

ENCLOSURE No. 17/6TO DOVER LETTER OF 27<sup>th</sup> July 1940.SECRET.

From.....The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. "Vimy".

Date.....24th May 1940.

Ref. No.. 154/2/35.

To.....The Vice Admiral, Dover.

Copies to :-

The Captain (D), XIX, H.M.S. "Sandhurst"  
The Captain (D), Liverpool.

Subject.. Report of Proceedings.

The following letter of proceedings for the 23rd May 1940 is submitted.

2. 0623 slipped and secured to West Pier Submarine Basin. Embarked demolition stores, Naval and R.E. demolition party, Naval and R.M. detachments.
3. 0958 slipped. Proceeded for Boulogne with all despatch
4. On arrival off the harbour entrance at Boulogne, four French destroyers were found in the offing bombarding objective on shore.
5. Entered harbour and secured to the Quai Chanzy starboard side to, bows in, at 1136. Demolition parties, and stores and detachments were landed as quickly as possible. Contact was made with the Brigade Major, and a Brigadier of Rear G.H.Q. It was decided to evacuate the remainder of Rear G.H.Q. and as many wounded as were immediately available.
6. At 1212 slipped from jetty and turned in the channel to leave bows first.
7. During the latter part of the embarkation of wounded ship was engaged with small H.E. shell from either Tank or Field Gun all of which burst over and astern. While the ship was turning in the inner harbour entrance several salvos burst close to the ship. One off the starboard quarter, and the remainder ahead and on the bow.
8. At 1220 proceeded down the channel, leaving the harbour at 1226.
9. A short bombardment was carried out on Fort de la Creche at 1230 and several hits were observed.
10. Proceeded for Dover with all despatch at 1235.
11. Secured alongside H.M.S. "Verity" at Admiralty Pier at 1348 and disembarked troops and wounded.

Return to

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S E C R E T !

Report of Proceedings - H.M.S. "Vimy" No. 154/2/35 - Continued.

12. Slipped at 1435 and proceeded to Boulogne. Joined H.M.S. "Whitshed" off the breakwater at 1545. In V/S touch with Captain (D) XIX already secured inside.
13. Seven French destroyers were bombarding shore objectives from 3 miles to seaward.
14. At 1615 carried out a short bombardment on enemy motor vehicles to southward of Le Portel.
15. At 1730 recovered a man seen swimming in the water. He was a sergeant, 5th A.A. Battery. Reported his battery "Out of action" and survivors still on shore below Fort de la Crèche
16. Entered Boulogne securing alongside H.M.S. "Keith" Starboard side to, bows in, Quai Chanzy at 1800 and commenced embarking wounded.
17. At 1817 several salvos of small H.E. from the North side of the harbour, burst in the water 200 yards astern.
18. At 1822 two waves of about 30 Ju.87B Dive Bombers were seen. Those to the Northward were dispersed by R.A.F. fighters; the remainder heavily bombed both British and French destroyers outside the breakwater, and "Keith" and "Vimy" alongside Quay. At the same time bombardment from shore was maintained as well as sniping with possibly anti-tank rifles.
19. At 1830 Sub Lieutenant Webster was killed and Lieut. Commander Donald was severely wounded in the face. Both were on the bridge at the time.
20. I took command of the ship and at 1840 slipped wires and proceeded out of harbour stern first joining "Whitshed" off the breakwater.
21. During the bombing attack aircraft were continuously engaged with both Pom-pom and Lewis guns.
22. At 1945 proceeded to Dover with all despatch.
23. Arrived Dover at 2104 and secured in No.2 berth Admiralty Pier. Disembarked own and Military casualties.
24. There were no other casualties except those mentioned in paragraph 19 above. Damage to the ship was superficial.



*W. W. Webster*  
Lieutenant.

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ENCLOSURE No. \_\_\_\_\_ TO DOVER LETTER OF \_\_\_\_\_

From... The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. " Vimy "  
Date... 26th. June 1940.  
To..... The Flar Officer Commanding, Dover.

-- Recommendations for Decorations --

Reference V.A.D's 0920/26/6/40, and my 154/2/35, the following Officers and Men are recommended for Decorations, or for Mention in Despatches, during operations at Boulogne:-

Sub-Lieutenant, ( Proby. ), Stephen Antony Golden Godden, for with complete indifference to his own safety he went onto the forecastle to let go the berthing wires while the ship was under fire from snipers, one bullet ricocheting onto his Steel helmet.

Leading Seaman	Frederick Martindale,	O.N.- JX 136855)	All these
"	" Thomas Brewerton	" JX 166128)	
"	" Aubrey Robert Porter	" J. 64868.)	

Ratings showed coolness and initiative in keeping their guns in action whilst the ship was being bombed and shelled.



*A. B. ...*  
Lieutenant,

Royal Navy.