

Despatches re American LST's to Greece

Map Room
Box **88**

Despatches re
Amer LST's to Greece

Hold

DISPATCH

DRAFTER		EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM		B.N.A. ANKARA	ASTERISK (*) AIRGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY			ACTION	ADMIRALTY	PRIORITY
DATE		19 DEC 1944			ROUTINE
TOR CODEBOOK		2148/18			DEFERRED
DECODED BY			INFORMATION	CINCMED; FOLEM ADMIRAL ARCHER BNLO BLACK SEA SAC MED; SBNO GREECE COM 8TH FLT BAD WASHINGTON	PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY		ELY			ROUTINE
ROUTED BY		ELY			DEFERRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.					BASEGRAM
151858G NCR 13325					14
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP					15
(Use G. C. T.)					16

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

RECEIVED BY HAND FROM BAD

1. FURTHER TO MY 131841, * NO DIFFICULTY ANTICIPATED IN OBTAINING TURKISH AGREEMENT TO PROPOSED PLAN IN PRINCIPLE
PARA 5 II AND III OF CINCMED'S 891343. EXPECT ANSWERS TO THESE SHORTLY.
2. CHARTING YUB AND MOTOR BOAT CAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL THEY ARE ACTUALLY REQUIRED. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR N.C.S.C. ISTANBUL AT TOKEN RENT OF POUNDS TURKISH 50 PER MONTH WILL BE TAKEN MORE OR LESS ON HIS ARRIVAL.
3. WITH LIEUT TAYLOR AT CANNAKALE, CONCUR THAT NO FURTHER ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED FOR 2 SHIPS ARRIVING 23RD JAN 1945.
4. AS REGARDS PORT DUES, FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY WHEN THEY RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE ACTION. ADMY 140335 REFERS. ADMIRALTY PLEASE PASS TO ADMIRAL ARCHER AND BAD WASHINGTON. FOLEM PLEASE PASS TO BLACK SEA GREECE AND CDR 8TH FLEET AND SAC MEDITERRANEAN.
*NOT HELD IN N.S.R.

No. 1 ADMIRAL

COMINCH: COPIES 1 TO 8 INCLUSIVE.

No. 3F-1 OFF CHARTROOM

No. 4 SPECIAL

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in SPECIES 75.

(FORM 10-7)

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

DECLASSIFIED
JCS MEMO 1-772
BY 5-24-1 DATA/MAY 1978

28 1973
4

DISPATCH *Hold for Pres.*

BLACK SEA!

DRFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	DEPEND
FROM ADMIRALTY		ASTERISK (*) CAILGRAM ADDRESS	
RELEASED BY		N A ANKARA	PRIORITY
DATE 16 DEC 1944			ROUTINE
FOR CODEBOOK 2217/15			DEFERRED
DECODED BY			BASEGRAM
PARAPHRASED BY SCHMICK	CHECKED BY ROBERTS	CINCMED	PRIORITY
BY	DITTED BY SCHMICK	FOLEM	ROUTINE
		ADM ARCHER	DEFERRED
		BNLO BLACK SEA	BASEGRAM
		SACMED COM 8TH FLT	
		BAD SBNO GREECE	

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.

PART PAGE 1 OF 2 140335A NCR 12520

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

RECEIVED FROM BAD BY HAND

TOP SECRET

File Officer Lavery, Eastern Mediterranean

REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ON FOLEM'S 292120 TO CINCMED AND ADMIRALTY ONLY, AND ON CINCMED'S 091343.

2. CONVOYS PROCEEDING TO BLACK SEA WILL IN FIRST INSTANCE COMPRISE ONLY US SHIPS AND *Ministry of War Transport* **MWT** ARE INFORMING US AUTHORITIES OF FOLEM'S PROPOSAL THAT TURKS SHOULD BE ASKED TO REDUCE PORT DUES AT ISTANBUL FOR SHIPS IN CONVOY. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME BRITISH SHIPS MAY BE INCLUDED LATER ON.

3. RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS FOR FOR RECEPTION OF CONVOYS BY 15TH JANUARY. ADMIRAL ARCHER 091021 NOT TO ALL REFERS. FIRST SAILING IS LIKELY TO BE 2 US SUGAR SHIPS ARRIVING DARDANELLES APPROXIMATELY 23RD JANUARY.

no. 1 ADMIRAL.

no. 2 FILE.

no. 3 FOR CHARTROOM.

no. 4 SPECIAL.

TOP SECRET

HANDLE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH "TOP SECRET" INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

140335A

DECLASSIFIED
JCS MEMO 117-73
BY *BAK* DATE MAY 28 1973

OPNAV 19-78

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

4

DISPATCH

TO	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2
DATE			ROUTINE 3
TOX CODEBOOK			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY		INFORMATION	6
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY		PRIORITY 9
			ROUTINE 10
			DEFERRED 11
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		DEFERRED 12
			BASEGRAM 13

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.

PAGE 2 OF 2 140335A NCR 12520

IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW ☐

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

4. BRITISH NCSO WILL BE INSTALLED ISTANBUL AS SOON AS THERE IS PROSPECT OF CONTINUOUS MOVEMENTS. IT IS NOT CONSIDERED WORTH WHILE SENDING NCSO FOR THE 2 SHIPS MENTIONED IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, ROUTEING OF WHICH CAN BE HANDLED BY PRESENT ORGANIZATION.

5. ADMIRALTY'S GENERAL COMMENTS ON CINCPAC'S 091343 WILL BE RESERVED PENDING YOUR REPLY AND FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON.

COMINCH: COPIES 1 TO 8 INCLUSIVE

DECLASSIFIED
JCS MEMO 1-17-73
BY 8407, DATE MAY 28 1973

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

~~TOP SECRET~~

140335A

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	F-31A	EXT.		ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	COMINCH			ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY	ADM E J KING				PRIORITY
DATE	11 DECEMBER 1944				PRIORITY
TOR CODEROM	1330				ROUTINE
DECODED BY					DEFERRED
PARAPHRASED					BASEGRAM
BY	DIEBEL	CHECKED		COM 8TH FLT	
ROUTED BY		BY	ROWLAND		
		DITTOED			
		BY	DIEBEL	CINCLANT	PRIORITY
				CTF 81	ROUTINE
				CINCMED	DEFERRED
					BASEGRAM
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.					IF OPERATIONAL
					CHECK BELOW
111315Z					☐
NCR 49215					
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP					(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

RETURN OF SHIPS PROPOSED URDIS 101230 AND 101614 INCLUDING
6 YMS APPROVED.

COMINCH: COPIES #1 TO #8 INCLUSIVE.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **MAY 28 1973**

COMINCH HAS PASSED TO NCR FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION TO:

VCNO(#9)...OPES(#10)...12(#11)...12MC(#12)...19(#13)...
19C(#14)...20M(#15)...20(#16)...23(#17)...28(#18)...
39(#19)...BUPERS(#20)...BUORD(#21)...BUSHIPS(#22)...
BUSANDA(#23)....

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL.

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations.

COPT NO.

OPNAV 19-78

111315Z

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date **4/12/94**

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COM 8TH FLEET		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY		COMINCH	PRIORITY
DATE 11 DECEMBER 1944			ROUTINE
FOR CODEROOM 111650			DEFERRED
DECODED BY GREENE			
TYPED BY GREENE/ Hutzler		COMPHIBS 8TH FLT (OPS AND ADM)	PRIORITY
ROUTED BY			ROUTINE
			DEFERRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
111036A			☐
NCR 113			
ORIGINATOR: FILL IN DATE AND TIME:	DATE	TIME	GCT

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

FROM COM 8TH FLT, ACTION COMINCH. INFO COMPHIBS 8TH
FLT (OPS AND ADM)YOUR ^{attached} 101827.

LST 906 AGROUND AT LEGHORN AND BELIEVED SALVAGEABLE.
PRACTICABILITY OF REPAIRS WILL DEPEND UPON INSPECTION
WHEN DOCKED AT PALERMO.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) of (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

MAY 28 1973

By RHP, NARS Date

ACTION	21
F-0	22
F-00	23
F-01	24
F-02	25
F-03	26
F-04	27
F-05	28
F-06	29
F-07	30
F-1	31
F-2	32
F-3	33
F-4	34
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F-10	40
F-11	41
F-12	42
F-13	43
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F-15	45
F-16	46
F-17	47
F-18	48
F-19	49
F-20	50
F-21	51
F-22	52

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

OPNAV 12-07

111036A

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	F-31A	EXT.		ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	COMINCH			ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY	ADM C M COCKE			COM 8TH FLT	PRIORITY
DATE	10 DEC 1944				DEFERRED
TOR CODEROM	1949/10				BASEGRAM
DECODED BY				CTF 81 (OPS & ADM)	PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY	ELY	CHECKED BY	POWLEY		DEFERRED
ROUTED BY		DITTOED BY	ELY		BASEGRAM
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.					IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
101827 NCR 49213					☒
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP					(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

URDIS 100254. ALL LST'S ORDERED RETURN U. S. ARE TO CARRY
 LCT. HEREBY CONFIRM 16 LST ARE TO BE RETURNED PLUS
 LST 506 IF PRACTICABLE. 23 LCT'S ALTHOUGH RELEASED WILL
 REMAIN IN MED UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS.

DECLASSIFIED

EO 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (G)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date MAY 28 1973

COMINCH: COPIES 1 TO 8 INCLUSIVE.

COMINCH HAS DELIVERED TO NCR FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION TO

CCS(#9)....VCNO(#10)....OPDS(#11)....12(#12)....12MC(#13)....

19(#14)....19C(#15)....20M(#16)....20(#17)....23(#18)....

28(#19)....39(#20)....BUPERS(#21)....BUORD(#22)....

BUSHIPS(#23)....BUSANDA(#24)....

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL.

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 75, Navy Regulations.

COPT NO.

OPNAV 19-78

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

~~TOP SECRET~~ DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COM 8TH FLEET		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY		COMINCH AND CNO	PRIORITY 2
DATE DECEMBER 11 1944			ROUTINE 3
TOX CODE/NOX 1619			DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY KIMBRELL			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY KOTEEN	CHECKED BY ROWLAND	CINCLANT CTF 81 CINCMED	PRIORITY 6
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		ROUTINE 7
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			DEFERRED 8
101230	NCR 9346		BASEGRAM 9
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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

THIS IS TOP SECRET. COM 8TH FLEET SENDS FOR ACTION TO COMINCH AND CNO AND INFO TO CINCLANT CTF 81 AND CINCMED.

PROPOSE TO RETURN FOLLOWING SHIPS WITH LANDING CRAFT CONVOY YOUR 91615 REFERS. PLUNKETT HOLLIS RUNNELS. 1 ACM MINDIV 18 (SWAY SYMBOL SWIFT THREAT). ATA 125 AND IF DESIRED BY YOU 6 YMS. YMS CONTINUE TO BE FULLY EMPLOYED IN CLEARING LARGE MINED AREAS IN MEDITERRANEAN.

~~COMMON COTES 1 THROUGH 9.~~

Added: 1 ARL (Achilles)

by 101614

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date MAY 28 1973

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL.

~~TOP SECRET~~

101230

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in April 76, Navy Regulations.

COPY NO.

OPNAV 19-76

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER F-21	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COMINCH AND CHO		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	OP OP OP
RELEASED BY C M COCKE		COM 6TH FLEET	PRIORITY
DATE DECEMBER 10 1944			ROUTINE
TOR CODEROOM 1454/1510			DEFERRED
			BASEGRAM
DECODED BY KOTEEN/DIEBEL		<i>WH</i>	PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY KOTEEN	CHECKED BY HOWLAND		ROUTINE
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		DEFERRED
			BASEGRAM
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
101450			☐
NCR 49209			

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

attach *attach*
SUSPEND ACTION ON MY 262146 AND 091913 EXCEPT TRANSFER OF 10
U S LST'S CAN GO AHEAD.

COMINCH COPIES 1 THROUGH 8.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 8 1972
By RHP, NARS Date **MAY 28 1973**

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-J OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

SECRET

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO.

OPNAV 19-78

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date **4/12/94**

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER		EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM COM 8TH FLEET			ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY			COMINCH	PRIORITY	2
DATE 10 DECEMBER 1944				DEFERRED	3
TOR CODEROOM 0750				BASEGRAM	4
DECODED BY ROBERTS					5
PARAPHRASED BY ROBERTS		CHECKED BY POFNER	CTF 81 (OPS AND ADM)	PRIORITY	6
ROUTED BY		DITTOED BY		DEFERRED	7
				BASEGRAM	8
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.					9
100254Z NCR 8856					10
IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW					11
☐					12
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)					13

(COM 8TH FLEET SENDS ACTION COMINCH. INFO CTF 81 (OPS & ADM))

THIS IS TOP SECRET.

LANDING CRAFT REFERRED PARAGRAPH 5 MEDCOS 210 WERE IN ADDITION TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY MADE AVAILABLE OF WHICH 52 WERE LCT. OF THESE 28 HAVE BEEN RETURNED WITH LST LEAVING 24. ADDITIONAL 15 MAKES 39 STILL AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE. ASSUME THEREFORE YOU WILL DESIRE ALL RETURNING LST TO CARRY LCT YOUR 091605Z REFERS.

LST 506 STILL AGROUND LEGHORN WITH SALVAGE DOUBTFUL, WITH 20 U.S. LST TO REMAIN IN THEATER 10 TO BE TRANSFERRED TO BRITISH 10 ONLY WILL THEREFORE REMAIN TO BE RETURNED U.S. PLEASE CONFIRM.

COMINCH COPIES 1 TO 8 INCLS.

ACTION-F-30

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

TOP SECRET **100254Z** **CLASSIFIED**

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, COMNAV, MAY 5, 1973. COPT NO. 281973
By RHP, NARS Date MAY 28 1973

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~ IVI

URGENT

EYES ONLY FOR GENERAL MARSHALL

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy

To: War Department

Nr: F 65814

9 December 1944

F 65814 signed McNamara. TOPSECRET. Cite NACG, personal for General Marshall for his eyes only.

A message is being dispatched today to Combined Chiefs of Staff protesting COMINCH directive prohibiting further sailings American LSTs to Greek ports. This message sent at my suggestion in hope of clearing up unsatisfactory situation here. I pointed out that while it is understood that British were given free hand in Greece, unilateral directives for military operations there have already deprived us of one parachute brigade urgently required for immediate operation this theater, plus one brigade 46th British Division. General Wilson is now required to furnish such additional reinforcements as may be necessary. *attached*

Greece has already requested remainder of 46th Division. Remainder this Division now being pulled out for rest but should be available for latter stages of coming operation. To prevent loss of this Division decision just taken to divert 4th Indian Division to Greece in lieu of relieving 5th British Division in Palestine. This obviates any immediate effect on battle but means 5th Division will not close this theater early January as contemplated. If highest level decisions are not involved, recommend message reference LSTs be used as a vehicle to prevent further weakening this theater at the moment we are about to

CM-IN-9177

(9 Dec 44)

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER 7-8-74
BY *BAC*, DATE 5-28-73

COPY No. 17

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

IVI

URGENT

Page 2.

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy
Nr: F 65814 9 December 1944

resume the battle, unless concurred in by the Combined
Chiefs of Staff.

New subject. Bad weather has delayed initiation
coordinated attack which was planned to begin when British
have bridgeheads over Santerno. After visit to front I
estimate most optimistic date 20 December. Fear British
units will have little punch left by that time and in
effect, we will have had two uncoordinated efforts. Have
been assured British will have equivalent of five and one
half divisions to participate and that my fears are
unfounded. Hope to see Alexander tomorrow.

End.

ACTION: Gen Hull
INFO: Gen Arnold
C of S

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-8-72
BY *RAE*, DATE *5-28-73*

CM-IN-9177 (9 Dec 44) 2122Z pa

COPY No. 17

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24-75724

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER F-01		EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COMINCH & CNO	FOR ACTION	ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		OP OP OP OP
RELEASED BY		COMEIGHTHFLT		PRIORITY
DATE 9 DEC 1944				ROUTINE
TOR CODEROOM				DEFERRED
DECODED BY	INFORMATION	WAZ		PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY				ROUTINE
ROUTED BY				DEFERRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.				IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME:		DATE	TIME	GCT

09/913

MY ^{with check} 091605 PROVIDES FOR THE TRANSFER OF TEN U.S. LST'S IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE BRITISH X THIS TRANSFER CAN BE EFFECTED IMMEDIATELY X

IN YOUR ^{rechecked} 091430

WITH REFERENCE TO ~~YOUR~~ STATEMENT QUOTE POSITION OF CINCMED AND SACMED IS THAT WITHDRAWAL OF RESOURCES THOUGHT TO BE AVAILABLE DURING PROGRESS OF WAR OPERATION IS UNFORTUNATE UNQUOTE, THE QUOTE WAR UNQUOTE REFERRED TO DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICIPATING X

UNLOADING OF U.S. LST'S NOW IN PROGRESS CAN BE COMPLETED X LST'S LOADING ARE NOT TO MOVE FORWARD TO GREEK PORTS UNDER U.S. FLAG X

COPY TO:-

ADMIRAL LEAHY

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 6(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **MAY 28 1973**

No. 1 ADMIRAL

No. 2 FILE

No. 3 F-1 OR CHARTROOM

No. 4 SPECIAL

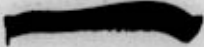
SEALED**SECRET**

Make original only. Deliver to Communication Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

NCR 18

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE


MOST IMMEDIATE

From: FREEDOM sgd Wilson.
To: British Chiefs of Staff
Rptd: JSM Washington for U.S. Chiefs of Staff.
Nr: FX 65767 9 December 1944
FX 65767. MEDCOS 216. TOP SECRET

1. The situation in Greece has compelled me to despatch additional British troops to General Scobie to enable him to carry out his task of maintaining law and order.
2. I am therefore diverting to the Piraeus 4th British Division now in process of embarkation for Middle East for a period of rest, retraining and internal security duties in relief of 5th British Division which, on relief, was to be moved to Italy in December/January completing 4th January.
3. This course will involve the minimum interference with the battle in Italy and reinforcement by a British division will afford the best chance of withdrawing from Greece 2nd Parachute Brigade and 1 Brigade of 46th British Division at the earliest moment. Of these formations, 2nd Parachute Brigade was urgently wanted for operations in connection with the forthcoming battle. 46th Division is now being pulled out of the line in Italy for a period of rest and training. The absence of one of its brigades in Greece will therefore have no immediate effect on the battle.
4. Should the situation develop still more favourably

CM-IN-11249

(11 Dec 44)

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of SM 522-71

By RHP 5-5-93
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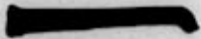
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Admiral Leahy
25

24-75724

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WAR DEPARTMENT
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MOST IMMEDIATE


Page 2

From: FREEDOM sgd Wilson

Nr: FX 65767.

9 December 1944

it will be possible to send on 4th British Division to Middle East in due course and bring back 5th British Division to Italy as presently planned. This would leave in Greece the original force consisting of 4th Indian Division and 23rd Armoured Brigade dismounted.

End.

ACTION: CC/3

INFO: Adm Leahy
Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
C of S

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By Authority of SM52271

By REAP Date MAY 28 1973

CM-IN-11249

(11 Dec 44)

2128Z

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DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>COM 8TH FLEET</u>		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	OP OP OP ob
RELEASED BY		COMINCH	PRIORITY 2
DATE <u>9 DECEMBER 1944</u>			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM <u>1646</u>			DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY <u>SJOSTEN</u>			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY <u>SJOSTEN</u>	CHECKED BY <u>BENNETT</u>	INFORMATION	PRIORITY 6
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		ROUTINE 7
			DEFERRED 8
			BASEGRAM 9
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PAGE 1 OF 2 031438 - NCR 8283			☐

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP

(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

(FROM COM 8TH FLEET ACTION COMINCH.)

THIS IS TOP SECRET.

PRESENT SITUATION YOUR 082146 REFERS AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) 5 LST UNLOADING OR ABOUT TO UNLOAD IN GREEK PORTS.
 - (B) 2 LST LOADING VEHICLES AT TARANTO DUE TO SAIL 100700A.
 - (C) NEED FOR REINFORCEMENTS TO PRESERVE ORDER REPORTED TO BE URGENT.
 - (D) UNLOADING OF LIBERTIES AT PIRAEUS REPORTED TO BE IMPRACTICABLE DUE TO LACK OF FACILITIES AND STEVEDORE STRIKES.
 - (E) EXCLUSIVE OF US LST THERE ARE ONLY 4 LST (3 GREEK 1 BRITISH) IN MED. OF THESE ONLY 2 GREEK ARE OPERATIONAL.
- POSITION OF CINMED AND SACMED IS THAT WITHDRAWAL OF RESOURCES THOUGHT TO BE AVAILABLE DURING PROGRESS OF WAR OPERATION IS

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3F-1

No. 4 SPECIAL

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OPNAV 19-78

031438

031438, Sec. 3(E) and 5(B) or (C)

RHP, NAME Date

MAY 28 1973

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DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM COM 8TH FLEET		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION		PRIORITY
DATE				ROUTINE
TOR CODEROM				DEFERRED
DECODED BY				BASEGRAM
PARAPHRASED	CHECKED	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
BY	BY			ROUTINE
ROUTED BY	DITTOED			DEFERRED
	BY			BASEGRAM

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PAGE 2 OF 2 091430 NCR 8283

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ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

UNFORTUNATE. URGENT DISPATCH IS BEING ADDRESSED CCOS
SEEKING CONFIRMATION AND REQUESTING INSTRUCTIONS.
THE 2 LST AT TARANTO ARE BEING HELD LOADED PENDING
CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION.

COMINCH: COPIES 1 TO 8 INCL.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date MAY 28 1973

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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

(A) ALL U.S. LST ABOVE 20
(B) THE 40 LCI(L) AND 15 LCT REFERRED TO IN PARA 5 OF MEDCOS 210. *attached*

REFER AND IS DIRECTED RETURN TO U.S. EARLIEST PRACTICABLE 17 LST 40
LCI(L) AND 15 LCT. LCT'S TO BE DECKLOADED ON LST'S WHO ARE TO CARRY

IS DIRECTED TO REDUCE NUMBER OF LST'S EX 11THPHIB AUTHORIZED FOR TRANSFER TO BRITISH BY MYDIS 062157 SEPTEMBER FROM 35 TO 25 AND TO SAIL THE

COMINCH: COPIES 1 TO 8 INCLUSIVE.

GCS(#9)....VC110(#10)....OP-05(#11)....12(#12)....12MC(#13)....19(#14)....
 19C(#15)....20(#16)....20(#17)....23(#18)....26(#19)....39(#20)....
 BUPERS(#21)....BUORD(#22)....BUSHIPS(#23)....BUSANDA(#24)....
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U.S. 11654, Sec. 5(X) MAY 8, 1972
 OGD Letter: MAY 8, 1972
 MAY 28 1973
 RHP, NARS Date: _____

OPNAV 19-70

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

DISPATCH

DRFTER F-21	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COMINCH AND CNO		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY ADMIRAL E J KING		COM 8TH FLEET	ORIGINAL OP
DATE 9 DECEMBER 1944			ROUTINE
TON CODEWORD 091928			DEFERRED
DECODED BY			BASEGRAM
PARAPHRASED BY MONROE	CHECKED BY MCKEEL		PRIORITY
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY MONROE		ROUTINE
			DEFERRED
			BASEGRAM
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091913			☐
NCR 49201			
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP			(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

MY 091605 PROVIDES FOR THE TRANSFER OF 10 U.S. LST'S IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE BRITISH. THIS TRANSFER CAN BE EFFECTED IMMEDIATELY.

WITH REFERENCE TO STATEMENT IN YOUR 091430 "POSITION OF CINCHED AND SACHED IS THAT WITHDRAWAL OF RESOURCES THOUGHT TO BE AVAILABLE DURING PROGRESS OF WAR OPERATION IS UNFORTUNATE", THE "WAR" REFERRED TO DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICIPATING.

UNLOADING OF U.S. LST'S NOW IN PROGRESS CAN BE COMPLETED. LST'S LOADING ARE NOT TO MOVE FORWARD TO GREEK PORTS UNDER U.S. FLAG.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (F)

OSD letter, May 8, 1973

By RHP, NARS Date

MAY 28 1973

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in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 78, Navy Regulations.

091913

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

DISPATCH

CHAPTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM COMINCH & CNO		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY ADM E J KING		COM 8TH FLEET	OP OP OP	2
DATE 8 DECEMBER 1944			PRIORITY	3
TON CODEBOOK			ROUTINE	4
DECODED BY			DEFERRED	5
PARAPHRASED BY HOFNER	CHECKED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Handwritten: 113]</i>	BASEGRAM	6
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY HOFNER			7
			PRIORITY	8
			ROUTINE	9
			DEFERRED	10
			BASEGRAM	11

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082146 **NCR 49185**

IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW ☐

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

U.S. LST'S ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR FERRYING TROOPS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO GREECE. YOUR 081636.

COMINCH: COPIES 1 TO 8 INCLUSIVE.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date **MAY 28 1973**

*Adm King on 12 Dec
Promised to suspend action
on this msg until receipt
of instructions from the War*

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

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OPNAV 12-10 **082146**

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

DISPATCH

DRAFTER		EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>COM 6TH FLEET</u>			ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY			COMINCH		PRIORITY OP
DATE <u>6 DEC 1944</u>					ROUTINE
TOR CODEROM <u>1652</u>					DEFERRED
DECODED BY <u>WOODWARD</u>					BASEGRAM
PARAPHRASED BY <u>WOODWARD</u>		CHECKED BY <u>WOODWARD</u>	INFORMATION	WFL	PRIORITY
ROUTED BY <u>WOODWARD</u>		DITTOED BY <u>WOODWARD</u>			ROUTINE
					DEFERRED
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					IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
<u>081636N</u> <u>NCR 7379</u>					☐
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP					(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

FROM COM 6TH FLEET ACTION COMINCH.

THIS IS TOPSECRET.

IN VIEW GREEK SITUATION AND REPORTED ATTITUDE STATE DEPARTMENT.
ATTENTION INVITED FACT US LST'S CURRENTLY EMPLOYED FERRYING
TROOPS AND MATERIAL TARAUTO TO PIRAEUS. MY 060800, 070922,
071344, 180632, ALL NOVEMBER REFER.

COMINCH COPIES 1 TO E. INC.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date MAY 28 1973

ACTION-F-30

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.

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OPNAV 19-78

081636N

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

DISPATCH

DRAFTER COMNAVEU AND COM 12TH FLEET		EXT.		ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE	
FROM		RELEASED BY		DATE		TOR CODEROOM	
1810		WOODWARD		DECODED BY		PARAPHRASED BY	
FISHER		CHECKED BY		FISHER		ROUTED BY	
PIPP		DITTOED BY		FISHER			
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PAGE 1 OF 2		081443		NCR 7370			

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

(TOPSECRET FROM COMNAVEU AND COM 12TH FLEET WHO ASKES PD NEW YORK NOT AN ADEE TO DELIVER ACTION TO COMMODORE FLANIGAN. CNO ALSO HAS ACTION.)

FOR COMMODORE FLANIGAN.

YOUR LETTER OF THE 28TH FORECASTED RECEIPT BY US FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF A DESPATCH DIRECTING THAT THE TOTAL LST WE TURN OVER TO THE BRITISH WILL NUMBER 25 INSTEAD OF 35 AS ORIGINALLY ORDERED. WE HAVE ALREADY TURNED OVER 23 TO THE BRITISH. 4 ARE ENROUTE TO BASE 2 TO BE TURNED OVER ABOUT 11 DECEMBER, AND 8 MORE ARE ABOUT TO DEPART SOUTH COAST FOR BASE 2. IF WE ARE TO TURN OVER ONLY 25 REQUEST IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION TO THAT EFFECT OTHERWISE WE SHALL PROCEED AS ORIGINALLY DIRECTED AND SEND THE CREWS OF THESE 35 LST HOME.

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

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OPNAV 19-78

DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4 NLR 101 By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION		PRIORITY 2
DATE				ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM				DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY				BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY	INFORMATION		PRIORITY 9
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY			ROUTINE 10
				DEFERRED 11
				BASEGRAM 12

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PAGE 2 OF 2

081443

NCR 7370

IF OPERATIONAL
CHECK BELOW

☐

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP

(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

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23(#2)....COMINCH(#3-10)....

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date MAY 28 1973

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No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	F-31A	EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM	COMINCH		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY			FOR ACTION	COMST 1FLT	PRIORITY
DATE	8 DECEMBER 1944			COM12THFLT	BASEGRAM
TOR CODEROOM					DEFERRED
DECODED BY					BASEGRAM
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY		INFORMATION	ADMIRALTY	PRIORITY
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY			SCARF	CINCLANT
				SACRED	COMPHETRALANT
				CINCHED	
				COMPHIRSUKAY	DEFERRED
				COM8THPHID	BASEGRAM
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091605					☐
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP					(Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

CCS HAS DIRECTED SACRED TO RELEASE FOLLOWING LANDING SHIPS AND CRAFT:

- (A) ALL U.S. LST ABOVE 20
- (B) THE 40 LCI(L) AND 15 LCT REFERRED TO IN PARA 5 OF MEDCOS 210 X

OF SHIPS AND CRAFT SO RELEASED COM8THFLT HEREBY IS AUTHORIZED TRANSFER TO BRITISH UNDER LEND LEASE 10 LST X CINCHED 051830 COM8THFLT 061530 REFER X AND IS DIRECTED RETURN TO U.S. EARLIEST PRACTICABLE 17 LST 40 LCI(L) AND 15 LCT X LCT'S TO BE DECKLOADED ON LST'S WHO ARE TO CARRY THEIR ALLOWANCE OF LCVP'S PLUS MAXIMUM NUMBER ADDITIONAL LCVP'S AND LCM(3)X PROPORTIONATE AMOUNT SPARE PARTS TO BE RETURNED X COM12THFLT IS DIRECTED TO REDUCE NUMBER OF LST'S EX 11THPHIB AUTHORIZED FOR TRANSFER TO BRITISH BY MIDIS 062157 SEPTEMBER FROM 35 TO 25 AND TO SAIL THE 10 LST'S REALIZED FROM THIS REDUCTION TO U.S. X LST'S TO CARRY LCT'S IF AVAILABLE OTHERWISE EXCESS LCVP'S PLUS PROPORTIONATE SPARE PARTS

CCS...VCNO...OP-05...12...12uc...19...19C...20M...20...23...28...
39...BUPERS...BUORD...BUSHIPS...BUSANDA.....

NO. 1 ADMIRAL NO. 2 FILE NO. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM NO. 4 SPECIAL

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RHP, NARA Date MAY 26 1973

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[REDACTED]
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From: A. F. H. Q.
To: War Department

Nr: FX 56326

22 November 1944

To Chiefs of Staff, repeated: J. S. M. Washington
for U. S. Chiefs of Staff from A.F.H.Q. signed Wilson.
Msg srl nbr 56326. This is MEDCCS 210.

1. Since the dispatch of MEDCOS 205 there have been certain developments which radically effect the proposed course of action set forth in paragraph 3 of that telegram. These are:

(A) The main weight of the Russian effort in southeast Europe has gone in even further north than expected and the Partisans having received little support from the Russians have made but slow progress westwards.

(B) Largely as a result of (A) it now appears that the Germans may be able to extricate from Yugoslavia the equivalent in personnel of some 12 Divisions. While these troops will initially be disorganized and largely without major equipment it seems certain that the enemy's line joining his Italian and Hungarian fronts will, by the time we should be in a position to attack it, be substantially stronger than had formerly been appreciated. In particular, he will undoubtedly be able materially to reinforce the Istrian Peninsula and the projected operation against Fiume is likely to

CM-IN-22885 (23 Nov 44)

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By Authority of SM 522-71

By RHP Date 5-28-73

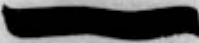
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MOST IMMEDIATE

Page -2

From: A. F. H. Q.

Nr: FX 56326

22 November 1944

prove more formidable undertaking than I originally expected.

(C) The decision to continue intensive operations by SHAEF throughout the winter calls for the exercise also of continuous pressure on Kesselring if this theater is to do its utmost to contain the maximum enemy forces away from the Western Front at this decisive time.

(D) The critical artillery ammunition situation to which I referred in Para 1 (C) of MEDCOS 205 will last for a longer period than had previously been expected and this combined with the consideration under (C) above will materially restrict offensive potentialities in this theater next spring.

2. I am convinced therefore that the proper course under my present directive is to concentrate my resources primarily on the Battle in Italy. The following considerations support this conclusion:-

(A) From the administrative point of view it is possible to develop a weightier thrust more rapidly in Italy than across the Adriatic, since the L of C is now well developed behind AA1, but would require to be developed almost from scratch on the Dalmation coast.

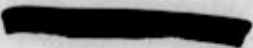
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Page -3-

From: A. F. H. Q.

Nr: FX 56326

22 November 1944

(B) The grouping of the German forces in this theater, disposed as they are on interior lines, coupled with the lack of sufficient ammunition to undertake a prolonged offensive at intense rates of fire, rules out the possibility of simultaneous major operations on both sides of the Adriatic with any good prospect of success. These are also precluded by the time factor and the necessity for sustained pressure on Kesselring in conformity with SHAEF's operations.

3. Accordingly, I propose to direct General Alexander, after the capture of Bologna, to exploit to the limit of his resources with the object of destroying or containing the maximum enemy forces in Italy. I would point out, however, that initial failure to capture Bologna will necessitate a pause. If during this pause the enemy starts to withdraw I will of course resume the offensive to the maximum extent possible to prevent the dispatch of Divisions to other theaters. At the same time I propose to contain the maximum number of German formations in northwest Yugoslavia by creating threat across the Adriatic:

(A) By providing supporting arms to build up the strength of the Partisans in that area.

(B) By affording the Partisans the maximum air support, and

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By RAIP Date 5-28-73

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Page -4-

From; A. F. H. Q.

Nr: FX 56326

22 November 1944

(C) By deception methods. To effect these objects I propose to establish across the Adriatic an air base for the operation of Fighter Bomber Squadrons, together with such light forces, artillery, armor and administrative resources as can be spared without serious prejudice to the continuance of the campaign in Italy. This will have the added advantage of facilitating the transfer of forces across the Adriatic, should this course later commend itself.

4. The abandonment of the pincer movement suggested in Para. 2 of MEDCOS 205 will, in view of the terrain considerations referred to in that paragraph, render the effective destruction of Kesselring's force difficult, particularly if he starts his withdrawal in good time. To confine major operations to Italy does, however, make it possible to attack Kesselring in the greatest strength at the most suitable moment in conformity with operations in other theaters. This appears to me the only course which offers reasonable prospects of preventing Kesselring from withdrawing formations to reinforce other fronts.

5. On the other hand, by the end of this year the enemy will be faced with the necessity of holding a very long front, from the high Tatra to the Po or the Adige, which

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(23 Nov 44)

By RAP Date 5-28-73

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Page -5-

From: A. F. H. Q.

Nr: FX 56326

22 November 1944

he will in any event be severely stretched to hold in the face of the greatly superior strength of the Russian and Allied forces opposing him. The possibility that Trans-Adriatic operations may later be desirable to exploit a weakness in this line cannot therefore be ruled out. The rapid transfer of Divisions across the Adriatic will require the provision of the assault shipping indicated in Para 6 of MEDCOS 205. I recognize, however, that there may be other urgent demands on the United States assault shipping at present in this theater. If it is considered undesirable that I should retain my present assault resources against what at this stage can only be regarded as a contingency, I would urge:

(A) That equivalent British amphibious resources may be made available to me in good time if trans-Adriatic operations later become desirable.

(B) That I be permitted in any event to retain in the theater sufficient amphibious lift to enable me to continue landing forces to support the Yugoslav Partisans, to enable LFA to undertake harrassing operations in the northern Adriatic, and to launch minor operations in the Aegean. In addition, it may well be desirable to make an end run on a brigade group scale in support of AAI's operations.

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CM-IN-22885

(23 Nov 44)

By RHP Date 5-28-73

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From: A. P. H. Q.

Nr: FX 56326

22 November 1944

While I should much prefer to retain my present assault resources which give me an important degree of flexibility, if my allocation is to be restricted to the requirements stated in Para (B) above, I estimate that I could release landing ships and craft to the order of 20 LST, 40 LCI and 15 LCT. These numbers are in addition to the landing ships and craft already offered for release in MEDCOS 205, some of which have already been withdrawn.

6. I therefore suggest:

(A) That the proposals outlined in Para 3 above be approved as a basis for action subsequent to the December offensive.

(B) That the amphibious resources asked for in Para 6 of MEDCOS 205 be allowed to remain under my control until it becomes clear that trans-Adriatic operations will in no circumstances be called for.

T.O.O. 221927

Distribution:

Restricted

FOOTNOTE: MEDCOS 205 is CM-IN-24865 (26 Oct 44) CC/S

ACTION: CC/S

INFO: Adm Leahy; Gen Arnold; OPD; Gen Bissell; Adm King;
C of S

CM-IN-22885

(23 Nov 44)

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