

DAILY NARRATIVES

5TH OCTOBER 1939

TO

31ST DECEMBER 1939

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 31st December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION:

- H.M.A.S. "YARRA" Arrived Melbourne p.m. Saturday 30th, and is berthed at Williamstown.
- H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" Is to depart from Sydney p.m. Monday, 8th January, for Jervis Bay, carrying out H.A. and L.A. Firing. From 1200 Tuesday 9th, patrol is to be maintained in the vicinity of Port Jackson until such time as she joins temporarily the escort for U.S.I.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is now at 48 hours' notice.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS:

H.M.S. "EXETER": It is the intention of the Admiralty to recondition the ship for service if practicable; in any case, she must return home.

H.M.A.S. "AJAX" will be refitted at Devonport.

General:

Consequent on the retirement of Admiral Sir H.J.S. Brown-Rigg, the Admiralty have notified the Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station, of his promotion to Admiral to date the 1st January and of his re-appointment on promotion.

In order to speed up the turn round of merchant ships, the C.in C. East Indies has asked the Naval Board to agree to the relaxation of certain censorship regulations - in effect Owners and/or Agents may advise by cable the next port of call and the expected arrival time of ships.

Transports and Escort:

Navy Office, Wellington, have suggested that ships sailing from Australia should be kept on routes which as far as possible will avoid the Convoy. This matter was receiving consideration prior to receipt of the signal.

German Ship "TACOMA":

S.O.(I) Monte Video has received from H.M. Minister information that this vessel was given 24 hours' notice to leave. The time at which the notice commenced is not stated; presumably it was some time on Friday 29th.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 30th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" departed from Sydney p.m. 28th December for Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived at Sydney on Friday, 29th December.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA", commencing Monday, 1st January, will carry out searching sweeps in the Bass Strait on two days; later they will be despatched to Fremantle and arrive there on Saturday, 13th January.

20th M/S Flotilla is to come under orders of Naval Board from 0900 Monday, 1st January; "SWAN" and "YARRA" are placed under the orders of D.N.O., W.A., on their arrival at Fremantle.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "STUART" arrived at Haifa on Thursday, 28th December, and departed later that day for Port Said.

H.M. Ships "AJAX", "ACHILLES", "DORSETSHIRE" and "CUMBERLAND" left Falkland Island, Friday, 29th December.

H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" proceeds to Cape Town with 140 German prisoners for steamers "USSUKUMA" and "CARL FRITZYN".

H.M. Ships "AJAX", "ACHILLES" and "DORSETSHIRE" proceed to the Plate Area and R.A. Commanding, S.A. Div., A. & W.I.S., intends visiting Monte Video on 3rd January and Buenos Aires on 4th January where an account of the "GRAF SPEE" action will be given in the Argentine Naval Club (subject to Admiralty approval).

H.M.S. "AJAX" will visit Rio de Janeiro on the 11th January before proceeding to Freetown.

H.M.S. "EXETER" - One of Lloyd's surveyors is to leave Buenos Aires on the 9th January to advise on the carrying out of repairs necessary to enable ship to sail.

GENERAL.

Tug "ST. OLAVES" departed from Sydney at 1800 Friday, 29th, for U.K. and expects to arrive at Fremantle on 7th January.

H.M.A.S. "GALA" - It is expected that the winches will be shipped from the U.K. next week.

C.O.I.S., Singapore, reports that :-

- (1) A Japanese Naval Unit is likely to visit the Mandated Islands early in 1940.
- (11) The Japanese Whaler "KYOKUYO MARU" has on board Naval and Military Experts for the purpose of investigating possible submarine bases in the South Pacific and Antarctic.
The source of this information is not assessed highly.

M/S VESSELS.

"UKI" will commence working up on Wednesday, 3rd January.

"BERMAGUI" will commence working up on Tuesday, 21st January.

TRANSPORTS AND ESCORT.

The Admiralty has now stated the ports of disembarkation 5 Australian Transports to Suez and 6 N.Z. to Port Said. Two of the Transports which disembark troops at Suez have cargo for the U.K.

Particulars of the Escorting Forces is also given - "RAMILLIES" leaves the convoy at Aden where escort duties are taken over by "HOBART" and 1 Cruiser.

REMARKS - ADMIRAL.

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ADMIRAL. The six Australian transports are to be stationed on the East Coast, and "AFAN" will not be relieved. Despatch of a S.A. is not to be restricted to proceed there with supplies. "ACHILLE" is to call at the Cape, and "HARTMAN" is to join Force "B" when available.

"COVADON" has arrived at SAIPA.

"GRAY SPAN". Admiralty is investigating the possibility of 12,000 guns. C. in C., S. & S.A. reports that "Gray Span", "Deutschland" and "Vindictive" all had intercommissariat pass plates and cap ribbons.

ROYAL AIR FORCE SERVICE.

MANILA. Evidence of difficulty in estimating time of arrival of ships from Australia, and in order to assist agents, messages have been directed to signal S.F.A. when leaving Manila.

GENERAL SERVICE.

1st WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. Admiralty has made arrangements for six transports to embark approx. 7000 troops from the West Coast on 24th January and disembarking them at Bambarra where they are due on 18th February. A Nigerian Brigade is to be called later, destination unknown, and C. in C., S.A. is to arrange escort.

"MATHIAS". S.C.C.S. advises that 1,500 tons of stores is now available for topping up, and not 120 as previously indicated by the agents. S.C.C.S., W.A., has made arrangements with the Uniteds to work the vessel on arrival Saturday.

S.C.C.S. AIRMAN has now been established.

PT. CLAREN. S.C.C.S. advised is ready to sail, but has been delayed because of insurance of ship. Admiralty has now advised that Home Government will accept liability for injury to ship and S.C.C.S. has been advised accordingly.

PERMUTER. S.C.C.S., W.A., requests approval to undertake immediate creation of signal mast and tower for W/S communication to harbour and to proceed by 15/1/35.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 29th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"YARRA" departed Sydney for Port Phillip, 28th December. E.T.A. 1500K/30.

"MORESBY". Approval has been given for 10 days' leave to two watches commencing 29th December, subject to 48 hours' notice for recall.

"SYDNEY" undocks 0800 to-day, Friday.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

SOUTH AMERICA. One six inch cruiser only is to be stationed on the East Coast, and "AJAX" will not be relieved. Movements of A.M.Cs. are not to be restricted to provide them with support.

"ACHILLES" is to refit at the Cape, and "NEPTUNE" is to join Force "K" when available.

"STUART" has arrived at HAIFA.

"GRAF SPEE". Admiralty is investigating the possibility of 13.8" guns. C. in C., A. & W.I., reports that "Graf Spee", "Deutschland" and "Admiral Scheer" all had interchangeable name plates and cap ribbons.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

MANILA. Because of difficulty in estimating time of arrival of ships from Australia, and in order to assist agents, masters have been directed to signal E.T.A. when nearing Manila.

GENERAL INTEREST.

1st WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. Admiralty has made arrangements for six transports to embark approx. 7400 troops from the West Coast on 24th January and disembarking them at Mombassa where they are due on 12th February. A Nigerian Brigade is to be sailed later, destination unknown, and C. in C., S.A. is to arrange escort.

"AUTOMEDON". N.O.C.S. advises that 1,200 tons of space is now available for topping up, and not 250 as previously indicated by the agents. D.N.O., W.A., has made arrangements with the Unions to work the vessel on arrival Saturday.

W.S.S. ALBANY has now been established.

"ST. OLAVES". N.O.C.S. advises is ready to sail, but has been delayed because of insurance of crew. Admiralty has now advised that Home Government will accept liability for injury to crew and N.O.C.S. has been advised accordingly.

FREMANTLE. D.N.O., W.A., requests approval to undertake immediate erection of signal mast and tower for V/S communication to harbour and to seaward by 15/1/39.

COCKATOO. N.O.C.S. advises that metal trades unions have decided not to work overtime which includes shift work at week ends and on holidays. This will probably prevent fitting of P.V's. to U2. "SYDNEY" now in dock may also be affected.

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[Faint, mostly illegible text follows, appearing to be a list of items or a detailed report. Some words like "U2", "P.V's", and "SYDNEY" are faintly visible.]

[Handwritten scribble or signature in the bottom left corner.]

To 0900 Thursday, 28th December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. and H.M.A. Ships.

"RANILLIES" sailed for Wellington 1130 Wednesday, 27th December.

"CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" will not accompany convoy on sailing from Fremantle.

"ADELAIDE" left Fremantle for exercises 27th December.

"MORSEBY" sailed from Brisbane for Sydney 26th December.

"DOOMBA" sailed for Port Phillip 27th December.

"WONGALA" anchored Thursday Island 27th December to land one cot case and sails for Townsville today.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"NAMBUCCA". Dockyard work on this vessel, fitting out in Sydney for H.S. duties, will be completed 10th January and she will be commissioned the same day.

"ST. OLAVES" will be ready to sail for U.K. today Thursday or tomorrow Friday, but awaits decision re insurance.

OILER "WAR KRISHNA" sailed from Fremantle for Melbourne 26th December (E.T.A. 3rd January). It is anticipated she will discharge her next cargo at Darwin.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

The positions of transports are as follows :-

H.M. Submarine "TRIUMPH" struck a floating mine in the North Sea on 27th December and is unable to dive. A number of destroyers is proceeding at high speed to escort her to Rosyth.

H.M.S. "AJAX" will leave Falkland Islands at an early date and proceed to U.K. for repairs.

GENERAL.

C.N.S. Wellington proposes to send a staff officer to Navy Office, Melbourne, to discuss various matters.

Admiralty has asked Rear-Admiral Harwood if he has any evidence as to "GRAF SPEE" having 13.8" guns.

"GRANAT" dep. from SYDNEY 25th December.

"HERON" at WELLINGTON 25th.

"KHERRA II" arrived WELLINGTON 25th December.

"RANGITATA" at WELLINGTON.

"ROBINSON" dep. from FREMANTLE at 1800/26th December and expects to arrive at PORT LITTLETON 4th January.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, Wednesday 27th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" departs from PORT MELBOURNE at 1100 today for WELLINGTON.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

There was considerable W/T traffic from WILHELMSHAVEN after 1800Z 25th December, the operational frequency used being the normal one when the GERMAN Fleet is at sea. There was however no W/T traffic from ships.

Twenty GERMAN Merchant Ships steering Northwards passed through the GREAT BELT on the early morning of the 25th December.

H.M. Submarines "THISTLE" and L.23 have been ordered to take up positions at the entrance to OSLO FIORD and in the vicinity of the FIORD respectively, in case the 20 ships are transports. If a landing is attempted action is to be taken.

TRANSPORTS.

The positions of transports are as follows :-

AUSTRALIAN - "IMPRESS OF JAPAN" at SYDNEY.

"ORCADES" at SYDNEY.

"STRATHAVER" at or passing FREMANTLE
29/30 December.

"OTRANTO" at or passing FREMANTLE 28th
December.

"ORFORD" at ~~or passing~~ SYDNEY 31st
December.

NEW ZEALAND - "ORION" at SYDNEY departs 29th December
for WELLINGTON.

"STRATHAIRD" due SYDNEY 29th December.

"IMPRESS OF CANADA" at WELLINGTON 23rd.

"DUNERA II" arrived WELLINGTON 26th
December.

"RANGITATA" at WELLINGTON.

"SOBIESKI" dep. from FREMANTLE at 1800/26th
December and expects to arrive at PORT
LYTELTON 4th January.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 26th December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" arrived Melbourne 25th December and berthed Princes Pier at 1315. She has asked permission to sail at 1000 Wednesday, 27th December.

H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" has been ordered by C. in C., China, to proceed to Hong Kong instead of Singapore.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA", subject to Naval Board approval, will accompany convoy for 500' after leaving Fremantle. They will then return to Fremantle for 5 days, thence to Melbourne and Sydney. H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" will leave Sydney for Western Australia when 8" cruisers reach Melbourne.

H.M.A.S. "KOOKABURRA" sailed from Darwin for Sydney 25th December. En route she will call at Townsville on or about 31st December.

H.M.A.S. "UKI" will be ready to resume sweeping trials Thursday, 28th December.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

C. in C., Mediterranean, has proposed to Admiralty that Australian Destroyers be designated 19th Division Destroyers and that the Senior Officer should continue to be known as S.O., Australian Destroyer Flotilla.

Admiralty considers the next move by enemy may be an attack on the Northern Patrol. In consequence, the cruiser strength of the Home Fleet is to be increased by withdrawals from Foreign Stations.

The composition of detached forces is to be amended and force letters have been allocated as follows :-

<u>Force</u>	<u>Ships</u>
G	"SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE".
H	"CORNWALL" to be joined later by "CUMBERLAND".
I	"SUSSEX", "GLOUCESTER" and "EAGLE".
K	"ARK ROYAL" and "RENOWN".
M	"SUFFREN" and "KENT".
X	1st Division French Cruisers.
J,L and Y	Cancelled.

GENERAL.

S.O., Australian Destroyer Flotilla, has thanked Naval Board for their seasonable greetings.

From an intercepted message, originated by N.O., Wellington, it would appear C.C., N.Z. Squadron (Captain J.W. Rivett-Carnae, R.N.), is returning to U.K. via Australia. He has recently completed 3 years on New Zealand Station.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 25th December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" sighted by W.S.S. Cape Otway at 0615 this morning.
- H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" sailed from Rabaul 22nd December for Singapore. She should enter China Station about 28th December.
- H.M.A.S. "YARRA" sails from Sydney for Port Phillip on Thursday, 28th December.
- H.M.A.S. "KOOKABURRA". Owing to the delay in receipt of integrators for indicator loop system at Darwin, C.C.S. proposes this ship should return to Sydney.
- R.M.S. "STRATHNAVER" sailed from Colombo 23rd December. Attempts are being made to expedite the arrival of this ship at Sydney by ordering her to proceed at best possible speed.
- R.M.S. "ORCADES" left Melbourne for Sydney P.M. Sunday, 24th December.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

- H.M. Ships "CORNWALL" from Force "I" operating in Indian Ocean and "SUSSEX" from Force "H" under C. in C., South Atlantic are to exchange stations. "CORNWALL" is to proceed to Simonstown forthwith and will hoist the flag of F.O.C., 5th Cruiser Squadron. "SUSSEX" will then sail as ordered by C. in C., East Indies.
- H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" is proceeding at 21 knots to Falkland Islands. It will be recalled that this ship, a unit of Force "G" operating under Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, just missed the recent action off Monte Video but was in the River Plate when the "Graf Spee" scuttled herself.
- H.M.S. "NEPTUNE" and the submarine "SEVERN" on completion of sweep in search of German merchant vessel "ALTMARK" are to proceed to Freetown.

ADMIRALTY.

A message received is quoted verbatim :-

"The enemy are laying contact moored mines with delayed releases for sinker up to 3 days."

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To. 0900. Sunday 24th December, 1939.

Operations - Australia Station.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived Brisbane 23rd December.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" - permission sought of Rear-Admiral Commanding, to be at 16 hours notice until 2200, 29th December, to refit circulator.

H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" secured Princes Pier Saturday, 23rd December.

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" sailed from Darwin Saturday, 23rd December, due Sydney about 12th January, 1940.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" - Rear-Admiral Commanding, has proposed a programme for Gunnery exercises, 9th and 11th January, 1940.

Transports -

"STRATHAIRD" arrived Fremantle Saturday, 23rd December.

"ORCADES" arrived Melbourne Saturday, 23rd December.

"STRATHNAVER" left Colombo Saturday, 23rd December.

Operations - Overseas -

"Graf Spee" - H.M.S. "EXETER" in spite of one gun left being aft and steaming hampered proposed to ram "GRAF SPEE". Squadron had rehearsed factors on eve of battle exactly as carried out.

"ADMIRAL SCHEER" - may have left Germany for long cruise about 14th December.

General Interest -

"KOOKABURRA" has completed loop laying Darwin and tests from Shore end are satisfactory.

Admiralty request that Tug "CORINGA" (Brisbane) be requisitioned and despatched to United Kingdom.

Commander S.H.K. Spurgeon, R.A.N., has been awarded the D.S.O. for action against enemy submarines.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 23rd December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" arrived Sydney from patrol, 2145 Friday, 22nd December.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" - Arrived Port Melbourne Thursday, 21st December.

H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" - Arrived Rabaul after visiting Cato, Kean, Mellish, Frederick and Chesterfield Reefs.

H.M.A. Ships "MANCOORA" and "YARRA" were due to undock Friday 22nd December.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" should dock Saturday 23rd December.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" - Minesweeping trials to be carried out 27th December.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" - R.A.C.A.S. proposes to grant 10 days' leave to Ship's Company in February.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" - New Zealand Naval Board ask that facilities be provided for gunnery practices while ship is on Australia Station.

R.F.A. "WAR KRISHNA" - Arrives Fremantle from Darwin Friday 22nd December.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

"GRAF SPEE". S.O.(I) Monte Video states that he has information from secret sources that ship was seaworthy on 17th December and that 15 days extension was asked for. German officers reputed to claim that "ADMIRAL SCHEER" is on the way to South America.

H.M.S. "URSULA" now reports cruiser of "KOLN" class was hit by two torpedoes and 45 minutes later had disappeared (on 14th December).

GENERAL INTEREST.

"ST. OLAVES" - C.C.S. advises that owing to difficulty in obtaining a crew and cover under the Seamen's Compensation Act, tug will not sail until after Christmas holidays.

Boom Defences Darwin - C.C.S. advises only 320 barrels. (175 gallons) can be loaded M.V. Tulagi (?) Balance to be shipped in S.S. "MONTORO" sailing 13th January.

Dutch East Indies - Admiralty has approved C. IN C. China's proposal to withdraw reporting officers. Officers are to proceed to Singapore.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 22nd December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" expects to enter Port Phillip Heads at 0730 Monday, 25th December.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" departed from Sydney on patrol shortly after 1300 Thursday, 21st December. They will return to harbour to-day.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" - Refit and docking is to be deferred till about the end of January.

H.M.A.S. "BERMAGUI" will carry out the following trials on Saturday, 23rd December. M/S Equipment, Gun Equipment and Firing followed by sweeping trials.

AIR OPERATION.

An air search was carried out yesterday the object of which was to provide clearance for "WAIMARAMA" en route to Sydney where she arrived at 1922/21. The result was negative

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

A new French Command - Admiral Afrique - covering operations of the French Forces on West Coast of Africa between Gibraltar and Dakar has been made, to which Vice Admiral Etienne Ollive has been appointed; his Flag will be flown ashore at Casabeanca.

Force "K", together with "NEPTUNE" and "SEVERN" commenced at 48 hours' sweep in a S.S.Ely. direction on Wednesday presumably from the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro, and destroyers northwards along the Brazilian Coast then eastwards, with the object of intercepting the German ship "ALTMARK". Both Forces will later return to Freetown.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "KOALA's" full power, steering, astern and circle trials have been completed satisfactorily.

Half-yearly promotions will be promulgated from Rugby at 1800 G.M.T. Sunday, 31st December, and repeated at 0330 Monday, 1st January, 1940.

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SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 20th December.

To 0900 Thursday, 21st December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" - arrived Fremantle 1320 Wednesday 20th December and intends to arrive Port Phillip Heads 0730 Monday 25th and Port Melbourne 1300 same day.

"SWAN" - Departed for Port Phillip 20/19

"ORARA" - D.N.O. Victoria has arranged for "SWAN" and "ORARA" to berth at Princes Pier over the week end.

Fremantle until the end of next month.

AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS.

"BERMAGUI" - D.N.O. Victoria advises that trials have been suspended for about three days due to an engine room defect.

"UKI" - M/S equipment and sweeping trials are deferred to 0900 on 22nd December due to non delivery of material.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"ADELE" is to supply a stoker P.O. in craft at temporarily for refrigerator attendant at Victualling yard, Darwin.

TRANSPORTS.

FLAGSHIP - N.Z.N.B. concurs in proposal that "ORION" be Ship Commodore's ship, and proposes "DUNERA" for Vice Commodore.

S.S. "WAINARAWA" should pass through Port Phillip Heads about 0900 this morning.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 20th December.
To 0900 Tuesday, 19th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" will leave Sydney for exercises p.m. Thursday, 21st December returning the following day.

H.M.A.S. "MOBBY" sailed from Sydney Monday 18th December for "YARRA" will be docked to-day Wednesday.

H.M. Naval Board has decided that H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" the 20th M/S Flotilla on the 22nd December and carry out the remanshall remain based on Sydney and H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" on Fremantle until the end of next month.

"ADMIRAL GRAF SPER" left Monte Video harbour at 1817 Sunday 17th December and was scuttled about 5 miles from the Uruguayan shore very AUXILIARY VESSELS. The Ship's Company with the exception of the "scuttling party" were transferred to the German "KOOKABURRA" expects to complete loop laying operation at Darwin on 26th December.

The B.N.A. Buenos Aires now reports that they have been transferred Proposed by C.C.S. that "NAMBUCCA", fitting out in to Sydney for M.S. duties, should be commissioned on 5th class January. The report further states that the whole procedure was arranged with the connivance of the Argentine and Uruguayan C.C.S. has intimated he will requisition the auxiliary schooner "ROOANA" on 20th December. This vessel, subject to appointment of personnel, will take up duty on 23rd December as an examination launch for small craft at Sydney. search of the German "ALTMARK". (This vessel was completed this year 20,000 Gross, speed 22 knots possibly 33).

According to an Admiralty report "SALON" attacked and hit two German Cruisers GENERAL which was "LEIPZIG", on Thursday 14th December. The Press reports officially that "URSULA" attacked and Naval Board has expressed a wish to New Zealand day Naval Board that "ORION" should be Commodore of Convoy's Ship and "RANGITATA" Vice-Commodore's ship.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

S.S. "WAIMARAMA" should pass through Port Phillip Heads about 0900 this morning. "St. Olaves" will be despatched for the U.K. about the 22nd December.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "KOALA" has completed her basin trials satisfactorily.

The C. in C. China reports a serious position in regard to stocks of provisions normally obtained from the U.K. He is directing Commodore Malaya to order from Australia one month's requirements of certain commodities for 10,000 men.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

TRANSPORTS.

To 0900 Tuesday, 19th December, 1939.

The Director of Sea Transport has indicated that the price of oil fuel will increase after the 31st December and it is desirable that OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION. transports at Sydney be taken before this date.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Sydney Monday, 18th December, from W.A. The Commodore of the Convoy leaves Melbourne by train on Wednesday 20th December for Sydney where he has a Conference on Friday. H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" sailed from Sydney Monday 18th December for Moreton Bay.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" subject to N.B. approval will join the 20th M/S Flotilla on the 22nd December and carry out the remainder of her working up programme under the Senior Officer.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

"ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE" left Monte Video harbour at 1817 Sunday 17th December and was scuttled about 5 miles from the Uruguayan shore very shortly after leaving. The Ship's Company with the exception of the "scuttling party" were transferred to the German "TACOMA". This vessel sailed about 1845/17th.

The B.N.A. Buenos Aires now reports that they have been transferred to a lighter and tug with the object of proceeding to the Argentine where it is suspected they will land clandestinely. The report further states that the whole procedure was arranged with the connivance of the Argentine and Uruguayan Authorities.

Force "K" ("ARK ROYAL", "RENOWN") "NEPTUNE" and "SEVERN" have been ordered to return to Freetown carrying out a sweep en route in search of the German "ALTMARK". (This vessel was completed this year 20,000 Gross, speed 22 knots possibly 33).

According to an Admiralty report "SALMON" attacked and hit two German Cruisers one of which was "LEIPZIG", on Thursday 14th December. The Press reports officially that "URSULA" attacked and sank one of the "Koenigsberg" Class on the same day.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

It is expected that the tug "St. Olaves" will be despatched for the U.K. about the 22nd December.

GENERAL.

H.M.A.S. "KOALA" has completed her basin trials satisfactorily.

The C. in C. China reports a serious position in regard to stocks of provisions normally obtained from the U.K. He is directing Commodore Malaya to order from Australia one month's requirements of certain commodities for 10,000 men.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 18 TRANSPORTS. 1939.

The Director of Sea Transport has indicated that the price of oil fuel will increase after the 31st December and it is desirable that any supplies of fuel to transports at Sydney be taken before this date.

"SYDNEY" - will be at 48 hours' notice during her leave period, and not. The Commodore of the Convoy leaves Melbourne by train on Wednesday 20th December for Sydney where he has a Conference on Friday with the necessary authorities and later embarks in "ORION" for New Zealand.

"WALLAIDA" - will provide cover for "STRATHALLEN" around Lecuin between Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th December.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"GLORIOUS" (Force J) is to proceed to Malta where she will exchange aircraft.

"GRAF SPEE" - B.N.A. Buenos Aires reports that the "Graf Spee" has been granted 72 hours from 1800/14 to undertake essential repairs before putting to sea; viz. until 0800K/16. He is pressing for internment on the grounds that a workman and materials have been supplied from shore. Her departure has been delayed also by the periodic sailing of British ships and the consequent 24 hours delay imposed upon sailing thereafter. The Uruguayan authorities have placed a naval tug alongside to prevent unauthorised sailing - if possible. Arrangements have also been made by the B.N.A. to have a British ship break wireless seal when the Graf Spee sails, and a fast motor boat has also been arranged.

The Admiralty has directed ships to engage anywhere outside the three mile limit.

"NEPTUNE", "ARK ROYAL", "RENOUN" are proceeding to Rio for fuel. Force K will arrive at 2100K/17. "ARK ROYAL" will leave at 1000K/18, "RENOUN" at 2100K/18, and will proceed at 25 knots to the Plate. The distance is 960 miles, say 40 hours steaming.

"DORSETSHIRE" and "SHROPSHIRE" are proceeding towards Falkland Islands, in the endeavour to prevent escape to the Southward, and "DISPATCH" is proceeding down the West coast of South America to Magellan Straits, fuelling as necessary at Chilean ports.

The Admiralty considers that the Graf Spee is the only pocket battleship operating in the Southern Ocean.

TRANSPORTS.

H.O. Wellington has allocated the following reference numbers:

Convoy N.Z.I.	" <u>EMPERESS OF CANADA</u> "	21
	" <u>DUNERA</u> "	22
	" <u>OTRANTO</u> "	23
	" <u>ORION</u> "	24
	" <u>FRANCITATA</u> "	25
	" <u>BOLESKI</u> "	26

MOST SECRET

2.

H.N.A.S. "LEANDER" will be referred to as Jobs 56 and 57 respectively.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 18th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SYDNEY" - will be at 48 hours' notice during her leave period, and not 24 as previously advised. 6" cordite only will be disembarked; commencing 0600 Tuesday.

"ADELAIDE" - will provide cover for "STRATHALLEN" around Leeuwin between Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th December.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"GLORIOUS" (Force J) is to proceed to Malta where she will exchange aircraft.

"GRAF SPEE" - B.N.A. Buenos Aires reports that the "Graf Spee" has been granted 72 hours from 1800/14 to undertake essential repairs before putting to sea; viz. until 0800K/18. He is pressing for internment on the grounds that a workman and materials have been supplied from shore. Her departure has been delayed also by the periodic sailing of British ships and the consequent 24 hours delay imposed upon sailing thereafter. The Uruguayan authorities have placed a naval tug alongside to prevent unauthorised sailing - if possible. Arrangements have also been made by the B.N.A. to have a British ship break wireless seal when the Graf Spee sails, and a fast motor boat has also been arranged.

The Admiralty has directed ships to engage anywhere outside the three mile limit.

"NEPTUNE", "ARK ROYAL", "RENOWN" are proceeding to Rio for fuel. Force K will arrive at 2100K/17. "ARK ROYAL" will leave at 1000K/18, "RENOWN" at 2100K/18, and will proceed at 25 knots to the Plate. The distance is 980 miles, say 40 hours steaming.

"DORSETSHIRE" and "SHROPSHIRE" are proceeding towards Falkland Islands, in the endeavour to prevent escape to the Southward, and "DESPATCH" is proceeding down the West coast of South America to Magellan Straits, fuelling as necessary at Chilean ports.

The Admiralty considers that the Graf Spee is the only pocket battleship operating in the Southern Ocean.

TRANSPORTS.

N.O. Wellington has allocated the following reference numbers:

Convoy N.Z.I.	" <u>EMPRESS OF CANADA</u> "	Z1
	" <u>DUNERA</u> "	Z2
	" <u>OTRANTO</u> "	Z3
	" <u>ORION</u> "	Z4
	" <u>RANGITATA</u> "	Z5
	" <u>SOBIESKI</u> "	Z6

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" will be referred to as Jobs 56 and 57 respectively.

It is proposed to embark the Commodore of the Convoy in "RANGITATA".

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

GENERAL INTEREST.

ADMIRAL CUSTANCE - The press reports the death of Admiral Custance at sea while on passage to England.

COMMANDER TURNER - has assumed command of H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".

MAGNETIC MINES - The Admiralty states that indications exist that these mines are ineffective against destroyers at depths in excess of 16 fathoms; against 6000 ton ships at depth exceeding 22 fathoms; against 10,000 ton ships at depths exceeding 30 fathoms; and capital ships at depths exceeding 40 fathoms. Ships should navigate in deeper water where practicable as indicated. Masters of Allied merchant ships will be instructed to break W/T silence to report any German merchant ships of whose identities they are certain.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

In recognition of the recent successful action fought off MONTEVIDEO, the following decorations have been conferred by His Majesty :-

Commodore H.H. Harwood to be a Knight Commander of the Bath and promoted to Rear-Admiral to date 13th December, the date of the action.

Captains of H.M. Ships "ACHILLES", "AJAX" and "EXETER" to be Companions of the Bath.

Captain F.S. Bell of H.M.S. "EXETER" was loaned to the R.A.N. about seven years ago and for a short period carried out the duties of Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff.

Foreign Office has instructed H.M. Minister at MONTEVIDEO that he is to be guided by Rear-Admiral Harwood as to the period of delay in departure of "GRAF SPEE" which would suit us best if Uruguayan Government refuses to intern her. The Admiral has advised the Minister that a delay of three or four days from 16th December is desirable.

H.M. Ships "SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE" (3 - 8" guns) and "NEPTUNE" (3 - 6" guns) and H.M. submarine "SEVERN" are proceeding to River Plate. R.A. Aircraft Carriers in "ARK ROYAL" on arrival in River Plate will be in charge of operations against "GRAF SPEE" and is to report if further reinforcements are required to ensure the enemy does not escape.

ADMIRALTY.

In future death charges are to be filled with amatol instead of T.N.T.

SECRET.DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 16th December, 1939.

To 0900 Sunday, 17th December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

R.A.F. H.M.A. Ships - "CANBERRA" undocks 0830 Monday, 18th and December.

"SYDNEY" will give leave from noon on Tuesday 19th December until Friday 29th December during which period she will be at 24 hours notice.

"MANOORA" docks 1030 Monday, 18th December.

"UKI" will carry out M.S. trials on Tuesday, 19th December, and gunnery trials the following day.
"BERMAGUI" will carry out M.S. trials on Wednesday, 20th December and gunnery trials on Thursday, 21st December.

N.C.S.

Masters of Allied merchant ships will be instructed to break W/T silence to report any German merchant ships of whose identities they are certain.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

In recognition of the recent successful action fought off MONTEVIDEO, the following decorations have been conferred by His Majesty :-

Commodore H.H. Harwood to be a Knight Commander of the Bath and promoted to Rear-Admiral to date 13th December, the date of the action.

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The Foreign Office has instructed H.M. Minister at MONTEVIDEO that he is to be guided by Rear-Admiral Harwood as to the period of delay in departure of "GRAF SPEE" which would suit us best if Uruguayan Government refuses to intern her. The Admiral has advised the Minister that a delay of three or four days from 16th December is desirable.

H.M. Ships "SHROPSHIRE" and "DORSETSHIRE" (8 - 8" guns) and "NEPTUNE" (8 - 6" guns) and H.M. submarine "SEVERN" are proceeding to River Plate. R.A. Aircraft Carriers in "ARK ROYAL" on arrival in River Plate will be in charge of operations against "GRAF SPEE" and is to report if further reinforcements are required to ensure the enemy does not escape.

ADMIRALTY.

In future depth charges are to be filled with increased amatol instead of T.N.T.

Appointments. Commander H.E. Turner to "MORSEBY" in Command to date 17th December.

Lieutenant-Commander W.R. Martin to "CERBERUS" for duties at Navy Office.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 16th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CAMDENRA" - Dock at 1200 14th December.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" - it is approved to defer the refit until the middle of January.

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" - has arrived at Darwin with the Cable and Stores for the Indicator Loop.

H.M.A.S. "KOOKABURRA" - has commenced laying the cable for the Indicator Loop at Darwin.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" and "DOOMBA" - will not be available for M/S duties for one week from Monday, 18th December owing to work on the winches being carried out.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.
An enemy force of two heavy ships, cruisers and destroyers have been detected in position 58° 47' N. 4° E. Other reports have been received of detached H.M.A. Ships "WATERHEN" and "VENDETTA" arrived at Malta on Thursday, 14th December.

"ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE" ACTION.
An Admiralty report states that H.M.S. "BA LION" carried out an action with the South Sea Force consisting of two Deutschland, two Blipps and two Leipzig.

The Uruguayan Government will grant "Admiral Graf Spee" up to 48 or 60 hours' stay in harbour (Monte Video) in order that she may make herself seaworthy; there is no sign of her moving.

The C. in C. South Atlantic considers that there is a possibility of enemy submarines in the Plate Area and it is essential that destroyers should join Force "K" as early as possible, but the arrival of this Force should not be delayed on this account.

Details of the action, which are mutilated, appear to show the following details:-

The 2 - 6" cruisers broke off the action owing to a shortage of ammunition but continued shadowing the enemy.

H.M.S. "EXETER" - the Commodore Commanding, S.A. Div. A. & W.I. is unaware of the damage and casualties owing to the necessity for maintaining W/T silence by "EXETER", who is proceeding to the Falkland Islands. Her speed is reduced to 18 knots and after the action one gun was left in local control.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" - as a result of the action 4 ratings are dead and three seriously wounded, of the former 2 are N.Z. ratings as also are two of the latter. The signal refers to Shrapnel wounds.

H.M.S. "AJAX" - two turrets put out of action.

GENERAL.

War Risk - Seamen's Union application for increased wages. Chief Judge Beeby has directed that the case be heard in camera and that no shorthand notes are to be taken.

Appointments. Commander H.E. Turner to "MORESBY" in Command to date 17th December.

Lieutenant-Commander W.H. Martin to "CERBERUS" for duties at Navy Office.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 15th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "CANBERRA" - Dock at 1300 14th December.
- "MORESBY" - Leaves Sydney 18th December on A/S training cruise to Moreton Bay, and returns 29th December.
- "ORA RA " - Arrived Port Melbourne 14th December.
- "SWAN" - C.C.S. advises could be taken in hand on completion of "YARRA" on 22nd December, but that it would suit the dockyard programme to delay her refit until the middle of January.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

An enemy force of two heavy ships, cruisers and destroyers have been sighted by a submarine patrol in position 56° 47'N. 4'E. Other reports have been received of detached destroyers. No signals have been intercepted of British dispositions other than submarines.

An Admiralty report states that H.M.S. "SA LNON" carried out an attack on Wednesday on a North Sea Force consisting of two Deutchlands, two Hippers and two Leipsizs.

GRAF SPEE - The pocket battleship taking refuge at Montevideo has been identified as the Graf Spee. S.O.(I), Monte Video has been directed to delay the ship in Port as long as possible, using all possible means to do this. It would also appear that shipping outward bound from Monte Video and Buenos Aires has been stopped.

FORCE "M". - Admiralty proposes, subject to the concurrence of the French Government, to use this force, in addition to Job 55 for the Convoy between Australia and Colombo.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"COLEBAR" - Will commission on 18th December.

D.E.M.S.

The following is the present position :-

	<u>Completed</u>	<u>In hand</u>
A.M.Cs.	3	2
Fast Liners and D.E.M.S.	104	12
R.A.F.A.	1	-
Auxiliary M/S	7	5
Fast M/S	2	-
A /S	-	3

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

PORT MORESBY - N.O.I.C. advises that contract for purchase of the "BARETO" should not be finalised at present. Further engine replacements have been found necessary.

[Handwritten signature]

NAVAL CONTROL.

In order to reduce signal traffic in accordance with Admiralty instructions, C. in C., China, asks whether the weekly report of British merchant shipping in inter allied cypher is necessary.

GENERAL.

A/S Trainees - N.L.O. is to ascertain whether Admiralty require the services of 70 R.A.N.R. Officers and Ratings who are specially selected members of the R.A.N.V.R. but are not seagoing. If their services are not required, they will be demobilised and the future training of similar personnel discontinued.

Admiralty Weekly Summary - Part 1 will be in future be divided into two parts, (a) and (b). (a) is secret. (b) may be used "to impress local dignatories and service officials when the occasion demands, and with discretion".

Captain Farquhar Smith - Has assumed duties as D.N.O., W.A.

Commodore J.W.A. Waller - Has assumed duties as Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney.

"MORESBY" - N.O.C.S. asks that the ship be completed to complement as early as possible.

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SECRET.
SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 14th December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships

"SYDNEY" left Fremantle Wednesday, 13th December and will arrive Sydney, Monday, 18th December.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Fremantle 13th December and has taken over the duties of S.O. Force "ZZ".

"KANIMBLA" left Sydney for Singapore 13th December. En route she will call at Island anchorages and Rabaul on 21st December entering the China Station a week later.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

Neutral merchant vessels are to be encouraged to sail in our convoys particularly when carrying cargoes to or exports from United Kingdom.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

AUXILIARY W/S An intercepted signal originated by Commodore Commanding S.A. Div. A. & W.I. Squadron at 0615 on 13th December addressed to Forces 'K' ("ARK ROYAL" and "RENOWN") and 'X' ("STRASSBOURG" and "HERMES") is of outstanding interest and reads as follows:-

"1 Pocket Battleship 034° South 049° West, course 275°".

This position is approximately 300 miles East of Monte Video and 1200 miles N.E. of Falkland Islands.

Since H.M.S. "EXETER", flagship of the abovementioned Commodore, sailed from Falkland Islands on 9th December, she could quite easily have been in the position referred to on 13th December and the intercepted message appears to be a sighting of enemy report.

Another intercepted message somewhat mutilated, originated by H.M.S. "ACHILLES" three hours later, seems to confirm this view. "ACHILLES" reports an alteration of course by the enemy and has informed Forces 'K' and 'X' of her distance (53') and bearing from the enemy.

The latest information in regard to the dispositions of Allied Warships in the areas embraced by the Pacific Intelligence Organization includes the following:--

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" | At Hong Kong. |
| " " "ARAWA" | Left Hong Kong 11th December for South Japan patrol. |
| H.M.A.S. "HOBART" | Left Bombay 10th December escorting a convoy. |
| " " "STUART" | Left Aden 10th December for Mediterranean. |
| " " "VAMPIRE") | Left Colombo 8th December for Aden and Mediterranean. |
| " " "VOYAGER") | |

SECRET.
SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 13th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" - the docking programme has been advanced 24 hours and it is proposed to place her in dock on Thursday 14th December.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" - was commissioned on Tuesday 12th December under the command of Commander A.H. Spurgeon.

AUXILIARY M/S.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

At least eight enemy aircraft were reported to be near the East Coast of the Northern part of Scotland at 1000 yesterday.

GENERAL INTEREST.

AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS.

The District Naval Officer, Western Australia, reports the probable date of the completion of "BONTHORPE" is the 1st February.

CREWS D.E.M.S.

The New Zealand Naval Board have requested from the Admiralty information regarding the Guns Crew of the "DORIC STAR" (Sunk in South Atlantic about 5th December) who were three in number, and all Able Seamen R.N.V.R.

GENERAL.

The Admiralty have drawn attention to the earlier instructions that the scuttling of German Merchant Ships was to be prevented and this is now placed as a matter of "the very highest importance".

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 11th December.

The following dry docking programme has been
To 0900 Tuesday, 12th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle 10th
December OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"MORESBY", "TONGKOL" and "GOOLGWAI" will 10th
proceed from Sydney for exercise. On completion M/S
proceed to Broken Bay. Discharge 4000 tons oil fuel to
"KURUMBA", thence to Williamsstown to discharge balance of
cargo. This ship "BERMAGUI" and "UKI" commissioned at
Melbourne, 11th December.

H.C.S. "WARRIOR" enters dock Thursday, 14th December.
AUXILIARY M/S. British M.V. "SALMARAMA", bound for Vancouver
via Sydney with bullion from South Africa, arrived Fremantle
a.m. 10th December. Minesweeping trials of "DOOMBA" and "ORARA"
are to be suspended until further orders.

G.N.V. "ADMIRALTY" on the station from midnight
local time.

Next of kin particulars of all officers
employed are required GENERAL INTEREST.

German ship "TACOMA" has been granted 1600
tons oil fuel by the Uruguayan authorities. "VICTORIA" takes
place Tuesday, 12th December. Flugs will be flown at half
mast in H.M.A.S. "CUMBERLAND" relieved "EXETER" at Falkland
Island on the 9th December.
Masters of British Merchant Vessels have been
warned that it is F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy, Bombay, desires
to be 400 depth charges as soon as possible.

C.C.S. intends hiring 50 ft. auxiliary
schooner as an additional examination vessel to cope with
the seasonal increase of small craft traffic at Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "VALIANT" has completed reconstruction and
modernisation and on completion of preliminary full power sea
gun trials is to proceed from Plymouth to Bermuda to work up,
after which she is to proceed to Halifax and return to the
United Kingdom as an Ocean Escort to an important convoy.

The Admiralty have requested as soon as possible
reports based on actual experience regarding the performance
and endurance of A.N.Cs.

FRANCE NAVY DEPARTMENT BUREAU.
A dispatch from S.O.(X), Wellington, states that,
in accordance with information received from the French Naval
Authorities, this ship is to refit at Sydney and her programme
provides for her arrival there on the 1st February, 1940.

AMERICAN NAVY DEPARTMENT.
The Admiralty have communicated the names, age
date of capture, together with the amount to be served of 4

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 10th December, 1940.

To 0900 Monday, 11th December.

The following dry docking programme has been arranged for H.M.A. Ships :-

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" enter dock Friday, 10th December.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle 10th December from patrol.

"MANOORA" enter dock Monday, 18th December.

The Oiler "WAR KRISHNA" arrived Darwin 10th December. Having obtained the requisite charts, she will proceed to Fremantle to discharge 4000 tons oil fuel to "KURUMBA", thence to Williamstown to discharge balance of cargo. This ship will then proceed to Singapore to load oil fuel for Darwin.

Undock Sunday, 7th January.

N.C.S. "YARRA" enter dock Thursday, 21st December.

British M.V. "WAIMARAMA", bound for Vancouver via Sydney with bullion from South Africa, arrived Fremantle a.m. 10th December. Minesweeper "YAMBAR" arrived at Brisbane on Thursday, 7th December.

G.M.T. ADMIRALTY. on the Station from midnight local time.

Next of kin particulars of all officers employed are required.

"SYDNEY" to The funeral of H.R.H. Princess Louise - until her death the last surviving daughter of Queen Victoria - takes place Tuesday, 12th December. Flags will be flown at half mast in H.M.A. Establishments. Flotilla consisting of "SWAN", "YARRA" and "ORARA" will be formed and operate under the orders of R.A.C.A.S. Masters of British Merchant Vessels have been warned that it is most important they should reply at once, both by day and night, to signals received from warships.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

By D/F bearings on 7th December an enemy ship was somewhere between Prince Edward Island and Durban but the Admiralty is unable to state the distance from African coast. December for raiding.

H.M.S. "VALIANT" has completed reconstruction and modernisation and on completion of preliminary full power and gun trials is to proceed from Plymouth to Bermuda to work up, after which she is to proceed to Halifax and return to the United Kingdom as an Ocean Escort to an important convoy.

A.M.Cs.

The Admiralty have requested as soon as possible reports based on actual experience regarding the performance and endurance of A.M.Cs.

FRENCH SLOOP "DUMONT D'URVILLE".

A signal from S.O.(I), Wellington, states that, in accordance with information received from the French Naval Authorities, this sloop is to refit at Sydney and her programme provides for her arrival there on the 1st February, 1940.

BULLION SHIPMENTS.

The Admiralty have communicated the names, due date at Capetown, together with the amount to be carried of 4

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SECRET.

To 0900 Sunday, 10th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

The following dry docking programme has been arranged for H.M.A. Ships :-

"CANBERRA" enter dock Friday, ¹⁵ 16th December.
Undock Monday, 18th December.

"MANOORA" enter dock Monday, 18th December.
Undock Sunday, 24th December.

"SYDNEY" enter dock Tuesday, 26th December.
Undock Thursday, 28th December.

"AUSTRALIA" enter dock Thursday, 4th January.
Undock Sunday, 7th January.

"YARRA" enter dock Thursday, 21st December.
Undock Saturday, 23rd December.

H.M.A. Minesweeper "TAMBAR" arrived at Brisbane on Thursday, 7th December.

G.M.T. introduced on the Station from midnight local time.

REFITTING.

"SYDNEY" to commence 10 day refit on Tuesday, 19th December.
"AUSTRALIA" to commence 10 day refit on Friday, 29th December.

20th Minesweeper Flotilla consisting of "SWAN", "YARRA" and "ORARA" will be formed and operate under the orders of R.A.C.A.S. at 2300 Sunday, 10th December. "DOOMBA" will join this Flotilla about Monday, 18th December.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

A report received by the Admiralty is to the effect that a number of U Boats may leave Wilhelmshaven on 9th or 10th December for raiding.

H.M.S. "VALIANT" has completed reconstruction and modernisation and on completion of preliminary full power and gun trials is to proceed from Plymouth to Bermuda to work up, after which she is to proceed to Halifax and return to the United Kingdom as an Ocean Escort to an important convoy.

A.M.Cs.

The Admiralty have requested as soon as possible reports based on actual experience regarding the performance and endurance of A.M.Cs.

FRENCH SLOOP "DUMONT D'URVILLE".

A signal from S.O.(I), Wellington, states that, in accordance with information received from the French Naval Authorities, this sloop is to refit at Sydney and her programme provides for her arrival there on the 1st February, 1940.

BULLION SHIPMENTS.

The Admiralty have communicated the names, due date at Capetown, together with the amount to be carried of 4

more British Ships carrying bullion :-

"PORT JACKSON"	Capetown	13th	December	£500,000
"ULYSSES"	"	17th	"	£1,500,000
"GATTIE" <small>COPY 12</small>	"	29th	"	£1,000,000
"KARAMEA"	"	29th	"	£1,000,000.

GENERAL.

In reply to Naval Board's enquiry S.O.(I), Colombo, reports that "ORONTES" arrived there on 6th December.

TROOP CONVOY.

The New Zealand Naval Board have agreed to the proposal that the Commodore of the Convoy should be supplied ^{from} the R.A.N. and the Vice Commodore from the N.Z. Naval Forces.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 9th December, 1939.

2nd A.I.F. and N.Z. Expeditionary Force

TROOPSHIPS - The present position regarding the passage of troops is as follows:- Advance party from New Zealand will leave in the "AWATEA" and together with Australian Advance Party will leave Sydney in the "STRATHALLEN" on 15th December.

The New Zealand Contingent will sail from New Zealand on the 6th January in the following ships: "DUNERA", "EMPERESS OF CANADA", "OTRANTO", "ORION", "RANGITATA", and "SOBIESKI". They will rendezvous with the Australian Contingent which will leave Sydney on 10th January in the following ships: "EMPERESS OF JAPAN", "ORCADES", "STRATHNAVER", "STRATHAIRD" and "ORFORD". Reference numbers will in future be used in lieu of names as follows:- U1, U2, U4 and U5 respectively. New Zealand has been asked to allot numbers similarly.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "CANBERRA" - C.C.S. advises all defects cannot be rectified within 10 days, particularly regarding gun mountings, but that outstanding work could proceed if ship could be made available at 8 hours' notice.
- "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" - Arrived Sydney about 1700/8.
- "KANIMBLA" - Arrived Sydney about 2300/8.
- "SYDNEY" - Having searched unsuccessfully for her lost torpedo has now abandoned the search.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

ENEMY SUPPLY SHIPS - Admiralty consider it probable that fast tankers of "DITHMARSCHEN" Class are used for fuelling raiders. "WESTERWALD" of this class reported armed with 3 6" and several anti aircraft guns.

"DUNKERQUE" - British signal and cypher staffs have been embarked. Admiralty report indication by D/F of enemy unit near Prince Edward Island (46S 38E) on 7/12.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- "BONTHORPE" D.N.O. W.A. reports that excepting skipper and mate, crew can be obtained locally.
- "St.OLAVES" Because of prevailing weather conditions, "St.OLAVES" will be sailed for Colombo via Fremantle and not by Torres Strait.

A.M.C.'s.

- "WESTRALIA" - Construction of bullet proof shelters on the control platform is approved but the work is deferred until bullet proof plating is available.

NAVAL CONTROL.

Admiralty has instructed C. in C.'s of outlying Stations to ensure that no unnecessary delays are imposed upon shipping. Where local authorities insist on closing a port at night, the matter should be referred to the Admiralty. (Note. This signal is not addressed to N.B.)

GENERAL INTEREST.

Comodore Phillips is returning to the United Kingdom in the "STRATHALLEN" departing Sydney on 15th December.

SABOTAGE - It is considered by the Naval Board that enemy agents are originating rumours of sinkings and sabotage of ships, and of sightings of enemy ships and aircraft.

"KURUMBA" - Repairs of steering gear are in hand. It is anticipated that the crew will refuse to sail should the ship put to sea with defective gear. D.N.O. has a naval crew standing by.

"AUTOMEDON" - Will not complete loading at Townsville until p.m. 11/12, and is now due at Port Alma on 13/12.

DESTROYERS SPARE GEAR. All items of spare gear and propellers available are being shipped in the "AUTOMEDON".

"KURUMBA" - Oil stocks having been reduced to approx. 500 tons, the Admiralty's approval has been obtained to divert the "WAR KRISHNA" from Darwin to replenish stocks at Fremantle and Williamstown.

CHRISTMAS LEAVE - will be granted where practicable to shore establishments for six days.

CEREMONIAL. Admiralty advise that no salutes will be fired or ceremonial parades or dressing ship will take place in U.K. ports during hostilities. In neutral ports the practice is to be continued where possible.

HARWICH - The port has been closed until further notice.

BOOBY ISLAND - W.S.S. reported ready to operate except at night because of atmospherics.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday 8th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" sailed for Sydney. E.T.A. 1700/8. F.O.C.A.S. proposes refit of "CANBERRA" should commence on Saturday 9th and long leave should be given from noon on that day.

"KANIMBLA" on passage Sydney.

"SYDNEY" sailed from Fremantle 7th and returns on 10th.

Docking programme for cruisers has been arranged as follows:--

8" gun cruiser 9th - 18th Dec.

"SYDNEY" 19th - 28th Dec.

8" gun cruiser 29th Dec. - 7th Jan.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

Admiralty report damaged U-boat with escort off Texel.

Mines have been discovered in the entrance to Humber.

AUXILIARY M/S

"BERMAGUI" and "UKI" will be ready for commissioning on 11th Dec.

"St.OLAVES" - owners now propose to sail this ship via Fremantle and Colombo.

GENERAL.

Extensive curtailment of lights on east coast of England is published.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday 7th December, 1939.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived and berthed at Port Melbourne p.m. Wednesday, 6th.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" arrived and berthed at Williamstown p.m. Wednesday, 6th.

Both of the above ships will sail at 1100 today.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" departed from Sydney a.m. Wednesday 6th on patrol. Subsequently ordered to proceed to Fremantle where she expects to arrive at 0600 Wednesday 13th December.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" is ordered to turn over her duties to "ADELAIDE" on arrival of the latter after which she is to proceed to Sydney and arrive there not later than p.m. Monday, 18th December.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" berthed at Princes Pier a.m. Wednesday 6th December from Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" arrived Sydney a.m. Wednesday 6th December from Brisbane.

H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" departed from Port Phillip p.m. Wednesday 6th December for Sydney. She is to sail on Wednesday 13th December for Singapore visiting ports and places en route and arrive not later than Thursday 4th January.

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" departed from Thursday Island, Wednesday 6th December and expects to arrive Darwin Tuesday 11th December.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

Force "I" is to proceed to the Cape and establish a patrol to the Southward. This Force is to temporarily come under the orders of C. in C. South Atlantic.

German Naval W/T procedure indicates the movement of surface ships in the North Sea, similar procedure in the past has been the forerunner of bombing attacks.

An Intercept from the R.O. at Bahia Blanca to the Admiralty reported the sailing of the German "USSUKUMA" from that port at 1900 4th December. A report from Capetown in today's Press states this vessel has been captured in spite of an attempt made to scuttle her.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

D.N.O. Fremantle reports that "BONTHORPE" was taken over on 1st December and that fitting out will probably take six weeks.

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0000 Wednesday, 2nd December, 1943.

2.

TUG "St.OLAVES"

Was requisitioned at Sydney on Wednesday 6th. Subject to a crew being available this vessel should sail for the United Kingdom about the 20th December via Torres Strait and Suez Canal.

GENERAL.

Boom Defence Course - arrangements are in train for one Lieutenant-Commander, 2 C.P.O.'s and 2 P.O.'s to undergo a two months' course at Singapore.

ADMIRAL BROWN

Admiral reports attacks on 2/12 on 2nd and 3rd December in position approx. 20 S 4 E, via about 200 miles S.E. of St. Helena. No further reports of the ships have been received.

The file taken by the Dutch ship "Amelia" at her meeting with the pocket battleship south of Madagascar on 12/11 has been developed and no doubt exists that the enemy was of Admiral Scherer class, but may be Graf von Spee.

ADMIRAL FRANKS

Proposals to collect ship to give draft of 7'3" fore and aft is approved. Also approved to provide electric coal rack of 50 cu. feet capacity.

Revised.

has been fitted in Glasgow with a 4.7" gun (made in Japan).

Revised.

H.O.C.O. gives further particulars relative to proposed supplies and equipment. If installed, completion date will be delayed to end January.

ADMIRAL BROWN

H.O.C. suggests aerial netting to be drafted for refrigeration plant to avoid difficulties with local labour.

reports large portions of protective skin along fore after engine room starboard side and also along fore and aft in starboard after engine room. Skins are investigated but cannot fully verify the extent.

Continued 1900 E on 1/12 S.E. of St. Helena. More of origin will be used at Adelaide Station.

Admiral advises no decision yet reached as regards of type to be used for requisitioned vessels. Negotiations may result in substitution, and no decision can be expected for at least three weeks.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 6th December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"DOOMBA" - Arrived Williamstown about 1400/5.

"KURUMBA" - Arrived Fremantle 5/12. Approval has been given for repairs to steering engine to be made locally.

"WONGALA" - D.N.O. Brisbane advised that lifebuoys bearing ship's name had been picked up near Townsville. Subsequent reports denote ship arrived Thursday Island on 5/12.

"YARRA" - Is due Sydney 0900 today.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"ADMIRAL SCHEER" - Admiralty reports attacks on M/V's on 2nd and 3rd December in position approx. 20 S 4 E, viz. about 500 miles S.E. of St. Helens. No further reports of the ships have been received.

The film taken by the Dutch ship "MAPIA" at her meeting with the pocket battleship South of Madagascar on 16/11 has been developed and no doubt exists that the enemy was of Admiral Scheer class, but may be Graf Von Spee.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"COOLEBAR" - Proposals to ballast ship to give draft of 7'3" fore and aft is approved. Also approved to provide electric cool room of 60 cu. feet capacity.

D.E.M.S.

"THEMISTOCLES" - has been fitted in Glasgow with a 4.7" gun (made in Japan).

A.M.C.'s.

"MANOORA" - H.O.C.S. gives further particulars relative to proposed seaplane and catapult. If installed, completion date will be delayed to end January.

GENERAL INTEREST.

DARWIN.

D.N.O. suggests naval rating be drafted for refrigerating plant to avoid difficulties with local labour.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" - reports large portions of protective zinc ring from after engine room starboard maininlet sea tube have been found in starboard after condenser. Divers are investigating but cannot fully rectify the matter.

TIMES OF ORIGIN. - Commencing 1400 Z on 9/12 G.M.T. times of origin will be used on Australia Station.

Admiralty advises no decision yet reached on rates of hire to be paid for requisitioned vessels. Negotiations may result in arbitration, and no decision can be expected for at least three weeks.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 5th December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" on arrival tomorrow morning will fuel at Nelson Pier, Williamstown.

"YARRA" left Port Melbourne yesterday for Sydney and on arrival 6th December, will commence refit.

"TAMBAR" left Sydney for Brisbane 4th December.

"MORESBY" " Brisbane for Sydney " "

"DOOMBA") Will berth at Williamstown today.
"ORARA")

H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" sailed for Port Phillip yesterday for exercises.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" requiring repairs and a new steering engine left Albany Sunday, 3rd December for Fremantle.

Bullion is being shipped from South Africa to Vancouver via Australia in S.S. "WAIMARAMA" due Fremantle Sunday, 10th December. If practicable, cover is to be provided by F.O.C.A.S. and S.O. Force "ZZ" whilst this vessel is in the focal areas between Fremantle and Sydney.

A.M.C.'s. "MANOORA" will commission at Sydney on 12th December, but will probably be in Dockyard hands until early in the New Year.

AUXILIARY VESSELS. Personnel for "KOALA" is required as soon as practicable.

EXAMINATION SERVICE. Approval has been given to a request from N.O.C.S. to charter a launch to assist the examination vessel at Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

Ships in Area "A" have been instructed by the Admiralty to navigate whenever possible in waters of over 35 fathoms, presumably to minimise the danger of magnetic mines.

Master of Dutch ship "MAPIA" has reported to C.O.I.S., Far East, that he was stopped by the pocket battleship "ADMIRAL SCHEER" on 16th November in a position about 300 miles South West of Madagascar which seems to agree with the position of the raider as fixed by D/F bearings on that date. A cinematograph film taken of this incident is now being developed in Singapore.

Force "K" ("RENOUN" and "ARK ROYAL") was ordered on 3rd December to leave the Cape and sweep up the West Coast of South Africa.

"DORSETSHIRE" is proceeding with despatch to the Cape and will come under the orders of C. in C. South Atlantic.

Force "H" ("SUSSEX" and "SHROPSHIRE") sailed from Simonstown on 3rd December and will also come under the orders of C. in C. South Atlantic.

LATE NEWS: Reported by Admiralty "ADMIRAL SCHEER" attacked merchant ships in position 600' S.W. Lobito on 2nd and 3rd December.

ADMIRALTY.

Advises Germans may have started a campaign to damage oil well refineries throughout the world. Whilst this report may be without foundation, Naval and local Military authorities have been informed so that any necessary action may be taken.

States enemy mine laying is not particularly successful and is confident the menace will soon be overcome.

Having experienced heavy weather and shipped water forward sheltered in Teaford Bay. Sailed for Port Phillip 1800/3.

and CAMBERNA sailed from Albany, N.T.A. Port Melbourne 1800/3. F.O.C.A.S. considers it advisable that ships should avoid being damaged.

Commanding - C in C Mediterranean has asked that spare gear necessary for J.A.S. destroyers be forwarded to Malta.

Commanding - C in C China approves proposed programme for this ship and suggests that work should also be made at certain work-rooms on the north coast of New Guinea.

YANNA, F.O.C.A.S. propose that she should commence refit on arrival Sydney on the 4th ship sailed at 0800 towing target for Kanishia. F.O.C.A.S. made signal on 1st December ordering her to Sydney, but signal not received until 4th December.

Operations - Success.

C in C China (LIVERPOOL) sails from Singapore 4th for Hong Kong 6th.

for

MOST SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

To 0900 Monday 4th December, 1939. Nelson's Pier about 0700 on

"TAMBAR" - Arrived Sydney S.M. on 2nd December.

Operations - Australia Station.

ADELAIDE proposes to sail 6th December for exercises and patrol returning on the 8th.

DOOMBA having experienced heavy weather and shipped water forward sheltered in Twofold Bay. Sailed for Port Phillip 1800/3.

AUSTRALIA and CANBERRA sailed from Albany E.T.A. Port Melbourne 0820z/6. F.O.C.A.S. considers it advisable that ships should dock during December.

DESTROYERS - C in C Mediterranean has asked that spare gear machinery for R.A.N. destroyers be forwarded to Malta.

KANIMBLA. C in C China approves proposed programme for this ship and suggests that calls should also be made at certain anchorages on the north coast of New Guinea.

YARRA. F.O.C.A.S. proposes that she should commence refit on arrival Sydney on the 5th. Ship sailed at 0830 towing target for Kanimbla. F.O.C.A.S. made signal on 1st December ordering her to Sydney, but signal not received until 4th December.

Operations - Overseas.

C in C China (LIVERPOOL) sails from Singapore 4th for Hong Kong 9th.

"VAMPIRE" and "VOYAGER"

- After being taken in hand at Colombo for boiler clean and defects in "VOYAGER", will sail for Aden and Mediterranean about 9th December.

A.M.C.

"KANGARA" - N.O.C.S. proposes to commission on 15th December and reconductors crew on board. Deckyard not expected to finish until early in January.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"KINARA" - Has been accepted at Brisbane on 2nd December, as owners state unable to obtain a cargo for Sydney. D.N.C. advised to obtain maximum amount of freight for Sydney which will be offset against hiring charges.

MAINTENANCE SURVEYS.

PORT MORREY - N.O.I.C. reports probable date of completion of "BARKO" overhaul as 8th December. He suggests purchase at 0400.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"KOLA" - Machinery trials are proposed by contractors between 15th and 21st December. Plans and brass working and gun trials proposed for January.

foo.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 3rd December, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "KANIMBLA" - Berthed Inner West Nelson's Pier about 0700 on 2nd December.
- "TAMBAR" - Arrived Sydney a.m. on 2nd December.
- "YARRA" - Wishes to revert to 8 hours' notice from 0800 on 4th December to make good minor defects.
- "MORESBY" - Arrived Brisbane 2nd December.
- "SYDNEY" - Arrived Fremantle 2nd December. She reports that while turning in the harbour, the ship struck North Wharf causing damage to Port side. Ship reported as seaworthy and temporary repairs will be effected by p.m. on 2nd December.
- "DOOMBA" - Has been asked to report her position. She was reported from GABO proceeding West at 1800 on 30th November, and proceeding North at 1030 on 1st December. She appears to have run to Eden for shelter and was still there at 2300 on 2nd December. As the weather moderated some time ago, she may be damaged.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- "STUART" - Arrived Diego Saurez on 2nd December.
- "TRIAD" - which sheltered in Norwegian Waters in a damaged state some days ago was to proceed to Rosyth yesterday.
- "VAMPIRE" and "VOYAGER" - After being taken in hand at Colombo for boiler clean and defects in "VOYAGER", will sail for Aden and Mediterranean about 9th December.

A.M.Cs.

- "MANOORA" - N.O.C.S. proposes to commission on 12th December and accommodate crew on board. Dockyard not expected to finish until early in January.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- "BINGERA" - Has been accepted at Brisbane on 2nd December, as owners state unable to obtain a cargo for Sydney. D.N.O. advised to obtain maximum amount of freight for Sydney which will be offset against hiring charges.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

- PORT MORESBY - N.O.I.C. reports probable date of completion of "BARETO's" overhaul as 8th December. He suggests purchase at £400.

GENERAL INTEREST.

- "KOALA" - Machinery trials are proposed by contractors between 15th and 21st December. Winch and boom working and gun trials proposed for January.

Admiralty require spare gear for "HOBART" to be forwarded to Bombay and for destroyers to Alexandria. Any London Orders for these ships should be directed accordingly also.

To 0900 Saturday, 3rd December.

Admiralty advise procedure to be adopted by Fleet Air Arm in close examination of a single ship.

R.M. and R.N.A. Ships - SIGNALLING INSTRUCTIONS. WILLIAMSTOWN

Admiralty require proper supervision by originating authorities to more adequately control steadily increasing signal traffic since the war. Flag and Commanding Officers are requested to give the matter their personal attention.

CONTRABAND.

Admiralty proposes to detain all cargoes exported for Enemy Countries not covered by Certificates of Origin. Consignments to neutrals are not to be discharged, but to be detained and reported to Minister of Economic Warfare.

An wireless indicates
raider was in a position near BUNDABERG on 30th November. *gal*

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

"BINGHAM", due SYDNEY Monday, 4th December, from BUNDABERG, anticipates her cargo of sugar will be unloaded the same day. Agents consider date of acceptance should be 2nd December.

D.S.T. enquired on 30th November if the "COMING" is in good condition and if she could be spared for service overseas.

D.S.O., SWINBURN, has made a most favourable report to Naval Board as to the condition of this vessel and states she can be spared by the owners.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 2nd December.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. and H.M.A. Ships - "KANIMBLA" will berth at WILLIAMSTOWN this morning.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" are berthed alongside Nelson Pier, WILLIAMSTOWN.

"DOOMBA" is due MELBOURNE this morning.

SYDNEY.

"TAMBAR" will arrive this morning and leaves Monday, 4th December, for BRISBANE.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

An unreliable fix by D.F. bearings indicates raider was in a position near MURMANSK on 30th November.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

"BINGERA", due SYDNEY Monday, 4th December, from BUNDABERG, anticipates her cargo of sugar will be unloaded the same day. Agents consider date of acceptance should be 2nd December.

D.S.T. enquired on 28th November if the "CORINGA" is in good condition and if she could be spared for service overseas.

D.N.O., BRISBANE, has made a most favourable report to Naval Board as to the condition of this vessel and states she can be spared by the owners.

ESSENTIAL WAREHOUSE AND SHEDS.

S.S. (T) Monte Video reports that the permit for the bunkering of "YACON" and "LION" has been temporarily suspended by the Authorities.

The German "FRANJA BLANCA" has completed loading at Rio de Janeiro and has bunkered preparatory to sailing. "LA GEMMA" is dry docking at this port. "SAN RAFAEL" is under way there and a ship recently had completed loading at CARACAS and is expected to sail for SAO PAULO shortly (both ships are in Brazil).

From Singapore is a report that the five German ships in refuge at Saigon are keeping steam.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

SUBMARINE REPORT.

To 0900 Friday 1st December, 1939. Signal Reserve at Walluga Lake (just North of Heraguil) reports the sighting by an aboriginal of a submarine at 1800/29th November about 1 mile off the shore in the locality in which a submarine has been reported on two occasions during the H.M.A.S. "YARRA" arrived Port Phillip yesterday and will berth at good but at the Nelson Pier at 0900 today in order to land 5 cases Sydney it for hospital treatment.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" arrived Port Phillip about 1600 Thursday 30th November. to investigate previous reports, and probably passed through the area from which these reports are available on Thursday.

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" sailed from Townsville yesterday for Thursday Island en route Darwin.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

The C. in C. East Indies is sailing H.M.S. "CHESHIRE" (A.M.C.) for Freetown from Colombo on December 10th. After a few days working up, this ship is proceeding via the Mediterranean in view of the possibility of the presence of an enemy warship in the Southern Indian Ocean.

GENERAL.

Included in the Admiralty Bi-Weekly Summary are the following items:- One aircraft probably carries two mines; the mechanism of the mine is ^{now} not yet known ^{and} but the Admiralty are hopeful of rapidly developing counter methods, the situation is better than it was a fortnight ago; it is unwise to disclose the actual position of the mines as it will assist the enemy to a greater degree of accuracy in laying; N.C.S. information is based on close reconnaissance knowledge and those routes which are in the Admiralty's opinion safe are available to all Neutrals.

~~The following instructions from the Admiralty have been received~~

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

"BINGERA"-the instructions for requisitioning this vessel have been confirmed and the action is not to be delayed.

POTENTIAL ENEMY A.M.C.'s and MERCHANT VESSELS.

S.O.(I) Monte Video reports that the permit for the bunkering of "TACOMA" and "LAHN" has been temporarily suspended by the Authorities.

The German "BAHIA BLANCA" has completed loading at Rio de Janeiro and has bunkered preparatory to sailing. "LA CORNUNA" is dry docking at this port. "SAO RAULO" in which ship there was a fire recently has completed loading at CABEDELLO and is expected to sail for PARAHYBA shortly (both ports are in Brazil).

From Singapore is a report that the five German ships in refuge at Sabang are keeping steam.

DAILY NARRATIVE.SUBMARINE REPORT. 4th November, 1939.

The Manager of the Aboriginal Reserve at Walluga Lake (just North of Bermagui) reports the sighting by an aboriginal of a submarine at 1900/29th November about 1 mile off the shore in the vicinity of Tilba Tilba. This is in the locality in which a submarine has been reported on two occasions during the last week. The aboriginal's description of the submarine is good but as he states he has seen one of our submarines in Sydney it is probable that he is using his imagination. ~~sage to~~ H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" en route to Melbourne passed Gabo at 1805 Thursday 30th November, and before leaving Sydney was ordered to investigate the previous reports, and probably passed through the area from which these reports are emanating on Thursday forenoon.

"SYDNEY" sailed from Fremantle 0510/29 for patrol.

"KANIMBLA" arrived Port Phillip 29/11.

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" is delayed at Townsville with a cracked cylinder head. A spare head is being fitted and vessel is expected to depart on 30th for Darwin.

The flying boat which arrived Townsville on 29th from patrol reported having sighted what was probably a submarine in fairly close proximity to a Dutch sailing vessel, in the Timor Sea. The report of the submarine, if correct, is considered to refer to one of the Dutch submarines which are known frequently to patrol these waters.

Master "QUERIMBA" reports suspicious movements of Danish ship "ANGLO WAERSK" off Cape Jarvis. N.C.S. Melbourne is being directed to make enquiries as to reason for movements when the vessel arrives Melbourne.

R.F.A. "ANTONEDON" is to sail from Melbourne 0600/2 for Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

C.-in-C. Home Fleet has ordered a northward movement of the eastern portion of the cruiser patrol line engaged in searching for "Deutschland" to commence at 0900 29th. The remainder of the force will also be differently disposed.

H.M.S. "TRIAD" is disabled in the North Sea and has been instructed that she may enter Norwegian territorial waters if necessary. Tug is being despatched when weather moderates.

"LEANDER" arrived Auckland.

AUXILIARY S/S.

Trouble is being experienced with the windlasses in "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II". D.N.O. Victoria reports that it will be necessary for them to return to Nelson's Pier each night instead of anchoring off Queenscliff.

"BIVOIRA" - Owners are trying to get requisition cancelled.

POTENTIAL GERMAN A.N.E.

S.G.(I) Monte Video reports that the German ship "TACORA" is expected alongside for fuel and water on 28th November.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 30th November, 1939.

GENERAL.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

C.-in-C. Home Fleet has requested consideration of possible fuelling bases for submarines particularly on the north coast of New Guinea.

A flight of 8 Ansons arrived Port Lincoln and will be used for reconnaissance during the next few days.

"TAMBAR" sailed Port Melbourne for Sydney on passage to Brisbane. E.T.A. Sydney 0700/2/12.

"DOOMBA" on passage to Melbourne from Sydney. E.T.A. 0600/2/12.

"SYDNEY" sailed from Fremantle 0515/29 for patrol.

"KANIMBLA" arrived Port Phillip 29/11.

R.A.F.A. "WONGALA" is delayed at Townsville with a cracked cylinder head. A spare head is being fitted and vessel is expected to depart on 30th for Darwin.

The flying boat which arrived Townsville on 29th from patrol reported having sighted what was probably a submarine in fairly close proximity to a Dutch sailing vessel, in the Timor Sea. The report of the submarine, if correct, is considered to refer to one of the Dutch Submarines which are known frequently to patrol these waters.

Master "QUERIMBA" reports suspicious movements of Danish ship "ANGLO MAERSK" off Cape Jervis. N.C.S. Melbourne is being directed to make enquiries as to reason for movements when the vessel arrives Melbourne.

R.F.A. "AUTOMEDON" is to sail from Melbourne 0600/2 for Sydney.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

C.-in-C. Home Fleet has ordered a northward movement of the eastern portion of the cruiser patrol line engaged in searching for "Deutschland" to commence at 0900 29th. The remainder of the force will also be differently disposed.

H.M.S. "TRIAD" is disabled in the North Sea and has been instructed that she may enter Norwegian territorial waters if necessary. Tug is being despatched when weather moderates.

"LEANDER" arrived Auckland.

AUXILIARY M/S.

Trouble is being experienced with the windlasses in "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II". D.N.O. Victoria reports that it will be necessary for them to return to Nelson's Pier each night instead of anchoring off Queenscliff.

"BINGERA" - Owners are trying to get requisition cancelled.

POTENTIAL GERMAN A.M.C.

S.O.(I) Monte Video reports that the German ship "TACONA" is expected alongside for fuel and water on 28th November.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 29th November.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATION OZ At 0400 this morning "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" and "SYDNEY" will commence a patrol across the trade routes converging on Fremantle from Suez, India and the Far East and endeavour to locate the raider which sank the tanker "AFRICA SHELL" on 15th November. Aircraft from Pearce, (W.A.) will co-operate by searching along these trade routes daily to a depth of 100 miles from Rottneest Island. S.S. "KATOOMBA", with 500 troops onboard leaves Fremantle to-morrow and will be escorted by our cruisers until past the Leeuwin.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" are sheltering in Apollo Bay whence they will carry out M.S. exercises when the weather moderates.

Des "KANIMBLA" arrives Melbourne 1100 to-day.

"DOOMBA", after embarking 25 tons pig iron ballast deemed necessary on account of low freeboard, leaves Sydney to-day for Melbourne to join 20th F.S.F.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" arrived Albany 29th November to refuel cruisers operating under R.A.C.A.S.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

According to the press and gleanings from intercepted signals, the large scale searches for enemy units in the North Sea and Indian Ocean continue.

Forces "H" ("SUSSEX" and "SHROPSHIRE") and "K" ("ARK ROYAL" and "RENOWN") are to establish a patrol to the southward of the Cape with the object of preventing the passage of enemy ships between Indian Ocean and South Atlantic.

Commanding Officer, H.M.S. "NEPTUNE" has been commended by the Admiralty for his efforts to prevent German merchant vessel "ADOLF WOERMANN" scuttling herself.

On 27th November, the dispositions of Allied Warships in areas of the Pacific Intelligence organization included the following:--

H.M.S. "MORETON BAY"	At Hong Kong.
" " "ARAWA"	E.T.A. Hong Kong 1st December.
H.M.A.S. "HOBART"	Seychelles patrol.
H.M.A.S. "STUART"	In Bombay area.
H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA"	At Colombo.
H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN"	Ceylon patrol
H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE")	Nicobar Island area.
"VOYAGER")	

ARMED MERCHANT CRUISERS.

All officers R.N. appointed in command have been granted the rank of Acting Captain. Admiralty suggests Naval Board should follow suit.

fo.

"MANCOORA" A seaplane, handled by existing derricks, could be carried on deck and suitable petrol tanks are available in Sydney.
 To 0900 Tue N.O.C.S. invites the attention of Naval Board to this matter.

D.E.M.S. AUSTRALIA STATION.

To 27th November, 90 merchant ships have been defensively equipped, also 3 merchant cruisers and 10 auxiliary vessels armed, an average of more than one vessel per day since the outbreak of hostilities.

H.M.S. "KANIBELA" departed from Sydney on Monday 27th November and is expected to arrive in Port Phillip at 0600 on Tuesday 28th November.

ADMIRALTY.

Reports that since 18th November, 5 enemy merchant ships, totalling 24,278 tons were scuttled and 2 ships, totalling 6,643 tons, captured.

Desires "HOBART" to be stored from Australia and H.M.A. Destroyers from Stations to which they are attached.

the result was negative.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "TRIAD" (submarine) which was ordered to patrol in the vicinity of 58° 40' S 32° E at 1811/26th is disabled and two destroyers have been ordered to make contact just before dark on Monday 28th and tow her to Scyth. A Battle Flight of Hudsons was to be in her vicinity at 1000 Monday 27th presumably for protection against marauding aircraft.

H.M.S. "LASS" sailed from Wellington on Monday 27th for Australia.

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p.c.

S E C R E T.

To 0900 Monday DAILY NARRATIVE. 1939.

To 0900 Tuesday 28th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" departed from Port Melbourne at 2023 Monday 27th for exercise.

H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" departed from Sydney on Monday 27th November and is expected to arrive in Port Phillip at 0600 Wednesday 29th November.

Air operations - As a result of a further report, from a resident of Merimbula that the "unknown craft believed to be a submarine" sighted by 3 fishermen off Tura Head on Sunday last, had again been seen about 0900 the following day, an Air search was carried out this morning in an area from 090° Green Cape to 090° Montague Is. to a depth of 10 miles - the result was negative.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "TRIAD" (submarine) which was ordered to patrol in the vicinity of 58° 40' N 5° 30' E at 1311/26th is disabled and two destroyers have been ordered to make contact just before dark on Monday 28th and tow her to Rosyth. A Battle Flight of Hudsons was to be in her vicinity at 1000 Monday 27th presumably for protection against marauding aircraft.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" sailed from Wellington on Monday 27th for Auckland.

ROYAL CONTROL.

D.S.T. advises vessel should be requisitioned, fitted with W/T and despatched to U.K.

sailed Br South Africa from Adelaide without routine instructions and has been ordered to Fremantle.

GENERAL INTEREST.

SPECIAL SERVICE MERCHANT SHIPS. Admiralty has advised charts will be required for 7 ships on special service leaving Sydney between 2nd and 12th December. It is assumed that the requirements are for troopships.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 25th November, 1939.

To 0900 Monday 26th November, 1939.

H.N.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" sailed from Melbourne p.m. 25th November.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"DOOMBA" sailed for Fremantle and returned to Sydney later.

"SWAN" "YARRA" intend carrying out searching sweeps off Cape Otway and Cape Nelson leaving Port Phillip today and returning Friday 1st December. Ships will be at Portland Tuesday and Wednesday.

"KURUMBA" departed Fremantle for Albany.

"SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"LEIPZIG" Swedish steamer "Frigg" was stopped on 22/11 in north Atlantic by cruiser resembling "Leipzig".

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Further long signals intercepted give the disposition of the large scale search for enemy units in the North Sea continues. There is evidently a slight possibility that the units concerned are the "Scharnhorst" and "Greisenu" attempting to break out. Very heavy weather prevails and has caused "Repulse" and "Furious" to return to Halifax owing to damage. "HOOD" and "DUNKERQUE" are joining Home Fleet for the hunt, and the battlefleet are taking up a position to N. of cruiser patrol in 61° N. Admiralty considers German Air reconnaissance in weather conditions prevailing to indicate German ships are hanging about until coast is clear.

"WINDHUK" Ship previously reported off Fort Dauphin, Madagascar, is considered to be D.E.M.S. "City of Sydney".

"BINCIRA" D.N.O. Brisbane advises vessel will be despatched for Sydney about 1/12.

"St.OLAVES" D.S.T. advises vessel should be requisitioned, fitted with W/T and despatched to U.K.

NAVAL CONTROL.

"LOCH RANGA" sailed for South Africa from Adelaide without routing instructions and has been ordered to Fremantle.

AUXILIARY M/S.

GENERAL INTEREST.

SPECIAL SERVICE MERCHANT SHIPS. Admiralty has advised charts will be required for 7 ships on special service leaving Sydney between 2nd and 19th December. It is assumed that the requirements are for troopships.

D.N.O. Queensland, has been ordered to requisition "BINCIRA". Ship is to be despatched Sydney for fitting out as A/S vessel.

GENERAL.

D.N.O., N.T., has been ordered to forward remarks

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday, 26th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" sailed from Melbourne p.m. 25th November.

"DOOMBA" sailed for trials and returned to Sydney later.

"MORESBY". Arrangements have been made for this ship to fuel at Brisbane.

"SYDNEY". Departed Geraldton for Fremantle 25th November.

R.A.A.F. have been requested by the Naval Board to establish a patrol over Timor Sea 28th November to 1st December, consequent on a report that a German raider may attempt to rendez-vous with a merchant ship from Padang and subsequently slip through the Dutch East Indies Archipelago from westward to Vladivostock.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Further long signals intercepted give the dispositions to be taken by the considerable force now employed seeking to locate "DEUTSCHLAND".

D/F bearings indicate that German aircraft are shadowing ships in positions 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 003° E. 59° N. 001° E. respectively.

Battle flight of 3 Hudsons took off to attack enemy aircraft near AURORA's position.

Admiralty signal states that further information indicates that the vessel sighted off Fort Dauphin Madagascar on the 23rd was not a warship but might have been the German vessel "WINDHUK".

An intelligence report states that a German warship might be arriving in Australian waters in December.

Force "X" are carrying out a sweep from Dakar.

H.M.S. "EXETER" has been ordered to join H.M.S. "AJAX" at the Falkland Islands.

She has a defective distiller and a request for 400 tubes for same has been made to Admiralty.

AUXILIARY M/S.

D.N.O., W.A., has been instructed to make necessary arrangements for gun, depth charge and minesweeping trials of "BONTHORPE" with technical assistance from Force "ZZ".

D.N.O., Queensland, has been ordered to requisition "BINGERA". Ship is to be despatched to Sydney for fitting out as A/S vessel.

GENERAL.

D.N.O., N.T., has been ordered to forward remarks

SECRET

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on proposed construction of slipway at Darwin.

The Admiralty order that gunlayers carried in D.E.M.S. were to be disembarked at Freetown and returned to United Kingdom has been suspended.

Admiralty have issued detailed procedure to be tried in order to prevent German crews from scuttling their ships.

Reports received from civilian sources of the presence of submarines in Westernport and off the coast of New South Wales on 25th. Both reports are considered unreliable and no action has been taken.

H.M.S. "SHELL" proceeds to sea at 3.00 p.m. to-day.

The Fast Auxiliary W/S Vessel "GUMBY", which is being fitted out in Sydney proceeded to sea on trials yesterday forenoon and returned to harbour later in the day.

OPERATIONS - SYDNEY.

Instructions from the Admiralty, originated at 1412/25, ordering Force "X" to return to Freetown were subsequently cancelled by Admiralty 1311/25.

The Admiralty has instructed C. in C., South Atlantic, to send a submarine to the Falkland Islands as soon as convenient. It is to operate in the vicinity of South Georgia with the object of intercepting raiders or supply ships and to give a degree of protection to the whaling industry.

Rear-Admiral (S) has passed to submarines on patrol the position of the "DEUTSCHLAND" and possibly other German unit, which at 1545/25th November was 33° 30' S, 11° 30' W, and is probably however bound also that other enemy ships may proceed from Germany in support.

Further intercepted signals give the disposition of the very considerable forces endeavouring to locate these enemy ships and if they endeavour to escape into territorial waters they are to be followed and engaged.

H.M.S. "CHITRAL" reports at 1102/25 that there are believed to be survivors from H.M.S. "ARVALPINE" (10,000 tons gross) who report an attack by two "DEUTSCHLAND" Class battleships.

H.M.S. "WASPITE" has been ordered to leave her convoy and proceed with all dispatch towards Denmark Strait.

INDIAN OCEAN RAIDERS.

From a reliable French source the Admiralty have received a report that on the 23rd November an armed ship was sighted off Port Nagoya (Madagascar) steering north at high speed.

The German "STURMI" (8,000 tons 15½ knots) is reported as having sailed from Mozambique on the 22nd November.

The Captain on Staff "TERROR" advises that the Polish Consul General at Batavia has heard that a raider is in the vicinity of the South Coast of Sumatra with the intention of slipping through Vladivostok. No great value is attached to his report.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 25th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" will carry out day firing in Port Phillip on the 4th, 5th and 6th December, respectively, and night firing will be carried out on the last mentioned date.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" returned to harbour p.m. Friday, 24th November, and berthed at Nos. 10 and 11, Victoria Dock, respectively.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" proceeds to sea at 3.00 p.m. to-day.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" proceeds to sea at 2.30 p.m. to-day.

The Fast Auxiliary M/S Vessel "DOOMBA", which is being fitted out in Sydney proceeded to sea on trials yesterday forenoon and returned to harbour later in the day.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Instructions from the Admiralty, originated at 1415/23, ordering Forfe "K" to return to Freetown were subsequently cancelled by Admiralty 2111/23.

The Admiralty has instructed C. in C., South Atlantic, to send a submarine to the Falkland Islands as soon as convenient. It is to operate in the vicinity of South Georgia with the object of intercepting raiders or supply ships and to give a degree of protection to the whaling industry.

Rear-Admiral (S) has passed to submarines on patrol the position of the "DEUTSCHLAND" and possibly other German unit, which at 1545/23rd November was 63° 38N. 11° 55'W. and is probably homeward bound also that other enemy ships may proceed from Germany in support.

Further intercepted signals give the disposition of the very considerable forces endeavouring to locate these enemy ships and if they endeavour to escape into territorial waters they are to be followed and engaged.

H.M.S. "CHITRAL" reports at 1109/24 that there are onboard 10 survivors from H.M.S. "RAWALPINDI" (16,697 tons gross) who report an attack by two "DEUTSCHLAND" Class battleships.

H.M.S. "WARSPITE" has been ordered to leave her convoy and proceed with all dispatch towards Denmark Strait.

INDIAN OCEAN RAIDERS.

From a reliable French source the Admiralty have received a report that on the 23rd November an armed ship was sighted off Fort Dauphin (Madagascar) steering north at high speed.

The German "WATUSSI" (9,500 tons 15½ knots) is reported as having sailed from Mozambique on the 22nd November.

The Captain on Staff "TERROR" advises that the Polish Consul General at Batavia has heard that a raider is in the vicinity of the South Coast of Sumatra with the intention of shipping through Vladisostock. No great value is attached to this report.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

The D.N.I., Admiralty, draws attention to delay and unnecessary exposure to danger of merchant ships occasioned by inaccurate or incomplete information being supplied by Naval Control Service or Routing Officers.

OPERATIONS NEW ZEALAND STATION.

- "MORNINGTON". Departed for MORTON BAY, where A/S exercises will be carried out returning SYDNEY on 4/12.
- "SYDNEY". Arrived CHRISTCHURCH 22/11.
- "AMELIA". Proposes to grant week-end leave to two watches this week-end and to 3rd watch from 22/11 to 23/11.

OPERATIONS - ABOARD.

- C.O.I.S. FOR EAST, advises that INDIAN OCEAN Raider is probably pocket battleship.
- "ADOLF WOLFF". British Ship "WAINARANG" is still in touch.
- FORCE "B" ("SUSSEX" and "SHROPSHIRE"). Arrived CAPETOWN 22/11.
- "LEANDER". Arrived WELLINGTON 23/11.
C. in C. CHINA, has arranged disposition of forces on the supposition that a GERMAN Raider will be at MOLANOH, SOUMTRA, between 27th/28th November.

A.S.C.'s.

- CUTTERS. N.S.C.S. advises "WIKING" being supplied one Motor Boat one motor cutter and one cutter. Considers two power boats essential, and two cutters very desirable in "MASCARA" and "WESTRALIA".

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- "COOLEMAN") N.S.C.S. proposes to instal 10" projectors, although
"MASCARA") with Generators now fitted this will necessitate
exclusion of all other load excepting navigation light

NAVAL CONTROL.

- NEW ZEALAND TO AUSTRALIA. Routes are being changed between AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND on 27/11.
- SANDY CAFE TO SYDNEY. Routes have been established, so that North bound large ships will keep about 12 miles outside 100 fathom line, and South bound ships close outside 100 fathom line.

A.S. (1) WELLINGTON, advises there are no searched channels yet in force in N.Z. Area.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Friday, 24th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "MORESBY". Departed for MORETON BAY, where A/S exercises will be carried out returning SYDNEY on 4/12.
- "SYDNEY". Arrived GERALDTON 23/11.
- "ADELAIDE". Proposes to grant week-end leave to two watches this week-end and to 3rd watch from 27/11 to 29/11.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- C.O.I.S. FAR EAST, advises that INDIAN OCEAN Raider is probably pocket battleship.
- "ADOLF WOERMANN". British Ship "WAIMARARA" is still in touch.
- FORCE "H" ("SUSSEX and "SHROPSHIRE"). Arrived CAPETOWN 23/11.
- "LEANDER". Arrived WELLINGTON 23/11.
C. in C. CHINA, has arranged disposition of forces on the supposition that a GERMAN Raider will be at MOLABOH, SUMATRA, between 27th/29th November.

A.M.C's.

- CUTTERS. N.O.C.S. advises "KANIMBLA" being supplied one Motor Boat one motor cutter and one cutter. Considers two power boats essential, and two cutters very desirable in "MANOORA" and "WESTRALIA".

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- "COOLEBAR")
"NAMBUCCA") N.O.C.S. proposes to instal 10" projectors, although with Generators now fitted this will necessitate exclusion of all other load excepting navigation light

NAVAL CONTROL.

- NEW ZEALAND TO AUSTRALIA. Routes are being changed between AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND on 27/11.
- SANDY CAPE TO SYDNEY. Routes have been established, so that North bound large ships will keep about 12 miles outside 100 fathom line, and South bound ships close outside 100 fathom line.

S.O.(I) WELLINGTON, advises there are no searched channels yet in force in N.Z. Areas.

GENERAL INTEREST.

MAGNETIC MINES.

Admiralty advise that magnetic mines are being dropped attached to parachutes, from aircraft. All ships to be prepared to fix and buoy such mines but are not to approach within 2 cables. The recovery of a magnetic mine is considered of greatest importance. Where diving may be carried out for recovery, and where essential traffic is not endangered, the mine should not be swept up or destroyed.

Admiralty further states that bottom sweeps between trawlers have been unsuccessful but that chain sweeps should be tried as magnetic mines may be fired by a slight movement.

The BELGIAN Government has been informed by FRANCE that French aeroplanes will in future pursue GERMAN planes escaping over BELGIAN territory.

"KURUMBA". The replenishment of dry provisions is being arranged.

A.R.O. TULAGI, reports warship with turrets fore and aft off MALAITA various occasions between 27th October and 8th November.

A.R.O. VILA, reports a large plane passed over TANNA (19° 28' S. 169° 20' E.) at 1430/22/11. This is suggested as being AMERICAN Clipper.

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REMARKS ON THE...

A.R.O. ... reports that at 0810 Wednesday, 22nd November, a JAPANESE ... flying on ... was brought to by the ...

There was no damage to ship or personnel.

OPERATIONS - ...

Many mines in and aerial activity over the North Sea continues. A dangerous area has been declared to the seaward of ... on the ...

A.R.O. "HARVEST", ... will arrive ... and give seven days' leave to each watch.

A despatch, originated by ... on 21st November and received here yesterday, contains the disposition of allied warships in several areas of the ... Intelligence Organization. These dispositions include the following ships:-

- "HARVEST" - At ...
- "..." - At ...
- "..." - ...
- "..." - ...

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 23rd November.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H. M. A. Ships "CANBERRA", wearing flag of F. O. C. A. S., and "AUSTRALIA" arrived PORT MELBOURNE yesterday and are now berthed at Princes Pier.

"ADELAIDE" intends to leave SYDNEY tomorrow, Friday, for exercises returning A. M. Sunday, 26th November. This programme may be cancelled as Naval Board has advised C. C. S. that "ADELAIDE's" defects should be taken in hand forthwith with ship at 8 hours' notice.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" left PORT MELBOURNE for PORT PHILLIP 22nd November.

"MORESBY" - 100 tons oil fuel ordered at BRISBANE for Saturday, 2nd December.

S. O., Force "ZZ", having been informed that S. S. "STANHALL" has arrived BUNBURY, will probably abandon his intention to patrol the local area and visit ALBANY as originally proposed.

"WONGALA" arrived TOWNSVILLE 22nd November.

AUXILIARY M/S.

"BONTHORPE", a trawler of 270 tons employed overseas during the last war in minesweeping duties, is to be requisitioned, fitted out and based on FREMANTLE for service as an Auxiliary M/S Vessel.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

D. N. O., FREMANTLE, reports that at 0830 Wednesday, 22nd November, a JAPANESE whaler, flying an incorrect signal, was brought to by the examination battery.

There was no damage to ship or personnel.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Enemy mining in and aerial activity over the North Sea continues. A dangerous area due to mines has been declared to the Southward of CROMER on the NORFOLK COAST.

H. M. S. "WARSPITE", flagship of C. in C., MEDITERRANEAN, will arrive PORTSMOUTH early in December and give seven days' leave to each watch.

A message, originated by C. O. I., SINGAPORE, on 20th November and received here yesterday, contains the disposition of allied warships in several areas of the PACIFIC Intelligence Organisation. These dispositions include the following ships :-

"HOBART" - At sea in BOMBAY area.

"STUART" - At COLOMBO.

"WATERHEN" -

"VAMPIRE" -

"VOYAGER" - Left TRINCOMALEE 20th November - Destination not stated.

"VENDETTA" - On passage from PENANG to COLOMBO.

"MORETON BAY" - Due to arrive HONG KONG 23rd November.

S. O. Australian Destroyer Flotilla in "STUART" advises that Accountant Officer (D) and his staff are now accommodated ashore at TRINCOMALEE.

At 0400 G.M.T. 22nd November British Ship "WAIMARAMA" was still shadowing German Ship "ADOLPH WOERMANN" (8,500 tons) in a position about 1,000 miles west of LOBITO, steering West at 12 knots.

ADMIRALTY.

Naval Board has asked D.S.T. if it is now desired to requisition and dispatch the tug "ST. OLAVES" to UNITED KINGDOM.

A warning has been issued by the Admiralty to all foreign shipping not to approach the East Coast of ENGLAND between specified latitudes during dark hours.

Until further notice, gunlayers of defensively equipped merchant vessels outward bound from UNITED KINGDOM for ports East of SUEZ are to be disembarked at GIBRALTAR. Masters of M.Vs. will complete gun crews from ships' companies.

GENERAL.

C. in C., CHINA, requests all operations be repeated to C. O. I. S., FAR EAST, at SINGAPORE who is also the head of the PACIFIC Intelligence Organisation which links the Intelligence Centres of CHINA, EAST INDIES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA and SOUTH AMERICA Stations.

..... ordered by S.H.C.

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(a) A position in which "....." is to participate with an Argentine ship on the coast.

(b) Information that the secretary of the German Embassy will be visiting "....." in the Argentine coast between 1st and 15th Nov.

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SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 22nd November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" arrive Princes Pier, Port Melbourne 1100 ~~0700~~, 22nd November, and complete with fuel.

Berths - "CANBERRA" Outer East
"AUSTRALIA" Outer West

"YARRA" left Port Melbourne 21st November and returned on the same date.

"MORESBY" left Sydney for trial 21st November returning on completion.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

German Ship "ADOLF WOERMANN" which escaped from Lobito recently has been sighted by British Ship "WAIMARAMA", Shaw Saville Line. Latter vessel has been instructed to follow German and report movements. This should be possible as she is fast M.V. (18 knots) and only recently built.

ARMED MERCHANT CRUISERS.

"KANIMBLA" - As result of gun trials a number of rivets in the stiffening were found slack. These will be made good and a further examination made after working up practices are completed.

AUXILIARY M/S.

"DOOMBA", subject to satisfactory trials will be ready to sail for Melbourne 29th November.

"TAMBAR" is to sail for Brisbane on Wednesday 29th November to be based on that port and administered by D.N.O., Queensland.

GENERAL INTEREST.

Courier will leave Sydney for United Kingdom by air on Tuesday, 28th November. "STANHILL" (previously reported "STANHOPE") arrived Bunbury 1500, 20th November.

Anonymous secret letter received by British Ambassador, Cairo, states German "ADMIRAL SCHEER" due Mogadishu (Italian Somaliland) 18th November for provisions and fuel and would then raid shipping in the Gulf (of Aden?) and return to Brava(?) after eight days. German ship "DEUTSCHLAND" is reported by the same writer to be sailing for the Pacific.

A long message from B.N.A. Buenos Aires gives information furnished by reputed anti-Nazi, concerning projected movements of enemy shipping in South Atlantic and states that they are to be convoyed to Germany by pocket battleships and cruiser "ADMIRAL HIPPER".

Further messages obtained from different sources and forwarded by same authority give :-

- (a) a position in which "DEUTSCHLAND" is to rendez-vous with an Argentine store ship on 22nd November.
- (b) information that the Secretary to the German Embassy will be visiting "DEUTSCHLAND" or another German warship off the Argentine Coast between 10th and 20th December.

British ship "HOUSATONIC" reports that she was fired on by submarine off Madeira on 21st November.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 21st November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "KOOKABURRA" - Arrived Darwin 0030 20th November.
- "SYDNEY" - Departed Fremantle on patrol 0830, 20th November.
- "CANBERRA" } Due Melbourne 0700, 22nd November. Naval Board
- "AUSTRALIA" } - has advised F. O. C. A. S. that notwithstanding opinion that East African raider is a cruiser, it is considered desirable to discuss the strategic position.
- "ADELAIDE" - To return to Sydney on 21st November on completion of night encounter.
- "ARAWA" - Arrived Darwin 19th November. Departed 1206, 20th November. Enters China Station at 1430Z, 20th November. Expects arrive Sandakan Bar 25th November.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- "ARK ROYAL" } Force "K" departed Freetown 18th November for
- "RENOWN" } - Diego Suarez where a shore aerodrome and safe big ship anchorage exists. French authorities concurrence being obtained.

A. M. Cs.

- "KANIMBLA" - Departed Sydney on trials 20th November. Anticipates being ready for sea in all respects 27th November.
- "WESTRALIA" - N. O. C. S. advises formally taken over at 2nd November. Owners claim for hire commenced on 25th October.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

U. K. Departures - Admiralty has been asked to report departures weekly or possibly of M/Vs. as previously stated would be done. Lack of information from Home Station handicapping system and shipowners being inconvenienced.

- "STANHOPE" - Four days overdue at Bunbury from Colombo. Has been reported to Admiralty.

D. E. M. S.

- "AORANGI" - Taken in hand 20th November. Probable date completion 12th January, 1940.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

- "MIRAMAR" - Handed back to owners 15th November (Brisbane).

JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS.

"TONAN MARU NO. 2" - Whaler, and seven chasers anchored 5 miles N.E. Rottneest Island 20th November.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"KURUMBA" - Has approximately 20 days dry provisions and requests instructions for restocking.

SALUTES - Naval Board has instructed ships that salutes will not be fired nor will ships dress overall during hostilities.

RUSSIAN S/MS. - A Japanese press reports that 20 Russian S/MS. will be taken over by Germany at Vladvostock which will be used as a base.

Naval Board has informed C. in C., EAST INDIES, and reported the message to Admiralty and C. in C., CHINA, that the dispositions of our *galy.*

OPERATIONS - OVERSEA.

Admiralty has approved the disposition of forces as proposed by C. in C., EAST INDIES, for hunting the raider in the INDIAN OCEAN. "ARK ROYAL", wearing flag of Rear-Admiral Aircraft Carriers, and "RESCUE" left FREETOWN 18th November and are on passage via the CAPE to operate in MADAGASCAR area.

"STUART" and "WATERBURY" arrived COLCOED 18th November and "VERBENA" 19th November.

GENERAL.

In a message addressed to C. in C., CHINA, reported to Naval Board, the Admiralty gives a list of captures, seizures and sinkings of enemy merchant ships to date.

The Air Board has advised that in future an aircraft from No. 13 Squadron, BRISBANE, will undertake the regular aerial reconnaissance of the NORTH-WINDWARD coast of the NORTH-WEST Coast. This duty has previously been carried out by an aircraft from No. 13 Squadron, PERAK.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 20th November.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" will carry out full calibre concentration firing to-day, Monday, and on completion both ships will proceed to MELBOURNE unless information is received that raider in Indian Ocean is not a pocket battleship.

"ARAWA" arrived DARWIN to refuel and has been instructed to report intended programme to Naval Board. Owing to inefficient telegraphists this ship has been unable to receive signals correctly since leaving SYDNEY.

"ADELE" arrived DARWIN 18th November.

Naval Board has informed C. in C., EAST INDIES, and repeated the message to Admiralty and C. in C., CHINA, that the dispositions of our cruisers will not be altered for the present.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Admiralty has approved the disposition of forces as proposed by C. in C., EAST INDIES, for hunting the raider in the INDIAN OCEAN. "ARK ROYAL", wearing flag of Rear-Admiral Aircraft Carriers, and "RENOWN" left FREETOWN 18th November and are on passage via the CAPE to operate in MADAGASCAR area.

"STUART" and "WATERHEN" arrived COLOMBO 18th November and "VENDETTA" 19th November.

GENERAL.

In a message addressed to C. in C., CHINA, repeated to Naval Board, the Admiralty gives a list of captures, seizures and sinkings of enemy merchant ships to date.

The Air Board has advised that in future an aircraft from No. 12 Squadron, DARWIN, will undertake the regular aerial reconnaissance of the DERBY-WYNDHAM section of the NORTH-WEST Coast. This duty has previously been carried out by an aircraft from No. 14 Squadron, PEARCE.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

FROM 0900 SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER, 1939.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY". R.A.C.A.S. reports that the A/S trials are satisfactory.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN". Will remain at 8 hours notice for steam for 24 hours commencing at 0800 Monday 27th November, in order to make good minor defects. There are no movements to report.

H.M.S. "HERMES" previously operating with Force "X" (French) is to take "ARK ROYAL'S" patrol.

Force "N" is proceeding to the vicinity of "LOBITO" to intercept the German Ships "WINDHUNK" (16,600 tons 19 knots stiffened for 6 - 5" guns) and "ADOLF WOERMANN" (8,500 tons) reported to be sailing on the 17th November.

The Commander-in-Chief, EAST INDIES advises that from a report by the Chief Engineer "AFRICA" "SHELL" the Raider resembled the "LEIPZIG" or "NUMBERG". This is being passed to R.A.C.A.S., S.C. FORCE ZZ, and C.C.S.

The latest position of the Raider by 4 D/F bearings places him within 200 miles of position 32°S, 42°E (South of MADAGASCAR, East of DURBAN). An earlier report from the Captain on Staff, "TERROR" stated the possibility of 2 Enemy Units in Area 20°S, 40°E. H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" arrived at and sailed from PENANG on Thursday 16th November. At 0826/18th November, there were at least 9 German reconnaissance planes operating over the NORTH SEA.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The Admiralty direct that in future the officers and crews of capture or scuttled enemy merchant ships are to be handed over to the Military or Police on landing as prisoners of War.

In regard to the reference by Commander-in-Chief CHINA, to the appointment of Captain E.F.B. Law, R.N., in charge of Survey Port DARWIN, this was due to the decoding of a corrupt group. The matter is now in order.

ADDITIONAL INFO.

The Minister of Sea Transport has expressed his appreciation to the Royal Navy for the help of the ship "MORNING" in the capture of the "ARK ROYAL".

GENERAL INTEREST.

The Admiralty has received information that the "ARK ROYAL" was sighted on the 17th November.

From an intercepted report from the Argentine Naval Attaché at Santiago it is known that the German merchant ship "MORNING" arrived Puerto Montt (Chile) on the 17th November. It left on the 18th November.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday, 18th November, 1939.

Operations - Australia Station.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" will carry out anti-submarine and gun trials before departure on training cruise to Brisbane on Thursday, 23rd November.

"CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" arrived Sydney from patrol Friday, 17th.

"ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney, Friday 17th.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" arrived Port Melbourne Friday, 17th November, and berthed at Princes Pier. "SWAN" has asked permission to remain at 8 hours' notice for 24 hours from 0800 Monday, 27th November, to make good minor defects.

Lettergram 1800/16/11 from Censor Sydney states that Burns Philp ship "MAIWARRA" left Rabaul p.m. Friday, 10th, for Sohana (about 220 miles away) at which port she should have arrived early on Sunday, 12th, at the latest. This ship has not been reported since sailing from Rabaul. N.O.I.C., Port Moresby, and A.R.O. Rabaul have been ordered to investigate and report.

"ARAWA" expects to arrive Darwin 1600/19th.

Double Island Signal Station has been ordered to keep a look-out for an unidentified ship - possibly a tanker - which passed Cape Moreton northbound at 0100/18th. The ship reported to have passed Double Island on the night of the 13th-14th and which was not identified, was also described as a tanker.

Operations - Overseas.

C. in C., East Indies, has signalled his proposed dispositions for dealing with enemy raider in Indian Ocean.

Another signal from the same source gives the amended position of the sinking of the "AFRICA SHELL" as 230° 13 miles from Zavora Pt. at 1200/15th, and states that Dutch Ship "HOLLAND" reports that she was challenged by unknown ship near this position at 2130/15th.

Force "G" (^{two}consisting of "CUMBERLAND", "EXETER", "AJAX" and "ACHILLES") has been ordered to proceed to Rio de Janeiro area at economical speed.

"NEPTUNE" ordered to proceed to Dakar at best possible speed and to obtain 5 sets exhaust manifolds for Swordfish aircraft ex "HERMES" for "ARK ROYAL". Thence to proceed at best possible speed to Freetown.

Auxiliary M/S.

The Minister of Sea Transport has concurred in the requisitioning by the Naval Board of the ship "BONTHORPE".

General Interest.

The Admiralty courier arrived Singapore 16/11 and left for Australia on the 17th.

From an intercepted report from the Assistant Naval Attache at Santiago it is learned that the German merchant ship "ERLANGEN" arrived Puerto Montt (Chile) on the 13th November, 97 days out

from New Zealand. This vessel left New Zealand just prior to the outbreak of war and was reported to have only 200 tons of bunkers, just sufficient to take her to Newcastle, N.S.W., for which port she cleared.

Force "YT" will carry out E.A. and full calibre firings off tomorrow.

"SEAN" and "YAMA". - Left PORT PHILLIP A.M. Thursday, 16th November, for exercises and returned later in the day.

"ARAB". - Passed ANCHER POINT about 2100 Wednesday, 15th November, and will call at DANNIN to complete with oil fuel before proceeding to her penultimate destination, namely SANDAKAN.

"SIR". - Captain J.A. Collins, R.A.N., assumed command 16th November.

All Operations

Further air searches were carried out by 3 Anson aircraft from WHEELFIELD and 1 Flying Boat from MORESBY. The two suspected vessels remain unidentified and no mines were sighted. Force "YT" was informed at 2300 last night that no further action is contemplated and aircraft will return to their respective bases to-day.

Operations - Overseas

Reported by C. in C., EAST INDIES, that on 14th November a GERMAN Raider - probably a warship - sank the BRITISH Tanker "APRICA SHILL" of 700 tons off SAVERA POINT which is approximately 400 miles North of DURBAN. Shipping in Mozambique Channel has been directed to the eastward of MADAGASCAR.

FRENCH is 4,400 miles east of DURBAN.

R.N. Australian Destroyer Flotilla left SINGAPORE 13th November for SOERABAYA, thence to MEDJERABANAN.

Force "R" ("ARK ROYAL", "RECON" and "REPTUNE") is operating to the southeast of a line joining ST. PAUL ROCK and FRENCH. As "ARK ROYAL" is to proceed to U.K., she will probably be replaced on patrol by "RECON". R.N. Submarine "REPTUNE" was en passage back to FRENCH from NORTH ATLANTIC Patrol has been ordered by C. in C., NORTH ATLANTIC, to keep to the southeast of this patrol line.

R.G. (I), MONTE VIDEO, has received reliable information that an official from the GERMAN Ministry of Supplies, now in SUIBON STRE, is endeavouring to charter a vessel to load "edible" provisions with a view to transshipping them at sea to an enemy warship off VALPARAISO about 3 weeks hence. The distance from SUIBON STRE to VALPARAISO, round CAPS HORN, is approximately 3000.

D.E.S.S.

To 14th November, 76 vessels had been defensively equipped and 7 auxiliary M/S vessels armed.

There being no gunlayers available for ships now being defensively equipped, search gunners are to be utilized for the present.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900, Friday, 17th November.

Operations - Australia Station.

Force "YY" will carry out H.A. and full calibre firings off SYDNEY this Friday forenoon.

"SWAN" and "YARRA". - Left PORT PHILLIP a.m. Thursday, 16th November, for exercises and returned later in the day.

"ARAWA". - Passed ARCHER POINT about 2100 Wednesday, 15th November, and will call at DARWIN to complete with oil fuel before proceeding to her penultimate destination, namely SANDAKAN.

"SYDNEY". - Captain J.A. Collins, R.A.N., assumed command 16th November.

Air Operations.

Further air searches were carried out by 3 Anson aircraft from ARCHERFIELD and 1 Flying Boat from MORESBY. The two suspected vessels remain unidentified and no mines were sighted inside BARRIER REEF. Force "YY" was informed at 2300 last night that no further action is contemplated and aircraft will return to their respective bases to-day.

Operations - Overseas.

Reported by C. in C., EAST INDIES, that on 14th November a GERMAN Raider - probably a warship - sank the BRITISH Tanker "AFRICA SHELL" of 700 tons off ZAVORA POINT which is approximately 400 miles North of DURBAN. Shipping in Mozambique Channel has been directed to the eastward of MADAGASCAR.

FREMANTLE is 4,400 miles east of DURBAN.

H.M. Australian Destroyer Flotilla left SINGAPORE 13th November for COLOMBO, thence to MEDITERRANEAN.

Force "K" ("ARK ROYAL", "RENOWN" and "NEPTUNE") is operating to the southward of a line joining ST. PAUL ROCK and FREETOWN. As "ARK ROYAL" is to proceed to U.K., she will probably be replaced on patrol by "HERMES". H.M. Submarine "SEVERN" when on passage back to FREETOWN from NORTH ATLANTIC Patrol has been warned by C. in C., SOUTH ATLANTIC, to keep to the southward of this patrol line.

S.O. (I), MONTE VIDEO, has received reliable information that an official from the GERMAN Ministry of Supplies, now in BUENOS AIRES, is endeavouring to charter a vessel to load "edible" provisions with a view to transhipping them at sea to an enemy warship off VALPARAISO about 3 weeks hence. The distance from BUENOS AIRES to VALPARAISO, round CAPE HORN, is approximately 3000'.

D. E. M. S.

To 14th November, 76 vessels had been defensively equipped and 7 Auxiliary M/S vessels armed.

There being no gunlayers available for ships now being defensively equipped, seamen gunners are to be utilised for the present.

BRIEF REPORT

General.

Naval Board has informed N.O.I.C., PORT MORESBY, that consideration is being given to the possibility of using the present jetty as a fuelling berth for a capital ship and his answers to a questionnaire are requested.

A courier with despatches for MELBOURNE and WELLINGTON should have left U.K. by air 4th November and reached SYDNEY yesterday. N.O.C.S. has informed Naval Board that no courier or despatches have arrived and the next aircraft is due SYDNEY Sunday, 20th November.

R.A.A.F. "STURGEON". R.A.A. has requested approval to carry out the following routine :-

Thursday, 23rd November. Leave Sydney for Norfolk Bay and carry out exercises there, visiting Brisbane at each end and returning to Sydney on Wednesday, 29th November, 1939 (arrival at Sydney).

"STURGEON" departed Thursday Island on Wednesday, 15th November, for Norfolk.

Air Operations

All searches were carried out by aircraft from Laverton, Cobham and Archerfield yesterday, Wednesday, 15th November, in an endeavour to identify two merchant ships reported on Monday, 13th November, one off Archer Point, the other off Double Island Point, both steering South and neither of which can be satisfactorily checked up as having entered port. The result was negative and a further search will be carried out to-day as follows :-

One flying boat from Thursday Island to Cooktown; three landers from Northampton to Cooktown; aircraft from Cobham will search an area between 135° Torres Strait and 135° Cape Everard to an approximate depth of 150 miles; and aircraft from Laverton will search between Cape Franklin 130° and Midstone Point 130° to an approximate depth of 150 miles.

R.A.A.F. has been kept informed. "AUSTRALIA" is probably at sea and "STURGEON" further North.

Weather - Sydney

No messages of any importance have been received during the last 24 hours.

A.R.S.

R.A.A. reports that as a result of the gun trials additional stiffening under P.3 and S.3 gun is necessary, also additional blast protection from P.2 and P.3. As a result of the foregoing the work will not be completed until p.m. Sunday, 19th November, and it is proposed that further gun trials shall be carried out the following day.

A/S Torpedo

R.A.A. reports that the "BIRCHMOUNT MARK" is considered unsuitable, has maximum speed of 5 knots and poor acceleration. If requisitioned it would entail closing down a collier.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday, 16th November, 1939.

Operations - Australia Station.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" arrived at Sydney about 0700 Wednesday, 15th November, from Brisbane.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" sailed for exercises in Port Phillip at 0830 Wednesday, 15th November, 1939. Lieutenant-Commander Harrington, Commanding Officer of "YARRA", has been discharged to Flinders Naval Depot Hospital with Mumps; Lieutenant C.J. Stephenson has assumed command.

H.M.A.S. "MORESBY". C.C.S. has requested approval to carry out the following training cruise :-

Thursday, 23rd November. Leave Sydney for Moreton Bay and carry out exercises there, visiting Brisbane at week-ends and returning to Sydney on Wednesday, 6th December, 1939 (arrival at Sydney).

"ADELE" departed Thursday Island on Wednesday, 15th November, for Darwin.

Air operations.

Air searches were carried out by aircraft from Laverton, Canberra and Archerfield yesterday, Wednesday, 15th November, in an endeavour to identify two merchant ships reported on Monday, 13th November, one off Archer Point, the other off Double Island Point, both steering South and neither of which can be satisfactorily checked up as having entered port. The result was negative and a further search will be carried out to-day as follows :-

One Flying Boat from Thursday Island to Cooktown; three Ansons from Rockhampton to Cooktown; aircraft from Canberra will search an area between 135° Tathra Head and 135° Cape Everard to an approximate depth of 160 miles; and aircraft from Laverton will search between Cape Frankland 090° and Eddystone Point 090° to an approximate depth of 140 miles.

R.A.C.A.S. has been kept informed. "AUSTRALIA" is probably off Gabo and "CANBERRA" farther North.

Operations - Overseas.

No intercepts of any importance have been received during the last 24 hours.

A. M. Cs.

C.C.S. reports that as a result of the gun trials additional stiffening under P.3 and S.3 guns is necessary, also additional blast protection from P.2 and S.2. As a result of the foregoing Dockyard work will not be completed until p.m. Sunday, 19th November, and it is proposed that further gun trials shall be carried out the following day.

A/S Vessels.

C.C.S. reports that the "BIRCHGROVE PARK" is considered unsuitable, has maximum speed of 9 knots and poor acceleration. If requisitioned it would entail closing down a colliery.

General Interest.

The Naval Board have informed R.A.C.A.S. that the question of dates for the refitting of ships of his Squadron is under consideration but it is not possible to approve of "SYDNEY's" refit at present.

S.O. (I), Hong Kong, reports that a controlled minefield has been laid in the Tathong Channel.

"CAMBER" - Departed SYDNEY on patrol on 14/11 and expect to return 17/11.

"YARRO", "SEAN" - Arrived WILLIAMSTON about 1500 on 14/11.

"ADRI" - Arrived HERBERT ISLAND 15/11.

"WIKIATA" - On morning patrol, reported enemy air activity via PORTVILLE on 14/11.

"WIKIATA" - Note: Informal report that signals in general area of HERBERT were received and intercepted, reported HERBERT ISLAND on 14/11. R.A. reports of suspicious difficulties due to inexperienced and inexperienced operators on high frequency.

OPERATIONS - 1941

"WILLINGTON" - Sailed SINGAPORE for SOUTH PACIFIC patrol on 6/11, thence for SINGAPORE.

"LENN" - Departed SINGAPORE for SINGAPORE on 7/11.

A.S.S.

"KANDARA" - Admiralty award increased claim of 11,500 by for ship's expense incidental to destruction, and request further details.

ADJUTANT GENERAL

"SINGAPORE" - Being investigated with a view to a/s status.

"ST. CLAIR" - In reply to Naval Board request, R.A.C.A.S. has forwarded particulars re W/T equipment.

R.A.S.

"WICKHAM" - To be equipped.

"YESSANT" - Taken in hand 13/11. Probable date completion 1/12.

"GURRY" - Taken in hand 13/11. Probable date completion 2/12.

EXAMINATION SECTION

"BOAT" - R.A.S.B. to be established on CAPE BIRNIE at 1200 hours, 20/11. The station at ST. MARY'S then closed.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 15th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "CANBERRA"
"AUSTRALIA" - Departed SYDNEY on patrol on 14/11 and expect to return 16/11.
- "YARRA",
"SWAN". - Arrived WILLIAMSTOWN about 1500 on 14/11.
- "ADELE" - Arrived THURSDAY ISLAND 13/11.
- "WONGALA" - Her steering defect rectified, departed SYDNEY for DARWIN via TOWNSVILLE on 14/11.
- "MORETON BAY" - Having informed Naval Board that signals to proceed direct to HONGKONG were received and understood, departed THURSDAY ISLAND on 14/11. C. O. reports W/T reception difficulties due to atmospheric and inexperienced operators on high frequency.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- "WELLINGTON" - Sailed SINGAPORE for NORTH SUMATRA Patrol on 6/11, thence for GIBRALTAR.
- "LEITH" - Departed SINGAPORE for GIBRALTAR on 7/11.

A.M.C's.

- "KANIMBLA" - Admiralty cannot understand Claim £1,500 by owner for ship's expenses incidental to destoring, and request further details.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- "BIRCHGROVE
PARK" - Being investigated with a view to A/S duties.
- "ST. OLAVES" - In reply to Naval Board request, N. O. C. S. has forwarded particulars re W/T equipment.

D.E.M.S.

- "KOORINGA" - To be equipped.
- "TEESBANK" - Taken in hand 13/11. Probable date completion 1
- "SURREY" - Taken in hand 13/11. Probable date completion 9/

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

- HOBART - P.W.S.S. to be established on CAPE DIRECTION at 1200 Monday, 20/11. The station at MT. NELSON v then close.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

"MANGOLA" - N.C.S. NEWCASTLE states owners instructions through Naval Board to proceed NEWCASTLE and not SYDNEY were not received by ship, causing delay and inconvenience. Signal was passed by Naval Board.

Admiralty direct that all unnecessary restrictions on shipping be removed so that services be speeded up.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"AUSTRALIA" - F.O.C.A.S. reports that 200 rounds from machine gun were accidentally fired in SYDNEY and that some spent ammunition fell ashore. No casualties reported, but minor damage caused to roof of twelve dwellings.

LEAVE. - F.O.C.A.S. has informed ships leave may be granted from 1030 Sundays, while in SYDNEY.

"LACHLAN" - Requisitioned oiler, due SYDNEY 18/11 is to be directed to proceed to PALEMBANG.

HONGKONG - British mines have been laid in the approaches.

German M/V's. "MECKLENBURG" and "PARANA" reported in press as sunk by H.M. Ships were last reported respectively at PERNAMBUCO on 14/11 and BUENOS AIRES on 6/11.

Australian Destroyer Flotilla will enter limit of S. Indian Ocean at 1030 on 14th November.

Destroyer escort will be in position 33° 50' S. 104° 40' E. by 1/2 at 1100/11 and 33° 31' S. 103° 18' E. at 1200/11.

Destroyer "TYPHOON" reported to have been sighted in 34° 25' S. 107° 12' E. on 14th November. It appears possible that she was sighted.

Intentional Departures

"ANTHONY BURNETT" and "ELSA BURNETT" departed Sydney 11th. Latter is believed to be armed.

S.S.S.

Approved to equip "MANTON" "WILLOWBANK" and "CITY OF SYDNEY".

Auxiliary Vessels

"ORARA" will be ready for M/V trials on 16th/11 and gunnery trials on the following day, 17th/11.

Mineral Flotilla

The Admiralty have allocated No. 20 to the M/V Force comprising "ORARA", "YAMA", "KORRA" and "KORRA", which will therefore be known as 20th M/V Flotilla.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Tuesday, 14th November, 1939.

Operations-Australia Station.

"MORETON BAY" stopped temporarily Archer Point 0100/13 to pass message to Naval Board stating that signals received since leaving Brisbane were badly mutilated owing to atmospherics, resulting in doubt as to precise instructions issued by Naval Board. Ship has now been instructed to call at Thursday Island where she arrives 14th, and to wait until N. O. I. C. there has passed all messages and these have been received, understood and acknowledged.

"ADELAIDE" sailed from Brisbane and expects to arrive Sydney 0545/15th.

"CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" to proceed on patrol today, Tuesday, until Thursday.

"SWAN" departed Devonport (N. Z.). E. T. A. Melbourne 1200/14.

"KOOKABURRA" passed Archer Point 13th.

"KANIMBLA" proceeded from Sydney for trials and returned 13th.

"ADELE" arrived Thursday Island.

Operations-Overseas.

"DESPATCH" is to be at Chinci Island Peru Bay on 19th.

Australian Destroyer Flotilla will enter limit of E. Indies Station at 1630Z 14th November.

Unknown enemy unit was in position $053^{\circ} 52' N. 004^{\circ} 40' E.$ by D/F at 1124/13 and in position $053^{\circ} 51' N. 005^{\circ} 18' E.$ at 1334/13.

"DEUTCHLAND" boarded Norwegian vessel "TYRIFJORD" in $54^{\circ} 06' N. 37^{\circ} 19' W.$ on 4th November. It appears possible that she was homeward bound.

Potential Enemy A. M. Cs.

"ANNELIESS ESSBERGER" and "ELSA ESSBERGER" departed Nagasaki 11th. Latter is believed to be armed.

D. E. M. S.

Approved to equip "DERRYNANE" "WILLOWBANK" and "CITY OF LYONS".

Auxiliary Vessels.

"ORARA" will be ready for M/S trials on 16th/11 and gunnery trials on the following day, 17th/11.

Minesweeping Flotilla.

The Admiralty have allocated No. 20 to the M/S Force comprising "SWAN", "YARRA", "DOOMBA" and "ORARA", which will therefore be known as 20th M/S Flotilla.

General Interest.

As a temporary war measure Government has approved that Marriage Allowance be increased to 3/- per diem + 1/- for each child with no restrictions as regards numbers.

H.M.A.S. "ANGLAIS" sails from Brisbane at 1200 to-day, Monday, for Sydney and is to arrive at this port early A.M. on Wednesday, 18th November.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" is at Devonport) Both are due back
H.M.A.S. "YARRA" is at Loughkeeran) in Port Phillip
tomorrow, Tuesday,
18th November.

Excursions - Overseas.

H.M.A.S. "SWIFT" arrived at Colombo on Sunday, 18th November, from Singapore.

An enemy submarine is reported as being 25 miles North of Capara (3° 41 S. 33° 30W Brazil) on the 9th November.

The G. in C., No. 17, reports that whilst an A.T. Trawler was carrying out depth charge practice a submarine surfaced after a charge had been dropped.

Fores "I" ("VORICUS", "REVELUS") is now based on Halifax and is to operate along convoy routes and along routes followed by British Shipping between West Hatteras and Nova Scotia, particularly in focal area between Nantucket and Halifax.

General.

The Captain of "SWIFT" as R.O. Aust. Flotilla has requested early information by signal on the following conditions for R.A.N.R. ratings :-

- (i) Service overseas; some ratings claiming their service should be in Australian waters only.
- (ii) Issue of full gratuitous kit; abbreviated kit said to be most inadequate for War Service.
- (iii) Regulations for advancement; hardships by older men holding junior rates.

The Admiralty's reply to the Board's request for details of the Sweep for Magnetic Mines is that local manufacture might be undertaken has now been received and reads "Insufficient experience has yet been gained to prove frame of existing sweeps. Details of sweeps will be forwarded when it has been shown that modifications being tried are successful."

With reference to the report, dated 9th November, from C.O.I.S., Singapore, that the German Steamer "HELVETIA" had been captured and taken to Fremantle a later report from C.O.I.S., Hong Kong, dated 18th November, adds that an unsuccessful attempt was made to scuttle this vessel before capture.

Local.

The defensively arming of Coastal Vessels is to commence to-day.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET

To 0900 Sunday 12th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "ADELAIDE" Arrived Brisbane 11/10.
- "ADELE" Reported by W.S.S. Archer Point as anchoring there five hours on night of 10/11.
- "KOOKABURRA" Arrived Townsville 11/11.
- "ARAWA". Departed for Darwin from Sydney 11/11.
- "SWAN", "YARRA". No reports have been received of these ships since leaving Port Phillip on 9/11.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- UNKNOWN S/M. Is reported in 27°34'N 57°58'W (viz 300 S.E. of Bermuda) and is presumably German.
- NORTH SEA. Marked air activity reported in which 19 aircraft were identified.
- "ACHILLES". Navy Office Wellington requests mail to be sent to Falkland Islands.
- "VAMPIRE". Accountant Officer and Surgeon Lieutenant Commander are now accommodated.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- "WONGALA" N.O.C.S. has been informed that this vessel is still subject to Commonwealth Navigation Act, and that pilotage, watchkeeping and any doubtful matters should be referred to Marine Branch, Department of Commerce.
- "BONTHORPE". This ship being on British register, D.S.T's concurrence to requisitioning is being sought.

A.M.Co.

- W/T WATCH. C in C China advises watches as for a normal single line warship will be kept.
- "ARAWA". Details of Ballasting forwarded to Admiralty.

D.E.M.S.

- "MANUNDA" Taken in hand 10/11. Probably finished 3/12.
- "CITY OF LYONS". Due Sydney 24/11/39. Agents wish equipped.
- "WILLOWBANK". " " 22/11/39. do.
- "DERRYNONE". " " 28/11/1939. do.
- "PORT SYDNEY". " " 22/11/39. To be equipped.
- "LOCH RANGA". Completed 4" MK IX on 11/11/39.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

BABAUL To be closed at night commencing 13/11/39.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

INSURANCE. Maritime Services Board enquire whether "Captain Cook" and "Sirubi" are to be insured for war risks.

GENERAL.

TIMES OF ORIGIN Following adoption of G.M.T Times of Origin by China & I. Stations, N.B. now proposes to conform.

GERMAN RADIO. A radio station is reported to operate from near Sydney.

INTELLIGENCE. Admiralty are originating a system for grading intelligence forwarded by reporting officers so that information obtained may be reliably assessed.

CAPTAIN E.F.B. LAW R.N. C in C China has asked Admiralty for confirmation that this officer should be sent to Darwin as a surveying officer. This appears unlikely.

JAPANESE WHALER Mother ship believed to be "Tonan Maru" and a number of chasers anchored about 18 miles from Bunbury W.A.

July

REMARKS - GENERAL.

An intercept from C. in C. EAST INDIES is quoted verbatim :-

"Admiralty inform us there are indications that GERMAN Warship believed to be S.A.S. "AMIRAL SCHEER" may have worked her way round the Cape, in which case she would appear on INDIAN trade routes about 15th November."

MOVEMENTS OF GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GERMAN merchant vessels "LASH" and "YACOW" left COSSACK, CHILE, on 5th November with GERMAN crew of officers from other GERMAN ships; they may be met by pocket battleship "AMIRAL SCHEER".

It will be recalled that "LASH" (6,500 gross tons) was anchored in STONEY Harbour, fully bunkered, about 10 days prior to the outbreak of war.

This vessel, suitable for conversion as auxiliary transport or store ship, sailed from STONEY early in the evening of 10th August without crew or pilot.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Saturday, 11th November.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" arrived SYDNEY Friday, 10th November from exercises.

"MORETON BAY" left BRISBANE 10th November for DARWIN. E.T.A. 17th November. "MORETON BAY" does not appear to have received Signal 1200/9 correctly.

"ARAWA" sails from SYDNEY this Saturday morning for HONGKONG calling at DARWIN and SANDAKAN.

F.O.C.A.S. has suggested to Naval Board that, in view of industrial trouble at DARWIN, "ARAWA" should proceed direct to her ultimate destination but decision has been deferred pending settlement of dispute which seems imminent.

"ADELE" left CAIRNS 10th November for THURSDAY ISLAND where she is due 14th November; thence to DARWIN.

"WONGALA", under orders to sail for DARWIN yesterday, has been delayed in SYDNEY owing to unsatisfactory steering gear.

A.M.C.'s. One cutter in each "KANIMELA", "MANCORA" and "WESTRALIA" is to be motorized and Naval Board has approved the provision of a motor boat for each of these ships.

Auxiliary Vessels. The owners of "CALDARE" are to be informed that, following their protest, efforts will be made to obtain another vessel suitable for A.S. duties.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

An intercept from C. in C. EAST INDIES is quoted verbatim :-

"Admiralty informs me there are indications that GERMAN Warship believed to be G.A.S. "ADMIRAL SCHEER" may have worked her way round the CAPE, in which case she could appear on INDIAN trade routes about 10th November."

Movements of GERMAN Merchant Ships.

GERMAN Merchant Vessels "LAHN" and "TACOMA" left CONCEPCION, CHILE, on 9th November with GERMAN crew of officers from other GERMAN ships; they may be met by pocket battleship "ADMIRAL SCHEER".

It will be recalled that "LAHN" (8,500 gross tons) was anchored in SYDNEY Harbour, fully bunkered, about 10 days prior to the outbreak of war.

This vessel, suitable for conversion as mechanical transport or store ship, sailed from SYDNEY early in the morning of 26th August without warning or pilot.

To CDR Friday 12th October, 1918.

ADMIRALTY.

Free postage for letters and postcards, subject to a number of conditions, is approved for officers and men serving in seagoing ships.

British merchant vessels are to be reminded that Admiralty confidential books must be destroyed before a ship is abandoned.

GENERAL.

Armistice Day. Two minutes' silence at 1100 this Saturday forenoon.

"ECHO" and "SHELL" - sailed from Singapore for PENANG.

"FLY" - sailed from PENANG for SINGAPORE.

S.S.S.

An additional 20 in No. 4" guns are being forwarded at first opportunity from SINGAPORE to CHINA, for use of S.S.S.

S.S.S.

S.S.S. forwarded proposal for fitting out "SINGAPORE", "SHELL", and "ECHO", with one motor boat and one motor cutter each.

GENERAL SERVICE.

"ECHO" - Reports 1 sick case since bringing total number of sick to hospital to 7.

C. in C. - Has ordered S.S.S. to be used in all messages on the station as from 10/10. He has also issued instructions regarding the W/T watches to be kept by "SINGAPORE", "SHELL", and "ECHO".

S.S. - Informed C. in C. CHINA that they do not desire to improve S.S.S. for signals.

SINGAPORE - Administration reports that combustion serving is not possible at night and that inner harbour is closed between sunset and sunrise and certain lights are extinguished.

SINGAPORE - Admiralty announces the proposed closing of South Channel SINGAPORE.

S.S.S. has arranged to load 500 tons coal for naval and railway use, SINGAPORE, in "SINGAPORE" as soon as possible. The quantity is in line of a similar amount which was originally to be loaded at Penang but is not now available at that port.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday 10th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

O.Y.3. This operation was completed successfully; all aircraft have returned to their bases. Two ships were reported and both were identified.

"ADELE". Arrived Cairns 0700/9.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

"LEANDER" - Has been ordered by C.N.S. Wellington to visit AUCKLAND ISLANDS and examine CARNLEY HARBOUR after leaving DUNEDIN.

"EAGLE" and "HOBART" - Sailed from Singapore for COLOMBO.

"LEITH" - Sailed from PENANG for COLOMBO.

D.E.M.S.

An additional 20 in No. 4" guns are being forwarded at first opportunity from GIBRALTER to SYDNEY; for use of D.E.M.S.

A.M.C.'s.

N.O.C.S. forwarded proposal for fitting out "KANIMBLA", "MANOORA", and "WESTRALIA", with one motor boat and one motor cutter each.

GENERAL INTEREST.

"YARRA" - Reports 2 more cases mumps bringing total number discharges to hospital to 7.

C. in C. CHINA. - Has ordered G.M.T. to be used in all messages on his station as from 0001/10. He has also issued instructions regarding the W/T watches to be kept in "MORETON BAY", "ARAWA", and "KANIMELA".

N.O. WELLINGTON - Informed C. in C. CHINA that they do not desire to introduce G.M.T. for signals.

RABAUL - Administrator reports that examination service is not possible at night and that inner harbour is closed between sunset and sunrise and certain lights are extinguished.

INCHKEITH. - Admiralty announce the proposed closing of South Channel INCHKEITH.

N.O.C.S. has arranged to load 500 tons coal for naval and railway use, DARWIN, in "MANGOLA" on 10th November. The quantity is in lieu of a similar amount which was originally to be loaded at Newcastle but is not now available at that port.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday 9th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "SWAN" "YARRA" Departure - Port Melbourne for sweep off Wilsons Promontory and for Devonport and Launceston respectively.
- "CANBERRA")
"AUSTRALIA") Departed Sydney for patrol and exercise OY3.
- "ADELAIDE" Departed Sydney for patrol, and exercise OY3 and for Brisbane.
- "WONGALA" N.O.C.S. intends to sail ship for Darwin via Townsville and Thursday Island on 10/11. Sail will be used whenever possible.
- "MORETON BAY" Has been ordered to close Examination vessel off Cowan Cowan, Moreton Bay, to disembark seven A.B.'s. C. in C. China has asked that this vessel be directed to proceed direct to Hong Kong, showing herself at Menado, Celebes, en route.
- "ARAWA" Is to proceed to Hong Kong via Darwin, Sandakan, N.W. Borneo, and Macassar Strait.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

- SUBMARINE Natives report of a submarine in 007° 14' S 157° E (N. of Solomons) on 24/10. Report is considered doubtful
- H.M.S. "CLYDE" (S/M) Departed Freetown on patrol.
- AUXILIARY VESSELS.
- "UKI" None of the crew are volunteers for service.
- "CALDARE" Owners most strongly protest against requisition. Vessel is specially built for coal trade, Sydney, including supply to several important public utilities.

A.M.C.'s.

- "ARAWA" N.O.C.S. considers spray shields for P2 and S2 guns essential. Two are being fitted, and replacements being manufactured locally.
- "KANIMBLA" N.B. has advised Admiralty that a claim of £1500 from owners for wages and expenses has been received and requests advice.

D.E.M.S.

- "PORT AUCKLAND" Already fitted with 4" low angle gun would like H.A. gun also.
- "LOCH RANGA" Taken in hand 6/11. Completion expected 12/11.
- "WAROONA" " 7/11. " 10/11.
- "PESHAWAR" " 8/11. " 18/11.
- "KAIPAKI" " 8/11 " 12/11.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.HOBART

D.N.O. requests permission to bring into force arrangements for new examination anchorage from 1200 on 11/11.

RABAU

Administrator advised that his proposal to close port at night is not clear and further intelligence is asked.

GENERAL INTERESTTIMES OF ORIGIN

C. in C. East Indies advises G.M.T. times of origin are being used on that Station.

W/T RESTRICTIONS

N.B. desires to introduce restrictions in use of FRENCH SHIPS. W/T in French ships and the Consul General's opinion is being sought.

WHALE CATCHERS,

TRAWLERS. In response to their request, N.O. Wellington is being forwarded drawings and specifications of patrol vessel whaler type.

COLOUR H.M.A. SHIPS

N.L.O. is to ascertain Admiralty's policy regarding painting of ships light or dark grey as uniformity on foreign stations appears desirable.

Q.F. CARTRIDGE CASES.

Admiralty advises all empties should be returned to nearest armament depot or shore base at earliest opportunity.

MAGNETIC MINES.

Details of sweep are requested from Admiralty to enable local manufacture.

C. in C. CHINA

Will visit Singapore in "KENT" leaving Hong Kong 12/11. Arriving Singapore 15/11 and departing Hong Kong about 26/11. Originators messages are to be passed to both Hong Kong and Singapore during passage and to Singapore upon flag's arrival.

JAPANESE WHALERS.

Depot ship KyoKuyo Maru with 9 chasers and Nisshin Maru Nos.1 and 2 with 14 chasers are due Fremantle 10/11 and 20/11 respectively. Others are to follow. Two Norwegian chasers are due 12/11.

goy

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 8th November.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ship "AUSTRALIA" left Sydney Tuesday 7th November for patrol.

"MORETON BAY" left Sydney for Darwin Tuesday 7th November.

"ARAWA" carried out full calibre firing off Sydney yesterday 7th November. She is to carry out further day and night full calibre firings on Sunday or Monday next if not required to sail for overseas in the meantime.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" have been ordered by F.O.C.A.S. to carry out a searching sweep off Wilsons Promontory on Thursday, 9th November. On completion, one escort vessel will proceed to Devonport (Tasmania) and one to Launceston returning to Port Phillip on 14th November.

"KOOKABURRA" sailed from Brisbane for Townsville en route to Darwin 7th November.

OPERATION OY3

Disposition of Force "YY" has been ordered by F.O.C.A.S., ships to be in their respective positions by 0500 Thursday, 9th November. On completion of the operation about 1800, "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" will return to Sydney and "ADELAIDE" will proceed to Brisbane arriving 11th November.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"BERMAGUI" (402 tons) to be fitted out in Melbourne as an Auxiliary M.S. vessel, was taken over on Saturday, 4th November.

"UKI" (545 tons) arrived Melbourne from Sydney 7th November to be fitted out as an Auxiliary M.S. vessel.

"CALDARE" (760 tons) is to be requisitioned and fitted out in Sydney as an A/S vessel. A 4" gun will be mounted.

"TAMBAR" (456 tons) having been fitted out for M/S duties, commissioned at Melbourne a.m. 7th November.

D.E.M.S.

"MELBOURNE STAR" was defensively equipped at Melbourne on 7th November.

Total number of merchant ships defensively armed in Australia to date is 64.

N.C.S.

Administrator Rabaul seeks permission from Naval Board to close Port of Rabaul from sunset to sunrise as from 13th November.

Masters of British merchant ships are to be instructed that if attacked by raiders they are to use every endeavour to follow up original distress signal by an amplifying message giving full

description of Raider thus ensuring prompt action by warships in the vicinity.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A. Ship "HOBART" was due to leave Singapore for Colombo 7th November.

The Admiralty warned an East Coast R.A.F. Station that German aircraft were active over the North Sea at 1000 on 7th November and at least 9 aircraft were taking part. Enemy air activity together with heavy firing is also reported in vicinity Shetland Islands.

Force "K" ("ARK ROYAL", "RENOWN" and "NEPTUNE"), with attendant destroyers were to arrive Freetown 6th November for fuelling.

"CARNARVON CASTLE", recently fitted out as an A.M.C. and detailed for escort duty with Sierra Leone convoy, is to leave Simonstown with sufficient bunkers to reach Freetown where there are ample supplies of coal.

In the near future, two fast convoys with a Commodore in each will leave Sierra Leone every 8 days for U.K.

ADMIRALTY.

In reply to a request from Naval Board, regulations have been received regarding private radio telegrams to and from allied merchant ships.

A courier with despatches for Melbourne and Wellington left U.K. by air 4th November and is due Sydney 17th November whence arrangements are requested for onward transit.

A message addressed to C. in C. China and repeated to D.N.I. Melbourne states that several reports from unconfirmed secret sources have been received regarding submarine and raider bases possibly in Japanese Mandated Islands. As suspicion is attached to a Dr. Gottfried Weiss of Penang, who recently toured the Southern Pacific Islands, his itinerary is to be checked.

GENERAL.

Naval Board has advised C. in C. China that it is not desired to use G.M.T. in times of origin on the Australia Station unless East Indies and New Zealand Stations desire to do so when we would be prepared to conform.

Approximately 10 weeks are required by Thornycroft works for delivery of V.8 engines and outfits to be fitted to fast motor boats for "PARRAMATTA", "WARREGO" and "VOYAGER", and Boom Depot Darwin.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 7th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" departed from Sydney a.m. Monday, 6th November and returned about 9 p.m. the same day after having carried out full calibre day and night firings.

H.M.S. "ARAWA" from Port Phillip arrived Sydney p.m. Monday, 6th November, having carried out a full calibre firing on that day.

O.Y.3. - R.A.C.A.S.'s proposal for Thursday, 9th November, is approved. Air operations will be carried out from Richmond and Canberra, the former over an area between Point Perpendicular and Macquarie Light to a depth of 120 miles, the latter between Gabo and Tathra Head to a depth of 185 miles. The search will be arranged so that aircraft will not commence returning to base until approximately 1800.

PORT STEPHEN

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Forces "G" and "H" - C.in C., South Atlantic, has ordered the exchange of Areas. Force "H" will sail from Capetown and Simonstown on the night Saturday, 11th November.

Force "G" is to arrive at either Capetown or Simonstown at daylight Saturday, 25th November.

H.M.S. "DELHI" sails from Freetown p.m. Friday, 10th November, for Kingston via Trinidad.

H.M.S. "REVENGE" arrived Halifax on Sunday, 5th November.

Convoys - An additional faster convoy to include ships with speeds between 11½-15 knots is to be run from Sierra Leone every eight days.

Two Polish destroyers have been despatched from Harwich to search for 2 lifeboats in the vicinity of position 52° 46' N., 3° 22' E. (approx. 60' due East of Yarmouth). These boats were located by aircraft and reported to be full of people.

A.M.C.'s - The Admiralty have promulgated the following allocations :-

To C.in.C., South Atlantic, for escort duties with Sierra Leone Convoy, vessels which have been completed - "CORDALE", "SALOPIAN", "CARNARVON CASTLE" and "DUNOTTEN CASTLE",

also the following which are expected to complete during November - "CHESTER", "ANTENOR", "RANPURA" (all from Calcutta), "PRETORIA CASTLE" (Belfast), "RAJPUTANA" (Esquimalt), "ALCANTARA" (Malta, early December).

To C.in C., East Indies -

Vessel which has completed : "CATHAY".
Vessels which are expected to complete
in November - "RANCHI" (Bombay) and
"HALOJA" (Bombay).

AUXILIARY VESSELS - "TAMBAR" requisitioned at Melbourne
on 17th October for M/S duties and fitting out
here is to commission today. Trials of Gunnery
and M/S equipment to be carried out early
next week.

GENERAL INTEREST.

Navy Office, Wellington, who have been asked
by the Admiralty if Whale Catchers and Trawlers can be
built in private yards, are investigating the possibilities
and have asked if drawings and specifications of MERSEY,
CASTLE and STRATH type trawlers are available in
Australia; if so, could copies be loaned.

S.O.(I), Port Moresby, reports that he has completed the
Coast-watching Organisation and is forwarding
the report by aeroplane.

N.O.I.C., Darwin, requested permission to use Naval
personnel to unload "THORNLIBANK". He has
been instructed to act in co-operation with
Military Commandant but in no way to exceed
limits of action laid down by the Military
Board, and that it is preferable to be
dissociated from industrial disputes.

The Master of British Ship "ORONTES" reported sighting a
lifeboat marked 'Tielbank, Glasgow' whilst on
passage from Sydney to Brisbane. The Agents
advise that this ship reported the loss of this
boat when on passage from Panama to Newcastle
in September last.

R.A.C.A.S. has promulgated by signal to all H.M.A. Ships
the text of the Naval Board's communication
regarding the question of Pay and Allowances.

The First Lord has approved the appointment of Captain
Budgen as C.in C., Simonstown with the rank of
Commodore, 1st Class, who is to take over about
the 14th December from Captain C.G. Stuart
D.S.O., D.S.C.

Shipments of Lead Concentrates to Japan -

A message from Yamashita & Co., Sydney, to its
Kobe principals shows that it is proposed to
ship to Japan commencing from January next
3,000 tons of lead concentrates monthly.

Shipments of lead concentrates from
Australia to Japan are unusual, although it is
understood that the Japanese have been endeavour-
ing for some time past to obtain supplies of
zinc concentrates from Mount Isa.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday 6th November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "KOOKABURRA" arrived Brisbane 1045/5th November.

A.M.C.'s

Admiralty 1324/4 request that "MORETON BAY", "ARAWA", and "KANIMBLA" be placed at disposal of C. in C. China. N.B. replied that ships will be ready to sail as follows:- "MORETON BAY" 7th November. "ARAWA" 11th November, "KANIMBLA" about first week in December. N.B. ordered that "MORETON BAY" should be sailed for Darwin on 7th November pending information from C. in C. China regarding destination.

O.Y.3.

R.A.C.A.S. proposes that this operation should be carried out in a convenient area on Thursday 9th November. Cruisers will be disposed accordingly.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

FORCE K

arrives Freetown 6th November.

FORCE L

("FURIOUS" and "REPULSE") is to operate from Halifax escort being provided by R.C.N. destroyers. Two H class destroyers are to proceed to Halifax to operate with above force, probably "HYPERION" and "HUNTER".

FORCES G AND H

have been ordered by the Admiralty to exchange areas of operations as soon as convenient. This action is being taken in order to provide a hunting group of high endurance on the east coast of South America and to rest and refit "CUMBERLAND" and "EXETER" - relieved by "SUSSEX" and "SHROPSHIRE" from South Africa.

Intercepted signal from C. in C. South Atlantic to S.N.O. Simonstown refers to loss of an aircraft probably by Force H or K.

H.M.A.S. "STUART", "WATERHEN" and "VENDETTA" arrived Singapore 29th October.

Admiralty consider that possible German advance through Holland might be followed by enemy action against the Dutch oil fields in Dutch Guiana, and have accordingly suggested to C. in C. A. & W.I. that he should proceed (to that vicinity?) in either H.M.S. "YORK" or H.M.A.S. "PERTH".

Intercepted Admiralty message 0951/5 states that there is air activity over North Sea.

Our submarine patrols are being relieved in this area presumably in the normal course of routine, and this might account for the aircraft activity.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" Programme prepared by D.N.O. Victoria for gunnery and M/S trials is approved.

DAILY NARRATIVE

2.

NOVEMBER

GENERAL

DARWIN

The Duty Army Officer was instructed by General Squires to pass the following information by telephone:-

The request of the Administrator N.T.(Darwin) that the Military should discharge the cargo ex "THORNLIBANK" was not approved. The Military already had authority to discharge stores etc. for the Defence Services and this will be done, but cargo for the civilian population is not to be handled. This decision was given by the Solicitor General in the absence of the Minister for the Interior who could not be located.

DARWIN

N.O.I.C. forwarded by air mail on the 3rd November report on disparaging newspaper article, referring to the Wardroom mess.

H.M.A.S."HOBART's" AIRCRAFT.

Further signal received states that the Seagull A2 - 23 crashed into sea during night landing operations on 31st October. No injuries to personnel. Damaged machine was salvaged and lended at Seletar and a new one obtained.

Admiralty advised all H.M. ships of prohibited anchorage in Firth of Clyde.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS

According to an Admiralty intercept, addressed to all ships in Areas "A" and "B", the German battle cruiser "SCHARNHORST" and pocket battleship "GRAF SPEE" were at WILHELMSDRAGE on 29th October, and the majority of other heavy ships were at KIEL on that date.

H.M.S. "HUNT" arrived BIRMINGHAM 2nd November, and sailed the following day for BRUSSELS.

H.M.S. "HAYDOCK" was ordered by the Admiralty on 3rd November to proceed to FREETOWN forthwith and then sail with a homeward bound convoy, parting company as convenient for GIBRALTAR to make good engine defects. Another destroyer is to replace "HAYDOCK" as America and West India Station.

H.M. Ships "FURIOUS" and "REFULGE" - report of arrival 3rd November received (Name of place cannot be deciphered).

H.M.S. "HEPTER" (Flagship C. in C., Africa Station) expected to arrive 6th November - probably FREETOWN.

The tanker "OLIHASK" at ST. HELENA was ordered by C. in C., South Atlantic, to sail for FREETOWN if no destroyers had arrived by 0600 4th November.

A British flying boat, with five persons on board, was over the sea on 3rd November in an area in the westward of GIBRALTAR.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 SUNDAY, 5th NOVEMBER.

OPERATIONS : AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A.Ship "ARAWA" left PORT MELBOURNE Saturday, 4th November for SYDNEY and en route will carry out full calibre firings about noon, Monday, 6th November.

"ADELE" left BRISBANE 4th November, for CAIRNS en route to DARWIN.

Auxiliary Vessels : "UKI" left SYDNEY Saturday, 4th November for MELBOURNE.

"BERMAGUI" arrived MELBOURNE 4th November.

D.E.M.S. : The tanker "EULIMA", like "SITALA", is defensively equipped and has a coloured crew. C.C.S. intends to send three Naval ratings on board each ship.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

According to an Admiralty intercept, addressed to all ships in Areas "A" and "B", the German battle cruiser "SCHARNHORST" and pocket battleship "GRAF SPEE" were at WILHELMSHAVEN on 29th October, and the majority of other heavy ships were at KIEL on that date.

H.M.S. "YORK" arrived BEHRING 2nd November, and sailed the following day for BERMUDA.

H.M.S. "HAVOCK" was ordered by the Admiralty on 3rd November to proceed to FREETOWN forthwith and then sail with a homeward bound convoy, parting company as convenient for GIBRALTAR to make good engine defects. Another destroyer is to replace "HAVOCK" on America and West Indies Station.

H.M.Ships "FURIOUS" and "REPULSE" - report of arrival 3rd November received (Name of place cannot be decyphered).

H.M.S. "NEPTUNE" (Flagship C.in C., Africa Station) expects to arrive 6th November - probably FREETOWN.

The tanker "OLIGARCH" at ST. HELENA was ordered by C.in C., South Atlantic, to sail for TRINIDAD if no destroyers had arrived by 0800 4th November.

A British flying boat, with five persons on board, was overdue on 3rd November in an area to the eastward of SHETLAND ISLANDS.

GENERAL.

Subject to Naval Board approval, C.C.S. will inform the owners of the tug "ST. OLAVES" that the vessel has been requisitioned by the Admiralty, and they will be requested to work the vessel from SYDNEY to the United Kingdom at Government expense.

Naval Board has approved an expenditure of £274 for improvements to accommodation at APFLECROSS W/T Station.

Commodore MALAYA has informed Naval Board of the route to be followed by all vessels passing through SUNDA STRAITS.

Tanker "LACHLAN" left SINGAPORE 1st November. Due SYDNEY about 18th November with 12,500 tons oil fuel.

Information received by the Admiralty from the Consul at LOBITO that GERMAN Ship "ADOLPH WOERMANN" (8,500 tons) has sought permission from a PORTUGUESE gunboat to sail 19th November.

Reported unrest among Members of Crews of Australian Interstate Vessels.

The Chief Officer of the "MANUNDA" reports that there is a general feeling of unrest among the crews of Australian coastal vessels. He believes that the trouble is being caused through the replacement of the regular crews, called up for Naval Service, by undesirable types who are seizing the opportunity to create trouble and dissatisfaction with existing conditions.

The ports where the effect is most noticeable are SYDNEY and FREMANTLE, probably because the wharf labourers at these places are said to be sympathetic to the agitators.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Saturday 4th November.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA" and "ADELAIDE" returned to Sydney from Exercises and patrol during the forenoon Friday 3rd November.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" returned to Fremantle from Exercises at 1330 Thursday 2nd November.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" arrived at Port Melbourne p.m. Friday 3rd November.

H.M.A. Ships "KOROWA" and "OLIVE CAM" arrived at Fremantle yesterday (3rd November). These M/S vessels departed from Melbourne on Saturday 21st October and from Adelaide on the 25th October. As no report of their having called at any other port and their arrival date is up to schedule it appears that no engine or other troubles developed whilst on passage.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

The C. in C. A. & W.I. has given orders that the Panama Tanker "CLIO" is to be boarded if possible on arrival in territorial waters Trinidad about the 6th November. This tanker left Santos (about 200 miles Southward from Rio Janeiro) on the 22nd October for Caripito (on the Orinoco River - Venezuela). This is one of the tankers that was reported to have changed her German crew for a U.S.A. crew on the outbreak of war. She is suspected of having visited Fernando de Noronha (H.M.S. "SEVERN" is due on patrol in this vicinity on 5th November). The boarding is not to be carried out in Venezuela Territorial waters.

As a result of the capture of the German steamer "GONZENHEIM" it was ascertained from members of her crew that German ships are instructed by the German Government that when returning to Germany they are to round Iceland through the Denmark Strait then continue due East until Norwegian Territorial Waters are reached. Similar information was obtained from the chart of the "SANTA FE" after her capture by the French towards the end of October.

A report from H.M.A.S. "HOBART" addressed to the Admiralty, Commodore Malaya and Naval Board states that her Aircraft crashed at 1945 on the 31st October approx. 9 miles off the coast of Simalur Is. which is the Northernmost Island of the group which run along the South West coast of Sumatra and lies about 70 miles from the mainland. The S.P.'s carried in the plane are missing and one which was unweighted may be compromised. The Minister and Air Board have been informed.

A.M.C.'s

C.C.S. reports that tests carried out with the batteries for training and slewing and range and deflection circuits indicates that the capacity is insufficient after 3 hours' continuous working and it is proposed to replace the existing batteries for the above service in "KANIMBLA", "MORETON BAY" and "ARAWA" as opportunity offers at an estimated cost of £125 per ship including labour.

Handwritten notes:
C.C.S. reports that tests carried out with the batteries for training and slewing and range and deflection circuits indicates that the capacity is insufficient after 3 hours' continuous working and it is proposed to replace the existing batteries for the above service in "KANIMBLA", "MORETON BAY" and "ARAWA" as opportunity offers at an estimated cost of £125 per ship including labour.

Handwritten mark: 13/5/44

F.O.C.A.S. reports that it is intended that H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" shall carry out a further full calibre firing on Monday 6th November.

C.C.S. reports that the closing Main Engines and subsequent sea trials of M.V. "DUNTROON" have been completed and she has taken over her normal trade.

It is proposed to place H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA" under the orders of R.A.C.A.S. from 0800 Thursday 16th November.

The Admiralty have requested ~~that~~ the number and type of Motor Boats carried by all A.M.C.'s which have been or are being equipped.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"WONGALA" (ex "WYATT EARP") as the engine room is constructed of wood and this has become saturated with oil C.C.S. proposes supplying and installing a satisfactory fire extinguishing system at an estimated cost of £150.

"BONTHORPE" this vessel is at Albany and D.N.O. W.A. reports that he should be in a position to signal the result of the survey about Monday next the 6th November.

"UKI" - C.C.S. reports that the personnel have been detailed and the vessel will probably sail at noon today Saturday 4th November.

GENERAL INTEREST.

Applecross W/T Station - It has been arranged that a Military Guard will be provided for this Station and D.N.O. W.A. has been advised accordingly.

N.L.O. advises that the price of tinned fish has advanced about 40% on previous purchase and that a further rise is expected within 24 hours.

The C. in C. South Atlantic has been advised that a Naval District Manager and 5 English Canteen Managers are being sent to Freetown for "H" Class Destroyers to replace the Maltese Managers who deserted at Malta.

D.N.O. Port Adelaide reports that the War Signal Station at Neptune Island is ready for operation. W/T communication has been established. The hut for accommodation is still under construction.

Weather - Gale warnings to shipping on the South Coast have been broadcast during the last 24 hours. The Cyclone below 29.3" centred late last night in the West Bass Straits is moving slowly S.E.. General weather conditions are expected to improve.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

The Captain on Staff Singapore reports to the Admiralty (in reply to a signal not intercepted here) that the Acting Consul General at Batavia is reliably informed that the vital parts of machinery have been replaced by the Dutch Authorities and no time limit is mentioned, a three day time limit was stated in a prior signal. It is also reported from the same source that food is supplied on a 3 day ration basis.

To 0900 Friday, 3rd November, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

"SWAN" "YARRA" Departed Port Phillip a.m. 0900. Returned about 1600.

"CANBERRA" "AUSTRALIA" "ADELAIDE" Departed Sydney for patrol to return today Friday.

"ADELE" Delayed at Brisbane until 4th November for engine repairs.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"LEANDER" Departed Auckland 2/11 for Port Fitzroy.

D.E.M.S.

"TREBARTHA" To be defensively equipped on discharge of cargo. Due Sydney 7/11.

"SITALA" Tanker, is defensively equipped, but carries no naval ratings or white crew. N.O.C.S. requests permission to send three ratings on board.

"BAHIA" N.B.'s previous instructions not to replace 12 pdr. as now fitted, by 4" gun have been cancelled.

"MOUNT PARK" To be defensively equipped. Due Sydney 12/11.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"GOORANGAI" Gun equipment trials followed by firing to take place on 6/11 as previously advised. Minesweeping equipment and sweeping trials deferred to Wednesday 8/11.

M/S FLOTILLA Admiralty has been advised that when "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" are shortly ready for service, they will with "SWAN" and "YARRA" be organised as a M/S Flotilla. A M/S Flotilla number is requested from Admiralty.

"St.GILES" "HEROS" N.O.C.S. requests the appointment of C.O., E.O., and A/S Officers to each vessel. Both ships to be armed with one 12 pdr. 12 cwt. gun.

"UKI" Cannot be despatched to Melbourne until 1200 4/11, instead of p.m. 3/11 as previously advised. 200 tons of coal for ballast embarked, and is for government charge.

A.M.C.'s

"WESTRALIA" N.O.C.S. advises preliminary survey of engines is satisfactory and he intends to requisition vessel.

"KANIMBLA" C.C.S. proposes following programme. Gunnery equipment trial 10/11, Gun trials 13/11. Subject to results of gun trials dockyard complete on 15/11. Proposes to place ship under F.O.C.A.S. as from 0800 16/11.

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"MORETON BAY" Admiralty have been advised these ships have
"ARAWA" completed working up and will be ready to sail on 4/11 and 11/11
 respectively if desired.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

PAINING OF MERCHANT SHIPS N.C.S. states position re painting of overseas
 M/V.'s is not clear. Owners of interstate vessels painted grey
 under naval advice now request to revert to normal colours.

N.B. has advised that vessels may revert to
 normal colours, excepting white.

"MAIWERA" Burns Philp steamer of 600 tons has
 apparently been renamed and is flying neutral colours. A.R.O.
 at Rabaul has been advised to inform Master that this is to
 cease forthwith.

THURSDAY ISLAND N.O.I.C. on 1/11, took over from A.R.O. of
 N.C.S. duties.

MORETON BAY D.N.O. Queensland has been advised that N.E.
 Channel, previously closed, may be opened, but may be closed
 at any time considered necessary. Lights and buoys must not
 be removed without N.B. permission. No objection is raised to
 P.W.S.S. informing N.C.S. of arrivals of M.V.'s.

"OTTER" ^{EXAMINATION SERVICE} Approval has been given to carry out necessary
 alterations.

"BARETO" N.O.I.C. has been directed to requisition
 this vessel and have necessary repairs effected.

"PANIWINA" To be returned to New Guinea Government as
 soon as possible.

PORT MORESBY N.O.I.C. has been advised that proposed
 construction of Cowan Cowan type huts is not final and that a
 combined building for examination service and battery
 personnel is under consideration.

GENERAL INTEREST

EXPLOSIVES N.O. Wellington asks that arrangements be
 made to tranship to Auckland 30 tons explosives shortly due in
 Australia by "PORT CAMPBELL"

DARWIN INDICATOR LOOP STATION PERSONNEL
 N.O.C.S. can now arrange for passage of six
 of the ten S.D. ratings for Darwin in "WONGALA".

COMBINED OPERATIONS DARWIN. F.C.O.H. desires to know if reports of
 operations in future exercises are required.

AUSTRALIAN DESTROYER FLOTILLA If maximum anti S/M efficiency is primary
 object of Flotilla, S.O. Flotilla recommends removal of H.S.
 M.S. gear, so that primitive depth charge chutes may be
 replaced by rails similar to "STUART".

FORCES Y AND Z Australian Forces Y and Z are now being
 designated YY and ZZ to obviate confusion with Admiralty
 dispositions.

TIMES OF ORIGIN C. in C. China intends using G.M.T. for
 T. of O. of all messages after 0001 on 10/11. This is to
 assist in maintaining secrecy as to whereabouts of ships.

N.B. is asked whether it intends to follow this course, as the proposal was approved by N.B. and C. in C. East Indies in May, 1939.

RAIDERS

Admiralty advises enemy raiders may be expected in any waters. M.V.'s should avoid approaching unknown M/V.'s at sea.

MAGNETIC MINES

Admiralty advise that enemy magnetic ground mines have been laid by submarines off coast of U.K.

ICELAND

A new trade agreement with Iceland is in force whereby certain ships may carry native products to Germany direct.

BUNDALEER

Following a report that an unidentified steamer passed Moreton Bay steaming N at 0915, an air search was made from Archerfield and resulted in the identification of this ship at 1352. The vessel had apparently only made good a speed of 9 knots in lieu of 12 knots from Newcastle which accounts for her position on the mercantile plot.

"SITALA"

Oiler, Admiralty advises should be released after discharge of cargo at Sydney, and is to be directed to proceed to Balik Papan.

APPLECROSS W/T

D.N.O. Perth considers existing conditions unhealthy, and requests permission to proceed with previous proposals to erect messing, cooking and bathing facilities as previously outlined. Military Authorities agree that proposals will be adequate if a Military guard is installed.

"CANBERRA"

In view of deferring of modernisation of "CANBERRA" during hostilities N.L.O. requests instructions concerning store requisitions and contracts for equipment not individually cancelled by N.B.

TUG W.A.

Adelaide S.S. Co. is making a tug available for towing of targets.

DELIVERANCE ISLAND

A search by patrol vessel "VIGILANT" has revealed no sign of previously reported Japanese activities.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE W.A.

MacRobertson Miller Aviation Co. have agreed to divert their planes to a strictly coastal route between Wyndham and Darwin except under certain conditions. By so doing a watch on unfrequented estuaries on this coast will be to some extent maintained.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Thursday 2nd November, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", and "ADELAIDE" proceed to sea for exercises and patrol to-day (Thursday) and return on Friday, 3rd November.

"KOOKABURRA" sailed from Sydney for Brisbane 1/11/39.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" proceeded to Port Phillip 1/11/39.

H.M.A.S. "ADELE" arrived Brisbane.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

H.M.S. "HOTSPUR" and "HAVOCK" arrived Pernambuco 31/10/39 Fast convoy escorted by "REVENGE" in position 049° 30' N 031° W, course 069°. Large convoy escorted by "RESOLUTION" in position 047° 15' N 044° W course 070° at 0700 30th October.

British ship "COULMORE" reports submarine sighted 0455 1st November about 450 miles North of Bermuda; followed at 0628 by submarine distress signal. Press report (N.Y.) states ship has not answered repeated calls from Canadian coastal stations. According to Captain Dockyard, Halifax "COULMORE" reported a mine in above position. This appears to be an error in the signal.

H.M.S. "HERMES" (Force X) has been instructed to remain under French command for the time being.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"UKI" to be despatched to Reid St. Pier Williamstown 3rd November to mount 12 pdr. gun.

Tugs "St. Giles" and "Heros" to be taken in hand for conversion to A/S vessels at Sydney on 2/11/39.

N.O.C.S. reports "KANIMBLA" has already stowed on board a total of 1280 tons rock ballast, 22,500 cu.ft. timber and bagged cork, and 13,240 drums. The total number of drums when completely stowed will be 15,300. In addition the estimated amount of timber used for securing battens, dunnage etc. is 4,000 cu.ft.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

D.N.O. Queensland requests approval to carry out necessary alterations to "OTTER".

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

N.O.C.S. has been given approval to route vessels direct from minor ports in N.S.W. to New Zealand.

GENERAL.

Anticipating approval work is being undertaken in "MORESBY" to accommodate class of 12 A/S officers. N.O.C.S. requests approval to increase ships complement by 1 Leading Steward, 3 Stewards, 1 Cook (O) all R.A.N.R.

N.O.C.S. advises no accommodation available for 10 S.D. ratings in either "KOOKABURRA" or "WONGALA".

N.L.O. has been asked to arrange supply of four engines for 25' motor boats allocated to "PARRAMATTA", "WARREGO", "VOYAGER"

and Boom Depot Darwin.

Rear-Admiral J.G. Crace assumed command of H.M.A. Squadron Wednesday 1st November (Admiralty informed).

S.O.(I) Capetown states he has now informed Admiralty of "PESHAWAR" secret call sign being compromised.

Admiralty state information received from French source that parts of machinery removed by Dutch authorities from German ships at Batavia, to prevent their departure, are returned on board periodically.

Following appointments made by N.B. Captain Waller to "CERBERUS" for passage to U.K. 16th November. Captain Collins to "CERBERUS" additional 6th November and to "SYDNEY" in command 16th November. Captain Burnett to "CERBERUS" for N.O. as A.C.N.S. 6th November.

The C. in C., South Atlantic, addressing the Senior Officer, Force "X", refers to an earlier signal and states that Forces "X" and "Y" appear to be suitably placed for interception and suggests that Force "X" should leave Dakar p.m. 27th October and sweep in St. Paul's Rocks remaining in that vicinity on 28th November and 1st December. (From the latest intercepts Force "X" returned to Dakar on the 29th and consists of French "ALGERIA", "DUPLIX", "STRASBOURG", one Light Cruiser, two Destroyers, plus H.M.S. "HEMUS"; Force "Y" consists of "SUZUKI" and "SUSUKI" of which no intercepts have been received since the middle of October when they left Cape Town on patrol; Force "Z" consisting of "ARK ROYAL" and "ARCON", with the possible addition of "MERTON" were to have left Freetown on the 28th and to be in a position 60' South of St. Helena on November 3rd and 4th.)

H.M.S. "SEVERN" departed from Freetown on the 23rd October to St. Paul's Rocks, her speed is 10 knots and she has been instructed to patrol on a 200 mile line for the period between the 5th and 9th November.

At approximately 2.00 pm, G.M.T. on the 30th October H.M.S. "SEVERN" was instructed by the Admiralty to leave a convoy and return to Halifax; on the same day the Admiral Commanding Western approaches advised that when a convoy was taken over by the local escort, the Battleships (presumably "RESOLUTION" and "SEVERN") were to proceed at maximum sea keeping speed to Plymouth.

The C. in C., East Indies, has requested the Admiralty for the future policy regarding the replenishment of stores for the following ships attached to his station - H.M.S. "MALAYA", "GLORIOUS" and Destroyers; probably 2 A.M.C.'s. now fitting out at Indian Port; H.M.A.S. "ROBAT"; H.M.S. "LILLA" and four Submarines.

The Dogger Bank Submarine Patrol - H.M.S. (S) has amended the object as follows "To attack enemy surface ships including transports except that if conditions appear unfavorable for aircraft, reconnaissance should be primary rule. Submarines are not to attack unless there is no possible doubt as to their identity."

H.M.S. reports to "SEVERN" that a Merchant ship was torpedoed off Battery Road (Aberdeenshire) and that in any encounter friendly destroyers proceeding there.

From S.M.I., Cocos, is a report that the Master of a Norwegian steamship reported on arrival at Montreal that on the 22nd September in a position 2° S 142° W an Armed Merchant ship circled round him about 3 miles distant, ship was grey had one gun.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday, 1st November, 1939.

Operations - Australia Station.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" and "YARRA" departed from Williamstown at 0930 Tuesday, 31st October, for exercises in Port Phillip. H.M.A.S. "SWAN" returned to Princes Pier about 2100 the same day and is expected to sail at 1330 today to join "YARRA". Both ships will return to Port Melbourne p.m. Friday, 3rd November.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" departed from Fremantle at 0715 Tuesday, 31st October, for exercises.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA". D.N.O., Victoria, reports that the completion of this vessel has been delayed, consequently the trials which were to have commenced on the 30th October have been postponed to a date to be advised later.

Operations - Overseas.

The C. in C., South Atlantic, addressing the Senior Officer, Force "X", refers to an earlier signal and states that Forces "K" and "H" appear to be suitably placed for interception and suggests that Force "X" should leave Dakar p.m. 3rd November and sweep to St. Paul's Rocks remaining in that vicinity on 6th November and 7th November. (From the latest intercepts Force "X" returned to Dakar on the 29th and consists of French "ALGERIA", "DUPLEX", "STRASBOURG", one Light Cruiser, two Destroyers, plus H.M.S. "HERMES"; Force "H" consists of "SUSSEX" and "SHROPSHIRE" of which no intercepts have been received since the middle of October when they left Cape Town on Patrol; Force "K" consisting of "ARK ROYAL" and "RENOWN", with the possible addition of "NEPTUNE" were to have left Freetown on the 28th and to be in a position 60' South of St. Helena on November 3rd and 4th.)

H.M.S. "SEVERN" departed from Freetown on the 23rd October to St. Paul's Rocks, her speed is 10 knots and she has been instructed to patrol on a 200 mile line for the period between the 5th and 9th November.

At approximately 9.00 p.m. G.M.T. on the 30th October H.M.S. "REVENGE" was instructed by the Admiralty to leave a convoy and return to Halifax; on the same day the Admiral Commanding Western Approaches arranged that when a convoy was taken over by the local escort, the Battleships (presumably "RESOLUTION" and "REVENGE") were to proceed at maximum sea keeping speed to Plymouth.

The C. in C., East Indies, has requested the Admiralty for the future policy regarding the replenishment of stores for the following ships attached to his station - H.M.S. "MALAYA", "GLORIOUS" and Destroyers; probably 5 A.M.C.'s. now fitting out at Indian Ports; H.M.A.S. "HOBART"; H.M.S. "LUCIA" and four Submarines.

The Dogger Bank Submarine Patrol - R.A.(S). has amended the object as follows "To attack enemy surface ships including transports except that if conditions appear unfavourable for aircraft, reconnaissance should be primary role. Submarines are not to attack unless there is no possible doubt as to their identity."

R.A.(S). reports to "SEAHORSE" that a Merchant Ship was torpedoed off Rattray Head (Aberdeenshire) and that he may encounter friendly destroyers proceeding there.

From D.N.I., Ottawa, is a report that the Master of a Norwegian steamship reported on arrival at Montreal that on the 23rd September in a position 9° S 143° W an Armed Merchant Ship circled round him about 2 cables distant, ship was grey had one gun

on forecastle, one gun aft and four machine guns on the bridge. This position is in the vicinity of the Marquesas Is., and to operate off our East Coast the steamer would have to steam approximately 4,000 miles, about 11 days steaming at 15 knots.

Auxiliary Vessels.

M/S Vessel "GOORANGAI" will be ready for gun equipment and firing trials on Monday, 6th November, these to be followed by sweeping trials. M/S Vessel "UKI" to be taken up in Sydney is to be despatched to Melbourne on Friday, 3rd November.

M/S Vessel "NAMBUCCA" will be taken in hand at Sydney on Monday, 6th November.

M/S Vessel "BERMAGUI" is to be steamed to Melbourne from Sydney by Naval ratings as the local seamen and firemen refuse to bring her round unless paid a minimum of one month's wages. This form of "hold up" is very usual on the coast when a merchant ship has to be transferred from one port to another.

Examination Service.

The N.O.I.C. Port Moresby reports that the "BARETO" is necessary for carrying out this service if "PANAWINA" is returned to the Papuan Administration. The vessel requires refitting and alterations prior to commissioning.

General Interest.

Navigation Lights - All N.C.S. Staffs, Routeing Officers, etc., have been advised that all ships are to steam without lights except in certain defined areas and under certain exceptional circumstances - this is in accordance with the Admiralty's instructions.

Navy Office, Wellington, enquired if there were any sailings from Australia via Cape Horn about the middle of November as a draft of 4 officers and 30 men will be required to proceed to the Falkland Islands about this date. A reply that there are no sailings by the desired route from Australia has been made.

A report from C.O.I.S., Far East, states that a German Merchant Vessel unarmed and with no mines on board departed from Lourenco Marques on the 16th October. The speed of the ship is 14/16 knots on a daily coal consumption of 50/55 tons and she had 1,270 tons of coal on departure. Her description is a black hull with a yellow funnel and her appearance lends itself to disguise as a Dutch Ship.

An air search operation was carried out yesterday over an area extending from Gabo Island northwards to Cartwright Point to a depth up to 120 miles. The search disclosed no suspicious vessels. It was intended that aircraft should operate in the Bass Straits and eastwards to Gabo but this was cancelled owing to low visibility in the greater part of this area.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 31st October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

"ARAWA" Arrived Port Phillip 30/10, expected to berth at Williamstown about 0930 Wednesday 1/11.

"MORETON BAY" Arrived Sydney 30/10.

"SWAN "YARRA" Arrived Williamstown 30/10.

"KOOKABURRA" To sail from Sydney for Darwin 1000 on 1/11.

OPERATIONS ABROAD

NORTH SEA. Admiralty reports considerable aerial activity, and that an unknown enemy unit was between the NAZE and 057° 20' N and 005° E at 1640.

"STUART" "WATERHEN" "VENDETTA" Arrived Singapore 29/10.

D.E.M.S.

"TREMODA" Taken in hand 30/10. Probable date of completion 4/11.

AUXILIARY VESSELS Etc.

"BERMAGUI" will be despatched from Sydney to Melbourne p.m. Tuesday 31/10 for fitting out as Auxiliary M/S. No inventories or surveys being made in Sydney.

"WYATT EARP" Board of Trade having advised that ^{name} "WONGALA" may be registered, N.O.C.S. has passed this advice to Registrar of Shipping, Sydney.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

PORT MORESBY N.O.I.C. advises no satisfactory arrangement can be made for examination at sea without using Panawina or similar craft, and that surveying motor boat is totally unsuitable. N.O.I.C. has been asked to reply forthwith to N.B.'s previous enquiry whether "BARETO" is required.

N.O.I.C. advises that tenders being called by Works Department on 3/11 for P.W.S.S. of Cowan Cowan Type. As both Military and Naval authorities on the spot consider a combined building for P.W.S.S. and Battery troops essential for efficiency, information is asked whether further consideration will be given to a combined building.

PORT MELBOURNE D.N.O. advises after 28/10 one steamer only will be used. Crew of Victoria are to be victualled in Depot and given intensive training preparatory to relieving Aluka's crew.

GENERAL INTEREST.

ADMIRALTY BI-WEEKLY STATEMENT.

Part 1 may be used with discretion to impress local dignitaries and service officials.

The Submarine ashore on Goodwins has not yet been identified, because of bad weather.

"KURUMBA" N.B. considers Harbour dues of £25 per day claimed by Fremantle is not payable. D.N.O. W.A. has been asked to forward copy of harbour regulations.

APPLEX BS W/T Erection of messing, cooking and bathing facilities for Naval Guard deferred pending consideration of provision of Military Guard.

OIL FUEL DARWIN N.L.O. advises "WAR KRISHNA" will probably load further 7000 tons at Singapore after delivering cargo at Darwin.

INDICATOR LOOP EQUIPMENT A report has been received from N.L.O. stating that shackles for indicator loops were shipped in "MAHAN NEWTON" early in October. This may be a cyphering error and may refer to integrators which are the only important outstanding items.

galt

POTENTIAL GERMAN RAIZERS

Several German merchant ships are reported to have sailed from West African ports, including:—

"PIONEER" (fast vessel & minelayer)

"WINOHUK" (16,000 tons 6-5" guns - aircraft)

"TOGO" (5,000 ton auxiliary cruiser, said to be equipped)

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 30th October.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ship "CANBERRA" arrived Sydney, Sunday, 29th October.

"ADELE" left Sydney for Darwin 29th October calling at Brisbane, Cairns and Thursday Island.

"ARAWA" arrived Port Phillip 0615 this Monday morning where she will work up.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A. Ship "PERTH" arrived Halifax 28th October.

In reply to an enquiry, the Admiralty has informed C. in C. China that "HOBART" is to be attached to East Indies Station.

DOVER is now an independent Command with certain limitations as defined in Admiralty message.

In the North Sea, a patrol to be known as "DOGGER BANK Submarine patrol" (consisting of 10 submarines 12 miles apart cruising on a line as ordered by the Admiralty) was instituted on 29th October.

When the German merchant vessel "SANTA FE", captured about 300' West of Sierra Leone, was being taken to Dakar a chart was found onboard which shewed this ship was to proceed to the northward of Iceland before turning east en route to Germany.

Force "K", ordered to leave Freetown 29th October, was to proceed 60' S of St. Helena and return to Freetown arriving 9th November.

"CERES" is expected to arrive Freetown 30th October from U.K.

The French sloop "DIJONNET d' URVILLE" has received orders from C. in C. French Naval Forces to remain in French Oceanic possessions. Her provisional movements include a short cruise to the Society Islands.

GENERAL.

N.L.O., London, in a message to the Naval Board states the early despatch of Point 5 equipment (A.A.) for "YARRA" may be expected but delivery of reserve equipment is indefinite.

An Admiralty message, addressed to all ships and establishments at Home and abroad and repeated to the Air Ministry, stresses the importance of avoiding offensive action which may hamper our fighters when pursuing enemy aircraft. A guide to assist the recognition of friendly aircraft is to be promulgated and taught to all officers and men who control A.A. weapons.

Some days ago the attention of Masters of British Merchant vessels was drawn to the importance of making an immediate report if attacked. The Admiralty now desires all Masters to be informed that if their ships are attacked in convoy, the requisite reports will be made by the Commodore or escort.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Sunday 29th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" sailed from Port Adelaide at 0845 Saturday 28th October for Melbourne.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" was reported by the W.S.S. at Gabo as having been sighted about 20 miles distant steering N.E. at 1215 Saturday 28th October.

H.M.S. "ARAWA" sailed from Sydney during the forenoon of the 28th for Port Phillip where she is expected to arrive at 0500 Monday 30th October.

H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" sailed from Port Melbourne during the forenoon of the 28th October for Port Phillip Bay to carry out sub-calibre firing on completion of which she proceeded and is to arrive off Sydney to carry out a full calibre firing p.m. Monday 30th October.

The Examination Vessel "ADELE" will sail from Sydney at 0930 today for Darwin calling at Brisbane, Cairns and Thursday Island for provisions, coal and water as necessary.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" - refitting and fitting out is to be completed tomorrow Monday 30th October at Williamstown. D.N.O. Victoria has submitted a programme for embarking stores, ammunition, depth charges, etc. then working up in Port Phillip which covers a period up to and including Monday 13th November.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" - S.O.(I) Singapore reports that this ship proceeded on patrol on the 28th October.

The Reporting Officer at Bahia Blanca reports that the Argentine Squadron left on the 26th October for a two weeks' patrol of the South East Coast of South America.

An intercept from the Admiralty to the C. in C. Portsmouth repeated to C. in C. A. & W.I. reports that H.M.S. "EFFINGHAM" should be ready to sail on the 7th November.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" has requested the C. in C. S.A. that arrangements may be made to supply her with £8255 English Currency as the only currency onboard is New Zealand which is not generally negotiable.

The C. in C. S.A. in a signal originated at 1056/27th October refers to the capture by Force "X" on the 25th October of the German ship "SANTA FE" in 9° 15N 28° 12' W. Reference is made to a signal from S.O.(I) Monte Video made on the 7th October (not intercepted here) and the Admiralty's attention is drawn to "the unreliability of these reports".

An intercepted signal indicates that a French Submarine Patrol may be met in the vicinity of Trinidad.

AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS.

C.C.S. has been instructed to requisition the "BERMAGUI" and despatch her to Melbourne on the 1st November for the purpose of fitting out.

LEET AUXILIARIES.

S.S. "WONGALA" (WYATT EARP) - ordinary Australian Coast Trade Articles will be opened for the crew of this vessel to refer for the intended voyage Sydney to Darwin and return. The usual period of Coast Trade Articles is six months and not for any particular ports.

RESCUE TUG ST. OLAVES

The Director of Sea Transport suggests that arrangements for the passage to U.K. might be made through one of the local shipping Companies as has been done in China where the arrangements are left entirely to them on a cost plus reasonable fee basis. Now that the services of Mr. Kane as Master are available and provided he can obtain a crew there will be no need to adopt this suggestion. No defensive armament is required for the passage.

GENERAL INTEREST

The D.N.O. Perth reports that the Chief Officer of R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" has returned to duty and it is anticipated that the Master will return on the 3rd November. Both of these officers have been off duty as a result of sickness.

Permission has been granted to Representatives of the Press to accompany the Ministerial Party visiting H.M.A. Ships and Establishments at Sydney on the 30th October. Any articles for publication will have to conform to the Censorship regulations. Captain C.J. Pope has been appointed to "SPARTIATE" additional for "MONTCALM" to date 30th October in Command on Commissioning.

Commander F.L. Cavaye reports that he assumed Command of H.M.A.S. "PENGUIN I" on the 27th October.

Merchant Navy Defence Courses at Sydney - C.C.S. reports that these are being conducted by Lieut.-Commander Anderson.

The Admiralty direct that N.C.S.O.'s are to impress upon the Masters of British Merchant Ships that they should not report by W/T the sightings on the High Seas of Aircraft belonging to British Warships, but if an aircraft is identified as an enemy or commits a hostile act, he should report by W/T immediately in spite of any signal made by the latter that W/T is not to be used.

CAPTURE OF GERMAN VESSEL "CHEMNITZ"

It has been learnt from an intercepted commercial cablegram that the N.D.L. vessel "CHEMNITZ" (5,500 tons) was captured by a French warship and taken to a French port as a prize.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 28th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

"TONGKOL") Departed Sydney for patrol 0500 27/10 returned 1930.
"GOOLGWAI") This is the first sweep since working up.

"MORETON BAY" Secured alongside Nelsons Pier 0730 and shifted billet to Princes pier 1030.

C.O. stated no ratings were available for marking party for sub calibre firings today Saturday as all ships personnel would be engaged in practice. F.N.D. stated that no marking party could be provided. Arrangements were made finally by N.O. for D.N.O. to provide 1 Gunners mate, 1 Leading Seaman 1 Leading Signaller and 4 O.D.'s.

"CANBERRA" sailed from Melbourne for Sydney 27.10.39, to pick up cutters from F.N.D. off Hanns Inlet about 1600.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

BRAZIL Intelligence reports men with Naval service being called up early in November to man Motor torpedo boats.

"HOBART" Arrived Singapore 26/10.

CHILI A submarine has been reported off Puerto Mont Chili on 15/10.

"DANAE" A submarine also sighted by "DANAE" in 21° 40' S 001° E on 24/10.

SOUTH ATLANTIC C. in C. considers essential for ships to have at least four days in harbour periodically and movements of Force G are being arranged accordingly.

"HOTSPUR") Who have been operating in La Plata area are to proceed
"HAVOCK") to Trinidad arriving about 6/11.

A.M.C.'s

FUELLING. Admiralty directs oil fuel connections to be fitted at least 24 feet above normal water line and if possible on lowest weather deck. Present position of connection renders operation difficult.

CUTTERS. N.O.C.S. recommends return to Sydney of cutters 194 and 518 from F.N.D. 423 from Brisbane and 675 from Port Melbourne complete with equipment for A.M.C.'s Nos. 194 and 518 were shipped from F.N.D. in "CANBERRA" yesterday 27/10. Admiralty has been advised that an additional cutter, making two in all, have now been issued to each A.M.C.

D.E.M.S.

Sixty one ships have now been defensively equipped.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"WYATT EARP" N.O.C.S. wishes to know for what period should articles be opened.

"BERMAGUI")
 "ULMARRA")
 "UKI")
 "KIANGA")

"BERMAGUI" can be despatched from Sydney, Wednesday. Owners assess value £35,000. North Coast S.N. Co. are prepared to release "ULMARRA" at reduced rate to retain "UKI". Illawarra S.N. Co. now unwilling to release "KIANGA" in addition to "BERMAGUI".

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

PORT MORESBY N.O.I.C. informed examination vessel need not remain continuously on Station, and he is to consider using surveying motor boat.

W.S.S.

GABO ISLAND. W.S.S. now established for V/S.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

NEW ZEALAND. N.O.C.S. proposes not to route ships leaving minor ports direct for N.Z.

NEUTRAL VESSELS Admiralty states advice and routing instructions may be given all neutrals on understanding that Admiralty accepts no liability therefor.

GENERAL INTEREST.

CAPTURES. Admiralty advises in bi weekly telegram four ships totalling 19165 tons were captured and one 4574 scuttled herself.

APPLECROSS W/T STATION D.N.O. W.A., requests approval to accept lowest tender of £274 for facilities for naval guard at this station. The question of the Army providing the guard is being taken up with General Staff.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" It is proposed to issue excise free tobacco from canteen subject to approval of Customs Department.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" reports one case scarlet fever, who will be landed at F.N.D.

2nd Naval Member will be visiting Sydney to accompany Cabinet on tour of inspection on 30/10

PAZ The "HOBART" reports she switched searchlights on the PAZ on 16/10. This indicates that PAZ previous report of a submarine is without foundation.

SUBMARINE N.T. A report from a Darwin Lugger - not considered reliable, is of a Submarine sighted near Cape Hotham on 24/10.

CAPTAIN C.J. POPE has been appointed to "MONTCALM" on commissioning 30/10.

MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Friday, 27th October.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ship "CANBERRA" sails for Sydney (E.T.A. 0515 Sunday 29th October) at 1000 today Friday and will stop off Hanns Inlet at 1600 to embark two cutters from F.N.D.

"AUSTRALIA" and "ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney from patrol 26th October.

"SWAN" and "YARRA", now at Port Adelaide will sail so as to arrive Port Phillip Monday, 30th October.

"MORETON BAY" left Melbourne for Port Phillip yesterday and will carry out sub-calibre firing a.m. tomorrow Saturday.

"ARAWA" is to sail from Sydney to arrive Port Phillip 30th October. After working up she will return to Sydney arriving there 6th November.

"ADELE" commissioned 24th October, is expected to leave Sydney for Darwin 29th October.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.

In reply to an enquiry, N.O.I.C. Port Moresby has informed N.B. that "BARETO" is now the only vessel available there which can be adapted for Examination Service.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

Leaving 2nd November, the New Zealand flagship "LEANDER" will visit a number of ports in the Dominion and return to Auckland 29th November.

A recent visit of H.M. Ships "HOTSPUR" and "HAVOCK" to Buenos Aires has apparently created a most favourable impression with the local Naval Authorities. Whilst the Argentine Minister of Marine is anxious to preserve strict neutrality, our Naval Attache considers practical assistance will be given to H.M. Ships whenever practicable.

H.M. Ship "CLYDE" is to leave Cape Verde Is. for patrol 27th October, arriving Freetown 18th December.

"HYPERION" and "HUNTER" sail from Dakar 27th October.

Force "X" and H.M.S. "HERMES" arrive Dekar 29th October.

The Admiralty yesterday informed all ships in Area 'A' that there are indications that the sailing of the Narvik (Norwegian) Convoy had been reported to Germany.

ADMIRALTY.

By Admiralty direction, the sailings of groups of fast unarmed vessels are to be discontinued. Ships of 15 knots and over are to be sailed independently and the necessity for strict adherence to routing instructions is to be impressed upon all masters.

Owing to a temporary shortage of signal flags, all ships are to return their flags for dressing to nearest store yard.

When fitted with clips these flags may be re-issued and utilized until normal stocks are available.

N.O.C.S. reports that a Master Mariner - aged 71- is a volunteer for command of the tug "St. Olaves" requisitioned on behalf of the Admiralty and that he anticipates no difficulty in collecting a crew to steam the vessel from Sydney to United Kingdom.

GENERAL.

H.M.A. Ship "YARRA" reports three cases of mumps, probably acquired in Melbourne.

Commander Powell, from emergency list, has taken over duties N.O.C. Newcastle.

Boom Defence gear for Darwin is now ready for inspection at B.H.P. Works.

REPORTED PRESENCE OF UNKNOWN VESSELS WEST OF SAN CRISTOVAL ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

The Staff Officer (Intelligence), Port Moresby, has advised that natives report that at about 2100, 16th October, two vessels signalled each other by means of searchlight in a position west of San Cristoval (Solomon Islands). S.O.(I), Port Moresby does not consider the report to be reliable.

Williamstown ferry will not be running on Monday, 30th October and Tuesday, 31st October.

AUXILIARY S/V VESSELS.

S.S.S. "TERRA" are fitting out at Williamstown will be ready to carry out sampling trials on Monday 30th October and Gunary equipment and firing the following day.

INTERCEPTED SIGNS.

Intercepted signals continue to indicate the activity of probable supply ships at Brazilian and Portuguese ports.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The S.S.S. Port Melbourne reports having received from S.S.S. Fremantle advice of the expected time of arrival of "UNION" as being 18th Sunday 17th October and that Admiral Chene wishes to transfer to "CANTON" immediately on arrival ("CANTON" will be at 17th).

In reply to an enquiry S.O. Wellington reports that about 20 or more vessels with one substantive vessel S.S.S. and higher category application for service in New Zealand, and has requested

DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Thursday 26th October.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" arrived at Port Melbourne at 1530 Wednesday 25th October. H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" arrived at Port Adelaide at 1600 Wednesday 25th October.

H.M.A. M/S "KOROWA" and "OLIVE CAM" departed from Adelaide on Wednesday 25th October for Albany en route to Fremantle.

H.M.S. "ARAWA" reports that the proposed programme for working up in Port Phillip commencing on Monday 30th is suitable but in addition thereto permission is requested to carry out night firing on the 1st and 2nd November.

OPERATIONS - OVERSEAS.

Force "X" consisting of the 1st Division of Cruisers and Force "Y" (particulars of which are not available) plus two French destroyers were ordered by C. in C. South Atlantic to sail from Dakar at 0600 Monday 23rd October and sweep passing through the following two positions 5° 20' N 34° 0' W thence to 3° 30' N 32° 50' W returning to Dakar and arriving at p.m. on the 29th October. The sweep is to be made at an average speed of 15 knots.

The reported sinking of S.S. "NALON" referred to in the Narrative of the 23rd is denied by the Admiralty who state that there was no foundation for the report.

From an intercepted signal addressed by C. in C. Western Approaches to H.M. Ships "EFFINGHAM", "GLOWWORM" and "VERSATILE" it is noted that considerable alteration in convoying arrangements were made on account of the British Ship "TELENA" communicating the rendezvous in International Code recoded.

A.M.C.'s

The preliminary report on the survey of "WESTRALIA's" machinery indicates that it is satisfactory. A speed of 15 knots should be maintained without difficulty but at higher speeds engine trouble may be experienced.

AUXILIARY M/S VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" now fitting out at Williamstown will be ready to carry out sweeping trials on Monday 30th October and Gunnery Equipment and Firing the following day.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Intercepted signals continue to indicate the activity of probable supply ships at Brazilian and Uruguayan ports.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The D.N.O. Port Melbourne reports having received from D.N.O. Fremantle advice of the expected time of arrival of "ORONTES" as being 1800 Sunday 29th October and that Admiral Grace wishes to transfer to "CANBERRA" immediately on arrival ("CANBERRA" will be at Sydney).

In reply to an enquiry N.O. Wellington reports that about 25 ex naval ratings with non substantive rates S.G.'s and higher have made application for service in New Zealand, and has requested

SECRET

PART 2. ARRIVALS.

to be supplied with the particulars as to number required, conditions of Service etc. in the R.A.N.

The transfer of two 30 foot cutters from F.N.D. to Sydney is under consideration. R.A.C.A.S. has been asked if these could be shipped in "CANBERRA" on her return to Sydney.

"CANBERRA" arrives at Port Melbourne 24/10.

At the discretion of Senior Officers plain clothes may be worn by officers for sporting and certain social activities. For landing from and returning to ships and establishments uniform must be worn.

Arrangements have been made whereby the following Melbourne tailors may supply officers uniforms - The Myer Emporium, Snow's Men's Store and Ince Bros. Similar arrangements are under consideration for Sydney.

"CLIVE GARD" Melbourne, en route to Fremantle, 1035

The Council of the Church at Darwin will consider under what terms Block 407 and the building may be returned.

"ARAVA"

R.A.C.A.S. proposes "ARAVA" should arrive in Port Phillip 30/10. Sub-calibre firing Tuesday, Wednesday 21/10, 1/11 and 2/11. Full calibre off Sydney 2/11. "ARAVA" will be placed under administration of R.A.C.A.S. 22/10.

SEMI-ARMED ARRIVALS.

"HUBERT"

C-in-C. China has asked Admiralty if "HUBERT" is to stay in Singapore and if she can be included in patrol duties in Dutch East Indies.

"ATAK"

To leave Rio de Janeiro area without relief - rendezvous with "HESTER" on 27/10. Commodore C. S.A. Div. 4. & V.I. Squadron will transfer flag to "ATAK", she will proceed to Falklands by a dry port.

"ATHENA"

Admiralty states no truth whatever in assertion by Greeks that British destroyer finished off "ATHENA".

ARMED RAIDERS

Admiralty advises raider activity has recommenced in North and South Atlantic. No further news of Admiral Scheer since 30/9. "Deutschland" operating S.E. of Newfoundland between 2/10 and 12/10 and sank British "CONDOR" and Norwegian "LARS V. HANSEN", but allowed two other Norwegians to proceed. On 12/10 U.S.A. "CITY OF FLINT" stopped prize crew put aboard, with "STONEMAN's" crew and she sailed for Tromsø and Hamburg. "STONEMAN's" crew landed at Tromsø.

"KARINA"

R.A.C.A.S. advises owner desires vessels defensively equipped and that work can be undertaken.

"TOSKUA"

Defensively equipped 23/10
24/10.

"TALMA"

"TALMA" (cont.)

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Wednesday 25th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

"CANBERRA" Arrived at Port Melbourne 24/10.

"AUSTRALIA")
"ADELAIDE") Departed Sydney for patrol duties 24/10.

"STUART")
"WATERHEN")
"VENDETTA") Arrived Darwin 22/10. Departed for Singapore 23/10.

"KOROWA")
"OLIVE CAM") Arrived Adelaide, en route to Fremantle, 1035 24/10.

"MORETON BAY" Arrived Port Phillip 24/10.

"ARAWA" F.C.C.A.S. proposes "ARAWA" should arrive in Port Phillip 30/10. Sub-calibre firing Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 31/10, 1/11 and 2/11. Full Calibre off Sydney 6/11. "ARAWA" will be placed under administration of F.O.C.A.S. 28/10.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"HOBART" C.-in-C. China has asked Admiralty if "HOBART" is to stay in Singapore and if she can be included in patrol duties in Dutch East Indies.

"AJAX" To leave Rio de Janeiro area without relief - rendezvous with "EXETER" on 27/10. Commodore C. S.A. Div. A. & W.I. Squadron will transfer flag to "AJAX", who will proceed to Falklands for 4 day refit.

"ATHENIA" Admiralty states no truth whatever in assertion by Goebells that British destroyer finished off "ATHENIA".

ARMED RAIDERS

Admiralty advises raider activity has recommenced in North and South Atlantic. No further news of Admiral Scheer since 30/9. "Deutschland" operating S.E. of Newfoundland between 5/10 and 15/10 and sank British "STONEGATE" and Norwegian "LARENT W. HANSEN", but allowed two other Norwegians to proceed. On 15/10 U.S.A. "CITY OF FLINT" stopped prize crew put aboard, with "STONEGATE's" crew and she sailed for Tromso and Hamburg. "STONEGATE's" crew landed at Tromso.

D.E.M.S.

NARDANA
TREMODA N.O.C.S. advises owners desire vessels defensively equipped and that work can be undertaken.

TAIROA
TROJAN STAR Defensively equipped 23/10
24/10.

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EXAMINATION SERVICE.PORT MORESBY

N.O.I.C. has been advised most undesirable to requisition Government vessels and is to report if suitable vessel is available for examination to be carried out inside reef near Basilisk Passage.

BRISBANE

D.N.O. to report on feasibility of maintaining service with "OTTER" only, hiring additional vessel while "OTTER" not available.

AUXILIARY VESSELS."BERMAGUI"
"UKI"

N.O.C.S. wishes these to be fitted out in Melbourne and advises that Owners are unwilling to release "UKI".

"KIANGA"

N.O.C.S. advised that this ship acceptable vice "UKI" if wooden hull in good condition.

AUXILIARY MINESWEEPERS

When the six additional vessels are fitted out the following dispositions are intended. At Sydney "GOOLGWAI" "TONGKOL" "COOLEBAR". At Melbourne "BERYL II" "GOORANGAI". At Fremantle "OLIVE CAM" "KOROWA" "TAMBAR". At Newcastle "BERMAGUI" "UKI". At Brisbane "NAMBUCCA" and one other.

A.M.C.'s"KANIMBLA"

Gun trials not expected until end 1st week in November.

"WESTRALIA"

N.O.C.S. has been directed to requisition as A.M.C. and arrange for survey of machinery.

"BULOLO"

N.O.I.C. Simonstown advise officers and men will not sign T 124 following dispute about pay. Confirmation asked from N.B. that Australian rates in English sterling when abroad was offered by D.N.R.M. D.N.R.M. letter referred to A.M.C.'s fitting out in Australia.

GENERAL INTEREST.TRAIN FERRY

Owners of vehicle ferry are prepared to loan to Admiralty free of cost; £16,000 compensation to be paid in event of loss, and no charges incurred by owners in refitting etc.

BOMBS.

Admiralty advises case of fracture of safety vane stop on 250 lb. S.A.P. Bomb, creating a dangerous condition when landing aircraft on deck.

PROVISIONS FOR R.N.

The "AUTOMEDON" will be eventually replaced by a smaller ship, but the first trip to Australia for victualling stores will be made by this ship.

DENMARK.

Admiralty advises that Government appears to be taking advantage of our complacency in war trade matters.

DELIVERANCE
ISLAND.

The "VIGILANT" is investigating a report that Japanese have cleared ground and buried stores at this island.

GENERAL MESSING.

At Port Melbourne commences noon 25/10.

"KOALA"

Mrs. Custance will perform launching ceremony 4/11.

PAZ

Further support for this ship's report of Submarine near Percy Island is provided by Pilot of Ship. "HOBART" has been asked if she met the PAZ in the position stated.

To 0900 Tuesday.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION

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The arrival of Rear-Admiral J. M. Grace at Fremantle is announced in the press this morning.

S.S. Ship "CANBERRA" arrived Port Phillip 0815 this morning and will proceed alongside Princes Pier about 1300 (silent telephone lines NK. 5526-27).

"HOBART", "WATERHEN" and "VENUSTIA", having left Darwin 11th inst. 23rd October, for Singapore, will enter limit of Dutch waters at 2300 G.M.T. tonight.

"HOBART" and "HARRA" sailed from Melbourne Monday, 23rd inst. and were reported passing Cape Otway at 1915 last night. Their ships are due Adelaide 23th October.

China has asked the Admiralty if "HOBART" is to enter Singapore and if she is available for patrol duty in Dutch East Indies.

"WORTHEN BAY" arrived Port Phillip 0815 this morning from Jarvis Bay.

A.N.C.'s

"HUTCHINSON" having defective engines has been returned to dock and will be replaced by Motor Vessel "WESTRALIA".

Second progress payment of £20,000 on account "ARARA" due 23rd October. It is proposed to place this ship under administration of F.O.C.A.S. at 0900 Saturday, 28th October.

RESERVE VESSELS.

"ARARA", to be a commissioned ship and fly the white ensign, will probably sail from Sydney 29th October, for Darwin.

Ship the name "BOONSWANG" has already been registered for another vessel it has been suggested to Naval Board that "WYATT" be re-named "WONALIA".

This ship, flying the blue ensign, is expected to leave Sydney for Darwin about 1st November with beam defence gear.

In being brought into service, both "ADELE" and "WYATT BARK" are to be tenders to "PERDUE I".

M.A.S. has been instructed to requisition "BERNARDI", "UKI" and "SANBUCCA" for fitting out as auxiliary minesweepers. If necessary, the work can be carried out in Melbourne.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET

To 0900 Tuesday, 24th October.

OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

The arrival of Rear-Admiral J.G. Crace at Fremantle is announced in the press this morning.

H.M.A. Ship "CANBERRA" arrived Port Phillip 0615 this morning and will proceed alongside Princes Pier about 1000 (silent telephone lines MX. 5526-27).

"STUART", "WATERHEN" and "VENDETTA", having left Darwin 1145 Monday, 23rd October, for Singapore, will enter limit of China Station at 2300 G.M.T. tonight.

"SWAN" and "YARRA" sailed from Melbourne Monday, 23rd October, and were reported passing Cape Otway at 1915 last night. These ships are due Adelaide 25th October.

C.-in-C. China has asked the Admiralty if "HOBART" is to stay at Singapore and if she is available for patrol duty in Dutch East Indies.

"MORETON BAY" arrived Port Phillip 0618 this morning from Jervis Bay.

A.M.C.'s

"DUNTROON" having defective engines has been returned to owners and will be replaced by Motor Vessel "WESTRALIA".

Second progress payment of £20,000 on account "ARAWA" was made 23rd October. It is proposed to place this ship under administration of F.O.C.A.S. at 0900 Saturday, 28th October.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

"ADELE", to be a commissioned ship and fly the white ensign, will probably sail from Sydney 29th October, for Darwin.

Since the name "BOOMERANG" has already been registered for another vessel it has been suggested to Naval Board that "WYATT EARP" be re-named "WONGALA".

This ship, flying the blue ensign, is expected to leave Sydney for Darwin about 1st November with boom defence gear.

On being brought into service, both "ADELE" and "WYATT EARP" are to be tenders to "PENGUIN I".

N.O.C.S. has been instructed to requisition "BERMAGUI", "UKI" and "NANBUCCA" for fitting out as auxiliary minesweepers. If necessary, the work can be carried out in Melbourne.

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OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

Admiralty intercepts indicate some enemy activity by surface craft in the North Sea, possibly off the Yorkshire coast.

A report from the Admiralty, originated at O114/23, states that British Ship "STONEGATE" (according to Lloyds Shipping index published in London 3rd October she sailed from Jamaica for Alexandria on 26th September) was sunk by "Deutschland" on 5th October in 031° 10' N, 054° 00' W and transferred crew to U.S. Ship "City of Flint" on 15th October in 045° 09' N, 043° 22' W, approximately 230' to the southward of the position in which the Norwegian Ship "Larenty W. Hansen" was reported sunk by the same raider the previous day. "City of Flint" arrived Tromsø (Norway) on 21st October in the charge of German prize crew and has since sailed for Germany.

An Admiralty message, addressed to all ships and establishments at Home and abroad, states that the procedure adopted by "Deutschland" in sinking the Neutral ship and stopping another was to approach on the beam, order wireless silence and fire a blank round, then stop on the quarter with aircraft in place but not used.

The Destroyers "HOSTILE" and "HASTY" were to rendezvous with Force K ("RENOWN" and "ARK ROYAL") at entrance to Freetown 23rd October and proceed into harbour for oiling.

GENERAL.

The attention of Masters of all British Merchant Ships is invited to the vital necessity of reporting enemy ships or aircraft encountered together with position, course and speed. Masters are reminded that photographs of hostile and suspicious vessels are of great value to the Admiralty and when obtained should be handed to the nearest Naval Authority.

SIGHTING OF SUBMARINE BY M.B. "PAZ"

In an interview with N.O.I.C., Newcastle, the master of American M.V. "PAZ" corroborated the earlier reports of members of his crew concerning the sighting of a submarine off the Queensland coast. He stated that he and his officers could distinguish the shape of the hull and conning tower.

A searchlight was twice directed on the "PAZ" (not two separate searchlights as previously stated.) The submarine disappeared eastwards without making any communication. The position of the "PAZ" was 22° 17' S. 151° 35' E. Destroyers were in the vicinity 24 hours later. "Hobart" was in this position and the report is undoubtedly a sighting of "Hobart".

WAR SIGNAL STATION.

The War Signal Station at Wilson's Promontory has begun operation - at present for visual signalling only.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET

To 0900 Monday 23rd October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" sailed from Sydney at 1000 Sunday 22nd October and is expected to arrive at Port Melbourne at 0515 Tuesday 24th October.

H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" sailed from Jervis Bay at noon Sunday 22nd October and is expected to arrive at Port Phillip at 0600 Tuesday 24th.

H.M.A. Destroyers "STUART", "WATERHEN" and "VENDETTA" arrived at Darwin at 1815 Sunday 22nd October, after fuelling they will proceed to Singapore.

H.M.A. Destroyers "VOYAGER" and "VAMPIRE" arrived Singapore on the 21st October.

OPERATIONS, OTHER STATIONS.

A report from the Admiralty T. of O. 1856/21st October, states that a merchant ship was sunk by the "Deutschland" on 14th October in a position $49^{\circ} 05' N 43^{\circ} 44' W$ the crew of which were transferred to the Norwegian ship "Kongsdal" at 2300 the same day. Further movements of this battleship are reported by the Admiralty in a signal originated at 0058/22nd October reading "It appears Pocket Battleship reported to the Eastward of St. Lucia (this group is doubtful) and is therefore probably outward bound". A broadcast to Merchant Ships "Admiralty Message T" originated at midnight on the 21st is to the effect that one or two Deutschland Class is at large and strict wireless silence is enjoined unless enemy warships or aircraft are seen. The reported sinking on the 14th and the same vessel reported "outward bound" on the 21st appear somewhat incompatible unless the St. Lucia referred to is in the West Indies and not in the Cape Verde Is.

S.O.(I) Sydney reports that published in the Sydney Press is a New York cable stating that the British Ship "Clement" was sunk by the "Scherabenland" and that the Germans who boarded the "Clement" wore "Admiral Scheer" cap ribbons; this appears most feasible.

From Ottawa addressed to Admiralty is a report that the Master of a British Ship sighted the Italian "Capo -?" in position $43^{\circ} 42' N 46^{\circ} 02' W$ at 1600/12th October steering about 045° . The ship was about 8000 tons armed with 4" guns, funnel and hull marking quite in order and Italian Flag painted on both sides, also being flown. The Italian "Capo -?" has since arrived and was nowhere near the above given position, neither has she any sign of guns or gun mountings.

As a result of above report of "Deutschland" the Admiralty have made the following dispositions:- H.M.S. "REPULSE" and "FURIOUS" after fuelling and embarking stores are to proceed to position $50^{\circ} N 25^{\circ} W$ and are to be escorted clear of the submarine zone, they will subsequently proceed to Halifax to fuel. C.-in-C. Home Fleet is instructed to retain H.M.S. "HOOD" in case "Deutschland" returns home after her activities in the West Atlantic. The Force de Rade en Atlantique consisting of one battleship 2 cruisers and 3 destroyers sailed from Brest at 1300 22nd to protect a convoy which was in a position $47^{\circ} N 25^{\circ} W$ at 0001 the same day.

The Senior Officer, Force "K", has been ordered to investigate the sinking of the British Ship "NALON" (probably carrying frozen meat, 7,330 tons gross), if the situation is not clear to him. The report of this sinking was received through the Portuguese W/T Station St. Vincent to the effect that the steamer was torpedoed in position 3° 31' N 19° 46' W.

The question of sending a modern submarine depot ship to Freetown is receiving the Admiralty's consideration.

The Admiralty Bi-weekly Summary contains the following particulars:-

H.M.S. "BOREAS" was attacked when north of the Goodwins by aircraft which dropped 2 bombs, no damage was done.

A balloon barrage is now in position in the Firth of Forth.

H.M.S. "KITTIWAKE" has been mined but was not lost as a result thereof.

Superficial damage by air attack was suffered by H.M. Ships "SOUTHAMPTON", "EDINBURGH" and "MOHAWK".

The two large merchant vessels previously reported sunk were "YORKSHIRE" (10,000 tons gross) and the "CITY OF MANDALAY" (7,000 tons gross). They were units of an unescorted convoy, after the escort arrived there were no further losses. From Lloyds List it appears that these vessels were either in the Mediterranean or in a convoy from Gibraltar homeward bound.

The U Boat losses to date 17th October, as announced by the First Lord of the Admiralty, are 13 sunk, 5 seriously damaged and probably several others damaged.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

N.O.C.S. enquires whether, as the "WYATT EARP" and "ADELE" are being manned by Naval personnel, it is intended to commission these ships and fly the White Ensign.

GENERAL INTEREST

The launch of "KOALA" from Cockatoo Dockyard has been arranged for Saturday, 4th November. In view of war activities the ceremony will be on a small scale. Mrs. Custance is being invited to perform the launching ceremony.

The Admiralty propose, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made, to use aircraft operated by the Imperial Airways for transporting secret and urgent despatches to the Naval Board. In the first instance a special courier will carry the despatches but later this duty will probably be delegated to the pilot. A later signal indicates that similar arrangements are under consideration for transporting secret and urgent despatches to the A. & W. I. Station, using the Pan American Airways as necessary, also to South Africa.

The Naval Board have requested the N.L.O. to forward by air mail the published lists of British Naval casualties.

DAILY NARRATIVE.MOST SECRET.TO 0900 SUNDAY, 22nd OCTOBER, 1939.OPERATIONS - AUSTRALIA STATION.

- "CANBERRA". E.T.A. Port Melbourne 1000/24/10. D.N.O. to arrange 2 tugs.
- "AUSTRALIA". (At Sydney. To sail on patrol exercise Tuesday, (24/10/39 until p.m. 26/10/39 between Newcastle (and Twofold Bay.
- "ADELAIDE".
- "KOROWA". (Departed Melbourne for Fremantle via Adelaide
- "OLIVE CAM". (p.m. 21/10/39.
- "MORETON BAY". Arrived Jervis Bay 0700 21st. Has been ordered to proceed Port Phillip.

OPERATIONS - ABROAD.

- FREETOWN. An acute shortage of fresh water exists, and supplies to Merchant Ships are being limited to 50 tons per ship.
- "ACHILLES". Was in Magellan Straits on 20/10/39.
- POCKET BATTLESHIPS. A ship of this class stopped Norwegian Ship "Jacob Christensen" on 12/10/39 in 48° 50'N. 045° 09'W. viz: 300miles East of Newfoundland.
- "HOBART". Depart DARWIN 1730 21/10/39. Expects enter limits CHINA STATION 0100 G.M.T. 23/10/39. E.T.A. Singapore 1530. 26/10/39.
- "HYPERION". (Arrive FREETOWN 22/10/39. To escort convoy to (DAKAR, where French Cruiser "DUGUAY TROCINI" (will take over. "HYPERION" and "HUNTER" then
- "HUNTER".)to sail for TRINADAD.
- "ACHILLES". To leave FALKLANDS 26/10/39 and rendezvous with "EXETER" at CAPE SAN ANTONIO and oil from "OLWEN" p.m. 26/10/39.

A.M.C.'s.

- FRESH WATER. N.O.C.S. reports details of fresh water storage capacity and evaporator capacities of "MORETON BAY", "ARAWA" and "KANIMBLA". Report re "MANOCORA" to follow. "MORETON BAY" is self-supporting.

AUXILIARY VESSELS.

- SAINT CLASS TUGS. N.O.C.S. to requisition 2 Saint Class tugs, restore forecastles and fit out as A/S vessels.
- "BOOMERANG". Crown Solicitor advises this name already registered. C.C.S. suggests "WONGALA", aborigine for "BOOMERANG". Personnel will be required forthwith if ship is to sail on November 1st.

DEMOLITION STORES.

Will not be carried by Auxiliary M/S Trawlers, and if already supplied are to be landed.

D.E.M.S."CITY OF LINCOLN".

Defensively armed. Completed 21/10/39.

"PORT ADELAIDE".

" " " 20/10/39.

"WANGANELLA".

" " " 20/10/39.

WAR SIGNAL STATIONS.ALBANY.

Site to be selected Saturday 21/10/39. Huts to be despatched 23/10/39. Probable date of completion 25/10/39.

EXAMINATION SERVICE."SYDNEY".

M/S trawlers will relieve "CAPTAIN COOK II" during refit of latter.

"ADELE".

Should be ready to sail for Darwin about 29/10/39.

POTENTIAL ENEMY A.M.C.'s.

"RIO GRANDE". At Rio Grande ready for immediate departure.

"SCHARNHORST". At Kobe at anchor.. Dispute concerning discharge of cargo.

N.C.S."VIGILANT".

D.N.O. QUEENSLAND, has been asked to report all movements of Patrol Vessel "VIGILANT".

GENERAL INTEREST.AIR RAIDS.

Admiralty directs scuttles and deadlights of ships in harbour to be closed, in the event of an air raid warning being received.

PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHY.

Admiralty directs attention to K.R. & A.I. 1253 D. Breaches of this section have occurred.

100 LB. BOMBS.

Admiralty expects to ship 100 lb. bombs to AUSTRALIA at end of October.

A/S CLASSES.

N.O.C.S. suggests 6 weeks' course for officers and men, 3 weeks in A/S school and 3 weeks in "MORESBY", starting October 30th. The officers mentioned have already completed 26 days' course, and when proposed new course is completed, a twelve weeks' course for new entries is proposed. A minute is being circulated on this matter.

JAPAN.

D.N.I. advises a JAPANESE proposal is afoot to barter a Warship munitions and chemicals, for AUSTRALIAN iron steel and wheat.

Galy

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

OST SECRET.

To 0900, Saturday, 21st October.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA", "AUSTRALIA", and "ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney Friday, 20th October, from exercises.

American M.V. "PAZ" reports that at 1845 on October 16th a submarine switched on searchlights when ship was 50 miles south of Percy Island off Queensland Coast. N.O.I.C. Newcastle will attempt to get further information.

Operations Overseas.

D.N.I. Admiralty has asked "PERTH", now in harbour at Bermuda, to confirm that check bearings of a fixed station were taken to ensure no major defect had occurred in D.F. outfit.

From an intercept, it would appear the British ship "ROCKPOOL" (5,000 tons) has been "gunned" off S.W. coast of Ireland.

Rugby has informed all H.M. Ships that a "U" boat may pass Muckle Flugga (Orkney Islands) bound for Germany on night 22/23 October.

A.M.C.'s.

"BULOLO", requisitioned 22nd September on behalf of Imperial Government and sailed from Sydney 5 days latter, has arrived Capetown to be fitted out as an A.M.C. This new ship of 6,500 tons, built by Barclay Curle & Co., Glasgow, was delivered to her owners (Burns Philp & Co. Ltd.) less than a year ago.

"ARAWA" arrived SYDNEY from trials and "MORETON BAY" sailed for Jervis Bay en route to Port Phillip for working up.

Although not allowed by establishment, N.O.C.S. strongly recommends one experienced active service supply rating be drafted to each A.M.C. to ensure Naval procedure is followed by the supply staffs enlisted from Mercantile Marine.

Auxiliary War Vessels.

M/S trawlers "TONGKOL" and "GOOLGWAI" arrived Sydney yesterday after working up at Jervis Bay.

M/S trawlers "OLIVE CAM" and "KOROWA" sail this Saturday forenoon for Fremantle calling at Adelaide and Albany if desired.

N.O.C.S. has submitted the names of 11 vessels laid up in Sydney suitable for conversion to auxiliary M.S. These ships can only be fitted as trawlers unless extensive structural alterations are made.

The tug "ST. OLAVES" required by D.S.T. will be available, but difficulty is anticipated in obtaining an experienced crew for steaming the vessel from Sydney to the United Kingdom. Two more "Saint Class" tugs can be made available for auxiliary A/S vessels with forecastles restored at a cost which is now being estimated.

"BOOMERANG" (ex "WYATT EARP"), fitting out at Sydney, is to be completed in time to sail about 1st November for Darwin with boom defence gear.

Admiralty.

Spare propellers for "PERTH" are to be despatched to Bermuda.

Proposed that dry provisions on a vast scale, as enumerated in a message to the Naval Board, be supplied from Australia to the fleets on the Mediterranean and East Indies Stations.

Instructions are to be issued to Masters of British Merchant vessels that if challenged at night when proceeding independently they are to turn away, increase to full speed and flash ship's name enclair.

General Information.

"ADELE", previously expected to commission with a Naval crew about 6th November, is now to proceed to Darwin as soon as practicable to relieve "KURU" as examination vessel. Until "CAPTAIN COOK" is available, it will be necessary to make special arrangements for examination service at Sydney.

The War Signal Station at Archer Point commenced functioning yesterday, 20th October.

Handwritten signature or initials

ADMINISTRATIVE.

Captain S.G. Phillips appointment as Commander and Class as date 12th October, 1939, is promulgated.

Captain J. Burnett is appointed to "Command" for Navy Office as date 12th October, 1939.

Commander A. Powell from Emergency List will not be ready to take up duties as N.O.C. Newcastle till 12th October.

Captain P. Thomas reports that he has taken up his duties as N.O.C. West Australia as from the 12th October.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The proposed visit of C.G.S. to Navy Office arriving by train on the morning of the 20th October and returning to Sydney the following evening has been approved by the Naval Board.

Commander Ingham's request for permission to join the army, to which the Naval Board have no objection, has been submitted to the Admiralty.

N.O.I.S. Fremantle has been instructed to report the site chosen for the erection of the steel huts at Albany for the War Signal Station.

To 0900 Friday, 20th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Destroyers have sailed from Townsville and expect to arrive at Darwin p.m. on the 22nd October.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" will now arrive at Port Melbourne on the 24th October, two days earlier than originally arranged.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" left Sydney on the 19th for patrol and exercise, she will join "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" today.

OPERATIONS - OTHER STATIONS.

An intercepted signal addressed to the Admiralty reports the arrival of H.M.A.S. "PERTH" at Bermuda at 0900 on the 18th in company with H.M.S. "BERWICK".

There is nothing further of interest to record. The Admiralty's bi-weekly telegram includes the following, the purport of which has already appeared in the Press:-
Period October 14th - 18th "U" Boats very active, 38,564 tons of Allied Shipping sunk (includes 2 large ships over 10,000 tons each); Two anti-submarine attacks on the 14th and two on the 16th appeared especially promising; the first Bergen Convoy escorted by a Cruiser and 4 destroyers crossed safely on the 15th October; lastly the Polish submarine "ORZEL" which escaped from Tallinn and landed her guard in Sweden arrived at a British Port (probably Rosyth) on the 15th October.

APPOINTMENTS.

Captain H.C. Phillips appointment as Commodore 2nd Class to date 13th October, 1939, is promulgated.

Captain J. Burnett is appointed to "CERBERUS" for Navy Office to date 18th October, 1939.

Commander A. Powell from Emergency List will not be ready to take up duties as N.O.C. Newcastle till 26th October.

Captain P. Thomas reports that he has taken up his duties as D.N.O. West Australia as from the 18th October.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The proposed visit of C.C.S. to Navy Office arriving by train on the morning of the 25th October and returning to Sydney the following evening has been approved by the Naval Board.

Commander Bank's request for permission to join the Army, to which the Naval Board have no objection, has been submitted to the Admiralty;

N.O.I.C. Fremantle has been instructed to report the site chosen for the erection of the steel huts at Albany for the Port War Signal Station.

The D.N.O. Brisbane has been instructed to inform Captain Hudson R.N. (retd.), who arrived at Brisbane on the 15th in his Auxiliary Ketch Yacht "Ronda", that at present the Naval Board had no appointment to offer him.

In future the Admiralty will broadcast messages to merchant ships giving the positions of "U" Boats whenever they are known with sufficient accuracy. These positions should then be avoided for 48 hours. After this period it may be assumed that the "U" Boat has moved and the position ought to be deleted from the chart and no further attention paid to the message.

A report which has appeared in the Scandinavian Press to the effect that in Russian circles it is asserted that a number of German Officers travelled over the Trans Siberian Railway to Vladivostock on their way to Caroline Island and Mariana Is. (former German colonies now under Japanese mandate) where they are being allowed to establish submarine bases, has been passed by the Admiralty to S.O.(I) Singapore and by him to D.N.I. Melbourne.

The Director of Naval Transport has requested a report giving fuller particulars of the Vehicle Ferry available in N.S.W., with a view to its suitability for carrying 16 ton tanks and possible service in the Sea of Marmora and Bosphorus where there is a six knot current to contend with.

DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED MERCHANT SHIPS.

During the past week defensive arming of the following vessels has been completed:-

"KAIKOURA", "FORTHBANK", "HURUNUI", "INDUNA",
 "PORT WELLINGTON", "BRITISH DILIGENCE", "URGANDA",
 "DOMINION MONARCH", "ESSEX", "STRATHEDEN".

UNIDENTIFIED VESSELS OFF EAST COAST OF BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, NEW GUINEA.

A white resident of Bougainville Island, Mandated Territory of New Guinea, reports that on the late afternoon of 18th October he sighted the smoke of two oil-burning vessels proceeding northwards off the East coast of the island and at a distance of one mile apart.

No overseas merchant vessels are known to have been in the vicinity at the time, and the fact that the vessels sighted were in company suggests that they may have been war vessels.

SCHOONER "VALKYRIE"

A press report from Honolulu states that a Mr. Eric Hanner was leaving Honolulu on the 16th October to search for the lost Air woman Amelia Earhart. This report has been passed to S.O.(I) Wellington in view of the fact that early in September he passed to us an enquiry from the French Authorities at Tahiti requesting information of Mrs. Hanner a German Agent on board this yacht last reported on the 27th June as having sailed from Cristobal for the Society Island.

To 0900 Thursday, 19th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

DESTROYERS "STUART", "WATERHEN", "VENDETTA", arrived Townsville, 18th will sail daylight 19th if fuelling completed.

"OLIVE CAM"
"KOROWA" To sail Saturday 21st for Fremantle; via Adelaide and Albany if desired. A northerly route in Bight is advised. Proposed programme to be reported to Naval Board.

"SWAN"
"YARRA" To sail Monday 23rd for Adelaide via Victor Harbour. Searching sweeps to be carried out off Otway and likely areas. Return Port Phillip 30/10 for Gunnery School Firing on 31/10.

CRUISERS "ADELAIDE" to sail for exercises and patrol today. To join "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" tomorrow Friday. "CANBERRA" to sail for Bass Strait Patrol on Sunday 22/10. Will arrive Melbourne Thursday 26/10.

"MORETON BAY" Sails Friday 20th for Port Phillip to work up. Returns Sydney 30th.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

NORTH SEA Four warships reported proceeding West off Ameland (off Holland). Intense air activity reported.

SOUTH ATLANTIC Oiling at sea outfits being forwarded by Admiralty for "AJAX", "EXETER", "CUMBERLAND".

"DUNTROON" A.M.C.'s To be returned to her owners.

FRESH WATER N.O.C.S. reports, (following Admiralty request) that "MORETON BAY" and "ARAWA" should be self supporting, "KANIMBLA" not fitted with evaporators; maximum stowage 408 tons including 140 tons in ballast tanks which must be kept fully pressed up as ballast.

AUXILIARY VESSELS

KARATTA D.N.O. Adelaide to report on Coast Steamships Ltd. ship KARATTA with a view to requisitioning for A/S. D.N.O. advises hull, boiler, and machinery apparently good but considers expert's report essential.

COOLEBAH To be requisitioned and fitted out in Sydney on 19th as M.S. A trawler crew will be recruited locally if possible.

D.E.M.S.

N.O.C.S. has been asked to undertake if possible "Port Caroline" "Port Darwin", "Port Sydney". The following will be equipped at Melbourne "Port Chalmers" "Port Huon" "Port Nicholson".

Handwritten notes: 70) 2 1/2 tons 250 men 13 14 days 224 37 1/2 17 company 18 20/70

N.C.S.

"BRISBANE STAR" Masters attention has been drawn to necessity for W/T silence.

S.O.(I)'s of adjoining stations have been asked to supply information concerning ships passing through Australian waters, even when not bound direct for Australian ports.

ENEMY AND NEUTRAL MERCHANT SHIPS.

"SHARNHORST" Still at Kobe, with valuable cargo for Germany, is reported as fouling rapidly.

GENERAL INTEREST.

DARWIN N.O.I.C. has closed port at night until further instructions, presumably because of KURU's lay up.

CENSORSHIP Navycirc advised that all articles for press or radio having even indirect bearing on technical matters are to be referred to local naval authorities before release.

CAPTAIN HUDSON D.N.O. Brisbane reports arrival and requests instructions.

CUTTERS Details of cutters held by D.N.O.'s have been received.

PUBLICITY Mr. Parer, of Department of Information has Naval Board permission to take photographs of ships and establishments, which are to be submitted to Military Intelligence before release.

DARWIN N.O.I.C. is to acquire block 553 for Naval purposes.

FREMANTLE D.N.O. requests early decision re acquisition of bulk storage for dry provisions.

TRAIN FERRY C.C.S. has informed Admiralty that no train ferries exist in N.S.W., but has forwarded details of vehicular ferry available.

BOOM DEFENCES Officer will visit Sydney and Newcastle from 19th October in this connection.

SABOTAGE Damage to ships boats of "Port Fremantle" is reported.

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ARMY - AUXILIARY VESSELS.

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DAILY NARRATIVE

To 0900 Wednesday, 18th October.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

Admiralty has cancelled a request to Naval Board that the 5 R.A.N. Destroyers should proceed from Singapore to Mediterranean.

A message received from D.N.O. Fremantle (T. of O. 1545/17) states that a resident at Busselton, Western Australia, sighted an "underwater craft" submerge 4 miles offshore yesterday, 17th October and that the Air Force was investigating as soon as practicable. Customs Officer Bunbury states that as a result of the substance of this report the sailing of a vessel (presumably "ERICA") was being deferred. Naval Board informed D.N.O. W.A. the object reported was unlikely to be a submarine and unless the report was corroborated and unless he had any particular reason to consider it genuine, the merchant vessel from Bunbury should be sailed.

Auxiliary M/S Vessels "KOROWA" and "OLIVE CAM" will be ready to sail for Fremantle at noon Saturday, 21st October.

OPERATIONS OVERSEAS

German air activity in the North Sea off the East Coast, reported in an Admiralty intercept on 16th October seems to have culminated in air attacks on H.M. Ships in the Firth of Forth as reported in the press here last night.

Further enemy air activity off the East Coast is indicated by an Admiralty intercept, originated at 1014/17, which may presage renewed attacks.

H.M.S. "TITANIA" (Depot Ship for submarines) towed and escorted was expected to arrive Rosyth on 17th October. This does not necessarily imply damage as she may not be able to steam.

"OLYNTUS" (A.M.C.) sailed from Freetown 15th October for Rio de Janeiro.

ARMED MERCHANT CRUISERS.

"MORETON BAY" will be placed under administration of F.O.C.A.S. from 0800 Friday, 20th October.

N.O.C.S. reports the condition of "DUNTROON's" main engines are such that it is considered she is unsuitable for Naval Service. It is recommended "DUNTROON" should not be requisitioned as an A.M.C. and pending Naval Board decision the general survey of the vessel is in abeyance.

There is a serious shortage of Able Seamen holding Q.R. rates to man the three Imperial A.M.C.'s fitting out in Australia. N.Z. Naval Board has been asked if suitable volunteers can be obtained from ex Naval ratings domiciled in New Zealand.

ARMAMENT - AUXILIARY VESSELS.

To 16th October, the following vessels have been armed

Fast liners	4
D.E.M.S.	43
Auxiliary M/S vessels	2
Total	<u>50</u>

ADMIRALTY

An Admiralty order for 15,000 lifebelts of local design has been placed with the Victualling Branch here for delivery, in stated numbers, to V.S.O.'s Singapore, Hong Kong and Trincomalee. New Zealand Naval Board has requested samples be forwarded with a view to local manufacture.

Admiralty has instructed V.S.O. Malta to draw frozen produce to maximum possible extent from Australia. Monthly requirements 25 tons meat and 15 tons fish.

GENERAL

"BRISBANE STAR" arrived Geelong at 0630 this Wednesday morning. Captain Burnett, R.A.N. and other Naval personnel will be disembarked.

Commander A. Powell from Emergency List has been appointed to "PENGUIN II" as N.O.C. Newcastle to relieve Commander Cavaye who will take command of "PENGUIN", thus releasing Commander Rosenthal whose appointment to "DUNTROON" in command dates from 20th October.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES NAVAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The transfer of the Naval Command in the Netherlands East Indies which had been fixed for October 17th will now not take place on that date.

Vice-Admiral H. Ferwerda is to remain for the time being as Naval Commander-in-Chief, while his successor designate, Rear-Admiral C.E.L. Helprich, who is expected to arrive at Batavia on October 18th will, until further notice, assume the duties of Naval Chief of Staff.

WAR SIGNAL STATION, CAPE OTWAY.

The War Signal Station at Cape Otway is now ready for visual signalling.

DAMAGED BARQUE.

District Naval Officer, South Australia, indicates that the damaged barque sighted by the "ORMONDE" may have been the Auxiliary Schooner "PIRIE" (259 tons) or the barque "PENANG".

**MOST
SECRET**

33

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Tuesday, 16th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

Admiralty have asked that H.M.A.S. "STUART" and Destroyers should proceed to Mediterranean as soon as possible.

H.M.A.S. "STUART", "WATERHEN" and "VENDETTA" departed from Brisbane at 0803 ^{16th} 15th October, for Townsville.

The Fleet Oiler "KURUMBA" arrived at Fremantle on the morning of the 16th October.

The Senior Officer of the Escort Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" has requested permission from F.O.C.A.S. that during week ending the 23rd October one ship at a time may be at eight hours' notice for steam in order to carry out boiler cleaning and minor refitting work which can be done onboard.

H.M.A.S. "TONGKOL" and "GOOLGWAI" Auxiliary minesweepers arrived at Jervis Bay on the 14th October where they will "work up" returning to Sydney on the 20th October.

OPERATIONS - OTHER STATIONS.

On the Home Station there have been no intercepted signals of movements which are of interest.

An intercepted signal from the Admiralty originated at 1153/16th October reports considerable German Air Activity in the North Sea off the East Coast.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATION - Force "K" departed from Freetown on patrol at 1900 on the 14th October, C.C.S.A. Division of the A. & W.I. Squadron has been instructed to remain in "EXETER" in the River Plate Area until the transfer of his Flag to "AJAX" on 27th October, by this time "ACHILLES" should have arrived which will release "EXETER" and enable her to be sent to the Falkland Islands.

"ACHILLES" and "CUMBERLAND" will then act as Force "G". C.-in-C. A. & W.I. requests information as to what period of rest cruisers and destroyers on the East Coast of South America have had as he is considering relieving the destroyers by another sub-division in the near future.

An intercepted signal from H.M.A.S. "PERTH" reporting C.-in-C. A. & W.I. and Admiralty the receipt of enemy W/T signals, gives her position at 1840 on the 15th October as being in 38° 58' N 49° 20' W. (This position is a little to the South of the normal track of shipping from Bermuda to Gibraltar).

The Admiralty later informed C.-in-C. A. & W.I. that the bearings are evidently the whereabouts of 2 German Naval Units possibly "U" Boats.

D.E.M.S.

Arrangements have been made to supply to all British Ships in the regular trade between Australia and the Far East two .303 rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition.

OCEAN GOING TUGS.

The Director of Sea Transport has been informed that the tug "Saint Olaves" maintained her class at Lloyds after the periodical Special Survey carried out in May, 1939. A signal regarding the arrangements for a crew will be made later.

NEW ZEALAND OILER - "NUCULA"

On the 25th September last N.O. Wellington submitted to the Admiralty a suggestion that above oiler should be refitted to enable her to proceed to sea to fuel H.M. Ships or for transport purposes, her capacity is 6500 tons. The reply is to the effect that there is no objection to the refit provided the survey confirms the practicability of her obtaining all the necessary certificates and the cost does not exceed £8,000. Should an amount greater than this be involved a fresh estimate is to be given. Lloyds Register shows this tanker as having been built in 1906 since when she has changed hands several times and at one period was owned by a Japanese firm.

A.R.O.'s

The Acting Consul General requests information as to pay and allowances of Reporting Officers at Ende, Amboina, Dobo and Dilhi in order that private banking accounts may be opened by them.

OFFICERS' MOVEMENTS.

Lieutenant-Commander Dickinson will leave Sydney on 21st October to take charge of W.A. Survey vice Lieutenant-Commander Little.

Lieutenant-Commander Tancred - provisional arrangements have been made for him to proceed to Perth by train leaving Sydney on the 2nd November.

Lieutenant Skottowe - permission is requested for his appointment as a watchkeeping officer to "KOOKABURRA" for passage to Darwin and as surveyor for laying of loops. Later, when he can conveniently be spared he will proceed to Port Moresby.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The Master of the British Ship "ORMONDE" on arrival at Fremantle reported sighting in 36° 50' S 119° 50' E (approx. due South from Albany W.A.) a large barque partially dismasted, one yard on foremast and mizzen mast missing.

"BRISBANE STAR" has advised that she expects to arrive at Port Phillip at 0200/18th October.

POTENTIAL GERMAN A.M.C.'s

C.-in-C. East Indies has advised his intention to start a Merchant Ship plot of neutral shipping on the East Indies Station with a view to guarding against enemy merchant ships leaving their positions disguised as neutrals and being unrecognised at sea. He requests daily Vesca reports from Australia of neutral shipping.

The German ship "BAHIA" is reported by the Admiralty as preparing to sail from Bahia, Brazil on the night of the 15th October.

S.O.(I) Freetown reports the Rauenfels sailed from Monte Video on 14th October and the "Santa Fe" on the same date.

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF OFFICER (INTELLIGENCE) DARWIN.

The appointment of Paymaster-Lieutenant H.W. Traynor, R.A.N.V.R., as Staff Officer (Intelligence), Darwin, has been approved. He will receive a further week's instruction at Navy Office before proceeding to his post.

D.E.M.S.

The "INDUNA" (5086 tons) was fitted with one 4" Mark IX gun at Sydney on 15th October.

JAPANESE NATIONALS.

The Director of Naval Intelligence has been informed that on 8th October the Japanese Consul-General, Sydney, informed a gathering of prominent local Japanese held at his home that there was now a considerable lessening in the tension between Japan and England. Accordingly there was no need for Japanese nationals to leave Australia before the end of the year (as originally warned), although it was still desirable for them to make plans such as would permit them to leave early in an emergency.

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MOST SECRET

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Monday, 16th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

DESTROYERS

Senior Officer proceeding Brisbane reports delayed arrival due to gale. D.N.O. reports arrival "about" 0222.

"SWAN" "YARRA"

Arrived Port Melbourne p.m. Sunday.

"MORETON BAY"

" Sydney from trials a.m. Sunday.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

EAST INDIES C.-in-C.

Flag has been transferred ashore at Colombo.

"ROYAL OAK"

Admiralty advises evidence shows sinking by a Submarine which gained entrance through HOXA Gate.

"ORZEL"

Polish Submarine is approaching English Waters and will be escorted to harbour.

A.M.C.'s

"KANIMBLA"

Additional engine room complement to be provided from Mercantile sources. Admiralty does not mix Naval and Mercantile personnel in engine room complements.

D.E.M.S.

"CITY OF LINCOLN"

Taken in hand 15th October. Probable date of completion 18th October.

NAVAL CONTROL.

NEUTRAL SHIPS

Admiralty advises advice and instructions should be given to following neutrals only:- American, Belgian, Danish, Egyptian, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish; and of course to French and Polish.

ENEMY AND NEUTRAL MERCHANT VESSELS.

S.O.(I) Monte Video reports unusual activity in East Coast ports. Similar activity preceded arrival of "Admiral Scheer".

GENERAL INTEREST

"KARLSRUHE"

German Cruiser is reported to have been converted to a seaplane carrier with 12 planes; 3 reconnaissance and 9 dive bombers.

SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN

Admiralty report after a week of quiet when only one Merchant Vessel was sunk, activity has recommenced, 3 French and 2 British sunk and 2 attacked. None of these were in convoys. Three U Boats have been positively destroyed and several promising attacks have not yet been verified.

DAILY NEWS

2.

AMMUNITION Expenditure of ammunition other than practice, is to be reported by signal to Admiralty as soon as possible after expenditure. Subject to usual arrangements re W/T silence. A monthly summary by letter also to be forwarded.

SITALA - OILER Departed Singapore for Sydney 15th October. E.T.A. 15th November. Previously advised E.T.A. 28th October.

SURVEY - W.A. Lieutenant-Commander Dickenson has been appointed in command vice Lieutenant-Commander Little.

"AUTOMEDON" British Ship will be sailed from East Indies Station for Australia toward end of October to load provisions for Army, Navy and Air Force for 3 months' supply for 26,000 men. Ceylon resources are inadequate for needs of East Indies Squadron alone.

NEWINGTON N.O.C.S. asks early approval to fit barbed wire to fences.

DILHI Reporting Officer, Lieutenant-Commander C.C. Logan, R.N.R. (Retd.) is to be appointed. Lieutenant-Commander Groves appointment to this post is cancelled.

Galt

A survey of "DUNEDIN's" main engines will be completed by about 15th October. Present indications are that engines are not altogether satisfactory and, in consequence, E.O.C. has deferred the landing of gear and stripping of fittings pending completion of survey.

RECENT EVENTS AUSTRALIA STATION.

RECENT EVENTS.

S.S. "ROYAL OAK" sunk by mine on 10th October. According to the latest reports, the ship was in the Indian Ocean near the coast of Australia. The ship was carrying a large quantity of stores and was bound for the East Indies. The ship was sunk by a mine which was laid by the Japanese. The ship was carrying a large quantity of stores and was bound for the East Indies. The ship was sunk by a mine which was laid by the Japanese.

From a fairly reliable source the Admiralty has been informed that the German pocket battleship "ADMIRAL GELDER" and 2 destroyers sailed for North Sea on October 15th and are expected to return 17th October. The same source reported that the "ADMIRAL GELDER" (26,000 tons) probably proceeded to the Baltic.

If no further information of the enemy (presumably Admiral GELDER) is received by 17th October, Admiralty's permission is granted by Commander-in-Chief, S.E. Division to send "DUNEDIN" to Iceland Island for 4 days to make good defects.

An intercepted signal from N. to C. Beach, advised all ships concerned of the approach of a Polish submarine which may have escaped from the Baltic.

Last night's 'Reports' announced that since the outbreak of war Polish submarines have been co-operating in English Channel waters, with the Royal Navy.

S.O. "W" has received checks in Rear-Admiral's Office for his voluntary service.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900, Sunday, 15th October.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships proceeding overseas sailed as previously ordered. The Admiralty and adjacent stations have been informed.

"YARRA" and "SWAN" will refuel this Sunday forenoon at Williamstown, thence to Princes Pier, Port Melbourne.

"AUSTRALIA" is to be taken in hand at Cockatoo tomorrow Monday for minor defects which will occupy approximately 5 days. Ship will be at 12 hours' notice for steam for 48 hours, thereafter at normal notice.

A.M.C.'s. "MORETON BAY" left SYDNEY for trials. If satisfactory she will probably spend 14 days working up.

The type of paravanes to be fitted in future to A.M.C.'s. and fast liners is ordered by Admiralty. Those ships already fitted are not affected.

A survey of "DUNTROON's" main engines will be completed on or about 18th October. Present indications are that engines are not altogether satisfactory and, in consequence, N.O.C.S. has deferred the landing of gear and stripping of fittings pending completion of survey.

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

GENERAL INTERESTS.

B.B.C. announced H.M. Ship "ROYAL OAK" sunk by enemy submarine with approximately 800 casualties. According to the July Navy List, Captain COLIN CANTLIE, D.S.C., A.D.C., was in command. Advice has been received from Admiralty that Lieutenant-Commander F.N. Cook, R.A.N., was saved. His next of kin are being informed.

From a fairly reliable source the Admiralty has been informed that the German pocket battleship "ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE" and 3 destroyers sailed for North Sea on October 13th and are expected to return 18th October. The same source reported battleship "SCHARNHORST" (26,000 tons) probably proceeding to Heligoland.

If no further information of the enemy (presumably "ADMIRAL SCHEER") is received by 17th October, Admiralty's permission is sought by Commodore Commanding S.A. Division to send "EXETER" to Falkland Island for 4 days to make good defects.

An intercepted signal from C. in C., Rosyth, advises all ships concerned of the approach of a Polish submarine which may have escaped from the Baltic.

Last night's 'Herald' announced that since the outbreak of war Polish destroyers have been co-operating in English Channel patrols, with the Royal Navy.

S.O. Force "Z" has conveyed thanks to Rear-Admiral Custance for his valedictory message.

Three recovered deserters from "DORSETSHIRE", which ship visited Sydney for the sesqui-centenary celebrations in April last year, are taking passage to Singapore in "HOBART".

Fleet Welfare Committee will assemble in "CANBERRA" at Sydney tomorrow Monday. Urgent requests will be dealt with first and despatched to Navy Office without delay.

F.O.C.A.S. requests urgent consideration be given to carriage of airmail, without surcharge, for H.M.A. Ships when at outlying or overseas ports.

UNIDENTIFIED WAR VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT.

The air search carried out by the R.A.A.F. Reconnaissance Flight, Port Moresby, in regard to the reported presence of an aircraft at Goodenough Bay, Papua, proved negative.

DENGUE FEVER AT DARWIN.

D.N.O., Northern Territory, reports that dengue fever is prevalent at Darwin, and appears to be increasing. Three Naval Officers are ill, one convalescent, and several men have been incapacitated. Patients are being attended in the Administration Auxiliary Hospital, Kahlin compound, by Army and Air Force doctors, and are being nursed by V.A.D's.

The D.N.O. requests that a sick berth attendant be despatched to Darwin immediately by air. A full report is being forwarded by air mail.

S.S. "THORNLIEBANK", due BRISBANE A.M. tomorrow Monday, has been advised it may be necessary to disembark a S.B. Petty Officer and Medical Stores.

ITALIAN COMMERCIAL MESSAGES.

During the past fortnight there has been a very noticeable increase in the number of Italian commercial messages between Italy and Australia (and vice versa). This seems to suggest that normal trade between Italy and Australia is being restored.

Names of any British merchant ships which appear from VESCA telegrams to be unaccountably overdue are to be reported to Admiralty.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

Since no definite date can be given for the delivery of Rolls Royce Merlin engines, Naval Board has decided not to proceed with the building of M.T.B's. but will spend the money allocated in some other way.

Four trawlers, fitted as auxiliary M/S vessels, require coal at Williamstown on 19th October.

Director of Sea Transport states that two of the three "Saint" Class tugs offered to H.M. Government are unsuitable for the service in view on account of their forecastles being reduced. Information is sought as to whether the third is in suitable condition for voyage to U.K. and if we can supply a crew.

SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 14th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" sails at 0900 today from Sydney for Singapore and is due there on the 26th October, a call is being made at Darwin to replenish oil fuel.

Townsville
H.M.A. Ships "STUART", "WATERHEN" and "VENDETTA" sail at 0900 today from Sydney for Singapore and are due there on the 29th October. En route they will refuel at Brisbane/and Darwin. C.C.S. has arranged for target in tow to be in position at 0945 so that full calibre firing may be carried out by these destroyers.

H.M.A. Ships "VAMPIRE" and "VOYAGER" sail at 0900 today from Fremantle for Singapore and are due there on the 21st October. These ships are to proceed via the Sunda Strait and are to adjust their speed to arrive with 30% fuel remaining.

H.M.A. Ships proceeding from Sydney have been instructed to make the passage via LOMBOK and CARIMATA Straits.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA", "ADELAIDE" and "AUSTRALIA" are expected to return to Sydney today Saturday 14th October.

The following Auxiliary War Vessels were commissioned as H.M.A. Ships on the 9th October.

"ORARA" Fast Minesweepers - Lieut. Commander J.V.W. Frizelle, R.N.

"GOORANGAI" Minesweeper Mr. David McGregor, Tempy. R.A.N.R. (S)
"BERYL II" " Mr. David Smith " "

H.M.A. Minesweepers "GOOLGWAI" and "TONGKOL" proceed to Jervis Bay today Saturday 14th October to work up and will return to Sydney on the 20th October. The fast Minesweeper "DOOMBA" has numerous defects which are being taken in hand as opportunity offers but no completion date can be given at present.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

D.N.O. Victoria has been instructed to take up Holyman & Sons Ship "TAMBAR" on her return to Melbourne on the 17th October. She will be converted for minesweeping.

A.N.C.'s

The Naval Board have advised the Admiralty that H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" is expected to be completed during the first week in November, the delay being due to the fitting of buoyant material.

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

An intercept from the Admiralty to Ships in Area "A" gives the following information from reports received regarding movements of German Warships - at noon on the 12th October in 59°N 5° E there were 14 ships of which 7 were large and 7 small steering North at 30 knots, the latitude was mutilated but the Longitude was 4° 30' E. The signal adds that these reports are usually reliable as regards numbers.

The Humber Force will be sweeping South at daylight on the 14th October and reach Marsten by noon. Subsequently they will escort the convoy leaving Bergen p.m. 14th October towards the vicinity of the Shetlands thence southwards to Methil. H.M.S. "AFRIDI" and "GURKKA" are due at Rosyth at 0800 14th October.

Another signal from the Admiralty in which D.N.I. Melbourne is included in the addressees contains particulars as to times, procedure and frequencies used by U Boats and possibly Raiders communicating with Germany (Control Station Kiel) and vice versa. Instructions are given that D/F bearings of German Units are to be reported to the Authorities stated at the end of the signal.

GENERAL INTEREST.

The Foreign Office through H.M. Ambassador has expressed thanks to the Chile Government presumably for allowing H.M. Ships to use their ports and adds that notification will always be given unless circumstances are such that it is absolutely unwise to do so.

OPERATION OY2.

This operation was carried out as a result of a report from Gabo Island that an unknown vessel was sighted at 0515 on Wednesday 11th October steering S.E. It was subsequently thought that the vessel reported was the British Ship "BENVRAKIE" proceeding from Port Kembla to Durban. This vessel today put into Queenscliff for medical advice and her movements have been checked by the Chief Examining Officer, who is satisfied with the Master's report that for various reasons his passage speed averaged 6 knots and that at 0515 on the 11th his position was 68 miles north of Gabo Island. In effect the ship reported by Gabo Island is still unidentified.

INTELLIGENCE - S.W. PACIFIC.

Unidentified Ships etc.

- (1) A.R.O., Port Vila does not agree with the suggestion that the cream or grey vessel sighted at Tanna on 8th October could have been either "ERIDAN" or "DUMONT D'URVILLE".
- (2) A message from Samarai states that a police guard saw 3 lights of a large vessel passing Doini Island (near Samarai) travelling S.W. at 0400 on 11th October.

This may possibly refer to "JOHN BOLTON" or "DESIKOKO".

- (3) S.O.I.C., Port Moresby Defences, reports that navigation lights were seen, and the engine of an aircraft heard at Dogura Mission, Goodenough Bay at 0130, 10th October. (Position is approximately 60 miles N.W. from Samarai).

The report was confirmed by two white people at Wedau.

An investigation is being carried out by No. 11 Squadron, R.A.A.F. which is based on Port Moresby.

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPS.

- (1) S.O.(I) Monte Video advised on 10th October that German Ship "RIO GRANDE" then at Rio Grande Du Sul was taking on Diesel oil fuel in drums and was not expected to finish until Thursday 12th October. He was informed that the vessel endeavoured to obtain 500 tons of this fuel. He also reported on 9/10/39 that German ship "BORKUM" sailed from the same port that day.

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPS (Cont.)

- (2) A.R.O. Bahia Blanca reports that the German ship "USSUKUMA" had arrived at the entrance to the port and that the pilot was on board awaiting entrance.
- (3) The Master of the Norwegian vessel "TITANIA" informed a Sydney Press representative that on 12th October, when he was at Lourenco Marques a German vessel of about 12,000 tons disguised as a Dutch vessel entered this port. S.O.(I) Cape Town has been informed, as the vessel has not previously been listed.

NEUTRAL MERCHANT SHIPS.

The Admiralty has promulgated the distinguishing marks to be painted on Belgian Ships. This consists of the Belgian Flag and the word Belgie on the hull whilst on the deck and top of superstructure there will be 3 concentric circles decorated by Belgian colours and illuminated at night.

"STAMPA", "SANTANA", "VANFLOR" to sail for Singapore via Brisbane, Melbourne (if necessary) Darwin, Lombok and Samarang. Sails at 0900 14th October, S.T.A. 20th October.

"MURRAY". To sail for Singapore via Lombok Strait, 0900 14th October. S.T.A. 20th October.

OPERATIONS AREA.

"MURRAY" and "MIDSHIRE" to be Force H.

Admiralty intends that H.M. Convoys be given 1 A.W.C. per Convoy from Fremantle to A/S escorts in Western Approaches.

with destroyers arrived 10th Oct/12.

Commanding to transfer to "AJAX" in order that he may effectively control South American trade area and retain contacts.

Reported off Cape Verde on 6th. H.M. Ottawa reports that 2 cruisers 1 aircraft carrier 21 destroyers to sail for Pearl Harbor 6th October. Three other cruisers may be sent for patrol duty in French Colonies Section.

SECURITY.

Admiralty advises necessity for sea being prepared for intensive air attacks, at sea and in harbour.

A.S.C.'s

Completed now expected about 1st week in November.

H.O.C.3. says that consideration be given to provision of 2 cutters in lieu of cut as at present.

Confirmation has been given to fit out as A.S.C.'s. Musters in the Sydney on 18th October and will be re-registered after discharge of cargo.

To 0900 13th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

Operation OY2. The movements of S.S.BENVRAKIE, Port Kembla to Durban are as follows. Departed Port Kembla 0930/10th passed Wilsons Promontory 1200/12th. She thus was twelve hours overdue from normal running between Gabo and Wilsons Promontory.

Search off Gabo. "SWAN" and "YARRA" are extending their search until sunset Friday, and then returning to Port Phillip.

"VAMPIRE", "VOYAGER" to sail for Singapore via Sunda Strait at 0900 Saturday E.T.A. 21st October.

"STUART", "WATERHEN", "VAMPIRE" to sail for Singapore via Brisbane, Townsville (if necessary) Darwin, Lombok and Carimata Straits at 0900 14th October, E.T.A. 29th October.

"HOBART". To sail for Singapore via Lombok Strait, 0900 14th October. E.T.A. 26th October.

OPERATIONS ABROAD.

"SUSSEX AND "STROPSHIRE" to be Force H.

CONVOYS. Admiralty intends that S.L. Convoys be given 1 A.M.C. per Convoy from Freetown to A/S escorts in Western Approaches.

2nd CRUISER SQUADRON. with destroyers arrived Rosyth 0630/12.

FORCE G. Commodore Commanding to transfer to "AJAX" in order that he may effectively control South American trade area and retain contacts.

U BOATS
U.S.SHIPS Reported off Cape Verde on 9th. N.S.H. Ottawa reports that 6 cruisers 1 aircraft carrier 31 destroyers to sail for Pearl Harbour 5th October. Three other cruisers may be sent for patrol duty in Panama Galapagos Section.

ADMIRALTY.

COLLISION STATIONS. Admiralty advises necessity for now being prepared for intensive air attacks, at sea and in harbour.

A.M.C.'s.

KANIMBLA Completion now expected about 1st week in November.

CUTTERS. N.O.C.S. asks that consideration be given to provision of 2 cutters in lieu of one as at present.

DUNTROON AND MANOORA. Confirmation has been given to fit out as A.M.C.'s. Manoora is due Sydney on 13th October and will be requisitioned after discharge of cargo.

ARAWA.

Completion and gun trials expected 19/10.

D.E.M.S.KAIKOURA

C.C.S. advises completion 12/10.

PORT BRISBANE

Details of training arcs of 6" guns have been forwarded by N.O.C.S.

EXAMINATION SERVICE.ADELE

A Naval crew will be provided.

KURU

Owing to necessity for engine overhaul, Kuru has been laid up. A lugger has been hired at £16 per week for this service.

P.W.S.S. DARWIN.

Plans have been submitted to Works Dept. for estimate.

PORT MORESBY

N.O.I.C. has forwarded details of expenses for accommodation for naval personnel. Has been advised that huts are due Port Moresby on 20/10.

N.C.S.AWATEA

13/10

has been permitted to sail direct to Sydney on ~~31/12~~ and to rely on speed to avoid raiders. Shipping has again been advised of necessity to keep outside 100 fathom line.

CAPE ROUTE.

S.O.(I) Capetown advises as coals 10/- ton cheaper in Durban, ships might be advantageously routed via Durban.

GENERAL.B.P. TARGETS.

will be available 18/10.

BRITISH POWER BOATS.

N.L.O. advises that firm obtains any priority for Rolls Royce Engines, and suggest we negotiate with Admiralty (Signal obscure).

OVERTIME.

Saturday night and Sunday shifts are being discontinued excepting small urgent works.

SERVICE CONDITIONS.

Ships Companies are being informed that a review of Service conditions will take place notwithstanding the dispersal of ships.

METEOROLOGICAL BROADCASTS. N.B. N.Z. has been again reminded that broadcasts are still made in N.Z. in plain international code which is contrary to Admiralty instructions.

NEW ZEALAND.

P.M. advises Fordsdale, fitted out 2 6" guns and James Cosgrove, first of 3 M/S vessels has been commissioned. Work on Monowai is proceeding.

SPECIAL FORCE AUSTRALIA. Will be known as Second Australian Imperial Force, consists of one Reconnaissance Regiment, 3 Infantry Brigades, 3 field brigades 1 army field brigade with normal divisional troops.

Special legislation will be enacted to ensure continuity of employment of militia.

AIR FORCE

Air Expeditionary Force to be known as R.A.A.F. Field Force and consists of 1 fighter and 2 bomber wings. Total personnel 3200.

Admiralty advises Syko Cards both Naval and R.A.A.F. are to be changed at midnight G.M.T. Admiralty request immediate report of loss or non return of aircraft which involve possible compromise of next days Syko Cards. A whole set of R.A.F. Syko cards have probably been compromised.

It now appears probable that the report from the ship at Port Phillip, 11th October, referred to as "YANNA" was from Port Phillip to Darwin. This deduction has been made on the basis of an exhaustive analysis of weather ship movements. The vessel, however, for the supposed sighting, not being reported at the time of the initial investigation it occurs. Further enquiries are being made.

Following the reduction, "YANNA" and "YANNA" were ordered to proceed via Port Phillip to carry out a searching sector in an area covering the coast, and return to Port Phillip on completion of duty.

The Admiralty has been informed of the proposed programme of duties, under processing systems.

"YANNA" having left Port Phillip Wednesday, 11th October, was accompanied with "YANNA" and "YANNA" this morning. "YANNA" has been informed that the ship is not available but that she may carry out a programme of duties and reconnaissance flights at various targets along the coast.

"YANNA", "YANNA" and "YANNA" arrived Fremantle on Wednesday October 10th.

REMARKS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

Many activity continues in the North Sea. Intercepted signals from the enemy indicate seven German warships and three auxiliary vessels were in unspecified position at 1100, 10th October. The vessels were the merchant vessels and left England, via the North Sea.

The ship "YANNA" sailed from Gibraltar 10th October for Malta.

"YANNA" and "YANNA" will in future be known as "YANNA" and "YANNA" used as patrol ships.

REMARKS AUSTRALIA STATION.

S.S. Hong Kong states that "YANNA" is discharging at Darwin the cargo which was loaded at that port before the outbreak of war. "YANNA" is 8,400 gross tonnage with a speed of 12 knots. She is said to carry a heavy fuel and suitable as a transport ship or store ship.

A military intercept containing corrupt groups under "YANNA" (1100) has, "A" category, has been captured in the North Sea.

It is stated that the following vessels flying the flag of the German coast and are to be treated as such:

YANNA

YANNA

YANNA previously used YANNA

These vessels are not tankers and this message does not

To 0900 Thursday, 12th October.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

Operation OY2. It now appears probable that the report from Gabo of a Warship at 0515 Wednesday, 11th October, referred to S.S. "BENVRACKIE" bound from Port Kembla to Durban. This deduction has been made as the result of an exhaustive analysis of Merchant Ship movements. The reason, however, for the supposed situation not being apparent at the time of the initial investigation is obscure. Further enquiries are being made.

Prior to this deduction, "YARRA" and "SWAN" were ordered to proceed with all despatch to carry out a searching sweep in an area adjacent to Gabo, and return to Port Phillip on completion at dusk today Thursday.

The Admiralty has been informed of the proposed programme of H.M.A. Ships proceeding overseas.

"AUSTRALIA" having left Port Phillip Wednesday, 11th October, will rendezvous with "CANBERRA" and "ADELAIDE" this Thursday afternoon for exercises. "AUSTRALIA" has been informed that the B.P.T. is not available but that she may carry out a programme of full and sub-calibre firings at pattern 6 targets today and tomorrow Friday.

"SYDNEY", "VAMPIRE" and "VOYAGER" arrived Fremantle from exercises October 10th.

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

Enemy activity continues in the North Sea. Intercepted signals from the Admiralty indicate seven German Warships and three Merchant Ships were in an unspecified position at 1150, 10th October steering West and two Merchant Vessels had left Rotterdam, also two from Nervik.

H.M. Ship "DAUNTLESS" sailed from Gibraltar 10th October for Malta.

"SUSSEX", and "SHROPSHIRE" will in future be known as Force "H" based on Capetown for patrol duties.

GERMAN POTENTIAL A.M.C.'s

C.O.I.S. Hong Kong states that "Mosel" is discharging at Bangkok the cargo which she loaded at that port before the outbreak of war. "Mosel" is 8,428 gross tonnage with a speed of 15 knots. She is said to carry a dummy funnel and suitable as a mechanical transport or store ship.

An Admiralty intercept containing corrupt groups states "Capnorte" (13600 tons, "A" category) has been captured in Northern Waters.

The Admiralty state that the following vessels flying the Panamanian Flag are German owned and are to be treated as such:-

GOLFO de DAIREN

" " PANAMA

TILSIT previously named ACME

These vessels are not tankers and this message does not

contradict the statement in Daily Narrative, 11th October, page 2 "Neutral Shipping".

AUSTRALIAN A.M.C.'s

Admiralty requires an immediate report as to which A.M.C.'s fitting out under our charge will be self supporting so far as fresh water requirements are concerned.

"DUNTRON" and "MANCOORA" will be fitted out in the semi complete equipment condition as in Imperial A.M.C.'s.

"ARAWA" is expected to carry out completion and gun trials on 19th October, and "KANIMBLA", delayed by obtaining and fitting buoyant material, early in November.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

N.O.C.S. reports "COOLEBAR" and "ARAKOON" suitable for conversion to M/S duties. A number of vessels is being examined with a view to taking them up for similar duties.

"OLIVE CAM" is ready for M/S equipment and sweeping trials on Saturday, 14th October, and gun trials on Monday, 16th October.

GENERAL.

LOSSES OF MERCHANT VESSELS.

The total losses of British merchant vessels as a result of enemy action during the month of September amounted to 37 vessels with an aggregate gross tonnage of 155,658 tons. Only 1.1 per cent of British shipping afloat has failed to arrive at British ports.

Up to noon, October 8th, 21 neutral ships, with an aggregate gross tonnage of 58,796 tons had been sunk by implements of war. Twelve of these vessels (24,139 tons) were sunk by U-boats, seven (25,165 tons) by mines (one of these vessels was lost at Singapore through the Master having disregarded British warnings), one (3,527 tons) was scuttled by the Poles to block the approach to Gydnia, and one (5,965 tons) was either mined or torpedoed.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OFF NORTH COAST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The Air Board have made arrangements for No.14 (G.R.) Squadron at Pearce (Western Australia) to maintain one Anson on the Northwest Coast for reconnaissance duties.

This aircraft, which will be periodically relieved, is now based at Wyndham and will make a reconnaissance flight over the coast between Derby and Wyndham every third day.

Press representatives in future must submit completed articles and photographs to local military intelligence before publication.

Uruguay, in co-operation with Argentine and Brazil, has commenced patrol of Atlantic Coast and Rio de la Plata.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Wednesday 11th October.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART", C.C.S. reports that the last dry docking was completed on the 4th July and as there are no signs of "fouling" it is recommended that docking is unnecessary at present. The recommendation has been approved.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" at present exercising in Port Phillip has been instructed to rendezvous with "CANBERRA" at 1400 Thursday 12th October when Inclination Exercise Type A will be carried out Kite H.A., Day full calibre, night full or sub calibre will be carried out off Sydney on Friday 13th October.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and "ADELAIDE" sail from Sydney at 1530 Wednesday 11th October for exercise after which the latter proceeds independently to Jervis Bay and rejoins the Flag on Thursday for full calibre firing.

The refits for H.M.A.S. "YARRA" and "SWAN" will be considered when work in the Dockyard has decreased and Fast Minesweepers have worked up.

C.C.S. reports that "STUART" will now be fitted with D.C. rail and trap but it is proposed to leave "VENDETTA" and "WATERHEN" as now fitted with H.S.M.S. and D.C. chute and throwers similar to "VAMPIRE" and "VOYAGER".

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

The Swedish ship "VISTULA" (1018 tons gross) was sunk by an enemy submarine about 45 miles S.E. of the Orkney Islands at noon on the 8th October.

From the British Consul at St. Vincent is a report that the master (and presumably the Chief Engineer) have been landed there. The former states that the name "Admiral Scheer" was on the stern but painted over.

H.M. Ambassador at Rio de Janeiro invites the attention of Authorities to the readiness expressed by the Brazilian Government to permit refuelling of H.M. Ships in spite of the neutrality regulations.

From Admiralty intercepts it is learned that one "Deutschland" Class, one Konigsberg Class and 9 destroyers passed South through the Great Belt early on Tuesday morning 10th October, also that 3 warships are reported off Ameland proceeding West at 1230 Tuesday 8th October. C. in C. Rosyth has made to Ships and Authorities in Area "A" a signal to the effect that an Air Search by 3 Aircraft will sweep from the Borkum Riff coastwise to 52° 20'N thence returning to base at Hornsby. It is also reported that the German Cruiser Koln sailed from Germany on the 27th September.

Enemy aircraft were again reported active over the Eastern and Central part of the North Sea.

C. in C. China has made a signal that in future ships operating from Hong Kong will be known as the China Force and ships operating from Singapore as the Malaya Force.

AUSTRALIAN A.M.C.'s

M.V. "DUNTROON" is due at Sydney a.m. on Thursday 12th - unloading should be completed by 1000 the same day. Master, Officers and Engineers together with sufficient ratings for essential services will be retained temporarily.

D.E.M.S.

The P. & O. "STRATHEDEN" which arrived in Melbourne on Sunday last is armed with one only 12-pdr gun fitted in London. Arrangements are being made to mount a 6" gun during the vessel's stay in Sydney.

NEUTRAL MERCHANT SHIPS.

Panamarian Tankers. The German crews of all Panamarian Tankers quoted in C.A.F.O. 534/39 (a total of 29 vessels) are being replaced chiefly by American and British crews with the exception of 3 which are still German owned and to be treated as such. Danish crews man 2 vessels, Norwegian and Belgian one each. Only one vessel, in harbour at St. Vincent, is still manned by Germans, and they will be replaced before the vessel sails.

JAPANESE WHALE DEPOT SHIPS.

According to a Japanese Press broadcast, the Japanese whale depot ships "Tonan Maru" and "Nisshin Maru" have left Japan for the Antarctic and are at present at Balik Papan.

These vessels usually call at Fremantle, but their agents at Fremantle have received no information as to any forthcoming visit.

The "Tonan Maru" and "Nisshin Maru" are large vessels, being of 16764 tons and 9866 tons gross respectively. Their fuel capacity is very large and it may be prudent to keep them under notice as a potential and valuable source of fuel supply for German Commerce raiders.

INTELLIGENCE - S.W. PACIFIC ISLANDS.

A native report from Tanna Island New Hebrides, states that on the afternoon of 8th October, a vessel painted grey or cream with two funnels approached the island from the westward and later to the southward. The Admiralty Reporting Officer, Vila, from whom this report was received, considers it to be reliable.

It is thought that the vessel sighted may probably have been the French sloop "DUMONT D'URVILLE" or Messageries Maritimes vessel "ERIDAN", and this has been suggested to the Admiralty Reporting Officer, Vila.

A report from Admiralty Reporting Officer, Madang, states that during last week of September, natives sighted vessels steaming North between Bako Bako Island and the North Coast of New Guinea. Searchlight was used at a height which lit up the coast.

On 1st October the natives of a Mission Schooner proceeding to Kar Kar Island near Madang sighted an unknown object. Their description is consistent with its being a submarine.

In order to facilitate the forwarding of immediate reports of unusual activities in the Solomon Islands, Admiralty Reporting Officer, Tulagi, has been asked to report on the desirability of supplying copies of Playfair Code to all W/T stations which are operated by persons considered suitable.

At present most of these stations (Pedal-sets) are prohibited from operating because of the ban on the use of private W/T.

GENERAL.

Commander Esdaile arrives in Perth from Melbourne by air on Thursday 12th October to make preliminary arrangements for the laying and operation of the loop Indicator at that port. He will return to Melbourne on Sunday 15th October.

A Signal from F.O.C.A.S. to H.M.A. Ships ordering them to report the number of ratings short has elicited the following replies.

"HOBART"	total short 32 - further shortages likely owing to prevalence of mumps.
"STUART"	" " 12
"WATERHEN"	" " 3
"VENDETTA"	" " 9

Proposed M.T.B.'s - before finally placing the order N.L.O. has been instructed to ascertain if reasonably firm date can be given for delivery of engines. Unless this date is within one year further consideration may be given to the matter. The Admiralty's Confidential views are to be obtained.

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

Battle Cruiser Force, Battle Fleet and Hunter Force are at different positions in the North Sea, presumably to intercept German battleship, 3 cruisers, and 3 destroyers reported by aircraft.

ADMIRALTY.

Details of Atlantic Convoys appear in an intercepted signal.

The statistical period 10th October to 11th November has been indefinitely postponed.

Following instructions have been received from Admiralty and passed to H.O.C.S.

Admiralty have been informed that war insurance risks accepted by U.S. on behalf of Admiralty from 9 a.m. 2nd September 1939.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Tuesday, 10th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA STATION.

"STUART", "VENDETTA", "WATERHEN"

C.C.S. advises all known urgent defects can be made good by a.m. Saturday. D.C. rails and traps with hand release gear could be fitted in that time; hydraulic release two weeks required. N.B. has approved all urgent work which can be completed by 14th October.

"AUSTRALIA", "SWAN", "YARRA" - sailed for Port Phillip 0900 Monday.

"ORARA" has been commissioned.

"VOYAGER" "VAMPIRE" D.N.O. W.A. is arranging for local firms to remedy defects by 14th October.

S.O. Force Z states "VAMPIRE" unfit for more than 3 months' hard service and guns much worn. Both boats gun circuits in very poor condition.

"YARRA", "SWAN" C.C.S. proposes to defer refit.

"SYDNEY", "VOYAGER", "VAMPIRE" departed Fremantle a.m. Monday for exercises.

"KURUMBA" due Fremantle about 15th.

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

Battle Cruiser Force, Battle Fleet and Humber Force are at different positions in the North Sea, presumably to intercept German battleship, 3 cruisers, and 2 destroyers reported by aircraft.

ADMIRALTY.

CONVOYS.

Details of Atlantic Convoys appear in an intercepted signal.

MAIL STATISTICS.

The statistical period 15th October to 11th November has been indefinitely postponed.

A.M.C.'s

"KANIMBLA" Ballasting instructions have been received from Admiralty and passed to N.O.C.S.

"BULOLO" Burns Philp desire all financial arrangements to be made in London. Admiralty have been informed that war insurance risks accepted by N.B. on behalf of Admiralty from 9 a.m. 22nd September, 1939.

D.E.M.S.

"AUSTRALIA STAR" A defect which developed during gun trials is to be remedied in Adelaide.

"TRIENZA" will not be supplied with additional ammunition.

"HARBLEDOWN" "PERTSHIRE" and "BRISBANE STAR" to be defensively equipped.

NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

FINNISH SHIPS are to receive advice similar to that given to British Ships.

ROUTEING, AUSTRALIA STATION.

N.C.S. Staffs have been advised that existing instructions are to remain in force.

AMSTERDAM has been reopened to British Shipping.

GENERAL.

North Coast S.N. Co. report that their motor vessel "MELINGA" would be more suitable than "NAMBUCCA" or "COOLEBAR" for service in North. F.O.C.A.S. proposes to issue steel helmets to destroyers and escort vessels.

ENEMY AND NEUTRAL MERCHANT SHIPS.

An unconfirmed report states that 6 submarine bases exist in Ceylon Area.

German Potential A.M.C.'s "MONTE PASCOAL" and "GENERAL ARTIGAS" previously reported off East Coast of South America, have both arrived in Norwegian Waters. "MONTREAL MARU" reliably reported acting in suspicious manner off Breaksea Spit Light Vessel on October 7th.

July

DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Monday, 9th October.

OPERATIONS. AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ships "HOBART", "STUART" and Destroyers will probably proceed overseas shortly. "HOBART", having disembarked 6-inch cordite and being at 12 hours' notice for steam, is to be docked at Sydney and ready for sea a.m. Saturday, 14th October. "STUART" to be docked and ready for sea as soon as practicable: defects in "VENDETTA" and "WATERHEN" to be made good forthwith.

Naval Board has decided it is impracticable to grant long leave to these ships.

"KOROWA" will carry out M/S equipment and sweeping trials this Monday forenoon. Gun equipment and firing trials have been deferred until 0900 Tuesday, 10th October.

R.A.F.A. Oiler "KURUMBA" sailed from Darwin 7th October, due Fremantle 15th October.

A.M.C.'s

Admiralty has decided that general mess system is to be adopted.

E.R. complement in "KANIMBLA" allows only for Watchkeeping at sea. Additional E.R.A.'s are required for maintenance and repair to Diesels which is normally carried out in this ship by a gang of shore fitters.

Messrs. Burns Philp, owners of "BULOLO", are anxious Naval Board should confirm date, namely 22nd September, on which the ship was requisitioned for Imperial Government and they seek information as to whoⁿ is responsible for expenses from that date until delivery after Survey at Simonstown.

ADMIRALTY.

Naval Board has advised Admiralty that the filling of mines and depth charges with poured amatol can be undertaken but that very small stocks of ammonium nitrate are held. I.C.I. of A. & N.Z. is erecting plant for the manufacture of synthetic ammonia, but completion is dependent upon shipment of outstanding plant from England.

A prisoner of war having recently destroyed papers onboard one of H.M. Destroyers, attention is drawn to the necessity of removing all documents from prisoners of war in accordance with A.F.O./14/39.

Revised instructions are given for painting merchant ships in time of war (1115/6) and censorship of information concerning movements of British ships (1929/7).

Substantial evidence indicates German employ a recognition system between surface and air forces almost identical with our own. Details are given in Admiralty's 1301/6: corroboration of refutation is invited in the light of future experience.

The enemy is thought to be unaware of our method of detecting submarines and believes it to be based on hydrophonic principle. If "U" boats suspect they are hunted they may stop all machinery and go to bottom if practicable, going ahead again at periscope depth when apparently clear.

Admiralty's 1727/7. "Instances have occurred of surface detonation of the hundred pounds anti-submarine bombs Mark IV causing damage to aircraft. Pending further instructions aircraft should not come below 600 feet when releasing these bombs"

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M. Ship "EFFINGHAM" Ordered to relieve "BERWICK" and "PERTH" as ocean convoy escort on Sunday, 15th October.

There appears to be considerable activity in the North Sea. German force comprising 1 Battleship, 3 Cruisers and 2 Destroyers reported by aircraft at sea at 1330 on 8th October steaming at 20 knots in a northerly direction.

ENEMY MERCHANT VESSELS.

On 7th October German tanker, believed to be "BISCAVA", sailed from Las Palmas. Also sailed "PARANA" from Buenos Aires and an unknown German Merchant Ship left AALESUND bound south.

GENERAL.

Admiralty states there is little doubt that the raider which sank S.S. "CLEMENT" on 30th September was a German pocket battleship or 8" cruiser and that an A.M.C., possibly "SCHWABENLAND" (8,200 tons) or "MONTE PASCOAL" (13,870 tons "A" Category) was operating in the same area. It is considered that the policy of surface raiders operating on the trade routes is now in force and that they may be expected in any area.

Assistant Naval Attache, Pernambuco, states survivors of S.S. "CLEMENT" are convinced the raider was the pocket battleship "ADMIRAL SCHEER".

An intercepted message from H.M. Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro, to the Foreign Office suggests that the Brazilian neutrality regulations are about to be amended which should assist H.M. Ships operating in the South Atlantic.

B.N.A. Buenos Aires, reports a Japanese trawler was stopped and compelled to give fish to a submarine off Northern Uruguay on 2nd October.

The view expressed in Admiralty's 2159/6, addressed to holders of Flag Officers' cypher, as to German morale seems to conflict with that contained in Circular B.352 dated 5th October from Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

RUSSIAN SUBMARINES.

Latest information concerning Russian Submarines is as follows:--

Class	Standard Displacement Tonnage.	Baltic Fleet (Kronstadt)	Northern Fleet (Murmansk)	Black Sea Fleet (Sevastopol)	Pacific Fleet (Vladivostock).
D	860	3	4	11	-
L	900	4	3	9	9
M	188	23	-	14	45
N	773	3	-	-	-
P	1,120	-	3	-	-
Sh	547	21	12	14	30
U	650	7	-	4	8
		61	22	52	92

Total number of Submarines - 227.

S.O.(I) Shanghai reported on 24th September, 1939, from Japanese sources that 6 Russian Submarines, J(?) type, were sighted recently outside Shimonoseki.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Sunday, 8th October.

Operations Australia Station.

H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA", "HOBART" and "ADELAIDE" arrived Sydney a.m. 7th October.

N.O.C.S. reports that H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" has completed dry docking and the leaking rivets in the oil fuel tanks have been made tight.

H.M.S. "KOROWA" will carry out equipment, sweeping and gunnery trials on Monday, 9th October, commencing at 0900.

D.N.O., Victoria, has been requested to furnish programme to cover similar trials for H.M.A.S. "OLIVE CAM".

These two minesweepers are scheduled to sail for Western Australia about the 10th October.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART" will be at 12 hours notice for steam from 0200 Sunday, 8th October, as it is necessary to disembark cordite and carry out other dockyard work.

A.M.Cs.

The Admiralty has been requested to furnish advice concerning the messing of ratings in these vessels.

D.E.M.S. - Ammunition.

Naval Board have confirmed to the Admiralty that complete ammunition outfits for fast liners and D.E.M.S. are being supplied locally subject to replacement of certain items and advise that New Zealand could be issued with 6" H.E. shell 4" B.L. Mark Nine cordite and practice shot.

Admiralty.

From the First Sea Lord is the following signal originated at 1746/5, addressed to all C. in Cs. and reads :-

"I hope whatever service your ships are on you will find it possible to carry out monthly some form of full calibre firing, both low and high angle, using improvised targets where necessary."

General Interest.

D.N.O., Fremantle, reports the possibility of desertions by the crew of the P. & O. R.M.S. "Stratheden" particularly amongst the stewards, in order to avoid conscription on the vessel's return to England.

C. in C., South Atlantic, reports that the mixture of oil fuel supplied (presumably at Rio de Janeiro) by the Anglo Mexican Company to H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" is not suitable for H.M. Ships and requests that Diesel oil only be supplied.

Captain-in-Charge at Ceylon passed an enquiry to the Naval Board as to what items of Service provisions in

addition to jam, corned beef, pickles, currants and sultanas, could be supplied from Australia.

Captain Thomas arrived from Darwin and reported at Navy Office a.m. Saturday, 7th October.

Operations outside Australia and N.Z. Stations.

On 6th October the following signal was made by Admiralty to R.A. Aircraft Carriers :-

"German submarine parent ship or tanker have been reported in the following positions between 2nd and 4th October -

- (i) $0^{\circ} 2' N. 45^{\circ} 26' W.$
- (ii) $14^{\circ} 28' N. 33^{\circ} 4' W.$
- (iii) $14^{\circ} 17' S. 17^{\circ} 03' W.$

to which is added that it had been further reported that a German ship of unknown character which may be a tanker was in a position $14^{\circ} 04' N. 33^{\circ} 08' W.$ until 6 p.m. 6th October. This vessel is believed to change her position every 3 days."

Ships and authorities in Area "A" are advised by Admiralty that German trawlers fully loaded fitted with new W/T and D/F pass Berger daily north bound and may be used to supply German submarines.

Force K.

In view of the possible arrival at Freetown at 1700 Wednesday, 11th October, C. in C., South Atlantic, has suggested that their arrival at the entrance to the swept should be deferred until 0530 Thursday, 12th October, and that H.M.S. "HARDY" and the 6th Subdivision should rendezvous with Force K in position $11^{\circ} 50' N. 21^{\circ} 00' W.$ at 0530 Wednesday, 11th October.

The Admiralty has also informed R.A. Aircraft Carriers in reference to an earlier signal which has not been intercepted here that report now stated to be unimpeachable and that submarines were hove to on the surface.

Force J.

This Force detailed by the Admiralty accompanied by H.M.S. "BULLDOG" and another destroyer which may be sent at the discretion of C. in C., Mediterranean, are to be sailed so as to be operating in the Socotra Area by Monday, 16th October, for the purpose of encountering the raider at present in the South Atlantic which may endeavour to raid our shipping in the Socotra Area. H.M.S. "GLORIOUS" should land 9 of her fighters which may be retained for the defence of Alexandria.

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" last reported at Gibraltar on the 2nd October is ordered to join C. in C., Mediterranean.

Operations - Outside Australia and New Zealand.

The Admiralty has sent to S.O., 1st Detached Squadron, a report that the German Cruiser "KOLN" and one 10,000 ton warship were due to proceed to the Atlantic on 3rd October.

The Detached Squadron is proceeding to Halifax and on the assumption that the German ships passed the Norwegian

Coast in the dark hours and then shaped a course North of Iceland. There is a remote possibility that that may be intercepted during the 9th to 11th October.

The ships of the Detached Squadron are to be spread 20 miles apart and if the S.O. considers that there is more possibility of intercepting them by steering to the southward of his normal track to Halifax the delay in his arrival is accepted.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" is at Valparaiso fuelling and making good engine room defects. When ready for sea C. in C., A. & W.I., recommends proceeding to make an appearance off Talcahuano and Conal and to visit Puerto Montt and San Quintin Bay $46^{\circ} 50' S. 74^{\circ} 20' W.$ proceeding thence to the Straits of Mongellen where "ACHILLES" will come under the orders of C. in C., South Atlantic.

The oiler "ORANGELEAF" is to proceed from Valparaiso to rendezvous with H.M.S. "DESPATCH" in position $6^{\circ} S. 90^{\circ} W.$ at an economised speed and keeping to seaward of the normal trade route.

H.M. Submarines "TRITON" and "STURGEON" were ordered to sail for Hvar and Southern Zone C on the 6th and 8th respectively. (Hvar is in Lesina Island in the Adriatic).

Enemy Mines.

Captain-in-Charge, Simonstown, reports a suspected area off Cape Agulhas.

Enemy Merchant Vessels.

The Master of the British Ship "SILVER WILLOW" reported on arrival at San Francisco that about 28th August in the Visayan Sea in the Phillipine Is. he sighted the German Ship "KULMERLAND" painted to represent a ship of the Andrew Weir Line, her course was away from her published destination, Manila. She was reported at Kobe on 3rd October.

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MOST SECRET.

DAILY NARRATIVE.

To 0900 Saturday 7th October, 1939.

OPERATIONS AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STATION.

H.M.A. Ship "AUSTRALIA" berthed at Williamstown and later shifted billet to Princes Pier.

H.M.A. Ships "STUART" and "WATERHEN" left Sydney for exercise at 0900 and returned about 3 p.m.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrived Auckland from Wellington. F.N.D. advises that a firing ship will not be required for week commencing October 9th.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" left Port Melbourne for exercises a.m. and returned later in the day.

OPERATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA STATION.

Admiralty advises that M.V. "OSTMARK" catapulted an aircraft a.m. 5th October. This ship is described in C.A.F.O. 534 as an aircraft catapult ship with a large crane aft, speed 13½ knots, 1280 tons, fitted D.F. There have been no indications of her position, but presumably it is somewhere in the South Africa or West Indies Stations. Greek Ship "PAPALEMOS" - Buenos Aires to Cape Verde Is. has on board the Captain of British Ship "CLEMENT", who was previously reported as being on board ship which sank the "CLEMENT".

S.O.(I) Montevideo reports German Ship BORKUM is loading stores in seven separate lots, and is presumed to be a supply ship for German raiders. The Officers of this ship closely scrutinised the oiler "OLWAN" which previous reports have stated to be fuelling H.M. Ships in La Plata area.

An Admiralty description of German Cruisers "HIPPER" and "BLUCHER" has been promulgated pending block sketch cards.

H.M. Ships "NELSON", "RODNEY", "FURIOUS", "HOOD", and "REPULSE" with 8 Destroyers and A.M.C. Jervis Bay, sailed for Scapa Flow on 5th October.

French Legation at Santiago advises reliable reports place German submarines as operating off Chile and Peru.

No further advice has been received concerning projected sailing of "LEIPZIG" and other ships from Callao on 3rd October.

H.M. SHIPS

"RESOLUTION", "REVENGE", "EMERALD" and "ENTERPRISE" are to sail for Halifax in company and will be employed singly on escort duty with convoys. H.M.S. "EFFINGHAM" will reinforce them later.

A German parent ship or tanker has been reported at definite positions off the Brazilian coast.

ENEMY AND NEUTRAL MERCHANT SHIPS.

D.N.O. Fremantle reports Japanese Whalers TONAN MARU and NIDCHIN MARU have sailed for Antarctic and Arctic Oceans.

Norwegian Whaling parent ship and 6 whalers sailed from Hangesund for Curacao and Antarctic. H.M.S. "BELFAST" reports that the operation appears bona fide. Two other whaling convoys are reported by master of Sunderoy to be on passage. The British Ship "SILVER WILLOW" reports having sighted German M.V. KULMERLAND near Phillipines on 28th August painted to represent a ship of the Andrew Weir Line.

MINISTER AND CABINET.

A memo from Secretary Naval Board to Secretary Defence Department advises that with regard to inquiry from U.K. for powerful twin screw tugs - none are available. Three Saint Class Tugs could be made available. Selection and despatch of these will be arranged between Naval Board and Director of Sea Transport.

Russian Infantry and Cavalry are reported to be an undisciplined rabble, but mechanised Red Army units in Poland make a good impression.

A.M.C.'s.

Approval to instal D.F. in "KANIMBLA" is sought. Admiralty advises that mercantile marine officers who sign T 124 will continue mercantile rates of pay but will receive free messing.

AUXILIARY WAR VESSELS.

"KOROWA" and "OLIVE CAM" commissioned Friday 6th October. N.O.C.S. has been advised that "CHANGTE's" supplies will be replenished by ordinary freight.

GENERAL.

C.C.S. advises Commander Newcomb will arrive at Darwin on 10th in connection with Seaward Defence and will return to Sydney on 15th leaving P.O. to supervise construction work.

DARWIN.

D.N.O. N.T. advises that negotiations are still proceeding to obtain premises occupied by Fang Chong Loong.

NEWCASTLE.

N.O.C.S. requests additional accountant officer be appointed to N.C.S. at Newcastle.

"PENGUIN".

Approval has been given to provide additional essential accommodation in "PENGUIN" - Billiard Room.

NEW HEBRIDES.

A.R.O. Vila has been advised by N.B. that coast watching organisation is not established in New Hebrides owing to condominium, but has been asked it is feasible to report unusual movements etc. if Playfair code was supplied for the purpose.

OIL FUEL.

C.C.S. suggests further stocks should be ordered.

LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES.

The Admiralty is pleased with the local production of life saving belts and makes an inquiry whether these can be supplied to China and East Indies Stations.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS - SOUTH WEST PACIFIC.

Lieut.-Cdr. Feldt has been asked to investigate reports of unknown warship and aircraft at Gatuiki Island 2nd October. D.N.I. reports that information has been received that all British Vacuum Oil tankers will be used solely between America and Great Britain. They will be replaced elsewhere by Scandinavian tankers.

guz

NAVAL BOARD

Commanders Bowyer and Captain Crane have resumed their normal duties.

AUSTRALIA SERVICE

R.N.Z. Ship "SHEPHERD" having completed exercises in Port Phillip Bay, will berth at Williamstown for fueling at 1000 to-day Friday, thence to Princes Pier, Port Melbourne. "SWAN" and "TAMBA" berthed at Princes Pier Thursday, 8th October. "STUART" when returning from Sydney lost a torpedo in 70 fathoms. Search had been abandoned. The Naval Officer-in-Charge Sydney has been instructed to report proposed action in regard to "SHEPHERD" looking oil fuel tanks.

*Shepherd
Sydney
guz*

REPAIRS

Admiralty have been informed that it is not intended to modernise "CAMBERRA" until the cessation of hostilities. Subject to concurrence of P.O.S.A.S., "TAMBA" is to be taken in hand for annual refit when convenient to Rosnyard. R.O.C.S. is to report when "SHEPHERD", fitting out for A/S instructional duties, will be ready for service.

R.O.C.S. REPAIRS

Captain Thomas, in view for appointment, is due Melbourne, s.s. Saturday, 7th October per Adelaide express.

Life Saving Appliances

Naval Board has decided to issue rubber life saving belts to all personnel as soon as supply is available.

WAR INSURANCE RATES

The war insurance rate, United Kingdom to and from Australia, was increased to 50/- per cent all routes on 3rd October. Previous rates were 20/- per cent on the homeward route from Australia and 40/- outward via the Mediterranean.

STAFF OFFICER (INTELLIGENCE) PORT MORESBY

Lieutenant Commander E. Feldt, who was appointed to the newly created position of Staff Officer (Intelligence), Port Moresby, on 10th September, and who was investigating in particular reports of the sightings of unidentifiable vessels and aircraft, arrived at Port Moresby on 8th September, and proceeded to Rabaul on the same day by air mail. He is expected to arrive at Adalat, the administrative headquarters of the Milne Bay Islands on about 10th October.

Lieutenant Commander Feldt is extending the present Coast-Station communication in Papua, New Guinea and the Solomons Islands by the selection of further apparatus, and will shortly personnel with the Vlayfair Code for use with transmitting messages by air mail only.

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 Friday, 6th October.

NAVAL BOARD.

Commodore Boucher and Captain Crane have resumed their normal duties.

AUSTRALIA STATION.

H.M.A. Ship "AUSTRALIA", having completed exercises in Port Phillip Bay, will berth at Williamstown for fuelling at 1030 to-day Friday; thence to Princes Pier, Port Melbourne. "SWAN" and "YARRA" berthed at Princes Pier Thursday, 5th October. "STUART" when exercising from Sydney lost a torpedo in 70 fathoms. Search has been abandoned. The Naval Officer-in-Charge Sydney has been instructed to report proposed action in regard to "VENDETTA's" leaking oil fuel tanks.

*Ship clocked
Defect-repaired
JMS*

REFITTING.

Admiralty have been informed that it is not intended to modernise "CANBERRA" until the cessation of hostilities. Subject to concurrence of F.O.C.A.S., "YARRA" is to be taken in hand for annual refit when convenient to Dockyard. N.O.C.S. is to report when "MORESBY", fitting out for A/S instructional duties, will be ready for service.

N.O.I.C. FREMANTLE.

Captain Thomas, in view for appointment, is due Melbourne, a.m. Saturday, 7th October per Adelaide express.

Life Saving Appliances.

Naval Board has decided to issue rubber life saving belts to all personnel afloat as soon as supply is available.

WAR INSURANCE RATES.

The war insurance rate, United Kingdom to and from Australia, was increased to 50/- per cent all routes on 3rd October. Previous rates were 30/- per cent on the homeward route from Australia and 40/- outward via the Mediterranean.

STAFF OFFICER (INTELLIGENCE) PORT MORESBY.

Lieutenant Commander E. Feldt, who was appointed to the newly created position of Staff Officer (Intelligence), Port Moresby, on 16th September, and who will investigate in particular reports of the sightings of unidentified vessels and aircraft, arrived at Port Moresby on 21st September, and proceeded to Rabaul on the same day by air mail. He is expected to arrive at Tulagi, the administrative headquarters of the Solomon Islands on or about 10th October.

Lieutenant Commander Feldt is extending the present Coast-Watching Organisation in Papua, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands by the selection of further personnel, and will supply personnel with the Playfair Codes for use when transmitting messages by W/T pedal sets.

MOST SECRET

Naval Staff
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DAILY 2. SUMMARY.

OTHER STATIONS.

H.M.S. "LEANDER" arrives Auckland 5th October.
"EFFINGHAM", "EMERALD" and "ENTERPRISE" ordered by C.-in-C. Western Approaches to leave Devonport Saturday, 7th October (Destination not stated)
"DANAE" is to proceed to China.
"DESPATCH" left Freetown for Trinidad at 15 knots and "CUMBERLAND" for South America at 20 knots. Admiralty message (1246/5) states that Greek Ship "PAPALEMOS" due Saint Vincent, Cape Verde Island 8th October has onboard Captain and Chief Engineer of British Ship "CLEMENT" which was sunk by an enemy raider off Pernambuco on 30th September.

ENEMY MERCHANT VESSELS.

The Naval Control Service Officer, Callao, reports that the "RHAKOTIS", "HERMONTHIS", "MUENCHEN", and "LEIPZIG", received instructions from Germany to leave Callao on 3rd or 4th October and to proceed to a rendezvous with three submarines and later with the "DEUTSCHLAND" or "ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE" for arming. Ships have taken on further supplies and considerable quantities of ammunition.

Three more German vessels in N.E.I. ports (namely "CASSELL", "ESSEN" and "NAUMBURG") are reported to have been seized by the Dutch authorities for debt. The local crews of German vessels sheltering in N.E.I. ports number 1100, of which 400 propose to be repatriated to Germany.

Naval Service Details.

There are three Special A.M.S.'s fitting out at Sydney as follows:

- H.M.S. "SHEPHERD HAWK" (Commander R.N. Hays R.N.) completes 13th Oct.
- H.M.S. "ARISE" (Commander G.R. Devereil) completes 17th Oct.
- H.M.S. "KATISMA" (Commander R.N. F.H. Gelling R.A.N.) completes 18th Oct.

It has been suggested to the Admiralty that each ship should have 14 days' working up before departure. Of the three ships "KATISMA" was the only one on the Australian Register.

Merchant Navy Service Details.

It is intended to commence Merchant Navy Defence Course Part II at Sydney and Melbourne as soon as practicable.

R.N.A.S. "FRODOG"

Commander J.H. Rosenthal, R.N.A.S., reached Sydney on Wednesday 6th October.

R.N.A.S. "FRASER"

Captain Thomas R.N. has been appointed. He is at present at Sydney and has been instructed to return to Melbourne as soon as his services can be spared.

MOST SECRET

Name Staff

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DAILY NARRATIVE.

MOST SECRET.

To 0900 5th October.

AUSTRALIA STATION.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" at present exercising in Port Phillip Bay will berth at ~~Port Melbourne~~ at 1030 Friday 6th October. "YARRA" and "SWAN" also exercising in Port Phillip Bay and will return to Port Melbourne at a time to be advised later. "CANBERRA", "ADELAIDE" and "HOBART" are at present on patrol and will return to Sydney on Saturday 7th October. "STUART" and "WATERHEN" left Sydney for exercise on the 3rd October and returned at 1745 Wednesday 4th October.

A/S Vessels.

Consideration is being given to the selection of 3 vessels for this purpose. Enquiries are proceeding regarding the suitability of vessels to replace 3 Sydney tugs of the "Saint" Class already selected and now required by Admiralty.

Examination Service.

30 Yacht "ADELE" completes fitting out at Sydney on the 11th October then relieves "Captain Cook II" at this port whilst the latter undergoes a 14 days' refit. "ADELE" proceeds to Darwin on the 30th October to relieve "KURU" which vessel is unsuitable but has been carrying out the duties temporarily.

Armed Merchant Cruisers.

There are three Imperial A.M.C.'s fitting out at Sydney as follows:-

- H.M.S. "MORETON BAY" (Commander E.M. Haes R.N.) completes 13th Oct.
- H.M.S. "ARAWA" (Commander G.R. Deverell) completes 17th Oct.
- H.M.S. "KANIMBLA" (Commander R.N. F.N. Getting R.A.N.) completes 19th Oct.

It has been suggested to the Admiralty that each ship should have 14 days' working up before departure. Of the three ships "KANIMBLA" was the only one on the Australian Register.

Merchant Navy Defence Course.

It is intended to commence Merchant Navy Defence Course Part II at Sydney and Melbourne as soon as practicable.

H.M.A.S. "PENGUIN"

Commander A.S. Rosenthal, R.A.N., assumed command on Wednesday 4th October.

N.O.I.C. Fremantle.

is in view for appointment.
Captain Thomas R.N. has been appointed. He is at present at Darwin and has been instructed to return to Melbourne as soon as his services can be spared.

D.E.M.S.

Up to the 30th September the following had been armed:-

Fast Liners	3
D.E.M.S.	25
R.A.F.A.	1
	<u>29</u>

Indicator Loops.

Proposed that Commander Newcombe and 1 submarine detector instructor, fly to Darwin on 8th October to arrange site etc. Loops to be laid by "KOOKABURRA" proceeding from Sydney on 20th October. Commander Newcombe returns to Sydney 15th but revisits Darwin when loops are laid to carry out tests and adjustments.

Naval Information.

Admiralty (1943/3) are arranging a bi-weekly telegraphic summary of Naval events to be distributed to various authorities who may use them as they consider most appropriate for the purpose of countering effectively enemy propaganda.

Life Saving Appliances.

Admiralty requested to advise if it is desired that personnel in A.M.C. be issued with self inflating rubber swimming belts similar to those issued by Admiralty during previous war. These are being manufactured in Australia at a cost of approximately 8/- (Australian) each and may be ready in time.

OTHER STATIONS.

As a result of the sinking of the British Ship "CLEMENT" (5051 tons Gross) on the 1st October in the vicinity of Pernambuco, H.M.S. "ACHILLES" operating off the West Coast of South America was ordered to proceed Southabout into the South Atlantic, showing herself at Chilean ports as considered desirable, then fuelling at Falkland Islands and on arrival is to come under the orders of C.-in-C. Africa.

On the 2nd October all sailings from Rio de Janeiro were suspended for 4 days.

H.M.S. "EXETER" and H.M.S. "AJAX" were to rendezvous and proceed to a position $32^{\circ} 40' S$ $48^{\circ} 00' E$ (North and East from Monte Video) where they were to be joined by "HOTSPUR" and "HAVOCK". These two destroyers were in the Plata Area with the British tanker "OLWEN".

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean was instructed by the Admiralty to arrange for two 8" cruisers complete with aircraft to proceed to Malta with all despatch - probable destination South Atlantic. H.M.S. "SUFFOLK" and H.M.S. "NORFOLK" were to join him and the 1st Cruiser Squadron was to remain with him. These two cruisers were subsequently ordered to proceed to Simonstown via the Red Sea with all despatch (Admiralty 1348/2).

In connection with the above sinking presumably by the German "Admiral Scheer" and the subsequent orders to the 2-8" cruisers the following signal is of considerable interest (1317/3 D.N.I. Admiralty to C. in C. Africa "Details given could describe "Admiral Hipper" or "Blucher" which are the only German Ships

known at present to have tripod masts (main) and four turrets."

British Ship "ATHLONE CASTLE" at Gibraltar 3rd October was to wait until escort by "E" Class Cruiser to Freetown was provided.

Force K together with Hardy and 3rd Division is proceeding to Freetown.

Other operations are:-

H.M.S. "^{LEANDER}~~WELLINGTON~~" arrived Wellington 1st October and departed at 0700 4th October for Auckland.

H.M.S. "CAPETOWN" at Gibraltar 3rd October with defective rudder which will take 1 month to repair at Gibraltar according to Dockyard estimate; alternating a temporary repair can be effected in 7 days to enable the ship to proceed either to the U.K. or Malta for permanent repairs.

H.M.S. "DAUNTLESS" escorting a convoy from Freetown was ordered (at 1954/2) by the Admiralty to leave the convoy when in the latitude of Gibraltar and proceed to join the China Station.

H.M.S. "DESPATCH" at Freetown on the 2nd October has been ordered to the West Coast of South America via Bermuda and Panama.

ENEMY MERCHANT VESSELS.

There are 29 German merchant ships which have been reported in the Netherlands East Indies of which two, the "Potsdam" and "Franken", only have been reported armed. In China and Japan 23 ships have been reported of which one only, the "Scharnhorst" is reported armed.

The latest reports indicate that some of these ships intend proceeding to Vladivostock. It is also reported that four ships have been seized by the Dutch for debt, whilst in China and Japan arrangements are being made to lay-up some of the ships leaving care and maintenance parties only, the balance of the crews proceeding to Germany through Russia.

On the West Coast of South America 9 ships have been reported of which one only, Leipzig, is reported to be armed.

STOP PRESS.

4 German Merchant Ships including LEIPZIG, on the W. Coast of S. AMERICA ordered to sail 3rd or 4th Oct. Southbound. They will be met at sea by 3 U boats & subsequently by DEUTSCHLAND or ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE which will arm them.

(init.) J. A. C.

ACNS.

