

ASIA MINOR PLANS.

104373

1. Going ahead with all arrangements.

(i) Store Ships.

Two Store Ships sailed in the early hours of this morning and are now at sea.

(ii) Personnel.

No personnel ships are due to sail until the 16th March.

The only serious implication of proceeding with existing arrangements arises from the risk attendant on the two ships with their escort being at sea longer than it is necessary.

(iii) Leading Brigade of 5th Division (France) will be moving from forward area to ports starting tonight (13th/14th).

2. Stand still order.

(i) Store ships.

The two store ships already at sea would have to proceed, being diverted to Scapa where they could remain until the "go-on" order was issued.

(ii) Personnel and M.T.

(a) Those already on the move could proceed on their road and rail journeys to the ports of embarkation, where they could be accommodated aboard the ships for which plans have already been made.

(b) Those not on the move stand-fast.

3. Abandon operations.

This would involve the return of the two store ships to Port, the unloading of ships half loaded, and the return of certain units already on the move to their normal stations. It would also mean the release of the shipping which we have taken up. It is difficult to say how long it would take to put the plan into effect again after this had occurred, but it is unlikely that this could be done in under a fortnight.