty Reporting Officer at Noumea reports that the Governor of New Caledonia has positive information from officers of Japanese Merchant ships that all Japanese vessels have orders to return to Japan for March 1st.

GENERAL.

The anti-aircraft vessel "CRISPIO" was torpedoed and sunk 425 miles West by North of Bloody Foreland on 3rd February, and H.M.S. "HUNTLEY" was bombed and sunk by 2 Heinkels West of Mersa Matruh on the same date.

~~DN~~ ~~1/2~~

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 7th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" since leaving Sydney on 1st February, 1940, has steamed 77,240 miles. It will be recalled she sailed from Fremantle 22nd April last, in company with H.M.S. "RAMILLIES", escorting Convoy U.S.2 to Colombo since when she has rendered distinguished service in the Mediterranean.

"WESTRALIA" escorting H.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Darwin 1600 Wednesday, 5th February.

"MORESBY" reported yesterday further delay with triangulation owing to bad weather.

"GOULBURN" fuel consumption trials at 9 and 12 knots and gun trials were completed satisfactorily at Sydney yesterday.

"TONGKOL" arrived Brisbane yesterday from Sydney.

"GOONAMBEE" leaves Brisbane for Sydney Sunday next, 9th February.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" is due to arrive Sydney about 18th February.

PHOSPHATE SHIPS.

"ZEALANDIA" at Darwin. Four vessels have been drifting off Ocean Island for some days waiting for the westerly weather to moderate. Loading was commenced yesterday and if weather holds these four ships also "SKAGERAK" and "MALOJA" which are being escorted to Ocean Island by H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE", should be despatched on various dates between 9th and 28th February.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Air search and A/S patrols for security of Convoy U.S.9 were completed yesterday with negative results. There are no air operations asked for today.

A third Air Operation Outer Anti Submarine Patrol ahead of Convoy U.S.9 will commence at 1530K today and continue till 1800K.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
A vessel "ARABIA" (John Burke & Sons) is reported on the coast of South Bay at Portland Roads North of Coonambie. She is asking for assistance and should arrive this evening 6th February. Report states vessel on the shore with strong S.W. wind and requesting assistance without delay.

The floating mine sunk by rifle fire by "BERG" II and "DURHAM" off Point Burley Apollo Bay was a drifting mine and looked old; considered to be German.

F.D.C.A.S. is at present in offices in the Orient Line Building, Spring Street, Sydney.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 6th February, 1941. accompanied by Tanker which  
 virtualled and fuelled. arrived Tamatave (Madagascar)  
 from Dakar 18th January. 2 are remaining at Tamatave and 3 are  
 proceeding to OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle 8.30 a.m. 5th February and departed  
 6 p.m. 5th February for Sydney.

"WESTRALIA" at Darwin.

20th M.S.F. departed Melbourne for Sydney 11 p.m. yesterday  
 5th February.

"DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip yesterday 6 p.m. to carry out  
 "KOROWA" searching sweeps in vicinity of Cliffy Island and Hogan  
 Group Bass Strait passed Wilsons Promontory at 6 a.m.  
 this morning 6th February.

H.M. TRANSPORTS.

"MAURETANIA" departed Port Phillip 6 a.m. today 6th February for  
 rendezvous with U.S.9.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" is due Fremantle about 18th February.

"ZEALANDIA" at Darwin.

OPERATIONS AIR.

Diverging search between bearings 170° and 270°  
 from Cape Otway to a depth of 250' commenced at 0600K today  
 objective surface vessels.

A second Air anti submarine patrol ahead of  
 H.M.T. "MAURETANIA" commenced at 0730K today and will continue till  
 1630K today.

A third Air Operation Outer Anti Submarine Patrol  
 ahead of Convoy U.S.9 will commence at 1530K today and continue  
 till 1900K.

GENERAL.

Coastal vessel "ALAGNA" (John Burke & Sons)  
 is aground on Mud bank south of Weymouth Bay at Portland Roads  
 North of Cooktown. "BIDELIA" is going to her assistance and  
 should arrive this evening 6th February. Report states vessel on  
 lee shore with strong N.W. wind and requesting assistance without  
 delay.

The Floating Mine sunk by rifle fire by "BERYL II"  
 and "DURRAWEEEN" off Point Bunbury Apollo Bay was a drifting mine and  
 looked old; considered to be German.

F.O.C.A.S. is at present in offices in the Orient  
 Line Building, Spring Street, Sydney.

MOST SECRET.

DATE 2. NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 4 French submarines accompanied by Tanker which victualled and fuelled them at sea arrived Tamatave (Madagascar) from Dakar 16th January. 2 are remaining at Tamatave and 2 are proceeding to Indo-China presumably accompanied by the Tanker.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" delayed by weather expected to arrive at Fremantle 0700 today.

"ROBART" departed Sydney at 1420 yesterday escorting Convoy U.S.S.

"HAWKCO" } sail from Port Melbourne at 2300 today for Sydney  
"SWAN" } carrying out exploratory sweeps en route. After  
"ORANA" } fuelling "HAWKCO", "SWAN" and "ORANA" will carry out  
"BATHURST" } searching sweep off North Head where S.S. "WINCE" was sunk on 5th December last after an external explosion. On completion, all three ships return to Sydney for half yearly docking.

"DOONBA" } will leave Port Melbourne today to carry out searching  
"KORONA" } sweeps between Ulipby Island and Hogan Group. On completion both ships are to come under orders of D.N.O. Victoria and maintain S.C.F.S. using Welshpool as a base as far as practicable.

"HAWKCO" arrived at Adelaide 0926 yesterday.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A diverging search between bearings 080° and 150° from Cape Barron to a depth of 150 miles commenced at 0615 today and is proceeding.

A search of the Great North East Channel and western approaches to Thursday Island will take place today. On completion aircraft will proceed to Groote Eylandt and search to the westward from dawn February 6th.

CONVOY U.S.S.

CONVOY U.S.S. left Sydney at 1420 yesterday escorted by H.M.A.S. "ROBART".

TRANSPORTS.

"ANAKA" departed Sydney for Wellington 1810 yesterday. E.T.A. 7th February.

FLOATING MINE.

A floating mine was reported by the Police at Apollo Bay at 0946 yesterday. "BERYL II" and "DUNBARREN" proceeded to the position and sunk the mine by rifle fire at 1840.

INTELLIGENCE.

The British Ship "TROIUS" reported a suspicious vessel 180 miles west of Seychelles a.m. 1st February. She has not answered any signal since then.

GENERAL.

R.A.C.A.S. will be absent from Sydney until p.m. Friday 7th February.

7/2  
A

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 4th February, 1941.

To 0900 Wednesday, 5th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" delayed by weather expected to arrive at Fremantle 0700 today.

"CANBERRA" arrived Sydney 1730 yesterday.

"HOBART" departed Sydney at 1420 yesterday escorting Convoy U.S.S.

"WARREGO" } sail from Port Melbourne at 2300 today for Sydney  
"SWAN" } carrying out exploratory sweeps en route. After  
"ORARA" } fuelling "WARREGO", "SWAN" and "ORARA" will carry out  
"BATHURST" } searching sweep off Norah Head where S.S. "NIMBIN"  
was sunk on 5th December last after an external explosion. On completion, all three ships return to Sydney for half yearly docking.

"DOOMBA" } will leave Port Melbourne today to carry out searching  
"KOROWA" } sweeps between Cliffy Island and Hogan Group. On completion both ships are to come under orders of D.N.O. Victoria and maintain S.C.F.5. using Welshpool as a base as far as practicable.

"WILSON" departed Sydney yesterday to work up at Jervis Bay.

"NAMBUCCA" arrived at Adelaide 0926 yesterday.  
Sydney yesterday for Brisbane arriving Thursday, 5th February.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A diverging search between bearings 080° and 180° from Cape Barron to a depth of 180 miles commenced at 0615 today and is proceeding.

A search of the Great North East Channel and western approaches to Thursday Island will take place today. On completion aircraft will proceed to Groote Eylandt and search to the westward from dawn February 6th.

CONVOY U.S.S.

CONVOY U.S.S.9 left Sydney at 1420 yesterday escorted by H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Distress message from a position approximately 300 miles south of Tulagi. The message was cancelled half an hour ago. It is considered "MALAITA" may have sighted "ADLAIDE" escorting phosphate.

"AWATEA" departed Sydney for Wellington 1610 yesterday. E.T.A. 7th February.

FLOATING MINE.

A floating mine was reported by the Police at Apollo Bay at 0946 yesterday. "BERYL II" and "DURRAWEE" proceeded to the position and sunk the mine by rifle fire at 1840.

INTELLIGENCE.

The British Ship "TROIUS" reported a suspicious vessel 180 miles west of Seychelles a.m. 1st February. She has not answered any signal since then.

GENERAL.

R.A.C.A.S. will be absent from Sydney until p.m. Friday 7th February.

Handwritten red markings: "7/2" and "A" with a checkmark.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 4th February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

Monday, 3rd February, 1941.

"HOBART" , wearing Flag F.O.C.A.S., escorting "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" arrived Sydney, early this morning.

"CANBERRA" arrived Fremantle 1730 yesterday.

"WARREGO" } sail from Port Melbourne tomorrow Wednesday for Sydney  
"SWAN" } carrying out exploratory sweeps en route. After fuelling,  
"ORARA" } "WARREGO", "SWAN" and "ORARA" will carry out searching  
"BATHURST" } sweep off Norah Head where S.S."NIMBIN" was sunk on 5th  
December last following an external explosion.  
On completion, all three ships return to Sydney for half yearly docking.

"DOOMBA" } will leave Port Melbourne tomorrow to carry out searching  
"KOROWA" } sweeps between Clifly Island and Hogan Group. On completion  
both ships are to come under orders D.N.O. Victoria, and  
maintain S.C.F.5 using Welshpool as a base as far as  
practicable.

"LISMORE" departed Sydney yesterday to work up at Jervis Bay.

"TONGKOL" departed Sydney yesterday for Brisbane arriving Thursday, 6th February.

CONVOY U.S.9.

"NIEUW AMSTERDAM", with troops embarked, arrived Sydney from Wellington early this morning. The Governor General, accompanied by Lady Gowrie, will visit the ship at 1130 today.

RAIDER REPORT.

S.S."MALAITA", a passenger and cargo vessel of 3,300 tons owned by Burns Philp & Co. on passage from Tulagi to Norfolk Island, at 1900 yesterday made the "attacked by enemy surface raider" (QQQQ) Distress message from a position approximately 300 miles south of Tulagi. The message was cancelled half an hour later and it is considered "MALAITA" may have sighted H.M.A.S."ADELAIDE" escorting phosphate ships to Nauru.

GENERAL.

F.O.C.A.S. intends to transfer his Flag to offices ashore at 2230 today Tuesday.

~~22.1~~  
A12

DAILY NARRATIVE.

(To 0900 Monday, 3rd February, 1941.)

MOST SECRET.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

To 0900 Monday, 3rd February, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS:

"HOBART":

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. Wellington

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANCOORA"

Off Ocean Island. Sailing at Fremantle, is to

"WESTRALIA"

departed Thursday Island for Darwin 1315K 2nd January. E.T.A. Darwin 1300K 5th February escorting "ZEALANDIA".

"MORESBY":

"HOBART" (FLAG) On passage Wellington to Sydney, escorting

"FRATERNITY" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM".

"LISBON":

TRANSPORTS.

"ZEALANDIA" on passage Thursday Island to Darwin E.T.A. 5th February escorted by "WESTRALIA" this morning at Port Melbourne.

"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" on passage Wellington to Sydney escorted by "HOBART". Adelaide, passed Cape Otway this morning.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

GENERAL.

On the report of a civilian having sighted a submarine 12 miles off Ocean Island and Four Merchant Ships are at present drifting yesterday, an off Ocean Island owing to westerly weather. The result of which was negative. Although this report is considered doubtful, a further search is in progress this morning.

A search was carried out yesterday from Port Stephens to a depth of 200 fms to locate surface vessels and submarines, with a negative result.

*D.N.I. 11/3/2*

TRANSPORTS.

"GUYANA MERCHANT": On completion of trials at Singapore, is to be sailed for Sydney.

"NIEUW AMSTERDAM": Departed Wellington yesterday to join U.S.9 at Sydney.

INTELLIGENCE.

The survivors of the Blue Funnel "REDELSCHEUS", rescued by the Spanish "MONTE TIBER", state that their ship was sunk 29th January 500' west of Freetown by a pocket battleship and a cruiser. The Blue Star liner "AFRICA STAR" is also believed to have been attacked in the same position.

3 ships totalling 14,500 tons in convoy were sunk by "U" boat attack 29th January 230 miles west of Ireland, and a 10,000 ton tanker damaged.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

(To 0900 Sunday, 2nd February, 1941.)

H.M.S. "ASPECTOR", in collision with H.M.S. "BLUEBELL" 28th January west of Bloody Foreland, is proceeding damaged, under her own steam, to port.

Report OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. and RR, state that sailings of Japanese Merchant Ships are being cancelled and the vessels commandeered by the Japanese Government.

H.M.A. SHIPS:

"HOBART": Wearing Flag of F.O.C.A.S., left Wellington yesterday, escorting Transport "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" to Sydney.

"SYDNEY": On completion of fuelling at Fremantle, is to proceed to Sydney, arriving 0001K Monday, 10th February, and come under the orders of R.A.C.A.S.

"MORESBY": Arrived at Cairns yesterday.

"BATHURST" and "LISMORE": Are to arrive at Cairns on Monday, 24th February, and will act under the orders of "MORESBY" during sweeping in the Great North-East Channel. On completion of the operation, they are to be sailed to arrive Darwin on Wednesday, 12th March.

20th M.S.F.: On completion of sweeping yesterday anchored in Port Phillip and berthed 0900K this morning at Port Melbourne.

"NAMBUCCA": En route Adelaide, passed Cape Otway this morning.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

On the report of a civilian having sighted a submarine 1½ miles off the coast at Southport (50 miles south of Brisbane) yesterday, an air search was organised from Archerfield, the result of which was negative. Although this report is considered doubtful, a further search is in progress this morning.

A search was carried out yesterday from Port Stephens to a depth of 300 miles to locate surface vessels and submarines, with a negative result.

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH": On completion of trials at Singapore, is to be sailed for Sydney.

"NIEUW AMSTERDAM": Departed Wellington yesterday to join U.S.9 at Sydney.

INTELLIGENCE.

The survivors of the Blue Funnel "EUREXLOCHUS", rescued by the Spanish "MONTE TIEDE", state that their ship was sunk 29th January 800' west of Freetown by a pocket battleship and a cruiser. The Blue Star liner "AFRICA STAR" is also believed to have been attacked in the same position.

3 ships totalling 14,500 tons in convoy were sunk by "U" boat attack 29th January 230 miles west of Ireland, and a 10,000 ton tanker damaged.



MOST SECRET. H.M.S. "WESTCOTT", in collision with H.M.S. "BLUEBELL" 28th January west of Bloody Foreland, is proceeding damaged, under her own steam, to port.

To 0900 Saturday, 1st February, 1941.

Reports from San Francisco, graded A1 and B2, state that sailings of Japanese Merchant Ships are being cancelled and the vessels commandeered by the Japanese Government.

H.M.A. SHIPS

GENERAL.

"CANBERRA" entered Australian station early this morning and will

When attempting to take off after a forced landing on a flight from Colombo to Trincomalee 24th January, the aircraft of H.M.N.Z.S. "LEANDER" crashed and caught fire.

Each M.S.F. yesterday continued searching sweep to eastward of Wilsons Promontory with negative result.

"MORESBY" revised E.T.A. Cairns 1000 today.

"HAMBURGA" departed Williamstown 0900 this morning for Adelaide.

"TONGKOL" leaves Sydney for Brisbane Monday next, 3rd February.

"GOONAMBEA" will leave Brisbane for Sydney after arrival "TONGKOL".

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "TERKA" (480 tons) fitted out at Sydney for M/S Duties commissioned yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "TOORIE" (414 tons) fitted out and commissioned at Williamstown for M/S duties will carry out equipment, gun and M/S trials next week.

*[Faint, mostly illegible text with large red handwritten marks, possibly initials or a signature, overlaid on the page.]*

H.M.A.S. "GOONAMBEA" reports weather consistently bad and is delaying her work.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Friday, 31st DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 1st February, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS (10) arrived Wellington yesterday Thursday, 30th January.

"CANBERRA" entered Australia Station early this morning and will adjust speed so as to arrive Fremantle at 1600 Monday, 3rd February, 24 hours ahead of "SYDNEY".

20th M.S.F. yesterday continued searching sweep to eastward of Wilsons Promontory with negative result.

"MORESBY" revised E.T.A. Cairns 1000 today. ordered carried out with negative result.

"NAMBUCCA" departed Williamstown 0900 this morning for Adelaide.

"TONGKOL" leaves Sydney for Brisbane Monday next, 3rd February.

"GOONAMBEE" will leave Brisbane for Sydney after arrival "TONGKOL".  
10° 47'S, 162° 18'E, graded 'D' by N.O.I.C. Port Moresby from native report via R.C. B.S.I.P.

Steamer AUXILIARY VESSELS. "SHERN CROSS" taking passage in S.S. "MORINDA" from Sydney to Ruler B.S.I.P. to bring ship to H.M.A.S. "TERKA" (420 tons) fitted out at Sydney for M/S Duties commissioned yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" having arrived at prearranged H.M.A.S. "TOORIE" (414 tons) fitted out and commissioned at Williamstown for M/S duties will carry out equipment, visibility gun and M/S trials next week.

H.E. the Governor General will inspect at Sydney, H.M. N.Z. Transport "HINW AMSTERDAM" and address troops at the probable time of 1030K Tuesday, 4th February.

At the completion of today's diving operations at the wreck of the "GOORANGAI", it is intended to cease and return diving parties to N.D. tomorrow Saturday, as it is estimated that the "GOORANGAI" will remain above the 40 feet Depth Line.

is intended to sail A/M.S. "BATHURST" and "LISMORE" from Sydney 18th February via Naval Board's programme to their destination Aden arriving 9th April.

H.M.A.S. "BOBBY" reports weather consistently bad and is delaying her work.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials in red ink, including 'D' and 'W']*

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 31st January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" (FLAG) arrived Wellington yesterday Thursday, 30th January.

"TONGKOL" directed to proceed to Brisbane from Sydney.

"NAMBUCCA" at Williamstown.

"MORESBY" will arrive at Cairns 24 hours earlier than formerly signalled. E.T.A. Revised E.T.A. 1400K 1st February.

20th M.S.F. searching sweep as previously ordered carried out with negative result.

"NAMBUCCA" passed Gabe Island 0830K yesterday, en route to Melbourne.

GENERAL.

Submarine reported off Star Harbour San Christoval 10° 47'S, 162° 18'E, graded 'D' by N.O.I.C. Port Moresby from native report via R.C. B.S.I.P. 11 on passage between Thursday Island and Darwin.

Steaming party for "SOUTHERN CROSS" taking passage in S.S. "MORINDA" from Sydney to Tulagi B.S.I.P. to bring ship to Sydney for fitting out as an Examination Vessel.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" having arrived at prearranged rendezvous for Convoy to Ocean Island, is waiting for "MALOJA", that ship having not yet arrived, "SKAGERAK" was 3½ hours late, visibility is reported as 12'.

H.E. the Governor General will inspect at Sydney, H.M. N.Z. Transport "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" and address troops at the probable time of 1030K Tuesday, 4th February.

At the completion of today's diving operations at the wreck of the "GOORANGAI", it is intended to cease and return diving parties to F.N.D. tomorrow Saturday, as it is estimated that no part of "GOORANGAI" will remain above the 40 feet Depth Line.

It is intended to sail A/M.S. "BATHURST" and "LISMORE" from Sydney 19th February via Naval Board's programme to their destination Aden arriving 9th April.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" reports weather consistently bad and is delaying her work.

*Handwritten notes:*  
501  
30/1  
31/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 30th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" departed Auckland yesterday for Wellington and the escort of "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" to Sydney.

"ADELAIDE" departed Brisbane yesterday for rendezvous with Phosphate ships in modified convoy to Nauru.

20th M.S.F. Departed Port Phillip yesterday and carried out a searching sweep to the West of Wilsons Promontory.

"DURRAWEE" today joins "KOROWA" and "BERYL II" at Queenscliff to carry out searching sweeps and night patrol of S.C.F.6.

"NAMBUCCA" passed Gabo Island 0650K yesterday, en route to Melbourne.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A.C.H.Q. DARWIN intends to carry out reconnaissance exercises with "WESTRALIA" and "ZEALANDIA" on passage between Thursday Island and Darwin.

TRANSPORTS AND CONVOYS.

U.S.S. arrived Suez on Tuesday, 28th January.

"AQUITANIA" arrived Sydney yesterday.

"AORANGI" on the voyage to Vancouver from Auckland and Suva is to omit Honolulu as a port of call. Escort from Suva tomorrow onwards will be undertaken by H.M.C.S. "PRINCE ROBERT".

GENERAL.

DUTCH CRUISER "JAVA" and tanker departed Rabaul yesterday.

ALL NAVAL PERSONNEL have now been withdrawn from the French "PIERRE LOTI" at Sydney.

H.M.S. "ILLUSTRIOUS" has arrived at Alexandria.

*Handwritten:*  
37  
30/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 29th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"SYDNEY" E.T.A. Fremantle 1600 Tuesday, 4th February.

"ADELAIDE" intended to leave Brisbane at 0230 this morning and will rendezvous with Convoy 0800 tomorrow Thursday morning.

20th M.S.F. sailed from Port Melbourne last night for searching sweeps in Bass Strait.

"GOULBURN" basin trials were completed satisfactorily yesterday.

"DURRAWEE" instead of sailing this morning for Queenscliff is remaining at Williamstown until repairs have been effected to dynamo.

TRANSPORTS.

"AWATEA" arrived Port Melbourne yesterday and sailed early this morning for Sydney (E.T.A. 1200/30).

"AQUITANIA" was due to arrive Sydney 0800 this morning.

GENERAL.

Dutch cruiser "JAVA" accompanied by Dutch tanker "PAULA" arrived Rabaul yesterday. The cruiser proposes to leave Rabaul tomorrow Thursday.

Swedish vessel "OSCAR CORTHEN" broadcast yesterday that she had sighted on January 27th an armed raider with prizes in company in vicinity Marianas Islands.

GENERAL.

*Handwritten:* ~~27/1~~ 29/1

"RICE GEORGE V" has left Chesapeake Bay, having disembarked Lord Halifax, Ambassador to the U.S.A.

The Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands reports the arrival at Tarawa on 28th January of the Japanese "SEIKAI MARU" 218 tons gross from the Caroline Islands as a suspicious visit as she was not due for six weeks. Ostensibly explained visit was to enquire if copra was now be shipped but was this to be unlikely. Carries 2000 tons fuel oil as ballast. She has now departed for Futaritari after 1 day's stay.

Vice Admiral Lyon appointed C. in C. The Rore.

Searchlight and 4 ships reported by native well out from Sifala Lat. 8° 27' S, Long. 159° 0' E at 9 p.m. 24th January Graded D, report emanated from Tulagi and N.O.I.C. Port Moresby.

European reports having sighted submarines off Kunda Mission which is on West side Bougainville Island 20' South of Inka Passage 14 days ago, Graded C from N.O.I.C. Port Moresby.

*Handwritten:* 27/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 28th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"WESTRALIA" arrived Brisbane yesterday 27th January and departed today for Darwin via Thursday Island. E.T.A. Thursday Island 1st February. Escorting "ZEALANDIA".

"ADELAIDE" arrived Brisbane yesterday 27th January, thence to rendezvous with Phosphate ships and to Ocean Island and to relieve "MANOORA".

"DURRAWEEEN" } Arrived Williamstown yesterday 27th January will  
"KOROWA" } depart 8 a.m. 29th January to carry out Searching Sweep and Night Patrol in S.C.F.6.

"BERYL II" will join "DURRAWEEEN" at Queenscliff returning to Harbour (Williamstown) on Friday 31st January for coaling ship.

20th M.S.F. Owing to present weather conditions departure postponed until 11 p.m. today.

"NAMBUCCA" departed Sydney E.T.A. "LONSDALE" 31st January.

"CANBERRA" has been ordered to proceed to Addu Atoll (Equatorial Channel Maldive Islands) to refuel from oiler "PEARLEAF" to arrive today thence to Fremantle.

"SYDNEY" on completion of fuelling at Seychelles yesterday is to proceed to Fremantle at 20 knots.

"HOBART" (FLAG) arrived Auckland escorting "AORANGI".

TRANSPORTS.

"MAURETANIA" arrived Melbourne. Docked at Singapore 22nd January.

"ZEALANDIA" en route Darwin.

HOSPITAL SHIP.

"MAURETANIA" arrived Suez 24th Jan. GENERAL. Colombo.

H.M.S. "KING GEORGE V" has left Chesapeake Bay, having disembarked Lord Halifax, Ambassador to the U.S.A.

The Italian schooner "SAN DIEGO" has been sighted. The Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands reports the arrival at Tarawa on 25th January of the Japanese "SEIKAI MARU" 216 tons gross from the Caroline Islands as a suspicious visit as she was not due for six weeks. Ostensibly explained visit was to enquire if copra can now be shipped but know this to be unlikely. Carries 6000 gals. fuel oil as ballast. She has now departed for Butaritari after 1 day's stay.

Vice Admiral Lyon appointed C. in C. The Nore.

Searchlight and 4 ships reported by native well out from Sifola Lat. 9° 27'S, Long. 159° 0' E at 9 p.m. 24th January Graded D, report emanated from Tulagi and N.O.I.C. Port Moresby.

European reports having sighted submarine off Kunua Mission which is on West side Bouganville Island 20' South of Buka Passage 14 days ago, Graded C from N.O.I.C. Port Moresby.

27/1  
27/1  
Percy 27/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 27th January, 1941.

H.M.S. "HORSEMAN" Tribal Destroyer building in England to be manned by R.A.N. personnel has been damaged by enemy action. Status OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. ascertained.

H.M.A. SHIPS building in Australia for the R.I.N. will be manned by ships companies sent to take over on completion of "HOBART" is due to arrive Auckland escorting "AORANGI" today.

"ADELAIDE" departed Sydney yesterday and expects to arrive Brisbane 1430K today. She will rendezvous with "SKAGERAK", "MALOJA" and "NORDNES" at 0800K on Thursday, 30th January and escort them to Nauru.

20th M.S.F. No sweeping was possible yesterday owing to heavy weather. The Flotilla berthed at Williamstown and Port Melbourne in the evening.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

The local pilot launch is carrying out the duties of Examination Vessel at Adelaide replacing "WONGALA". D.N.O. S.A. recommends that "WARRAWEE" be taken over for this duty as a permanent relief.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A routine search is arranged for this afternoon from Lakes Entrance to a depth of 150 miles with the object of locating surface vessels.

CONVOYS AND TRANSPORTS.

S.S.T.O. Bombay suggests the sailing of U.S.9 from Australia should be delayed owing to the onward embarkation at Colombo not being possible before 27th February.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" was successfully docked at Singapore 22nd January.

HOSPITAL SHIP.

"MANUNDA" arrived Suez 24th January from Colombo.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The Italian schooner "SAN DIEGO" was sunk by H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE" night of 20th January and 10 prisoners taken.

The operation to locate an enemy raider in the Indian Ocean proving unsuccessful, H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" is proceeding to Addu Atoll and after refuelling will continue passage to Fremantle at 25 knots. On completion of fuelling at Seychelles H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will proceed to Fremantle at 20 knots.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" departed Auckland yesterday escorting "SURREY" and "DORSET" to the Eastward.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" sustained some damage to deck fittings when crossing the "Rip" inwards yesterday. Defects are being taken in hand today.

*27/11* *Pero 27/11*

LAST SPOT.

To: Monday, 28th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS 2. ILLIUMINATION

H.M.S. "NORSEMAN" Tribal Destroyer building in England to be manned by R.A.N. personnel has been damaged by enemy action. Estimated period of delay not yet ascertained.

"ADRIAN" is to sail for Brisbane today, and expects to arrive M/S Vessels building in Australia for the R.I.N. will be manned by ships companies sent to take over on completion of acceptance trials.

20th Jan. ... On completion of sweeping today they are returning to Melbourne to fuel, and group B will come under the orders of ... Victoria, still required for further clearing operations.

"VORON" is to sweep ... "CAPE YORK" today, from Waterloo Bay to South East point and return, proceeding to Melbourne on completion for ...

"LINDORF" Acceptance trials completed and she was taken over on 24th and commissioned on 25th January. Owing to her on overtime and Public Holiday tomorrow she will not be ready for working up programme at Jarvis Bay until p.m. 3rd February.

"WORMEY" is off station for engine repairs for at least 3 weeks and U.S.C. South ... has proposed to relieve her by "COOL BAY".

TRANSITS.

"QUEEN BERT" arrived at Sydney yesterday morning.

"ANITA" left Fremantle p.m. 24th and expects to arrive at Melbourne on 28th January.

ENEMY RAIDERS IN INDIAN OCEAN

The British Merchant Vessel "WINDSOR" (5,000 tons) reported being located in a position approximately 200 miles east of the Seychelles Islands on the morning of 24th January. A cancellation of the distress message is considered by C. in C. East Indies to have been made by the Raider, and he has ordered H.M.A. Ships "SYDNEY" and "CANNON" and H.M. Ships "LINDSEY" and "COLOMBO" to search areas spread east and west to the northward of the position of attack. Each ship should have reached its area by daylight today.

DIVING OPERATIONS.

Diving operations on H.M.A.S. "COORANGAI" were suspended yesterday owing to weather conditions. It is intended to resume them tomorrow if conditions are suitable. 8 more divers will be required to complete the work.

GENERAL.

The U.S.A. Pacific Fleet will be concentrated on Honolulu by 21st January and will include at least 10 Battleships, 3 Aircraft Carriers, 9 Heavy Cruisers, 8 Light Cruisers, 50 Destroyers, 20 Submarines and Auxiliaries.

The tonnage of damaged Merchant Vessels under repair, or awaiting repair, amounts to over 1 million tons.

*Handwritten:* 20/1 20/1



DAILY NARRATIVE.

TOP SECRET.

To. 0900 Sunday, 28th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M.A. SHIPS. Sunday, 28th January, 1941.

"ADELAIDE" intends to sail for Brisbane today, and expects to arrive Ocean Island on 6th February.

20th M.S.F. Progress of searching sweeps was delayed yesterday owing to thick fog. On completion of sweeping today they are returning to Melbourne to fuel, and group 58 will come under the orders of D.M.O. Victoria, until required for further clearing operations.

"VORARA" is to sweep ahead of s.s. "CAPE YORK" today, from Waterloo Bay to South East Point and return, proceeding to Melbourne on completion for fuel.

"LISMORNS" Acceptance Trials were completed and she was taken over on 24th and commissioned on 25th January. Owing to ban on Overtime and Public Holiday tomorrow she will not be ready for working up programme at Jervis Bay until p.m. 3rd February.

"WONGALA" is off Station for engine repairs for at least 3 weeks and D.N.O. South Australia has proposed to relieve her by "COOLEBAR".

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN MARY" arrived at Sydney yesterday morning.

"AWATEKA" left Fremantle p.m. 24th and expects to arrive at Melbourne on 28th January.

ENEMY RAIDER IN INDIAN OCEAN

The British Merchant Vessel "MANDASOR" (5,000 tons) reported being bombed in a position approximately 300 miles east of the Seychelles Islands on the morning of 24th January. A cancellation of the distress message is considered by C. in C. East Indies to have been made by the Raider, and he has ordered H.M.A. Ships "SYDNEY" and "CANBERRA" and H.M. Ships "LEANDER" and "COLOMBO" to search areas spread east and west to the northward of the position of attack. Each ship should have reached its area by daylight today.

DIVING OPERATIONS.

Diving operations on H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" were suspended yesterday owing to weather conditions. It is intended to resume them tomorrow if conditions are suitable. 8 more divers will be required to complete the work.

GENERAL.

The U.S.A. Pacific Fleet will be concentrated on Honolulu by 31st January and will include at least 10 Battleships, 3 Aircraft Carriers, 9 Heavy Cruisers, 8 Light Cruisers, 50 Destroyers, 30 Submarines and Auxiliaries.

The tonnage of damaged Merchant Vessels under repair, or awaiting repair, amounts to over 1 million tons.

*Handwritten red scribbles and numbers, possibly "261".*

MOST SECRET.  
MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 24th DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 25th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS. C. in C. East Indies intends sailing today from Colombo so as to arrive Fremantle 1st February.

"WESTRALIA" departed Sydney escorting H.M.A. Transport "ZEALANDIA" to Darwin via Brisbane. HOBART is escorting Convoy V.K.S. to New Zealand.

"ADELAIDE" intends to sail for Brisbane 26th January.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney yesterday.  
"MORESBY" progress to date Triangulation almost completed but ROLD M.S.F. weather has deteriorated causing delay. An area to the S.E. of Clifty Island and today are employed on a searching sweep of the Wilsons Promontory route through Bass Strait.

"RAMBUCCA". F.O.C.S. is TRANSPORTS. patch for Adelaide on Monday, 27th January calling at Melbourne to coal.

"MAURETANIA" departed Fremantle 24th January. E.T.A. Melbourne 27th January, speed 23 knots.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A search was carried out from Laverton yesterday to establish the identity of GENERAL. in Bass Strait reported from Wilsons Promontory, one of which remains unidentified.

Body recovered from "GOORANGAI" yesterday but identification impossible and burial arrangements are to take place today at Williamstown Cemetery. instructing her to proceed to Tarakan have been unsuccessful.

Admiralty consider there are at least two enemy units in South Atlantic but it is not known if there may be a supply ship. By D/F 1 was southward of St. Helena and 1 Eastward of Ascension.

"ACHILLES" arrived Auckland yesterday from Suva.

TRANSPORTS AND CONVOYS.

"ZEALANDIA". A complete crew is expected to be signed on this vessel today and embarkation of troops to commence at 1800. Departure from Sydney is expected to be at 1800 today.

"ACQUITA" departed Fremantle yesterday for Sydney and is due on Wednesday, 29th January.

CONVOY V.K.S. comprising "AORANGI" and "NIRUW AMSTERDAM" left Sydney yesterday in company and on approaching the New Zealand Coast the former will proceed to Auckland and the latter to Wellington.

GENERAL.

The search for "ZEALANDIC" and "ALMEDA STAR" torpedoed west of Ireland recently has been discontinued. The last named ship had on board 177 Fleet Air Arm personnel.

F.O.C.A.S. proposes on arrival of "HOBART" at Auckland to proceed to Wellington with staff for discussions with C.C.N.Z.S.

A lifeboat from Norwegian "VIINI" sunk by raider off Naurs last month has been washed ashore at Honuti Island (Gilbert Group).

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 24th January, 1941.

To 0900 Thursday, OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA". C. in C. East Indies intends sailing today from Colombo so as to arrive Fremantle 1st February.

"HOBART" departed Sydney yesterday escorting Convoy V.K.3 to New Zealand.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney yesterday.

20th M.S.F. completed a clearing sweep yesterday of an area to the S.E. of Cliffy Island and today are employed on a searching sweep of the Wilsons Promontory route through Bass Strait.

"NAMBUCCA". N.O.C.S. intends to despatch for Adelaide on Monday, 27th January calling at Melbourne to coal.

OPERATIONS AIR.

A search was carried out from Laverton yesterday to establish the identity of 3 vessels in Bass Strait reported from Wilsons Promontory, one of which remains unidentified.

Searches carried out from Pearce to locate the tanker "NYHOLT" with the object of instructing her to proceed to Tarakan have been unsuccessful.

OPERATIONS N.Z. STATION.

"ACHILLES" arrived Auckland yesterday from Suva.

TRANSPORTS AND CONVOYS.

"ZEALANDIA". A complete crew is expected to be signed on this vessel today and embarkation of troops to commence at 1330K. Departure from Sydney is expected to be at 1600K today.

"AQUITANIA" departed Fremantle yesterday for Sydney and is due on Wednesday, 29th January.

CONVOY V.K.3. comprising "AORANGI" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" left Sydney yesterday in company and on approaching the New Zealand Coast the former will proceed to Auckland and the latter to Wellington.

GENERAL.

The search for "ZEALANDIC" and "ALMEDA STAR" torpedoed west of Ireland recently has been discontinued. The last named ship had on board 177 Fleet Air Arm personnel.

F.O.C.A.S. proposes on arrival of "HOBART" at Auckland to proceed to Wellington with staff for discussions with C.C.N.Z.S.

A lifeboat from Norwegian "VINNI" sunk by raider off Nauru last month has been washed ashore at Nonuti Island (Gilbert Group).

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 23rd January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" escort programme to Ocean Island has been delayed by at least 24 hours owing to broken plumper block in "MALOJA" which may prevent her leaving Melbourne until Saturday, 25th January.

20th M.S.F. was unable to sweep yesterday owing to thick fog.

"DOOMBA" departed Port Melbourne yesterday to rejoin 20th M.S.F. in Bass Strait.

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"AUSTRALIA" on arrival at Aden escorting Convoy W.S.5.B. is to return to U.K.

"CANBERRA" escorting S.S. "DUNEDIN STAR" sails from Colombo tomorrow Friday for Fremantle arriving 1st February.

TRANSPORTS.

TRANSPORTS.

"AQUITANIA" arrived Fremantle 1530 yesterday and after fuelling will proceed to Sydney direct southabout Tasmania.

"MAURETANIA" due Fremantle today has a number of Military invalids onboard who are to be transferred to "AWATEA" on arrival tomorrow.

"ZEALANDIA" following compulsory conference held yesterday, the Conciliation Commissioner stated that he considered the Owners had done everything to meet the reasonable demands of the men and urged Union officials to make another attempt to get the men to return to their ship.

GENERAL.

Flag of R.A.C.A.S. was transferred from offices ashore at Sydney to H.M.A.S. "HOBART" on Tuesday, 21st January.

*Handwritten notes:*  
~~on 23/1~~  
23/1  
22/1

MOST SECRET. TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY, 1941.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 22nd January, 1941. STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"PERTH", damaged at Malta by near miss bomb.

"DOOMBA" at Port Melbourne, day a clearing sweep of the Clifty Island area with negative results.

"BERYL II" Programme arranged is delayed pending identification of body recovered from "GOORANGAI" by personnel of "BERYL II".

20th M.S.F. No sweeping operations carried out Tuesday, 21st January owing to unsuitable weather conditions.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

Two Air Searches are being carried out today at 1400K simultaneously between Double Island Point and Lookout Point (Stradbroke Island) and between Lookout Point and Solitary Island each to be 300' to Seaward, objective - Surface vessels.

OPERATIONS N.Z. STATION.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived TRANSPORTS.

"ZEALANDIA" A compulsory Conference has been called for 1000K today in connection with the Demands of the crew of this ship, the owners considering demands should not be complied with as there is no assurance that they are all, and further that similar demands for other ships would ensue.

"QUEEN MARY" on passage Fremantle to Sydney speed 27 knots.

The Master of the French "ANDROS" having refused to navigate the vessel GENERAL. has placed a steaming party on board to sail her to Freetown.

The completion dates of "LISMORE" are now the 24th January and 25th January respectively for completion and commissioning.

CONVOYS AND TRANSPORTS.

U.S.S. Is ex A preliminary report from Gaza through Army channels has been received to the effect that an attack by the 6th Australian Division on Tobruk was commenced at dawn Tuesday. Details scanty but first reports indicate operation progressing satisfactorily.

"QUEEN MARY" departs Fremantle today for Sydney.

INTELLIGENCE.

~~521~~ ~~2211~~ The crew of "TAKICHIRO MARU" at Rabaul reports presence of ships in the Marianne Group, and 2 in the Carolines. A large number of ships were discharging ammunition and stores and guns were mounted pointing seaward. Numerous sailors and soldiers, submarines and bomber aircraft were mentioned. The general opinion of the crew of the vessel was that the raiders recently operating in the Pacific were now in the Western Caroline Islands.

~~521~~ ~~2211~~

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TO 0900 TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY, 1941.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" was damaged at Colombo sustained damage to her stern, temporary repairs being effected. Permanent repairs necessitate docking.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

"ADELAIDE" after fuelling at Brisbane will rendezvous on Monday 27th January with "MALOJA" and "SKAGERAK" and escort them to Ocean Island. rendered unserviceable, 5 aircraft on the ground destroyed and several damaged.

20th M.S.F. completed yesterday a clearing sweep of the Clifty Island area with negative results.

"DOOMBA" arrived Port Melbourne yesterday and will carry out Gunnery School firings today Tuesday.

Permission has been granted for a Dutch tanker to be stationed at "COOLEBAR" and "NAMBUCCA" are to carry out exploratory sweeps in Backstairs Passage and Investigator Strait.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

A clearing search is taking place today from Fremantle ahead of "QUEEN MARY".

OPERATIONS N.Z. STATION.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived Suva yesterday.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

C. in C. E.I. proposes to sail H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" from Colombo 24th January to arrive Fremantle 1st February and carry out a full calibre programme day and night gunnery exercises 23rd January.

The Master of the French "MENDOSA" having refused to navigate the vessel H.M.S. "ASTURIAS" has placed a steaming party on board to sail her to Freetown.

CONVOYS AND TRANSPORTS.

U.S.S. is expected to pass Aden on Thursday 23rd January and arrive Suez on Tuesday 28th January.

"ZEALANDIA" Further efforts to obtain a crew for this vessel have been unsuccessful.

"QUEEN MARY" departs Fremantle today for Sydney.

INTELLIGENCE.

A member of the crew of "TAKICHIKO MARU" at Rabaul reports great activity at 2 islands in the Marianne Group, and 2 in the Carolines. A large number of ships were discharging ammunition and stores and guns were mounted pointing seaward. Numerous sailors and soldiers, submarines and bomber aircraft were mentioned. The general opinion of the crew of the vessel was that the raiders recently operating in the Pacific were now in the Western Caroline Islands.

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
21/1

MOST SECRET.

GENERAL.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" when berthing at Colombo sustained damage to her stem, temporary repairs being effected. Permanent repairs will necessitate docking.

Malta was again attacked 18th January by 80 German bombers. 40 1,000 lb. bombs were dropped on Halfar and Luqa aerodromes, the latter being rendered unserviceable, 6 aircraft on the ground destroyed and several damaged.

From reports received by N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, enemy ships have sunk "OLE WEGGER" a whale oil refinery ship, and the transport "SOLGLI" in position 59° South and 3° West.

Permission has been granted for a Dutch tanker to be stationed at Port Moresby.

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"PEATH" at Malta was near missed and badly shaken during a determined dive bombing attack by 70 German aircraft on Thursday last, 18th January.

CONVOY U.S.S.

Troops who left Australia in this convoy and transhipped in Ceylon ports sailed from Colombo 18th January in "DOMINION MONARCH" and 12 other vessels for Suez escorted by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M. Ships "CAPETOWN" and "ANTENGA".

Commander Garcia and staff are returning to Australia in "AQUITANIA".

TRANSPORTS.

" <u>QUEEN MARY</u> " arrived Fremantle 1900 yesterday	} Proceed to Sydney independently southabout Tasmania.
" <u>AQUITANIA</u> " due Fremantle 22nd January	
" <u>ABATEA</u> " " " 24th " "	

"SAURETANIA" due Fremantle 23rd January proceeds to Melbourne.

"STEIN AMSTERDAM" and "AORANGI" (230 air trainees embarked), escorted by H.M.A.S. "HOBART", depart Sydney Thursday, 23rd January, for Wellington and Auckland respectively.

"ZEALANDIA" is still held up at Sydney and it is doubtful if her Comd's efforts to obtain a crew will be successful today.

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

H.S. "MAUNGARUI" (Union S.S. Co. of 7,500 tons gross) is to be fitted out by New Zealand Government for service as a hospital ship.

*Handwritten notes:*  
~~out~~  
20/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 20th January, 1941.

Dutch tanker "JUNO" sailed from Rabaul yesterday and Dutch Cruiser "OPERATIONS" - AUSTRALIA STATION. as expected. The alteration in the programme of these two ships was probably H.M.A. SHIPS the arrival at Rabaul of "TAKACHINO MARU", a small Japanese vessel of 350 tons which trades between New Guinea and 20th N.S.F. continued clearing operations in Bass Strait yesterday with negative result.

Admiralty considers a raider is operating in South "MORESBY" arrived Port Moresby 0900 yesterday and departed at 1830 to continue survey in Torres Strait.

An intercept from "ANANA" reports she picked up "COOLEBAR" at Adelaide is making good E.R. defects which it is (7,000) estimated will be completed by Wednesday next, 22nd January was not January.

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"PERTH" at Malta was near missed and badly shaken during a determined dive bombing attack by 70 German aircraft on Thursday last, 16th January.

CONVOY U.S.8.

Troops who left Australia in this convoy and transhipped in Ceylon ports sailed from Colombo 16th January in "DOMINION MONARCH" and 12 other vessels for Suez escorted by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M. Ships "CAPETOWN" and "ANTENOR".

Commander Garsia and staff are returning to Australia in "AQUITANIA".

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN MARY" arrived Fremantle 1900 yesterday	} Proceed to Sydney independently southabout Tasmania.
"AQUITANIA" due Fremantle 22nd January	
"AWATEA" " " 24th " "	

"MAURETANIA" due Fremantle 23rd January proceeds to Melbourne.

"NIEUW AMSTERDAM" and "AORANGI" (230 air trainees embarked), escorted by H.M.A.S. "HOBART", depart Sydney Thursday, 23rd January, for Wellington and Auckland respectively.

"ZEALANDIA" is still held up at Sydney and it is doubtful if her Owners' efforts to obtain a crew will be successful today.

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

S.S. "MAUNGANUI" (Union S.S. Co. of 7,500 tons gross) is to be fitted out by New Zealand Government for service as a hospital ship.

~~DNF~~  
20/1





~~SECRET~~  
MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, 19th January, 1941.

To 0900 Saturday, 19th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" arrived at Wellington yesterday and will leave tomorrow escorting S.S. "TEGELBERG" to Sydney. this morning.

20th M.S.F. anchored in Waterloo Bay. yesterday.

"COOLEBAR" arrived at Adelaide from Sydney via Melbourne. in Bass Strait.

Group 58 left Wellington yesterday to rendezvous with the 20th M.S.F. GENERAL.

H.M.S. "SOUTHAMPTON" was hit by dive bombers on 11th January 180° ESE of Malta causing fire in engine room and after magazine. Owing to impossibility of flooding latter she was abandoned and sunk by our forces. Casualties 30 killed or missing including about 27 officers, 100 wounded.

H.M.S. "WARSPITE" slightly damaged by near miss bomb. in Convoy V.8.9 at Colcoaba and Trincomalee have reported to C. in C. East Indies that the behaviour, discipline and willingness of the C. in C. Mediterranean has informed Naval Board of valuable work carried out by Australian Destroyers off the Libyan Coast during period 12th December - 15th January.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" - REFUSAL TO SAIL.

~~done~~  
Huddart Parkers advise that the Seamen and Firemen of the "ZEALANDIA" are adamant in their decision not to sail unless the crew are met, and have given 24 hours' notice. The Company have given the Cooks and Stewards 24 hours' notice, terminating pay. This notice could be withdrawn should the Seamen and Firemen alter their decision.

19/1

MAURU.

Lights which could have been Very's lights or rockets are reported to have been seen at 0115 local time yesterday at an estimated distance of 10 to 12 miles West of Mauru.

GENERAL.

Admiral Sir Noel F. Laurence, K.C.B., D.S.O., has been appointed Chief Naval Representative, Ministry of Aircraft Production to date 31st January.

Rear Admiral (Retired) V.S. Butler, D.S.O. has been temporarily appointed Admiral Commanding Reserves.

~~done~~  
19/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 18th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" expects to arrive at Wellington this morning.

"MANOORA" returned to Ocean Island yesterday, independently.

20th M.S.F. left Melbourne yesterday to carry out clearing sweeps in Bass Strait.

Group 58 left Williamstown yesterday to rendezvous with the 20th M.S.F. for return returning Tuesday, 21st January.

Group 58 having coaled at Williamstown yesterday will sail at noon today to rendezvous with Convoy U.S.S. M.S.F. early tomorrow morning.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" left Colombo on 16th January as part of the escort for Convoy U.S.S. H.M. Ships "CAPETOWN" and "ANTENOR" are also escorting.

The Officers-in-Charge of the transshipment of troops in Convoy U.S.S. at Colombo and Trincomalee have reported to C. in C. East Indies that the behaviour, discipline and willingness of the troops to help were deserving of high praise. The men worked hard day and night with cheerfulness and zeal, and thus contributed largely to a quick "turn round".

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" - REFUSAL TO SAIL.

Huddart Parkers advise that the Seamen and Firemen of the "ZEALANDIA" are adamant in their decision not to sail unless their demands are met, and have given 24 hours' notice. The Company has given the Cooks and Stewards 24 hours' notice, terminating p.m. today. This notice could be withdrawn should the Seamen and Firemen alter their decision. The senior of these is E.T. Baillie-Brookman (H.M.S. "RAMILLION") and the junior I.O. Glennie (H.M.S. "HOOD") whose seniorities are 30th June, 1920, and 31st December, 1923, respectively.

Lights which could have been Very's lights or rockets are reported to have been seen at 0115 local time yesterday at an estimated distance of 10 to 12 miles West of Nauru.

Air Chief Marshal New Zealand, left U.S. 12th January. Travelling by Pacific route he is scheduled to arrive Auckland in S.S. "MANIPOA" 21st February.

GENERAL.

Admiral Sir Noel F. Laurence, K.C.B., C.D.S.O., has been appointed Chief Naval Representative, Ministry of Aircraft Production to date 31st January.

Rear Admiral (Retired) V.S. Butler, D.S.O. has been temporarily appointed Admiral Commanding Reserves.

expected there on Sunday next, 19th January.

*Handwritten signatures and initials in red ink, including "18/1".*

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 2300 Thursday, 16th January, 1941.  
To 0900 Friday, 17th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" will remain at Ocean Island until relieved by "ADELAIDE" early in February.

S.S. "TRIENZA" is proceeding to Melbourne independently.

20th M.S.F. sailed from Port Melbourne at 0630 this morning for clearing operations in Bass Strait.

"KYBRA" with A/S training class embarked departed Sydney yesterday for Broken Bay returning Tuesday, 21st January.

Group 58 having coaled at Williamstown yesterday will sail at noon today to rendezvous with 20th M.S.F. early tomorrow morning.

OPERATIONS - NEW ZEALAND

STATION.

H.M. and H.M.A. SHIPS

"ACHILLES" now returning to Auckland from Suva was given permission to visit Honolulu if desired but, in order to comply with United States neutrality regulations, the visit would have been limited to 24 hours.

"MONOWAI" arrived Wellington yesterday from Convoy duty.

"ADELAIDE" should arrive Wellington tomorrow Saturday.

GENERAL.

Admiralty has announced the promotion of seven Captains to Rear Admiral on active list. The senior of these is H.T. Baillie-Grohman (H.M.S. "RAMILLIES") and the junior I.G. Glennie (H.M.S. "HOOD") whose seniorities are 30th June, 1920, and 31st December, 1933, respectively.

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL.

H.M.S. "GALLANT" (Destroyer) has arrived in New Zealand, left U.K. 15th January. Travelling by Pacific route he is scheduled to arrive Auckland in S.S. "MARIPOSA" 21st February.

Agreeable to a request from Naval Board, Admiralty has asked C. in C. China to make arrangements with C. in C. Dutch East Indies for a Dutch tanker to be at Tulagi by 10th February to fuel H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE".

Dutch tanker "JUNO" arrived Rabaul yesterday and Dutch Cruiser "TROMP" (3,350 tons, 6-5.9" guns completed in 1937) is expected there on Sunday next, 19th January.

*Handwritten signature and red stamp*

MOST SECRET.  
MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TO 0800 WEDNESDAY, 15th JANUARY, 1941.  
DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 16th January, 1941.

H.M.A. SHIPS. OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"KANGAROO" arrived at Darwin yesterday.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CO" "MORESEY" reports earliest date ready for sweeping vessel 12th February vide Letter B.S. 251/11/8 dated 18th December, 1940.

20th M.S.F. intend to sail ...  
clear Progress to date:- Marking completed to Campbell Island, Observations completed to Coconut Island.

"LIEMORE" is expected to be completed ...  
"MANOORA" departed Ocean Island 0230 Local time 15th January, for Melbourne, escorting "TRIENZA" via San Christoval Island ordered to return to Ocean Island.

AUXILIARY VESSEL.

"ADELAIDE" on passage to Cook Strait, escorting "MAUNGANUI" and "CITY OF DELHI".

H.M.A.S. "TOOR" named yesterday for service as an Auxiliary Messenger.

"HOBART" F.O.C.A.S. intends to transfer his "Flag" to "HOBART" at 0800 Tuesday, 21st January.

20th M/S Flotilla sails 6.30 a.m. tomorrow Friday for Bass Strait Sweeping Operations (Clearing Sweep).

H.M. "ZEPHYRUS" ...  
She will be escorted by H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA".

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

N.O.C.S. reports:- Intend to sail "TOLGA" and "GUNBAR" for Broken Bay Wednesday p.m. for working up exercises, returning to Sydney Tuesday, 21st January.

H.M.S. "THURSDAY" ...  
ships ...  
touch. Further details have been requested.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" ...  
GENERAL.

Admiralty report German Force in Roumania estimated at eighty thousand middle of November 1940, and further Troop movements resumed just before Xmas and continued steadily, presumed base preparation for an attack through Bulgaria on Greece expected about middle of March.

German Air Raids slightly damaged Portsmouth Dockyard and Plymouth, also slight damage in grounds of R.N. College, Greenwich. Fort Blockhouse damaged.

H.M.S. "GALLANT" (Destroyer) has arrived in harbour having had bow blown off up to forward bulkhead NO.1. Boiler Room, but Bridge structure held, during operations in Mediterranean.

~~SECRET~~  
16/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

TO 0900 WEDNESDAY, 15th JANUARY, 1941.

To 0900 Tuesday, 14th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"KANGAROO" arrived at Darwin yesterday.

"COOLEBAR" sailed yesterday from Melbourne for Adelaide. "ADELAIDE"

returns to Sydney by 24th January and will probably  
20th M.S.F. and Group 58 intend to sail a.m. Friday 17th January for  
clearing operations in Bass Strait. 21st February.

"LISMORE" is expected to be completed on 23rd January and to commission  
on 24th January. will probably return to Sydney.

"WESTRALIA" docks at Sydney today.

AUXILIARY VESSEL.

"COOLEBAR" now berthed at Station Pier sails for Adelaide

H.M.A.S. "TOORIE" was commissioned yesterday for service as an  
Auxiliary Minesweeper.

"TOORIE" having fitted out at Williamstown for service as an  
auxiliary M/S vessel commissions today.

TRANSPORT.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" is to leave Sydney on 18th January for Darwin.

She will be escorted by H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA".

"SYDNEY" on passage from Suez to Fremantle calling at Seychelles  
entered East Indies Station Sunday, 12th January.

GENERAL.

N.O.I.C. Thursday Island reported yesterday that seven unidentified  
ships passed north of Wednesday Island out of visual signal  
touch. Further details have been requested.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" has been ordered to part company with S.S. "EMPRESS  
OF RUSSIA" this morning and return to Auckland, fuelling at  
Suva en route. Date of sailing from New Zealand is 2nd February  
and Sydney departure 4th February.

An Admiralty message states that D/F bearings obtained on 12th  
January indicate the presence of an unknown enemy unit in  
the South Indian Ocean, probably in the vicinity of  
Kerguelen Island. loaded phosphate at Ocean Island and

discharged 132 tons oil fuel and 180 tons fresh water to  
H.M.S. "ILLUSTRIOUS" was considerably damaged by 6 direct hits by  
bombs, and several near misses, on 10th January. 6 dive  
bombers and 2 or 3 other bombers were shot down by Fulmars.

*Handwritten:*  
15/1/41  
15/1/41

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 14th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" escorting S.S.'s "MAUNGANUI" and "CITY of DELHI" departed Sydney yesterday for Wellington. "ADELAIDE" returns to Sydney by 24th January and will probably sail the following day to relieve "MANOORA" at Ocean Island and remain until about 21st February.

"MANOORA" when relieved at Ocean Island by "ADELAIDE" early in February will probably return to Sydney.

"WESTRALIA" docks at Sydney today.

"COOLEBAR" now berthed at Station Pier sails for Adelaide about 1300 today.

"TOORIE" having fitted out at Williamstown for service as an auxiliary M/S vessel commissions today.

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"SYDNEY" on passage from Suez to Fremantle calling at Seychelles entered East Indies Station Sunday, 12th January.

CONVOYS.

U.S.8 when troops have been transhipped in Ceylon, "QUEEN MARY", "AQUITANIA" and "MAURETANIA" return to Australia independently, all three vessels calling at Fremantle.

U.S.9 tentative date of sailing from New Zealand is 2nd February and Sydney departure 4th February.

SHIPPING.

S.S. "TRIENZA" having loaded phosphate at Ocean Island and discharged 152 tons oil fuel and 160 tons fresh water to "MANOORA" expects to sail for Melbourne at 1100 today.

~~SNL~~

~~14/1~~

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 13th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" escorting Convoy U.S.8 arrived at Colombo 12th January.

"MORESEY" has signalled to N.O.I.C. Port Moresby that his E.T.A. there is 9 a.m. 19th January. Departed from Cairns for Survey Ground 12th January.

Progress to date shows Marking Main Station completed to line Dalrymple to York Island. Observing completed 12 stations. Tidal Camp at Burke. Marking Camp at York.

"COOLEBAR" arrived Melbourne 12th January en route Adelaide.

"PARRAMATTA" was bombed 12th January off Perim three attacks being made but no damage.

GENERAL.

Admiral Evans retired 9th January. Inshore

Vice Admiral Cunningham and Rear Admiral Pridham-Whippel promoted.

H.M.A.S. "STUART,"

H.M. Ambassador at Tokyo has been instructed to continue to press upon Japanese Government that handling now by German Raiders of Japanese colours may force us to stricter application of our rights of visit and search for purpose of flag verification.

*Handwritten marks: a red checkmark, a red scribble with '12/11', and a blue scribble with '11/11'.*

*Handwritten mark: a large red scribble with '13/11'.*



DAILY NARRATIVE

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 12th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" is to escort a modified Convoy, composed of S.S.'s. "MAUNGANUI" and "CITY OF DELHI", sailing from Sydney tomorrow to Cook Strait. She is to fuel at Wellington and come under the orders of New Zealand Naval Board.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" escorting S.S. "TRIENZA" arrived at Ocean Island yesterday.

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Vessels under 3,000 tons, gross, and vessels fitted with Paravanes may proceed on inshore routes between Newcastle and Sydney, and Sydney and Port Kembla.

Vessels under 1,200 tons, gross, proceeding between Sydney and New South Wales coastal ports, and between New South Wales and Queensland coastal ports may be allowed to proceed on inshore routes.

GENERAL

Captain H.M.L. Waller, D.S.O., R.A.N. has resumed command of H.M.A.S. "STUART."

H.M. Ambassador at Tokyo has been instructed to continue to press upon Japanese Government that habitual use by German Raiders of Japanese colours may force us to stricter application of our rights of visit and search for purpose of Flag verification.

~~AM~~  
12/1  
13/1  
RR

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 11th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" having escorted Convoy V.K.2 to Wellington is required to return to Sydney by 24th January.

"MANOORA" escorting S.S. "TRIENZA" departed Nauru yesterday for Ocean Island.

"WESTRALIA" arrived Sydney 6.42 a.m. this morning.

20th M.S.F. arrived Port Melbourne yesterday afternoon and is now berthed at Princes Pier except "DOOMBA" at Williamstown making good repairs to ship's side.

"MORESBY" arrived Cairns yesterday.

"KANGAROO" departed Thursday Island yesterday for Darwin. E.T.A. 1800 Tuesday, 14th January.

CONVOYS AND TRANSPORTS.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" escorting H.T. "EMPRESS of RUSSIA" arrived Suva Thursday, 9th January. If approval of U.S.A. Government is obtained, both ships will continue to Honolulu whence "ACHILLES" returns direct to Auckland.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" having disembarked troops from Tasmania and loaded interstate cargo at Port Melbourne sailed last night for Sydney where she is due at 2200 tomorrow Sunday.

H.M.S. "LIMOR" was damaged 5th January while escorting Convoy T.100, but has arrived in harbour.

"LIMOR" is expected to be repaired by 15th January. The final date 15th January.

Captain H.L. Moore (Robert) will visit Navy Office, Tuesday, 14th January.

*Handwritten:* ~~13/1~~ 13/1

*Handwritten:* 13/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

Thursday, 9th DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 10th January, 1941.

SHIPS OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MORESBY" is now arriving Sydney Saturday, 11th January.

"MORESBY" passed Archer Point Southbound 8 p.m. 9th January.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney 9th January.

"COOLEBAR" departed Sydney arriving Melbourne Sunday 12th January.

"KANGAROO" at Thursday Island en route Darwin.

"TOORIE" departed Sydney yesterday for Adelaide via Melbourne arriving 15th January.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"TOORIE" D.N.O. Victoria reports, is intended to commission at Williamstown Tuesday, 14th January.

Experimental sweep having been carried out between Sydney and Port Phillip with negative results, coastal shipping may now use the inside passage between these 2 ports.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Civilian reported sighting submarine 1' off shore in position 5' South of Newcastle (Dudley) at dusk Thursday, 9th January. Air search from Norah and Red Heads carried out with negative result. N.O.C.S. does not consider report disturbing, W.O.I.C. Newcastle will investigate possibility of a derelict in daylight Friday. Tuesday, 14th January.

GENERAL.

H.M.S. "LOWESTOFT" mined and damaged 5th January while escorting Convoy Thames Estuary, but has arrived in harbour.

Owing to industrial trouble "LISMORE" is expected to be delayed one week for completing. The final date 16th January.

Captain H.L. Howden (Hobart) will visit Navy Office, Tuesday, 14th January.

All searches carried out yesterday for a possible derelict on the E.S. coast proved negative. Three similar searches are taking place this morning between Cabo Is. and S. derived to a depth of ~~10~~ miles.

GENERAL.

Admiralty enquiries have been received regarding Australian vessels being capable of producing 120 Mark XIV mine units per month and large numbers of depth charges of various marks.

Merchant ships and tankers have been granted permission to visit Batoul about the middle of January.

13/11

9/11

MOST SECRET.

21st M.S.F. proceeds DAILY NARRATIVE. comprise "BATHURST",  
"LISMORE", "HARTSBOURGH", "MILLAR", "COULBURN", "BENDIGO",  
To 0900 Thursday, 9th January, 1941. "ELI" and "TOOWOOLA".

22nd M.S.F. remaining on the Australia Station will consist of  
"LITTON" OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. "LADOMBA",  
"TOWNSVILLE", "MILDORA" and "BARRABOOK".

H.M.A. SHIPS

"WESTRALIA" is now arriving Sydney Saturday, 11th January.

"ADELAIDE" is carrying out gunnery practice off Sydney today.

20th M.S.F. departed Hobart yesterday for Melbourne and will sweep  
searched channel F.5(a) Eastern Bass Strait on passage.

"DURRAWERN" coals at Williamstown today and sails tomorrow to  
relieve "BERYL II"

"COOLEBAR" departed Sydney yesterday for Adelaide via Melbourne  
arriving here on Sunday, 12th January.

"KANGAROO" en route Darwin. Arrived at Thursday Island yesterday.

An exploratory sweep having been carried out between Sydney and  
Port Kembla with negative results, coastal shipping may  
now use the inside passage between these 2 ports.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"COOMBAR" at Sydney was requisitioned yesterday for conversion to  
Naval Service.

"TOORIE" is intended to commission at Williamstown on Tue-day,  
14th January.

CONVOYS.

"ZEALANDIA" arrives Melbourne today.

Trans Tasman Convoy V.K.2 is expected to sail on Monday, 13th  
January from Sydney escorted by "ADELAIDE" to  
Wellington.

AIR OPERATIONS.

All searches carried out yesterday for a possible  
minelayer on the N.S.W. coast proved negative. Three similar  
searches are taking place this morning between Cabo Is. and C.  
Moreton to a depth of 300 miles.

GENERAL.

Admiralty enquiries have been received regarding Australian sources  
being capable of producing 120 Mark XIV mine units per  
month and large numbers of depth charges of various  
marks.

Dutch Warships and tankers have been granted permission to visit  
Rabaul about the middle of January.

*D.N.I.*  
*9/11*

## 2. NARRATIVE.

21st M.S.F. proceeding overseas will comprise "BATHURST", "LISMORE", "MARYBOROUGH", "BALLARAT", "GOULBURN", "BENDIGO", "BURNIE", "GLENELG", "KALGOORLIE" and "TOOWOOMBA".

22nd M.S.F. remaining on the Australia Station will consist of "LITHCOW", "GEEBONG", "ROCKHAMPTON", "KATOOMBA", "TOWNSVILLE", "MILDURA" and "WARRNAMBOOL".

"APARAKE" departed Sydney at 0432 this morning to support the air search which commenced at 0300 this morning with the object of locating a possible mine-layer.

She is required to escort a trans-Tasman convoy from Sydney to Wellington arriving about Saturday, 18th January, and if desired will escort a similar convoy from New Zealand on her return.

"ZEALANDIA" should arrive Sydney today and will give long leave at discretion of P.O.C.A.S. She will sail on Saturday, 18th January, to escort "ZEALANDIA" to Darwin and back to Sydney.

## 3. AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"S.S. BRIDGEWATER FARM", a S.S.W. intrastate collier of 640 tons, is to be requisitioned at Sydney and fitted out for service as an auxiliary M/S vessel.

## 4. TRANSPORTS.

"S.S. ELIZABETH" will probably be ready to sail from Singapore February 11th.

"S.S. ZEALANDIA" having embarked at Hobart approximately 300 troops and 50 tons of equipment, together with a number of vehicles, sailed for Melbourne at 2200 yesterday. The vessel is due at daylight tomorrow Thursday and lands interstate cargo before proceeding to Sydney p.m. Friday, 10th January to embark troops for Darwin. She is not escorted but air search to cover her is being carried out A.M. today Wednesday.

## 5. RAIDER REPORT.

"S.S. WANGANELLA" on passage from Adelaide to Fremantle made the "Attack by enemy raider" (0300) distress message last night from a position about 47 miles S.W. of the Location. The first message was received via Superwave Radio at 0113 giving "WANGANELLA's" position and stating that a suspicious vessel was following. A later intercept gave the suspicious vessel's position at 0130 and her course.

At 0241 the following signal was despatched to "WANGANELLA" by Naval Board in Merchant Naval Code received "Are you still being followed. What is your course."

As no reply was forthcoming, S.S.A.C.K. at 0300 this morning instructed all shipping in the vicinity to proceed to Albany or Fremantle, arranged an air search to commence at dawn and A/S vessels were brought to immediate notice for steers.

At 0430, when hope was waning, S.S. "WANGANELLA" returned from Fremantle to Adelaide, broke N/T silence and reported her position at 0113 last night which corresponds with that of the suspicious vessel reported by "WANGANELLA" eleven minutes later.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 8th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"ADELAIDE" departed Sydney at 0452 this morning to support the air search which commenced at 0500 this morning with the object of locating a possible minelayer. She is required to escort a trans Tasman convoy from Sydney to Wellington arriving about Saturday, 18th January, and if desired will escort a similar convoy from New Zealand on her return.

"WESTRALIA" should arrive Sydney today and will give long leave at discretion of P.O.C.A.S. She will sail on Saturday, 18th January, to escort "ZEALANDIA" to Darwin and back to Sydney.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

S.S. "BIRCHGROVE PARK", a N.S.W. intrastate collier of 640 tons, is to be requisitioned at Sydney and fitted out for service as an auxiliary M/S vessel.

TRANSPORTS.

"QUEEN ELIZABETH" will probably be ready to sail from Singapore February 11th.

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" having embarked at Hobart approximately 860 troops and 50 tons of equipment, together with a number of vehicles, sailed for Melbourne at 2000 yesterday. The vessel is due at daylight tomorrow Thursday and loads interstate cargo before proceeding to Sydney p.m. Friday, 10th January to embark troops for Darwin. She is not escorted but air search to cover her is being carried out a.m. today Wednesday.

RAIDER REPORT.

S.S. "WANGANELLA" on passage from Adelaide to Fremantle made the "attack by enemy raider" (QQQQ) distress message last night from a position about 47 miles S.W. of the Leeuwin. The first message was received via Esperance Radio at 2152 giving "WANGANELLA's" position and stating that a suspicious vessel was following. A later intercept gave the suspicious vessel's position at 2130 and her course.

At 2344 the following signal was despatched to "WANGANELLA" by Naval Board in Merchant Naval Code recoded "Are you still being followed. What is your course."

As no reply was forthcoming, S.W.A.C.H. at 0200 this morning instructed all shipping in the vicinity to proceed to Albany or Fremantle, arranged an air search to commence at dawn and A/S vessels were brought to immediate notice for steam.

At 0420, when hope was waning, S.S. "ULYSSES" bound from Fremantle to Adelaide, broke W/T silence and reported her position at 2119 last night which corresponds with that of the suspicious vessel reported by "WANGANELLA" eleven minutes later.

AIR OPERATIONS.

To 0800 Tuesday, 7th. Consequent upon S.S. "TALUNE" having sighted an unidentified vessel 80 miles East of Flinders Island on Sunday, 5th January air searches from Laverton, Richmond and Archerfield commenced at 0500 this morning with the object of locating a possible minelayer.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HARDORA" escorting S.S. "TRIENZA" arrived at Launceston yesterday from Ocean Island.

R.M.S. "L" completed sweeping a channel in the approaches to Hobart yesterday, and the Port has been re-opened to shipping. After the departure of H.M.S. "ZALANDIA" today they propose to fuel at Launceston before leaving for Melbourne.

"LISMORE" subject to undergoing successful acceptance trials on 16th January, is in commission on 17th January.

MINER TRANSPORT "ZALANDIA"

H.M.S. "ZALANDIA" arrived at Hobart yesterday, and after embarking troops left today for Melbourne.

AIR OPERATIONS.

An air search is being carried out today to try and locate an unidentified large tanker sighted by S.S. "ULFHEIM", in a position approximately 150 miles W.S.W. from Fremantle, on 5th January.

BOON DEFENCE - EMERGENCY.

Fremantle harbour is being closed to shipping today for a period of about 12 hours in order to launch the second line of the Boon Defence.

NAVIGATION SERVICE.

"BERGALA" having completed repairs has returned to her station.

EMIRAU ISLAND.

A Telradia set has been installed at Emirau Island.

S.S. "PORT WELLINGTON"

S.S. "PORT WELLINGTON", overdue at Durban since 7th December, 1940, had 3 R.A.N. and 1 S.A.N. ratings embarked as gunlayers.

AIR LIVES - DULL EXPLOSIONS.

A party from the R.A.F. Cape Clear is investigating a report of three dull explosions having been heard in the direction of the mouth of the Ayr River, yesterday.

Handwritten marks at the bottom of the page, including a checkmark and the number '7/11'.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 7th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" escorting S.S. "TRIENZA" arrived at Nauru yesterday from Ocean Island.

20th M.S.F. completed sweeping a channel in the approaches to Hobart yesterday, and the Port has been re-opened to shipping. After the departure of H.T. "ZEALANDIA" today they propose to fuel at Hobart before leaving for Melbourne.

"LISMORE" subject to undergoing successful Acceptance Trials on 16th January, is to commission on 17th January.

HIRED TRANSPORT "ZEALANDIA"

H.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived at Hobart yesterday, and after embarking troops leaves today for Melbourne. A supposed enemy ship D/T bearing to the S.W. of Fremantle transmitting a message to call an air search is being carried out today from Perth.

AIR OPERATIONS.

An air search is being carried out today to try and locate an unidentified large Tanker sighted by S.S. "ULYSSES", in a position approximately 150 miles W.S.W. from Fremantle, on 5th January.

"ZEALANDIA" arriving Hobart p.m. today will be met by a transport of the 20th M.S.F. on arrival and instructed re entry.

BOOM DEFENCE - FREMANTLE.

Fremantle harbour is being closed to shipping today for a period of about 12 hours in order to launch the second line of the Boom Defence.

A Floating boom near the shore to the N.E. of Split Point Light.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

"WONGALA" having completed repairs has returned to her Station.

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

"WARRARA" departed EMIRAU ISLAND.

A Teleradio set has been installed at Emirau Island.

S.S. "PORT WELLINGTON"

S.S. "PORT WELLINGTON", overdue at Durban since 7th December, 1940, had 2 R.A.N. and 1 R.A.N.R. ratings embarked as gunlayers.

AYR RIVER - DULL EXPLOSIONS.

A party from the W.S.S. Cape Otway is investigating a report of three dull explosions having been heard in the direction of the mouth of the Ayr River, yesterday.

Handwritten marks: "D.V." with a checkmark, and a large red scribble.



MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 5th January,

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 6th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS The S.S. "TRIENZA" arrived Ocean Island 0400

"CANBERRA" escorting U.S.8 departed Fremantle yesterday.

E.T.A. Colombo Sunday, 12th January.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney yesterday.

"MANCOORA" departed Ocean Island yesterday for Nauru escorting "TRIENZA".

20th M.S.F. after sweeping the approaches to Hobart yesterday anchored for the night in Blackman Bay. It is expected that the sweeping of a safe channel into Hobart will be completed today and the Port reopened to shipping.

AIR OPERATIONS.

Following the reception by Jandakot yesterday of a supposed enemy ship D/F bearing to the S.W. of Fremantle transmitting a message to Keil an air search is being carried out today from Pearce to locate.

TRANSPORTS.

"ZEALANDIA" arriving Hobart p.m. today will be met by a sweeper of the 20th M.S.F. prior to arrival and instructed re entering the port.

MINES.

A Floating mine near the shore to the N.E. of Split Point Light house yesterday was sunk by "DURRAWEE".

HOSPITAL SHIPS.

"MANUNDA" departed Fremantle 4th January and is due at Colombo 13th January.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrived Auckland yesterday.

GENERAL.

The Admiralty intend "BATHURST" Class A.M.S. proceeding to the Mediterranean should form the 21st M.S.F. and those remaining on the Australia Station the 22nd M.S.F.

6/1/41

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 5th January.

To 0900 Saturday, 4th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"MANOORA" Escorting S.S. "TRIENZA" arrived Ocean Island 0400 yesterday.  
"COLEBAR" S.S. arrived at Fremantle yesterday.  
20th M.S.R. During sweeping operations yesterday reported a mine exploded in "WARREGO" sweep in position 13' S.S.W. of Tasman Island, and just inside the 100 fathom line. W.F. message was originated declaring a dangerous area within 30' of this position, and the Port of Hobart closed to shipping until further orders. Flotilla will today search a route covering the entrance to Hobart.

GROUP 50 AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS based on Sydney will at 0730 tomorrow, Monday, commence a searching sweep between Sydney and Port Kembla and when completed shipping will be permitted to proceed on inshore route.

GROUP 74 AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS based on Brisbane is to carry out an exploratory sweep between Caloundra Head and Wide Bay on the Queensland Coast and on completion shipping will be permitted to proceed on this route.

"MORESBY" Will visit Port Moresby about 18th January.

"COLEBAR" Instead of sailing for Adelaide today is to remain at Sydney until Wednesday, 8th January, to maintain searched channel until Group 50 has searched the area between Sydney and Port Kembla.

"MANOORA" arrived at Fremantle yesterday.

H.M.A. SHIPS ABROAD.

"SYDNEY" Sails from Suez 12th January escorting Convoy S.W.4.B. to latitude of Mombasa, thence to Fremantle calling at Seychelles for fuel.

2 aircraft are by TRANSPORTS. searches to a depth of 100 miles to seaward of Fremantle at 0530 and 1700 today.

"ZEALANDIA" Departed Sydney 1400 yesterday for Hobart, arriving 1400 tomorrow, Monday.

The Local Intelligence GENERAL. Noumea, has reported that two men on island in Saint Vincent (25 miles North of Noumea) on 1st January, between 1200 and 1300.

Naval Board has granted permission for Dutch Warships and Dutch Naval Tankers to visit Rabaul during middle of this month.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 4th January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"CANBERRA" escorting Convoy U.S.8 arrived at Fremantle yesterday.

"HOBART" arrived at Sydney yesterday. She took up Inshore escort duties on Sunday, 5th January.

"WESTRALIA" arrived at Fremantle a.m. yesterday and later left for Sydney.

"BATHURST" is on passage to Hobart and expects to arrive 5th January.

"KANGAROO" left Townsville yesterday.

"KYBERA" arrived at Sydney yesterday.

"LISMORE". Full power and other trials carried out yesterday were satisfactory.

CONVOYS.

U.S.8 arrived at Fremantle yesterday. The port is being maintained by the Pilot Launch.

V.K.1. arrived at Auckland and Wellington yesterday.

HOSPITAL SHIP.

"MANUNDA" arrived at Fremantle yesterday.

OPERATIONS - AIR.

An Anti-submarine patrol is being maintained over Gage Roads during daylight today.

3 aircraft are to carry out searches to a depth of 100 miles to seaward of Fremantle commencing at 0530 and 1700 today.

SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED SHIP.

The Local Intelligence Officer, Noumea, has reported that two men on island in Saint Vincent Bay (25 miles North of Noumea) on 1st January, between 1300 and 1400, saw a grey, two funnelled ship travelling Southwards and then Northwards at high speed.

GENERAL.

Being of there being a shortage of A/S guns the intent is to send outwards to land their South African ports for supplies in ships proceeding

~~SECRET~~

51

TOP SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 3rd January, 1941.

0900 Thursday, 2nd January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"HOBART" is due at Sydney today.

"ADELAIDE" departed Noumea today to take up Tasman escort duties from Sydney arriving on Sunday, 5th January.

"WESTRALIA" is due at Fremantle today and after refuelling continues on to Sydney.

20th M.S.F. arrived at Hobart yesterday.

"BATHURST" carried out propeller efficiency trials in Port Phillip yesterday and later berthed at Williamstown to effect engine auxiliary adjustments. She sailed for Hobart this morning to join 20th M.S.F.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

"WONGALA" at Adelaide is off Station with engine defects and the Examination Service at the port is being maintained by the Pilot launch.

CONVOYS.

U.S.8 is due at Fremantle today escorted by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA"

U.S.9 "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" arrived at Sydney this morning.

OPERATIONS AIR.

2 aircraft from Archerfield yesterday morning carried out a search for an unidentified aeroplane reported over Moreton Bay. Result of search was negative.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" on completion of the escort of the convoy W.S.5.B. about 18th February, to Suez, is to proceed through the Mediterranean Sea to join the Home Fleet.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" will escort "EMPRESS OF RUSSIA" from Auckland on Monday 8th January to Suva and beyond returning to Auckland 15th January for docking and leave.

H.M.S. "MONOWAI" departed Auckland 1st January conveying A.P.3 to Suva.

GENERAL.

Owing to there being a shortage of A/S guns the Admiralty intend Merchant Vessels outward bound to land their 4" guns at South African ports for mounting in ships proceeding to U.K.

3/1

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 2nd January, 1941.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. SHIPS

"COOLEBAR" will sail from Sydney Saturday 4th January for Adelaide, calling at Melbourne for coal.

20th M.S.F. is on passage to Hobart.

AUXILIARY VESSEL.

S.S. "PATERSON" (446 tons) has arrived Williamstown to be fitted out for service as an Auxiliary M/S Vessel.

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

The restrictions placed upon ships sailing for N.E. Coast of New Guinea and Islands in the N.E. area of the Australia Station were removed yesterday.

Admiralty has decided to requisition, with certain exceptions, all British tankers engaged in deep sea tanker trade.

Three vessels on or approaching the Australia Station appear to be affected.

EMIRAU ISLAND.

S.S. "NELLORE" with survivors embarked anchored at Townsville 2230 last night.

GENERAL.

The Western Australian mail plane with D.C.N.S. and D.O.T.M. onboard was unable to land at Essendon last night owing to poor visibility. The plane landed at the emergency ground at Nihil and will come on to Essendon as soon as conditions permit.

*Handwritten red mark:*  
A  
511

*Handwritten:*  
J. J. WALSH  
(S) G. McD. WILSON.

*Faint, mostly illegible text at the bottom of the page, including fragments of the "NELLORE" and "Western Australian mail plane" paragraphs.*

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 1st January, 1941. have had very accurate  
at or approaching Noumea.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. quantity of food,  
treatment of prisoners

H.M.A. SHIPS have been good.

"ADELAIDE" is to remain at Noumea for the present. of the sailors.

"MANOORA" intercepted and boarded S.S. "MEIU MARU" at 1730 on 30th December in a position approximately 110 miles South-east of New Ireland, and released her 15 minutes later.

"WESTRALIA" on completion of fuelling at Fremantle is to proceed to Sydney. Long leave may be granted to Western Australian natives providing efficiency of main armament is not impaired.

"BATHURST" was exercising in Port Phillip yesterday. On completion of special trials on 2nd January she is to join 20th M.S.F. at Hobart.

"DOOMBA" joined 20th M.S.F. in Bass Strait yesterday.

"GUNBAR" is to take over the duties of Examination Service Vessel, Sydney, on 6th January, for one week while "FALIE's" engines are being overhauled.

"LISMORE's" trials at 9 and 12 knots were satisfactory.

CONVOY U.S.S.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" will escort U.S.S. from Colombo to approximately 70° East, returning to Colombo on completion. H.M.S. "CAPETOWN" and an Armed Merchant Cruiser will form the remainder of the escort.

NEW YEAR PROMOTIONS - R.A.N.

The following promotions have been made to date 31st December, 1940.

Commander to Captain F.E. GETTING

Lieutenant-Commander to Commander J.A. WALSH

" " (E) " (E) G. McD. WILSON.

S.S. "PIERRE LOTI"

S.S. "PIERRE LOTI" is not to be requisitioned, and the Director of Customs, Sydney, has been ordered to release her to proceed to Noumea.

RAIDERS IN PACIFIC - MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

"NELLORE" with survivors on board is due to arrive at Townsville today.

As a German officer stated that more survivors might be found at Emirau Island later, a Teleradio set is to be installed

2.

The Raiders appeared to have had very accurate knowledge of the names of ships at or approaching Nauru.

Except as regards quality and quantity of food, cramped space, and bad ventilation, the treatment of prisoners appears to have been good.

No R.D/F was observed in any of the Raiders.

