

determination of which all may be proud and particularly their courageous and resolute leader, Rear-Admiral H. M. Burrough, C.B., D.S.O.

59. In conclusion I think I am speaking for all in saying that we are disappointed at not doing better but we should like to try again.

(Signed) E. N. SYFRET,
Vice-Admiral,
Flag Officer Commanding,
Force F.

APPENDIX 'A'

NOMENCLATURE OF FORCES TAKING PART.

Force as a whole	...	Force F.
Convoy and Escort. U.K.-rendezvous	...	Force P.
VICTORIOUS, ARGUS and Escort. U.K.-rendezvous	...	Force M.
EAGLE and Escort. Gibraltar-rendezvous	...	Force J.
INDOMITABLE and Escort. Freetown-rendezvous	...	Force K.
Aircraft Carriers and Escort (after rendezvous for Operation "Berserk")	...	Force G.
BROWN RANGER and DINGLEDALE (Fleet oil tankers) and Escort	...	Force R.
ABBEYDALE (Fleet oil tanker for Operation "Berserk") and Escort	...	Force W.
Naval forces escorting convoy to Malta	...	Force X.
Force F, less Force X	...	Force Z.
Convoy and Escort. Malta-Gibraltar	...	Force Y.

COMPOSITION OF FORCES.

Force Z.

Battleships. NELSON (Senior Officer, Force F) and RODNEY.

Aircraft Carriers. VICTORIOUS (Rear-Admiral, Aircraft Carriers, Home Fleet), INDOMITABLE and EAGLE. (Also FURIOUS for Operation "Bellows").

Cruisers. PHOEBE, SIRIUS and CHARYBDIS.

Destroyers. LAFOREY (Captain (D), 19th Destroyer Flotilla), LIGHTNING, LOOKOUT, QUENTIN, ESKIMO, TARTAR, ITHURIEL, ANTELOPE, WISHART, VANSITTART, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER, ZETLAND and WILTON.

Force X.

Cruisers. NIGERIA (Rear-Admiral Commanding, 10th Cruiser Squadron), KENYA, MANCHESTER and CAIRO.

Destroyers. ASHANTI (Captain (D), 6th Destroyer Flotilla), INTREPID, ICARUS, FORESIGHT, FURY, PATHFINDER, PENN, DERWENT, BRAMHAM, BICESTER and LEDBURY.

Convoy W.S.21S.

M.T. ships (15 knots):—

EMPIRE HOPE
DORSET
WAIRANGI
ROCHESTER CASTLE
WAIMARAMA
BRISBANE STAR
PORT CHALMERS
ALMERIA LYKES
SANTA ELISA
CLAN FERGUSON
GLENORCHY
MELBOURNE STAR
DEUCALION.

Oil tanker (15 knots):—OHIO

Additional escort for Convoy W.S.21S (U.K. to Straits of Gibraltar):—

Destroyers: KEPPEL, MALCOLM, AMAZON, VENOMOUS and WOLVERINE.

Force Y.

M.T. ships (14 knots):—TROILUS and ORARI.

Escort: Destroyers MATCHLESS and BADSWORTH.

Force R.

R.F.A. BROWN RANGER and DINGLEDALE (Fleet oil tankers).

H.M. Tugs: JAUNTY and SALVONIA.

Escort: Corvettes: JONQUIL, GERANIUM, SPIREA and COLTSFOOT.

DIARY OF EVENTS.

PART I.

Passage of Straits of Gibraltar to detaching of Force X and commencement of Force Z's withdrawal.

Monday, 10th August (D.I).

Cape Spartel was passed at midnight 9th/10th. During the passage through the Straits of Gibraltar a large number of fishing boats was passed between Malabata and Tarifa and also two neutral steamers steaming to the westward.

2. At 0245 fog was encountered. The visibility was at times down to 1 cable. The fog cleared at 0500. At 0840 the force proceeded eastwards at 13½ knots in Cruising Disposition No. 16.

3. During the day, ships which had been detached to refuel at Gibraltar rejoined, and at 1600 the force was complete with the exception of WRESTLER, who, owing to a mechanical defect, was later replaced by AMAZON.

4. The day was uneventful except that alarms were caused through the I.F.F. of several of the Hudson aircraft provided by Vice-Admiral Commanding, North Atlantic, for A/S patrol, not showing. This on one occasion caused the "duty section" of 4 fighters to be flown off from VICTORIOUS to intercept and entailed the breaking of W/T silence on radar reporting and fighter direction waves.