

NIGHT OF 28TH/29TH APRIL.

36. *General*.—The following arrangements were made for the final embarkation on the night 28th/29th April:—

Kalamata.

PERTH PHOEBE NUBIAN DEFENDER HERO HEREWARD DECOY HASTY	Direct from covering G.A.14 the previous night. It was estimated there were 7,000 troops remaining. The intention was that this force should sail for Alexandria on completion of embarkation.
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Monemvasia.

AJAX
HAVOCK
HOTSPUR
GRIFFIN
ISIS

Kithera.

AUCKLAND
SALVIA
HYACINTH

37. *Kalamata—Yugo-Slav Refugees*.—In consequence of information received from F.O.A.M. that there were 1,500 Yugo-Slav refugees still at Kalamata, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON and KIMBERLEY were sent from Suda to assist PERTH, PHOEBE and the destroyers there.

38. *Leonidion*.—It was not possible to provide for the embarkation of the party at Leonidion, but the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Suda, was instructed to investigate the possibility of evacuating them by Sunderland flying boat.

39. *Kalamata*.—The first report from this beach was from HERO at 2207 that the harbour was occupied by the Germans and that British troops were to the south of the town. I sent ashore to ask General Wilson to come on board ORION where he could receive the latest information from Kalamata as it arrived and advise me on the military aspect of a possible further evacuation from Kalamata the following night. At 2234 a signal was received from HERO stating that troops were collecting on the beach south east of the town, that all firing had ceased in the town and that evacuation was considered possible from the beach. At 2240 information was received from HERO that the Germans appeared to have no artillery and requesting PERTH's position so that he could close and report the situation. At 2250 I instructed PERTH to use his discretion but to make no promises for the following night, unless he heard from me. I impressed on him that he was to sail at the time ordered. However, at 2315/28 I received PERTH's 2231/28 that the town was occupied by Germans, that he had abandoned the operation and was steering 175 degrees 29 knots with the whole of his force in company except HERO.

General Wilson advised me that most of the troops would probably be forced to surrender on the morning of 29th April and asked me that 2 or 3 destroyers only should be sent on the night of 29th/30th to embark such small parties as might have moved down the rocky coast towards Cape Matapan.

HERO reported that he was returning at 0200 on 29th with as many as he could.

40. H.M. Ships KANDAHAR, KINGSTON and KIMBERLEY arrived at Kalamata at 0100; joined HERO off the beach; this force was able to embark the following troops in their own boats:—

KANDAHAR	...	...	126
HERO	...	...	134
KIMBERLEY	...	...	33
KINGSTON	...	...	39
Total			332

41. *Monemvasia and Kithera*.—The embarkation at the beaches at Monemvasia and Kithera proceeded smoothly and troops were embarked as follows:—

Monemvasia

AJAX	...	1,050
HAVOCK	...	850
HOTSPUR	...	800
GRIFFIN	...	720
ISIS	...	900

Kithera

AUCKLAND	}	60 military
SALVIA		700 R.A.F. and
HYACINTH		60 Greek soldiers

The evacuation at Kithera was effected by a L.C.A. ex GLENROY taken in H.M.S. AJAX and towed back to Suda Bay by H.M.S. SALVIA.

42. *H.M.S. YORK*.—Your 0950/28th* was received at 1130/28th. I decided to leave onboard H.M.S. YORK working and maintenance parties and a nucleus salvage party. The remainder of the crew and some valuable stores were embarked in ORION.

29TH APRIL.

43. *Convoy G.A.15*.—Convoy G.A.15 sailed from Suda at 1100 on 29th April via Kaso, speed 10 knots. It was comprised as follows:—

DELANE (Commodore)	}	625 Italian officers
		700 distressed British seamen
	}	585 troops
		120 Fleet Air Arm
THURLAND CASTLE		2,640 troops
COMLIEBANK		1,450 troops
CORINTHIA	}	330 Consular staff and British subjects
		332 troops
ITRIA	}	1,775 R.A.F.
		237 troops
IONIA	}	450 walking wounded
		237 nurses
		157 troops
BRAMBLELEAF	...	Nil

Admiralty footnote:—

* This signal gave orders to abandon the salvage of H.M.S. YORK for the present and to land her A.A. armament and ammunition for local defence at Suda Bay.