

NOTES ON CONVOYS

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CONVOY ESCORT MOVEMENTS of HMS RELENTLESS 1943-1945

(with thanks to Don Kindell) (Not cross checked)

Date convoy sailed	Joined convoy as escort	Convoy No.	Left convoy	Date convoy arrived
24/01/43	24/01/43	KMF 008	01/02/43	01/02/43
14/09/43	14/09/43	CM 045	27/09/43	27/09/43
06/10/43	06/10/43	AB 015A	14/10/43	14/10/43
09/10/43	unknown	MB 050	14/10/43	14/10/43
20/10/43	20/10/43	BA 051	27/10/43	27/10/43
24/02/44	28/02/44	KR 009	05/03/44	06/03/44
05/04/44	12/04/44	CM 051A	16/04/44	16/04/44
19/04/44	19/04/44	AKD 021	30/04/44	30/04/44
13/05/44	13/05/44	CM 053	19/05/44	19/05/44
20/05/44	20/05/44	CM 053B	25/05/44	25/05/44
09/01/45	20/01/45	HB 001	23/01/45	23/01/45
30/01/45	30/01/45	WO 001	02/02/45	12/02/45
11/05/45	15/05/45	OW 005/2	20/05/45	20/05/45

RELENTLESS and CONVOY WS26 (incl. KMF008)

CLYDE – Gibraltar - FREETOWN - Capetown - DURBAN

Although RELENTLESS escorted a great many multi-and single-ship convoys during the war years, WS26 was the first one and so I thought it might be of interest to see the makeup of the convoy and the complexity of routeing.

This convoy was the first of a new pattern in the WS (Winston Special) series in that this, and subsequent convoys, sailed from the UK in conjunction with a KMF (UK to Mediterranean Fast) convoy, which detached at a point west of Gibraltar. The KMF element entered the Mediterranean and the WS element proceeded south to Freetown and beyond. This arrangement ended with WS33 when the Mediterranean was opened to personnel ships, and ships could proceed to Eastwards via the Suez Canal.

Similar information to that shown below for WS26 can be found on the excellent CONVOY WEB webpage <http://www.convoyweb.org.uk/hague/index.html?search3.php~haguemain>

A list of Convoy Codes is shown on Page 4 et seq.

Convoys WS 26 and KMF 8 sailed from the Clyde on 23rd January 1943 to position 36.17N 08.23W where the convoys divided at 1600GMT on 29th January.

The convoy consisted originally of 29 ships, 9 of which were the **KMF element** forming the two port hand columns plus the rear ship of column 3 and the lead ship of column 4, as follows:

↑ DIRECTION OF TRAVEL ↑

11 TAWALI	21 DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	31 HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN	41 DURBAN CASTLE	51 HMS WAYLAND	61 STRATHEDEN	71 ARUNDEL CASTLE	81 CHYEBASSA
12 EMPIRE PRIDE	22 STRATHNAVER	32 SIBAJAK	42 DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	52 HMS CANTON	62 MALOJA	72 EMPRESS OF CANADA	82 REMBRANDT
13 LETITIA	23 DUCHESS OF YORK	33 VOLENDAM	43 CALIFORNIA	53 HMS CILICIA	63 MOOLTAN	73 RUYS	83 ANTENOR
	24 CIRCASSIA	34 SAMARIA	44 ORDUNA		64 DOMINION MONARCH	74 DEMPO	

Commodore of the combined convoy was in **DURBAN CASTLE**, which became Commodore of KMF 8 on detachment, Vice Commodore in **STRATHEDEN**, which was later Commodore of WS 26, Rear Commodore in CIRCASSIA, later Vice Commodore of KMF 8, while Vice Commodore of WS 26 was in ARUNDEL CASTLE.

ANTENOR returned to the Clyde 26.1.43 while LEOPOLDVILLE joined WS 26 at sea on 4.2.43, position unknown.

Escort arrangements were complex with the WS 26 component formed from the cutters BANFF and FISHGUARD and frigate TEST 23 to 29.1, armed merchant cruisers **CANTON and CILICIA** and

destroyers QUADRANT and **RELENTLESS 23.1 to 6.2**, destroyer MIAOULIS and sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 23 to 26.1, destroyer ADRIAS 23.1 to 3.2 and destroyers QUALITY, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE and REDOUBT joining on 31.1 until arrival at Freetown on 6.2.43.

At Freetown there was the first of several alterations in sailing order, the convoy sailing 9.2.43 in the following formation:

11 HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN	21 ARUNDEL CASTLE	31 HMS WAYLAND	41 STRATHEDEN	51 DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	61 MOOLTAN
12 SIBAJAK	22 CALIFORNIA	32 HMS CANTON	42 RUYS	52 MALOJA	62 DEMPO
13 VOLENDAM	23 ORDUNA	33 HMS CILICIA	43 CHYEBASSA	53 EMPRESS OF CANADA	63 DOMINION MONARCH
14 LEOPOLDVILLE	24 REMBRANDT				

LEOPOLDVILLE detached to Takoradi on 13.2.

Escort was varied and large, destroyer ADRIAS to 13.2, armed merchant cruiser CANTON to 22.3, armed merchant cruiser CILICIA and destroyers QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH to 25.2, ocean boarding vessel CORINTHIAN to 13.2, destroyer QUALITY to 20.2, and RACEHORSE to 23.2 all from Freetown.

During the passage, other escorts joined at varying dates: corvette COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 13 to 25.2, destroyers BLACKMORE 20 to 23.2, **RELENTLESS 14 to 25.2**, cruiser CERES 22 to 23.2 and corvette GENISTA 22 to 25.2.

The convoy arrived at Capetown 22.2 when ARUNDEL CASTLE, CALIFORNIA, CHYEBASSA, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, EMPRESS OF CANADA, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, ORDUNA, RUYS and SIBAJAK entered that port and the Durban detachment proceeded to arrive on 25.2.

Both detachments made their rendezvous off Durban on 1.3, again with varied ships and in a changed formation:

11 ORDUNA	21 MALOJA (Rear Commodore)	31 STRATHEDEN (Commodore)	41 CITY OF PARIS	51 CALIFORNIA (Vice Commodore)
12 ARUNDEL CASTLE	22 SELANDIA	32 DOMINION MONARCH	42 MOOLTAN	52 DEMPO
13 REMBRANDT	23 HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN	33 LANCASHIRE	43 DILWARA	53 CHYEBASSA

HMS RESOURCE was with the convoy. DILWARA returned to Durban with defects shortly after sailing, and RESOURCE detached 9.3.43 to Kilindini; LANCASHIRE detached to Tamatave escorted by COMMANDANT DUBOC 6.3.

Escorts from the Durban rendezvous were the corvettes JASMINE and FREESIA to 3.3, COMMANDANT DUBOC to 6.3, destroyers BLACKMORE, CATTERICK, and **RELENTLESS** and minesweeper CARNATIC to 4.3, cruisers CERES to 8.3 and BIRMINGHAM to 9.3, corvette NIGELLA to 2.3. The cruisers HAWKINS joined the convoy 9.3, and FROBISHER 10.3.

ALLIED CONVOY CODES

AB - Aden to Bombay

ABF - Aden to Bombay, Fast

AC - Alexandria to Cyrenaica (1941)

AG - Alexandria to Greece (1941)

AH - Aruba to Halifax (1942)

AH - Augusta to Heel of Italy (after Sep43)

AJ - Aden to Colombo, Ceylon

AK - Aden to Kilindini, Kenya

AKD - Aden to Kilindini and Durban

AM - Chittagong to Madras

AN - Aegean Northward (1940 & 1941)

AN - Admiralty Islands to New Guinea

AP - United Kingdom to Egypt (Troop convoys, mid-1940)

ARG - Boston to Argentina

AS - Aegean Southward (1940 & 1941)

AS - United States to West African ports

AT - Alexandria to Tobruk

AT - United States to United Kingdom

ATM - Antwerp to Thames (1944 & 1945)

AW - Aruba to Curaçao

BA - Bombay to Aden

BAF - Bombay to Aden, Fast

BB - Belfast to Bristol Channel

BB - Clyde to Bristol Channel

BC - Beira to Durban

BC - Clyde to Bristol Channel

BC - Bristol Channel to Biscay

BC - United States East Coast to Society Islands

BD - White Sea to Dikson

HA - Halifax to Curaçao

HA - Heel of Italy to Augusta

HB - Australia to India

HC - Calcutta to Chittagong

HF - Halifax to Saint John, New Brunswick

HG - Gibraltar to United Kingdom

HGF - Gibraltar to United Kingdom Fast

HGX - Halifax Joiner to HX Convoy

HJ - Halifax to St. John's, Newfoundland

HK - Galveston to Key West

HM - Holyhead to Milford Haven

HN - Norway to United Kingdom

HON - Halifax Joiner to ON Convoy

HP - Heel of Italy to Piraeus

HS - Halifax to Sydney, New Brunswick

HT - Halifax to Trinidad

HX - Halifax to United Kingdom

HX - New York to United Kingdom

HXF - New York to Liverpool, Fast (routing designation)

HXM - New York to Liverpool, Medium

HXS - New York to Liverpool, Slow

IG - Philippines to New Guinea

IXF - Italy to Egypt

JA - Colombo to Aden

JC - Colombo to Calcutta

JF - Rio de Janeiro to Florianopolis

JG - Kingston, Jamaica to Guantanamo

JH - St. John's, Newfoundland to Halifax

JM - India to Mombasa to Madagascar

QL - Brisbane to Townsville

QP - N. Russia to Iceland ("RA" after December 1942)

QS - Quebec to Sydney, Nova Scotia

RA - N. Russia to Iceland (after December 1942)

RJ - Recife to Rio de Janeiro

RK - Rangoon to Arakan and Calcutta

RK - Colombo to Kilindini

RM - Rangoon to Madras to Colombo

RN - Methil to Norway

RP - Dardanelles to Piraeus

RS - Gibraltar to Freetown

RT - Capetown to Freetown

RT - Recife to Trinidad

RU - Reykjavik to United Kingdom

SB - Sydney, Nova Scotia to Corner Brook

SC - Halifax Slow to United Kingdom

SD - Iceland to Clyde

SD - Seychelles to Diego Suarez

SG - Sydney or St. Johns, Newfoundland to Greenland

SG - Southend to Humber

SH - Sydney, Newfoundland to Halifax

SHX - Sydney joiner to HX convoys

SJ - San Juan, PR to Guantanamo

SJ - Singapore to Colombo

SJ - Santos to Rio de Janeiro

SL - Freetown to United Kingdom

SLF - Freetown to United Kingdom Fast

SLS - Freetown to United Kingdom Slow

SM - Batavia to Fremantle

SM - Naples to Marseilles

BEC - See EBC
 BF - Bahia (Brazil) to Freetown
 BG - Milne Bay to New Guinea
 BG - Brisbane to Gladstone
 BHX - Bermuda Joiner to HX
 BK - Bombay to Karachi
 BK - White Sea to Kola Inlet
BM - Bombay to Singapore
BM - Bombay to Colombo
BN - Bombay to Suez
 BN - New Britain to New Guinea
BP - Bombay to Persian Gulf
 BRN - Bahia, Brazil, Recife Northward
 BS - Suez to Aden
 BS - Corner Brook (Canada) to Sydney, Nova Scotia
 BS - Brest to Casablanca (French)
 BT - Bahia to Trinidad
 BT - Sydney, Nova Scotia to USA
 BT - Brisbane to Townsville
 BTC - Bristol Channel to Thames
 BV - Brisbane to Townsville
 BX - Boston to Halifax
C - Colombo to dispersal (1942)
CA - Capetown southward to dispersal
CB - Durban to Beira
CD - Capetown to Durban
 CE - Channel Eastward
CF - Capetown to W. Africa and United Kingdom
 CG - Casablanca to Gibraltar
CH - Chittagong to Calcutta
CJ - Calcutta to Colombo
 CK - Havana to Key West
 CL - St. John's, Newfoundland to Sydney, Nova Scotia
 JN - St. John's, Newfoundland to Labrador
 JR - Rio de Janeiro to Recife
 JS - Colombo to Singapore
 JT - Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad
 JW - Iceland/United Kingdom to N. Russia (after December 1942)
 K - Casablanca to Brest (incl. KF, KS)
KA Kilindini to Aden
 KB - Kola Inlet to White Sea
KD - Kilindini to Durban
 KG - Key West to Guantanamo
 KH - Key West to Galveston/Houston
 KJ - Kingston, Jamaica to United Kingdom
KM - Kilindini to Diego Suarez
KM - Karachi to Bombay
 KM - United Kingdom to Mediterranean
KMF - United Kingdom to Mediterranean Fast
 KMS - United Kingdom to Mediterranean Slow
 KN - Key West to New York or Key West to Norfolk
 KP - Key West to Pilottown, Mississippi
KP - Karachi to Persian Gulf
 KP - Kola Inlet to Petsamo
KR - Kilindini to Ceylon
KR - Calcutta and Arakan ports to Rangoon
 KS - Norfolk to Key West
 KW - Key West to Havana
 KX - United Kingdom to Gibraltar
 LC - Sydney, Nova Scotia to St John's, Newfoundland
 LE - Levant East (eg: Port Said to Haifa)
LGE - Lagos Eastbound
LGW - Lagos Westbound
LM - Lagos to Matadi
LMD - Laurencio Marques
 SN - Sydney to New Caledonia
 SNF - Naples to N. Africa Fast
 SQ - Sydney, Newfoundland to Quebec
 SR - Calcutta to Rangoon
SR - Freetown to Gibraltar
ST - Freetown to Takoradi
ST - Sydney to Townsville
STC - Freetown to Takoradi to Capetown
STL - Freetown to Takoradi to Lagos
STP - Freetown to Takoradi to Pointe Noire
STW - Freetown to Takoradi to Walvis Bay
 SU - Suez to Australia
 SV - Sydney to Townsville
SW - Suez to Mombasa or Durban
 T - Hollandia to Manila
 TA - United Kingdom to United States (military)
 TA - Tobruk to Alexandria
 TAC - Thames to Ostend
 TACA - Thames to Antwerp
 TAG - Trinidad to Aruba to Guantanamo
 TAM - Thames to Antwerp Military
 TAP - Thames to France
 TAW - Trinidad to Aruba to Key West
 TB - Trinidad to Bahia
 TBC - Thames to Bristol Channel
 TC - Canada to United Kingdom (Troop)
 TC - Tunisia to Corsica
 TCU - New York to United Kingdom (Troop)
 TD - Thursday Island to Darwin
 TD - New Zealand to N. Australia
 TE - Trinidad Eastward to dispersal
 TE - Gibraltar to N. Africa
 TF - Trinidad to Freetown
 TG - Trinidad to

CM - Capetown to Kilindini to Aden
CN - Capetown northward to dispersal
 CO - Newcastle, Australia to Melbourne & Adelaide
 COC - Plymouth to Brittany
 CP - Curaçao to Panama
 CRD - Casablanca to Dakar
 CT - United Kingdom to Canada
 CT - Corsica to Sardinia to Bizerta
 CU - New York to Netherlands West Indies (CU 1-8: Curaçao to United Kingdom)
 CU - New York to United Kingdom
 CV - Cyrenaica to Malta
 CW - Cristobal to Key West
 CW - Channel Westward
CX - Colombo to Addu Atoll
 CZ - Curaçao to Cristobal
 D - Dakar to Casablanca
 DB - Dikson to White Sea
DBF - Dakar to Bathurst to Freetown
DC - Durban to Capetown
 DF - Clyde to Faroës (military ferry)
 DG - Thursday Island to Merauke, New Guinea
DK - Durban to Kilindini
DKA - Durban to Kilindini to Aden
DLM - Durban to Laurence Marques
DM - Durban to Malaya
DN - Durban northward to dispersal
DR - Dakar to Gibraltar
DRC - Dakar to Casablanca
 DS - Clyde to Reykjavik
DSF - Dakar to Freetown
DSL - Dakar to Freetown & Lagos
DSP - Dakar to Freetown & Pointe Noire
DST - Dakar to Freetown & (Maputo), Mozambique to Durban
 LN - St Lawrence to Labrador
 LQ - Barrier Reef to Brisbane
LS - Lagos to Freetown
LSD - Lagos to Freetown to Dakar
LTS - Lagos to Takoradi to Freetown
 LU - Humber to Elbe
 LW - Levant Westbound
 LW - U.S. East Coast to Southwest Pacific
MA - Mombasa to Aden
MA - Madras to Chittagong
MB - Colombo to Bombay
 MB - Port Moresby to Fall River, New Guinea
MC - Aden to Mombasa to Durban to Capetown
MD - Madagascar to Durban
 ME - Malta Eastbound
 MF - Port Moresby to Milne Bay & Fall River, New Guinea
 MG - Malta to Gibraltar
 MG - Mississippi River to Galveston
 MH - Milford Haven to Holyhead
MK - Madagascar to Kilindini
 MKF - Mediterranean to United Kingdom Fast
 MKS - Mediterranean to United Kingdom Slow
MN - Mauritius to Seychelles
 MO - Marseilles to N. Africa
MR - Madras to Rangoon
 MS - Melbourne to Singapore
 MS - Marseilles to Naples
 MT - Methil to Tyne
 MT - Port Moresby to Townsville
 MTC - Bay of the Seine to Southend
 MTM - Bay of the Seine to Guantanamo
TGE - Takoradi & Lagos Eastward to dispersal
 TH - Trinidad to Halifax
 TJ - Trinidad to Rio de Janeiro
TLDM - Takoradi to Lagos to Duala to Matadi
 TM - Trinidad to Gibraltar
 TMF - Trinidad to Gibraltar, Fast
 TN - Townsville to New Guinea
 TO - Netherlands West Indies to New York
 TO - Northwest Africa to Aruba or Curaçao
 TOC - Trinidad to Curaçao
 TP - Norway to United Kingdom Troop
 TP - Trinidad to Paramaribo
 TP - Tarawa to Pearl Harbor
 TR - Trinidad to Recife
TS - Takoradi to Freetown
 TS - Townsville to Sydney & Brisbane
TSD - Takoradi to Freetown to Dakar
 TU - United Kingdom to United States (Troop)
 TV - Tripoli to Valetta
 TX - Tripoli to Alexandria
 UA - United Kingdom to Azores
 UC - United Kingdom to New York
 UCT - United Kingdom to New York (Troop)
 UG - United States to Mediterranean
 UGF - United States to Mediterranean, Fast
 UGL - United States to Gibraltar (landing craft)
 UGS - United States to Mediterranean, Slow
 UR - United Kingdom to Reykjavik
US - Australia to Suez
 UT - United States to United Kingdom (Troop)
 VB - Townsville to Brisbane

Takoradi

DT - Darwin to Thursday Island

E - Trinidad to dispersal southward

EBC - Bristol Channel to France

EBM - Bristol Channel MT convoy to France (June 1944)

EC - Southend to Oban via Firth of Forth

ECM - Falmouth to France

ECP - Portland & Solent to Bay of Seine

EMM - Belfast to France

EMP - Belfast to France

EN - Methili to Oban via Loch Ewe

EPM - Portland to France via Solent

EPP - Portland to France via Solent

ET - North Africa to Gibraltar

ETC - Thames to France

ETM - Thames to France MT

EWC - Spithead to Normandy

EWL - Isle of Wight to France

EWM - Isle of Wight to France MT

EWP - Isle of Wight to France

FB - Freetown to Bahia, Brazil

FBC - Bay of Seine to Bristol Channel

FC - France to West of England

FCP - France to West of England, personnel

FD - Faroes to Clyde military ferry

FFT - Freetown to Trinidad

FG - Freemantle to Adelaide

FH - Saint John, New Brunswick to Halifax

FJ - Florianopolis to Rio de Janeiro

Southend

MV - Milne Bay to

Townsville

MW - Malta Westward, Alexandria to Malta

NA - Canada to United Kingdom

NA - Langemak Bay, New Guinea to Admiralty Islands

NAP - Dover to France

NB - New Guinea to New Britain

NC - Walvis Bay, Southwest Africa to Capetown

NE - New Zealand to

Panama

NG - New York to Guantanamo

NJ - Newfoundland coast to St John's

NK - New York to Key West

NL - Labrador to St

Lawrence

NLY -

Lingayen/Hollandia/Leyte

NP - United Kingdom to Norway

NP - Turkey to Port Said

NR - Norway to Methil

NS - New Caledonia to Sydney, Australia

NSF - N. Africa to Naples

NT - New Guinea to Townsville

NV - Naples to Augusta

NYC - New York to E. Coast to Bermuda to United Kingdom

OA - Thames to Liverpool

OA - Liverpool outward

OC - Melbourne to

Newcastle, Australia

OG - United Kingdom to

Gibraltar

OM - Oran to Marseilles

ON - Methil to Bergen

ON - Liverpool to New York

Fast

ONM - Liverpool to New

York Medium

ONS - Liverpool to Halifax

VC - Valetta to Cyrenaica

VK - Sydney to Wellington

VN - Augusta or Malta to Naples

VS - Townsville to Sydney

VT - Valetta to Tripoli

WA - Curaçao to Aruba

WAT - Key West to Aruba to Trinidad

WEC - Isle of Wight to France

WEL - Isle of Wight to France (landing craft)

WEP - Isle of Wight to Cherbourg

WHX - St. Johns,

Newfoundland, Joiner to HX (New York to United Kingdom)

WMP - Isle of Wight to Arrormanches

WN - Clyde, Oban & Loch Ewe to Firth of Forth

WNC - Isle of Wight to Le Havre

WNL - Isle of Wight to France

WO - India to Australia Troop

WP - Wales to Portsmouth

WS - Wabana to Sydney, Newfoundland

WS - United Kingdom to Middle East to India

("Winston's Specials")

WSC - Wabana Joiner to SC (Halifax, slow, to United Kingdom)

WTS - Walvis Bay to Takoradi to Freetown

WVP - Isle of Wight to France

WX - Western Desert to Alexandria

XB - Halifax to Boston

XIF - Egypt to Italy

XK - Gibraltar to United Kingdom

XT - Alexandria to Tripoli

XTG - Alexandria to Tripoli to Gibraltar

XW - Alexandria to Western

FM - Milne Bay to Port Moresby
FN - Forth North, Thames to Firth of Forth
FP - Troop convoys to Norway
FPM - France to Portland MT
FPP - France to Portland (personnel)
FS - Forth South, Firth of Forth to Thames
FSD - Freetown to Dakar
FTC - France to Thames
FTM - France to Thames MT
FWC - France to Isle of Wight
FWL - France to Isle of Wight (landing craft)
FWM - France to Isle of Wight MT
FWP - France to Isle of Wight (personnel)
FXP - France to United Kingdom
G - Guantanamo to San Juan, Puerto Rico
GAT - Guantanamo to Aruba to Trinidad
GB - New Guinea to Milne Bay
GC - Gibraltar to Casablanca
GD - Merauke, N.E.I. to Thursday Island
GF - Adelaide to Fremantle
GI - New Guinea to Philippines
GJ - Guantanamo to Kingston, Jamaica
GK - Guantanamo to Key West
GM - Galveston to Mississippi River
GN - Guantanamo to New York
GP - Galveston to Pilottown
GP - Guantanamo to Panama

Slow
OS - Liverpool to Freetown
OSS - Southward extension of OS
OT - Aruba or Curaçao to Northwest Africa
OT - Curaçao to Trinidad
OT - New York to Netherlands West Indies
OW - United Kingdom to India and Australia
PA - Persian Gulf to Aden
PAD - Pointe Noire to Freetown to Dakar
PB - Persian Gulf to Bombay
PG - Brisbane to Sydney
PG - Panama to Guantanamo
PG - Pilottown to Galveston
PH - Piraeus to Heel of Italy
PK - Pilottown, Mississippi to Key West
PN - Port Said to Turkey
PQ - Iceland to Murmansk ("JW" after December 1942)
PQ - Townsville to Port Moresby
PR - Piraeus to Rabbit Island (Dardanelles)
PT - Paramaribo to Trinidad
PT - Pearl Harbor to Tarawa
PR - Piraeus to Rabbit Island (Dardanelles)
PT - Paramaribo to Trinidad
PT - Pearl Harbor to Tarawa
PTS - Pointe Noire to Takoradi to Freetown
PV - Melbourne to Townsville
PW - Portsmouth to Wales

Desert ports
ZC - Canal Zone to Curaçao
ZG - Canal Zone to Guantanamo
ZT - New Zealand to Sydney, Australia

GP - Sydney, Australia to Townsville and Brisbane
GS - Greenland to St. Johns, Newfoundland
GP - Sydney, Australia to Townsville and Brisbane
GS - Greenland to St. Johns, Newfoundland
GS - Humber to Southend
GT - Gladstone to Townsville
GTX - Gibraltar to Tripoli to Alexandria
GUF - Oran or Naples to U.S., Fast
GUS - Port Said to U.S., Slow
GZ - Guantanamo to Panama Canal Zone

NOTES ON "CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN"

RELENTLESS was involved in the pursuit of CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN during 1943 and the subsequent sinking in 1944. There is a first-hand account of this action in the 1940's COMMISSION section and the subsequent Recognition Awards can be found in the CREW LIST section.

The German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN (7,747 tons) was a U-Boat Supply ship. She arrived at Las Palmas in the Canary Island on the day before the outbreak of WW2 with 10,800 tons of fuel oil fuel which had been embarked at Aruba in the Dutch Antilles. She remained in Las Palmas until early 1942 and only seems to have supplied fuel to one Italian submarine during that period.

On February 24th 1942, she left the Canaries to supply the German raider ships STIER and MICHEL, and between April and August made rendezvous with each of them at least three times. On August 27th 1942, CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN fuelled STIER for the last time and then took passage for Japan.



CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN - in her previous guise as the 'Karl Knudsen'

In June 1943 CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN was refuelling at least 7 different U-boats southeast of Madagascar. These U-boats had been operating off the Cape of Good Hope and after refuelling from SCHLIEMANN they moved north-northeast to seek traffic in the Mozambique Channel and for ships transiting between the Cape and India or Ceylon.

In the last 10 days of January 1944, six independently routed British ships were sunk in the Indian Ocean by 4 U-boats working in the Gulf of Aden and north of the Maldives. Two of these U-boats had recently been refuelled from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN when a Catalina

air patrol from Mauritius sighted the German Supply ship which was subsequently sunk by RELENTLESS.

DRAFT

NOTES ON "STIER", "MICHEL" and "DOGGERBANK"

On June 4th 1942 STIER had sunk the British ship GEMSTONE (4986 tons) and 2 days later a valuable Panamanian tanker of over 10,000 tons. The prisoners taken in these encounters were transferred to the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN.

The STEIR sustained damage in an exchange of fire with the US Liberty ship STEPHEN HOPKINS on 27th September 1942 and although the latter US ship was sunk, the damage to STIER's engines and steering gear was so extensive that STIER's captain decided to abandon the ship which exploded and sank a short time later.

On 19th April 1942, MICHEL sank the British ship PATELLA carrying nearly 10,000 tons of fuel oil from Trinidad to Capetown and four days later, sank the US tanker CONNECTICUT which had also been bound for Capetown. MICHEL also sank the Norwegian freighter KATTEGAT on the 20th by gunfire.

On 6th June, MICHELs MTB made a night attack on the US ship GEORGE CLYMER and although MICHEL thought she had sunk her, the CLYMER managed to make a distress signal which was picked up by C-in-C South Atlantic in Freetown. The armed merchant cruiser ALCANTARA was detached from convoy escort and on 7th June, found the GEORGE CLYMER still afloat. The crew was rescued but it was decided to sink the badly damaged ship on the 12th.

Five days later MICHEL sank the British ship LYLEPARK south of Ascension Island before a rendezvous with SCHLIEMANN and the converted minelayer DOGGERBANK. The prisoners were transferred and all 3 ships remained in company until MICHEL detached to operate east of Ascension Island.

On the 15th July, MICHEL sank the Union Castle passenger-cargo ship GLOUCESTER CASTLE by gunfire and torpedo with the loss of 93 lives. The remaining 57 survivors were transferred to the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and wound up as prisoners in Japan for the next 3 years.

The following day, a US tanker returning to Trinidad in ballast was sunk and the Norwegian tanker ARAMIS was attacked by MICHELs MTB and damaged in a night attack. The ARAMIS had time to make a 'raider report' but despite doing her best to escape, the MICHEL caught up and sank her within 24 hours. MICHEL than steamed south and met firstly STIER and subsequently the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and once more, transferred her prisoners.

The fate of the MICHEL was sealed on 17th October 1943 when she was torpedoed and sunk 50 miles off the Japanese coast by the USS TARPON. It is interesting to note that MICHEL's Captain, Helmuth von Ruckteschell was tried for war crimes at the end of WW2, and in 1946 was imprisoned at Spandau.

The previously mentioned DOGGERBANK was the former British ship SPEYBANK, which had been captured in the Indian Ocean early in 1941 by the German raider ship ATLANTIS and taken to Bordeaux as a prize where she was converted into an auxiliary minelayer.

The DOGGERBANK had supplied MICHEL on June 21st and had also transferred most of her remaining supplies to CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and embarked 177 Merchant Navy prisoners captured by raiders. With these prisoners onboard, DOGGERBANK sailed firstly for Batavia, then to Japan where she became a blockade runner.

In an apt piece of *schadenfreude*, the DOGGERBANK's blockade run from Japan to Germany came to an end when she was sunk off the Canaries on March 3rd 1943. She was mis-identified, fired on and sunk by..... U-43.

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