

C180368

-- 6 --

Sydney P.M. of the 17th and the available Motor Launches of the 76th Flotilla sailed for Sydney P.M. of the 18th. They will be based at Gaspé as soon as ice conditions permit safe day and night operations. On the 17th, N.O.I.C. Gaspé reported that the ice had completely disappeared from Gaspé Harbour, the north west Arm and the inner harbour, although it was considered that small pieces of ice would continue to drift down from the rivers during the following few days.

With the withdrawal of CTF 24 from operational control of HX, SC and ON Convoys in the Canadian North West Atlantic on the 30th of April, N.S.H.Q. proposed that in future assessment of attacks on U-boats in this area be made by Admiralty, relieving CTF 24. Admiralty in their report of 2250 of the 13th promulgated a new arrangement for assessments of attacks on U-boats as follows:

1. As from the 15th of May, Cominch will assess all attacks on targets known or believed to be U-boats made by U.S. Forces and by forces of nationalities other than British or American operating under American control.
2. Admiralty will assess the remainder of such attacks except where these occur in the Levant with the Eastern Fleet and in Australian waters.

#### IV. U-BOAT ACTIVITIES

##### 1. Canadian Coastal Area

There have been no attacks on shipping in Canadian and Newfoundland waters during the week, but numerous reports by shore watchers and aircraft of U-boats, periscopes and streaks of oil in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off St. John's, Newfoundland, Cape Race and Halifax have given rise to the suspicion that three or more U-boats have entered these waters. The discovery of radio equipment hidden in the woods nine miles up Bathurst Rd. from Chatham, N.B., on the 17th also created some uneasiness.

##### 2. North Atlantic Area

As usual the concentration of U-boats is in this area, although the rate of shipping losses is higher this month than last, there is evidence that the trend of U-boat warfare is running in our favour. The work of Support Groups coupled with an increase in air cover had added materially to the protection afforded Convoys and accelerated the mortality rate of U-boats of which several have been reported as sunk.

##### 3. U.S. Atlantic Area

An attack was made on a U-boat 150 miles S.E. of New York on the 16th of May.

There were no attacks on shipping during the week.

##### 4. Caribbean Area

Two merchant ships SS "MAMBI" and "NICKELINER" were sunk by torpedo in Old Bahama Channel on the 13th of May. No other activity was reported.

..... 7