

Documents H London Vol I

PROBABILITY
of an
Outbreak of War
Documents H
Naval Attaché
LONDON

Volume 1
Documents Numbers 1 to 9
(17 March 1936-30 Aug. 1939)

DECLASSIFIED

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

OSD letter, May, 3, 1972

By SLR

Date

MAY 21 1973

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From X Date 17 March, 1938 Serial No. 262 File No.
(Commence new series) (Select proper number)

From X Date 17 March, 1938 Serial No. 262 File No. _____

Source of information	each January issue	from G. N. I. Index
Press		

Subject GREAT BRITAIN (AUSTRIA) GENERAL POLITICAL
(Nation reported on) (Index title as per Index sheet) (Character)

Reference _____

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AUSTRIA: BRITISH REACTION TO CHANGE OF STATUS

Enclosure: (A) Selected Press Clippings *Retained*

1. British alarm at the harshness and suddenness of German measures in Austria has not been allayed by any of the announcements emanating from Berlin or Vienna. The entire press is of one mind in regarding the methods used to bring about the present situation as constituting a Class A crisis. Even papers which have advocated appeasement and conciliation with Germany have shown a marked change in tone, the leading article in The Times, for example, being notable for its outright denunciation of Hitler's methods.

2. In general the press and individuals questioned support the action of the Prime Minister in not immediately declaring any British line of action other than his thoroughgoing condemnation of the forcible and arbitrary steps of this "annexation". The Prime Minister has not yet stated the action which Great Britain will take in event that similar occurrences transpire in Czechoslovakia. The point has been made in Parliament and in the press that this attitude is very similar to that adopted by Sir Edward Grey in 1914, and the comment is made that Germany would never have invaded Belgium at that time if her rulers had known that such invasion would cause Great Britain to declare war.

3. The speed with which Germany took action is one of the most alarming attributes of the Austrian crisis from a British point of view, since it is generally believed that Hitler might strike as quickly against Great Britain if he decided that his policies required warlike action against her. Up to the present moment this feeling has had three tangible results: First, the program of rearmament is to be extended and hastened. This development has been so closely related to the Austrian situation that clippings covering it form part of Enclosure "A". Secondly, there has been an immediate campaign to enlist one million volunteers as members of Air Raid Defense Forces. This campaign was opened by the Home Secretary in a broadcast and has been continued in the daily press with reported good results. The third evidence of the concern existing here is the fact that there have been hints in Parliament that cooperation between employers and employees would be requested. The Prime Minister had stated that the Austrian events were "bound to have effects which cannot yet be measured" and added

"I am confident we shall at least be supported in asking that no one, whatever his preconceived notions, is excluded from any extension of the national effort that may be called for."

[illegible]

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Referring to the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament, Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, informed M.P.s that the Prime Minister had no intention of introducing military or industrial conscription, but that "if the Government decided that an extension or acceleration of its Air Force program was necessary, it would no doubt have to ask both employers and work people to accept in the national necessity certain inconvenience and perhaps sacrifices." It is believed here that for the immediate future, intensification of effort will be concentrated on the Air Force program and on the matter of air raid precautions, with any increase in naval rearmament a matter for future and deliberate consideration.

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ATTACHE'S REPORT

15942-F C-10-m

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From X Date 20 Sept., 19 38 Serial No. 890 File No. 71838
(Commence new series each January first) (Select proper number from O. N. I. Index)
Source of information Reliable.
Subject GREAT BRITAIN CZECHO SLOVAKIAN SITUATION.
(Nation reported on) (Index title as per index sheet)
Reference 71838

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**EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH CZECHO SLOVAKIAN CRISIS (BRITISH
NAVAL PREPARATIONS AND USS NASHVILLE).
AND USS HONOLULU).**

1. London has been in a state of chronic crisis for some time now and there has been little if any information available to me in connection with the subject, which has not appeared in the press or is covered more completely by the Embassy reports to the State Department. There are, however, a few matters which are of interest in this connection.

2. Several times recently I have told my friends at the Admiralty that I would appreciate any information they could give me about extra naval preparations. I have learned very little however. On the 9th of September the Admiralty announced that the seven mine sweeping vessels and four mine laying destroyers previously in reserve would be placed in full commission. This is the only publicly announced step which could be characterized as a partial mobilization. Admiral Troup tells me that when this was announced the German Naval Attaché at once called upon him and characterized the announcement as obviously a mobilization. The D.N.I. differed with him on this point and explained that the units were frequently passing in and out of the reserve fleet to meet the current situation. The German Attaché then had a lengthy conversation with Admiral Troup in which he stated that no one in Germany believed that Great Britain would intervene in a war between Germany and Czechoslovakia. Captain Siemens added that he himself was not convinced that England would intervene. Admiral Troup then told Captain Siemens he was apparently making the same mistake which was made in 1914 and that there was little Admiral Troup could say to convince him if he did not believe the statement issued by the Prime Minister and other important Government heads. When he left Captain Siemens seemed somewhat disturbed in his own mind on this question but reiterated no one in Germany believed that England would actually go to war on the Czechoslovakia question. Admiral Troup repeated this conversation to me in confidence.

3. As regards other Admiralty preparations to meet the present situation, the D.N.I. described the present cruise of the Home Fleet to Scottish waters as "good planning". He explained that mobilization with the British was a step which involved important questions, many of them legal, and that it could not be taken without Cabinet action. He added, however, that everything was being done short of mobilization and that the Admiralty was satisfied with the readiness of the naval forces. It has been announced in the press that while the Mediterranean Fleet was cruising in the Eastern Mediterranean the HOOD would remain at Gibraltar. The reason for this given in the press was that the Spanish situation made it advisable to have a Flag Officer in that vicinity. Admiral Troup told me that the presence of the HOOD in

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From **X** Date **20** **25** **Sept. 19** **38** Serial No. **890** File No. **890**
(Commence new series each January first) (Select proper number from O. N. I. index)
Source of information **Reliable.**
Subject **GREAT BRITAIN** **CZECHO SLOVAKIAN SITUATION.**
(Nation reported on) (Index title as per index sheet) (Subtitle)
Reference

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EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH CZECHO SLOVAKIAN CRISIS (BRITISH NAVAL PREPARATIONS AND USS NASHVILLE AND USS HONOLULU).

Gibraltar rather than in the Eastern Mediterranean was actually not based on the Spanish situation but was part of the precautionary measures to meet the present crisis with Germany. The press also announced that the ROYAL OAK would remain at Portland instead of accompanying the Home Fleet on the cruise to Scotland. The reason given was that she had just completed an overhaul and was not yet ready to join the Fleet. The D.N.I. tells me that her being held at Portland was also part of the preparations to meet the existing situation. When in Portland to meet the NASHVILLE I had lunch with Rear Admiral MacKinnon, whose flag is in the ROYAL OAK, played golf with him one afternoon, and later had a chance to look over the upper decks of the ship. We did not discuss the question of why he was held at Portland. It is true, however, that the ship has just completed an overhaul and shows outward signs of not having entirely recovered from the stay at the dockyard.

4. I met the NASHVILLE on her arrival at Portland September 12th, spent that night on board, and next day visited the Anti-Submarine School. (to be covered in a separate report). I returned to London Tuesday evening to find the Embassy had just received orders to arrange with the Foreign Office for the NASHVILLE to proceed to Gravesend, arriving September 14th. I got in touch with the Captain by telephone and found they had received orders from the Navy Department to proceed Gravesend, but without indicating the time of arrival. In view of the State Department's instructions to the Embassy indicating that it was desired he arrive on the 14th, the Captain arranged to leave at 8.30 the next morning and to run at twenty-five knots. He moored at Gravesend about 7.30 the evening of the 14th. Insofar as I know the Department's orders to the NASHVILLE were not sent to the Naval Attaché or to Commander Squadron 40 T for information. This office telegraphed Admiral Lackey this information the forenoon of the 14th.

5. The movement of the NASHVILLE attracted considerable attention in the press and the Ambassador talked with the Chief of Naval Operations on the telephone in that connection. The British accept the move with obvious satisfaction as being a gesture of support. On the other hand, as soon as it was announced the German Attaché called at my office to inquire what the significance of this unusual move was. He was informed that the NASHVILLE received its orders direct from Washington and that as far as this office was concerned no information was available. I have informed the Ambassador that as a gesture the presence of the NASHVILLE and HONOLULU at Gravesend, in my opinion, will have a good effect. On the other hand, if the ships are being held primarily as possible means of emergency transportation for Americans, Southampton would

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Tech. Dev.	C. in C. U. S.	Com. Bat. For.	Com. Sec. For.	C. in C. Ad.	Com. S.S. S.	Com. S.S. A.	Attache at	Operations				Com- mence	Return to Room No.
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EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH CZECHO SLOVAKIAN CRISIS (BRITISH NAVAL PREPARATIONS AND USS NASHVILLE AND USS HONOLULU).

be a much better location. As a minor point in this connection, it is costing the NASHVILLE \$50 a day for tug service at the turn of the tide - and will cost the HONOLULU the same. (See para. 6).

6. I have informed the Captain of the NASHVILLE of the possibility of his having to transport Americans leaving England and he is making a study of the subject. As a preliminary estimate he says that he could transport about 350 in reasonable comfort under the circumstances. This means separate compartments for women and children with adequate messing and toilet accommodations. Of this number he estimates 210 could be women and children and 140 men. Of course this figure could be considerably increased in a real emergency.

7. On September 17th the Embassy received instructions to arrange with the Foreign Office for the HONOLULU to remain indefinitely at Gravesend after the arrival of that vessel September 22nd. To-day the Embassy received instructions to arrange with the Foreign Office for the NASHVILLE to proceed to Portsmouth, arriving September 20th or 21st, where she will receive a shipment of gold. Authority for this was contained in Navy Department despatch 0019 1645 to the Naval Attache. The Commanding Officer of the NASHVILLE tells me at the present time (noon 20 September) that he has no orders from the Navy Department. He has, however, intercepted despatch to Commander Atlantic Squadron indicating that the NASHVILLE will sail for New York 22 September. Arrangements have just been made with the Commanding Officer NASHVILLE and with the Admiralty for the NASHVILLE to leave Gravesend about 0700 21 September and arrive Portsmouth 1445 the same day. Arrangements have also been made for the shipment from the Bank of England to be delivered the same afternoon to the NASHVILLE, alongside the dock in Portsmouth. (Later delayed until the 22nd).

8. This morning the Embassy received two despatches concerning the HONOLULU. The first stated that the visit of that ship to Gravesend was cancelled and requested arrangements be made for the ship to go to Southampton to remain for an indefinite period. This despatch shortly afterward was cancelled with instructions to arrange for the HONOLULU to go to Portsmouth instead of Southampton. Later a despatch from the HONOLULU via the NASHVILLE reported that HONOLULU would arrive Portsmouth the afternoon of the 21st.

9. There are attached a collection of clippings concerning some of the items mentioned in this report.

(RECEIVED)

R. O. 11682, Sec. 375 and 376 on 11-11-38
OSD letter, May, 1, 1973

By SLR

Date

MAY 21 1973

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Subject GREAT BRITAIN
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REMARKS

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E. O. 11612, Sec. 3(R) and 6(D) or (H)

OSD letter, May, 4, 1972

by SIA

DATE

MAY 21 1973

10. It was apparent that the code and cipher facilities available to the Naval Attaché would soon prove inadequate, as the crisis developed into the immediate prospect of war. Inquiry showed that the Naval Attaché's cipher for Europe was held by Commander Squadron 40 T but not by the NASHVILLE or HONOLULU. With this in view, the Naval Attaché made the following request and recommendations:

- (a) to use the Teletype Simplex Printer installed in the Embassy for communication through the State Department;
- (b) that all ships in and proceeding to European waters be provided with the Naval Attaché's cipher, European edition;
- (c) that RFS distribution and allowance list be provided this office;
- (d) that additional codes and ciphers, more secure than the administrative cipher and less cumbersome than the Naval Attaché cipher, be furnished this office;
- (e) an additional allotment of \$500 for telephone and telegraph expenses;
- (f) that Department arrange a schedule on which the Embassy radio receiving set could copy despatches from Washington direct, and that, in an emergency, radio personnel be obtained from HONOLULU.

All except the last of the above recommendations were approved. In view of subsequent developments, the last suggestion proved unnecessary. It is worthy of consideration in the future, however, should a similar situation arise.

11. The Communication Officer of the HONOLULU was ordered to London for consultation and, as a result of this consultation, a despatch was sent to the Department recommending that certain CSP publications be transferred from the HONOLULU to the Naval Attaché. Certain transfers of publications were accordingly made and are now held in this office.

12. On 27 September, Lieutenant C.E. Weakley, U.S.N., undertaking an engineering course at Cambridge University, was ordered to London and detailed to communication duty. Mr. William S. Sims, Jr.,

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

OSD letter, May, 1, 1978

By SLR

Date

MAY 21 1973

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son of Admiral Sims, offered his services and was used in some routine work for one day, but was not required thereafter.

13. On 26 September, Lieutenant (jg) C.T. Abbott (SC), U.S.N., on leave in London while proceeding from China to New York, reported at this office and offered his services. These were promptly accepted and on my telegraphic recommendation he was later ordered to report to me for duty, and remained in that status until 7 October. During this time he was of very considerable value in connection with communications and the prospective oil contracts and other purchases that would have to have been made should the crisis have developed into war.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

14. In addition to the other urgent activities at this time, this office continued to do its part in organizing and preparing the Embassy building for air raid precautions. This duty was assigned to the Consul General, Mr. Jenkins, and Commander Nelson of this office took an active part in the very thorough and complete arrangements which were made.

15. The Naval Attaché's Office drew up an organization for the formation of fire, rescue and first aid parties, and methods of routing personnel to the basement of the building where certain spaces were designated as shelters. The basement of the large apartment house which forms a part of the Embassy building was made accessible to the basement of the Embassy by the cutting of two openings and the installation of doors therein. This opened up access for additional shelter in case a portion of the Embassy had to be abandoned. Bulkheads and doors were erected at certain locations to insure against the seepage of gas, and most of the openings were actually sealed. All windows in the basement of this building were protected by sand bags (to the number of 2500) and sealed on the inside with plywood with all cracks covered with paper pasted to the surface.

16. First aid and decontamination stations were picked out both in the basement and on the ground floor to care not only for the people of the Embassy staff but also others who might enter the building from the street. Provision was also made to care for about 100 people who might be in the Consular office of the Embassy in connection with passport and visa activities and who might not be able to leave the building at the time of an attack. This office co-operated with the Consulate in drawing up lists of emergency materials for fire and rescue parties and first aid parties.

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G. O. 11602, Sec. 5(2) and 5(3) of E.O.

OGD Letter, May, 1, 1978

By SLR

Date

MAY 21 1973

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A representative of this office visited the London A.R.P. Headquarters with the Consul General on 7 September to ascertain if there were any points that had been overlooked in possible preparations for an emergency. On 23 September a representative of this office accompanied a representative of the Consul General's office on a tour of inspection of the Ministry of Public Health Building at Great George and Whitehall Streets, to ascertain the precautions in effect for the evacuation of an office building and utilize those applicable to our building. In the Embassy there were installed placards and arrows in corridors and basement to indicate plainly the routes which should be taken by personnel. Gas masks were issued to personnel on 26 September.

17. All the data on precautions taken, together with lists of material purchased and regulations promulgated, have been placed in the files of the Consul General.

EVACUATION OF AMERICANS

18. As had been foreseen, much of the pressing work at the Embassy was providing for the rush of people who wished to leave the country immediately. On the 27th and 28th this business reached proportions which are difficult to realize by one not an eye-witness. On the morning of the 27th the Ambassador informed me that the Government were making all preparations against bomb attacks on London immediately on the declaration of war. At this time he issued a warning that all Americans who could possibly do so should leave the country. He cabled the State Department for authority to use the HONOLULU to full capacity to transport American citizens to New York, and directed me to request the Navy Department to authorize the Commanding Officer to act under his orders, and to make all the necessary preliminary arrangements with the Commanding Officer. It was the Ambassador's tentative plan to be ready to embark on the HONOLULU all Embassy and other Service-connected personnel, plus such other people as could be accommodated and who had no other means of immediate departure. Among those he tentatively planned to send on the HONOLULU were the 12 members of his family and household.

19. It was apparent from the study of the problem of evacuation on the HONOLULU that purchases of cots, bedding, etc. amounting to some \$3000 would be necessary. It was already apparent that the food supply of the country would be severely dislocated immediately on the declaration of war, as temporary price control was already in effect, as were limitations against food hoarding, etc. While

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Director	A-B-C-D-E F-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P-Q-R-S-T-U-V-W-X-Y-Z	Man- graph	Ar- dies	Relief	C. M. O.	G. M. S.	War College	M. I. D.	Nav.	Ord.	T. S. D.	C. S. R.	Eng.	S. S. I.	M. S. S.	Aer.	U. S. M. C.	H. O.
Tech. Div.	C. in C. U. S.	Com. Bat. For.	Com. Sea. For.	C. in C. Aide	Com. S. S. S.	Com. Air	Attached at	Operations	Com. Dir.	W. F. C.	Com. P. L. T.	State	Com- munic.	Return to Room No.				

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ATTACHE'S REPORT

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R. O. 11632, Sec. 3(D) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May, 1, 1978

-6-

By SLR

Date

MAX 21 1943

600 gas masks had been received at the Embassy, these had proved inadequate for the demands of the U.S. Government Service-connected personnel throughout Great Britain, and the Ambassador had already cabled requesting 1000 additional gas masks. In view of the above, and pending receipt of authority from the Department, arrangements were made with the Commanding Officer of the HONOLULU and Lieutenant Abbott (SC), acting as Supply Officer of this office, for the necessary emergency purchases, for the landing of surplus provisions, steel helmets, gas masks, rubber boots and clothing, flashlights and first aid materials. Arrangements also included obtaining storage space at the Portsmouth Dockyard and transportation from Portsmouth to London.

20. On the morning of 28 September, the situation was considered so critical that the Ambassador directed me to ask the Navy Department for an "immediate reply" concerning the use of the HONOLULU. Late that evening the Department's reply was received, stating in substance that the State Department would reply to the Ambassador's request concerning transportation of American citizens in naval vessels, and that the landing of materials from the HONOLULU was not authorized. This despatch states that the State Department informed the Navy Department the Embassy and Consulate were provided with gas masks. Actually, the Ambassador had asked for 1000 gas masks in addition to those which had already been provided. These 1000 gas masks have not yet been received.

21. The State Department's reply to the Ambassador concerning the use of the HONOLULU was received shortly before midnight 28 September, as follows:—

"The Government is making a careful survey of the possibilities of returning American citizens on American flag passenger vessels which may be available or which may be ordered to such use. Except in presence of the most extreme emergency, the Government is not in favor of using Naval ships for such purpose, as the question of discrimination arises in connection with selection of those who would be taken on such naval vessels. With this and other considerations in mind the Government after conference between interested Departments prefers not to consider authorization to use HONOLULU for this purpose except as I said before, in the face of an extreme emergency. For your confidential information we would prefer to undertake a more comprehensive plan for the return of American citizens if it becomes necessary.

Repeat to Paris. "

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Tech. Dir.	C. in C. U. S.	Com. Bat. For.	Com. Sen. For.	C. in C. Asia	Com. S.S.S.	Com. Air	Attached at		Operations				Com. Dir.	W. P.	Com. PL Tr.	State	Com- source	Return to Exam No.

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-7-

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

OSD letter, May, 4, 1972

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

The above despatch is of value as establishing a policy for future guidance. It will always be necessary, however, to be prepared for the extreme emergency when and if it arises.

22. It is noted that both the Navy Department's and State Department's despatches concerning the emergency arrangements for the HONOLULU bore a time group about three hours after the announcement of the Munich Conference which at least temporarily resolved the impending crisis. This announcement was made in London about 4.30 p.m. (10.30 a.m. in Washington). Immediately thereafter, and before receipt of instructions from the Department, the emergency arrangements for the HONOLULU were cancelled.

PERSONNEL

23. The following officers in regular service were ordered to this office for the period of the crisis:

Captain George F. Cottle (MC), U.S.N. (on temporary duty at Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Portsmouth)
 - 28 September to 8 October

Lieutenant C.E. Weakley, U.S.N. (under instruction at Cambridge University) - 27 September to 1 October

Lieutenant (jg) C.T. Abbott (SC), U.S.N.
 - 26 September to 7 October

The following personnel volunteered for duty in the Office of the Naval Attaché. In some cases it was stated that they would be available for part time duty only in case of a war in which the United States was neutral.

Captain D.C. Hanrahan, U.S.N. (Ret.)
 Lieutenant S.L. Huff, U.S.N. (Ret.)
 Lieutenant A.B. Park, U.S.N.R.
 Lieutenant M. Mackenzie, I-V(S), U.S.N.R.
 Lieutenant (jg) T.D. Cuttle (MC), U.S.N.R.
 Ensign H.B. Gates, Jr., CEC-V(S), U.S.N.R.
 Ensign D.W.A. Pleasanton, C-V(S), U.S.N.R.
 Francis H.G. Whalley, U.S.N.V.R.

E.H. McCormick (ex-Lieut.(jg), U.S.N.R., who was on similar duty in London in 1918)

C.S. Snodgrass (ex-Lieut., U.S.N.)

E.F. Montgomery (ex-Lieut. (jg), U.S.N.)

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Tech. Dir.	C. in C. U. S.	Com. Sec. For.	Com. Sec. For.	C. in C. Asst.	Com. S.S.S.	Com. Asst.	Asst. of			Operations			State	Com- merce
							Can. Dir.	W. P.	Com. Pl. Tr.	State	Com- merce	Returns to Room No.		

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

OSD letter, May, 4, 1978

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

-8-

Rodman Wanamaker (qualified for Naval Aviation Reserve, but not yet commissioned)
 W.S. Sims, Jr.

Of the above officers, only one, Lieutenant M. Mackenzie, I-V(S), U.S.N.R., is regularly assigned a mobilization station in this office.

Commander Charles F. Osborn (CC), U.S.N., should be added to the above list. He made the trip from New York to Portsmouth on the HONOLULU on orders to return by merchant transportation. While in London he offered his services. He eventually returned on the HONOLULU.

G E N E R A L

24. During the period of the emergency it was found desirable to establish a continuous watch in the Naval Attaché's Office until midnight. Between midnight and 9.00 a.m., an officer was available next door to the Embassy.

25. The SOMERS arrived Portsmouth 1 October. The SAVANNAH arrived off Portsmouth in a gale on 3 October and could not enter Portsmouth Harbor until 4 October. As a result of continued gales and some minor repairs to damage done by a British tug in placing SOMERS alongside of dock in a high wind, SOMERS' departure was delayed until the morning of 7 October. The SOMERS carried a shipment of gold for New York. The SAVANNAH left Portsmouth forenoon of 10 October. The SAVANNAH did not carry a shipment of gold.

26. The information received by this office indicates that the WARRINGTON had sailed for Portsmouth but was subsequently recalled. In this connection, it was mentioned in English press of 28 September that the "TEXAS, PHILADELPHIA and SAVANNAH" had sailed "under sealed orders" and were believed to be on their way to Europe. Under the same date, a Washington despatch stated that "Navy Department announced today that the light cruiser CINCINNATI, TRENTON and CONCORD are leaving San Diego for the Atlantic to stand by, ready to go to Europe to evacuate American nationals if necessary."

27. Insofar as this office is concerned, the lessons of the recent emergency may be summarized as follows:—

- (a) No matter how complete the air raid precautions, there will always be a certain amount of disorganization at the last minute to complete final arrangements.

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Tech. Dir.	C. in C.	C. in S.	Com. Bat. For.	Com. Sea. For.	C. in C. Adm.	Com. S.S.R.	Com. Air	Attached at			Operations					State	Com-sec	Return to Exam. Rm.								
	C. in C.	C. in S.																								

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 2(D) and 5(D) or (D)

OSD letter, May, 4, 1973

By SLR

Date

MAY 21 1973

-9-

- (b) The rush of Americans to leave the country, while not the direct concern of the Naval Attaché, will nevertheless tend to considerably increase the collateral activities of his office.
- (c) The disorganization of international exchange and gold insurance rates will probably result in a number of U.S. Naval Vessels arriving in England with related problems such as fuel, gold shipments, and emergency arrangements for possible use to evacuate Americans.
- (d) There will be a considerable upset in communications which may well warrant direct radio communication from the Embassy to U.S. Naval Ships in English waters.
- (e) The normal code and cipher facilities of the office will require expansion.
- (f) There will be immediate need for additional officers, the first expansion being in Communications.
- (g) There will probably be available sufficient officer personnel in active, retired, or reserve status for immediate requirements and until other arrangements can be made.

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Yach. Div.	C. in C. U. S.	Com. Int. For.	Com. Am. For.	C. in C. Asia	Com. S.S.S.	Com. Air	Attached at				Operations				Com. Div.	W. P.	Com. J.L. Tr.	State	Com. Sec.	Return to Source No.	

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Captain Russell Wilson.

ENCLOSURE "A"

EMERGENCY ORGANISATION

X-947

In Charge: Commander G.W. Nelson (C.C.)
United States Navy

Station: Messenger Room - Basement

Rescue and Fire Parties

4 Stretcher Bearers

Mr. Butterworth	)	
Mr. Converse	)	1 pair in protective clothing
Mr. Hames	)	
Mr. H. Garnham	)	

6 fire picks, 4 sand buckets, 6 fire extinguishers

Mr. F.C. Gowen	)	
Mr. James Somerville	)	
Mr. Grant Isaacs	)	
Mr. F.D. Hunt	)	2 in protective clothing
Mr. G.E. Miller	)	
Mr. H.W. Palmer	)	

5 General -

Mr. R.N. Marquis
Mr. M.H. Rawlyns
Mr. J.V. Flynn
Mr. C.E. Roach
Mr. G. Baughn

15 Total

Repair Party - Stationed in basement of No. 3
Grosvenor Square, W.1.

1 Electrician (Permanent Lights, power, etc.)
1 Electrician (Portable Lights)
1 Water
1 Engineer (Steam Pipes)

4 Total

To archives upon return

Emergency Equipment Station -

(In basement near main staircase)

Colonel R.E. Lee
Major S.A. Greenwell
Consul James E. Parks

Police Duty

Captain Russell Willson, U.S.N.,
Colonel R.E. Lee
Colonel Scanlon
Captain Studler
Mr. H. Klemmer
Mr. N. Lancaster
Mr. J.E. Brown

The officers of the Sections mentioned below will, when an air raid warning is received, be responsible for the (1) muster of their personnel; and all visitors in the offices, (2) see that all persons are promptly issued emergency equipment and conducted to station No. 1 - (Air Raid shelter - kitchen basement of No. 3 Grosvenor Square):

SECOND FLOOR

Mr. Lynn W. Meekins
or
Mr. C.E. Brookhart

Dr. C.C. Taylor
or
Dr. J.M. Minnehan

FIRST FLOOR

Mr. David Williamson

Major Greenwell
or
Captain Studler

Captain Russell Willson
Commander W.K. Harrill

GROUND FLOOR

Consul General Jenkins:
Personnel of rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Commercial Division:
Mr. H.E. Carlson
and
Mr. C.W. Wright

Immigration Division:
and Files

Mr. Maney

American Passport Section:

Officer in charge of section.

Medical Department:

The Medical Officer in charge

Invoice and Notarial Sections:

Mr. James E. Callahan

Shipping and Accounts Sections:

Mr. John J. Coyle

Messengers and Cleaners:

Lastaff, Mallett or Steward

CONTROLS OF EXIT: Main door - No. 1 Grosvenor Square -

All other outer doors, including entrance to

No. 3 TO BE CLOSED AND LOCKED

Lt. R.L. Campbell, J.R., U.S.N. - In charge

Assistants: J.F. Lastaff
William Steward
Robert S. Mallett

CONTROL OFFICE: Basement - No. 3 Grosvenor Square,
Grosvenor Street side

Outside telephone line

1 Communication Party - Mr. Neal D. Borum in charge

- 2 Telephone Operators (In room 133 or basement)
- 2 chauffeurs - Messrs. Cochran and Woods
- 6 messengers - Messrs. Baker, Barry, Butler, Russell, Couzens, Fathers.

A battery radio receiving set has been purchased. There are two outside telephone lines in the basement - one of these in the mail room and the other in the first room on the right of basement of No. 3 Grosvenor Square (Grosvenor Street side near mail room).

FIRST AID STAFF.

Chief: Captain G.F. Cottle, U.S. Navy.

Assistant Chief: Mr. S.J. Kennedy.

Assistant: Dr. T.P. White

Personnel: Men -

Messrs. Minneman, Agriculture, room 204
Carlson, Consul.
Colebrook, Consul.
Hunt, Commerce.
Roach, Treasury.
Flynn, Treasury.
White, Room 209
Cheetham, Clerk, Invoice Section.

Personnel: Women -

Misses: Thompson, Consulate General
Feldt, " "
Wright, Commerce Dept.
Hanks, Agriculture.
Crawford, Military Attache's Office
Harman, Stenographer to Consul General.
Stange, American passport section.
Dalluder, Immigration section.

First aid stations for men and women have been designated both on the ground floor and in the basement. Emergency medical kits are being held in the Medical Director's room on Ground Floor, No. 34. Members of the first aid staff should learn the location of stations and become familiar with first aid assistance as outlined in the ~~Handbook~~ Handbook No. 2.

Please study plan of basement on wall in room No. 3, ground floor.

Note: First aid supplies are in Emergency Equipment No. 1 Room in basement.

London, September 29, 1936.

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE
LONDON

95-T-

BMC 95

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

111



NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

From: Naval Attache, London.
To: Director of Naval Intelligence.

SUBJECT: NAVAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE, LONDON -
EXPANSION OF DURING EMERGENCY.

Enclosure: (A) Plan of Emergency Expansion.

B-2/BG-1-4(T-2)

1. The period of crisis or emergency preceding a possible European War will require an expansion of activities of the Office of the Naval Attache, London. Such a crisis may come suddenly and before additional personnel would be available from America. In order that this office may fulfill the functions required of it, it is proposed to recall to active duty certain officers of the Naval Reserve living in or near London and to enroll in the Reserve and call to active duty ex-Naval and ex-Naval Reserve officers as additional officer personnel becomes necessary. Clerical help will be required and can be obtained by employing qualified American citizens now in England until yeomen or civil service personnel are made available.

2. In order to put this proposed plan in force, authority of the Navy Department will be necessary: -

- (a) to recall to active duty the Reserve officers required and available in England;
- (b) to enroll in the Reserve and call to active duty such ex-Naval and ex-Naval Reserve officers as are available and necessary;
- (c) to employ additional clerical assistance as will be required;
- (d) to rent such additional office space as is necessary - either in London or in the country, as circumstances dictate.

3. Additional funds will be required to pay the rent of additional office space, the wages of clerical employees, maintenance allowance of such officer personnel as the Department designates as Assistant Naval Attaches, and pay enlarged routine and necessary expenditures.

EX-100

REF ID: A6662, No. 100-100000-1000

OSD Letter, May, 1, 1973

DATE: MAY 21 1973

To: Director of Naval Intelligence

95-T-

21 Aug. 1939.

4. A sudden emergency will involve a large increase in coded dispatches. In order to provide personnel to expeditiously handle this traffic, authority is now requested to permit the following Reserve officers, prior to their recall to active service, to become familiar with the use of and use without supervision the ciphers now assigned this office.

(1) Lt. Comdr. Richard W. Cotton	E-V(S)	USNR
(2) Lt. Malcolm MacKenzie	I-V(S)	USNR
(3) Lt. (jg) Ralph O. Phillips		USNR
(4) Ensign G.C. Bradley	D-V(G)	USNR

Dispatch approval of this paragraph, as separate from Enclosure (A), is requested.

5. Reserve and ex-Naval officers now in London are gratuitously assisting in the preliminary evacuation and expansion plans and gathering information to further such plans. In the case of a crisis these officers will be familiar with the situation and able to render immediate and necessary assistance. Individual reports of their present efficient cooperation will be made at the appropriate time.

6. Enclosure (A) is a proposed expansion program intended to progressively enlarge the facilities of this office as the immediate situation warrants. If and when an emergency arises, the Naval Attache will request the approval of Enclosure "Affirm". Upon receipt of the Department's approval the Naval Attache will recall to active duty or enroll in the Reserve such officers as the immediate circumstances require. Clerical help will be employed as required. The funds requested to be made available will be used in accordance with the regulations now governing such expenditures.

7. The Naval Attache intends requesting authority from the Navy Department by dispatch to place in effect the provisions of Enclosure (A) when he considers the situation warrants.

ORIGINAL FORWARDED VIA PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS
TRANSATLANTIC CLIPPER.

COPY FORWARDED VIA POUCH (S.S. "NORMANDIE", 23 AUG. 1939).

-2-

RECEIVED
E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 6(D) or (B)
OSD letter, May, 4, 1973
By SLR
Date MAY 21 1973

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 11652, Sec. 202 and 203 of 2001

OSD letter, May, 1, 1978

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

ENCLOSURE "A"

21 August, 1939.

PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF NAVAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE -
EUROPEAN CRISIS OR WAR EMERGENCY

1. Recall to active duty the following Reserve Officers as their individual services are required and, in general, for the duties indicated:-
 1. DRAVO, Hudson D. - Lt.Comdr. I-V(S) USNR
Land Transportation - Business Liaison.
 2. PHILLIPS, K.O. - Lt(jg) USNR - Communications.
 3. McKENZIE, Malcolm - Lieut.I-V(S) USNR-Communications.
 4. BROWN, David Lat. - Lieut.I-V(S) USNR -
Publicity - Press Liaison.
 5. BRADLEY, G.C. - Ensign D-V(G) USNR-Communications.
 6. COTTON, R.W. - LtComdr.E-V(S) USNR-Communications.
 7. HOFMAN, Eric - Lieut.A-V(S) Asst.Aviation(Pilot).
 8. SCHNEIRSON, S.Stanley - Lieut(jg) MC-V USNR-Medical.
2. Enroll in the Reserve and recall to active duty the following ex-Naval and ex-Naval Reserve Officers as their individual services are required and, in general, for the duties indicated:-
 1. SNODGRASS, C.Stribling - Ex-Lt(JG) USN - to be
LtComdr. in USNR
Fuel Availability - arrangements.
 2. McCORMICK, Edward H. - Ex-Lt(jg) USNR (Served
in Communication Office at U.S.Naval Hdqtrs.
London, England, during 1917-1919).
Communications.
3. Employ additional clerical help as is necessary.
American citizens will be employed if available.
4. Rent additional office space, either in London
near the present Embassy or in the country, as circumstances
require.
5. Additional funds should be immediately made
available as follows:

GENERAL EXPENSES

70101 1700302.001(5) Misc. Expenses,
Navy, 1940.....\$50,000.00

ENCLOSURE "A" - CONTINUED

21 August, 1939.

COMMUNICATIONS

70101 1700302.007 Misc. Expenses,
Navy, 1940..... \$2,000.00

NAVINTEL (CONFIDENTIAL)

"Collection & Classification of
Information..... \$10,000.00

STORES

71750 17-0806 Naval Supply Account
Fund, (1) Stores..... \$50,000.00

TRAVEL - NAVAL OFFICERS, INCLUDING ALL
NAVAL OFFICERS RECALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY

70703 1700802 Pay, Subsistence &
Transportation, Navy, 1940..... \$5,000.00

AVIATION

70851 1701502.001(3) Aviation, Navy,
1940..... \$2,000.00

6. Authority to take up immediately pay accounts of Officers of the U.S. Naval Reserve on date recalled to active duty by Naval Attache and prior to issue of individual orders by the Navy Department.

DECLASSIFIED

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

OSD letter, May, 4, 1973

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

vacuation

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE
LONDON

P-5

01-F(0)

23 August 1939.

B-10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Admiral:

04-2/00-1-4 (E-23)

On Friday last (Aug. 18) the job of formulating the plan for evacuation of American nationals from the United Kingdom was given to me. I have been pretty busy on it since. The Ambassador got back last night and approved the plan (which had already been sent out), and we are making a wider distribution of it today. Copies will reach you eventually. There are about 7,000 people to be evacuated as we see it now.

The political situation is considered very bad. By the time this reaches you war may be in progress - perhaps not, but it looks rather grim just now.

We had been working on our War Plan pretty actively, and the official letter asking for certain authority and money was the result of that.

It is possible that the Embassy will move out of London, or at least a large part of it. Nelson is still in Scotland and I will leave him there a little longer, as well as Fischer; but if the situation gets much worse will recall them both.

Ships to transport American nationals from the United Kingdom will be the rub. In this connection, the Admiralty has stated that they will not provide any submarine screen for such ships. I hope all ships coming over carry large supplies of big American flags.

I am very rushed, but we are all standing the strain well.

Sincerely yours,

PS

Rear Admiral W.S. Anderson, U.S.N.,
Director of Naval Intelligence,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

WSP

(B-9) (CP13)

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE
LONDON

01-K-(0)
R16-3/EG

24 August, 1939.

From: Naval Attache, London.
To : The Director of Naval Intelligence.
Subject: Revised List of Approved Ports for the Evacuation of Aliens.

1. This office has been informed by the Admiralty Member of the Government Committee for the Evacuation of Aliens that the list of Approved Ports for the use of Aliens as contained in the Second Schedule of the Aliens Order, 1920, will, in the event of war, be somewhat modified.

2. The Revised List, as furnished in confidence, will be as follows:

SHIPS

London;
Tilbury and West Street Pier, Gravesend.
Folkestone
Newhaven
Southampton
Pulmouth
Bristol
Cardiff
Fishguard
Holyhead
Liverpool
Heysham
Belfast
Larne
Stranraer
Glasgow
Tyne Ports
Hull

AIR STATIONS

Belfast(Harbour)
Bristol(Whitechurch)
Liverpool(Spoke)
Pembroke Dock
Perth
Poole Harbour
Shoreham

3. This information has been furnished the Embassy and Consul General, London.

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(c) and 6(D) or (B)
OSD letter, May. 4, 1972
By SLR Date 21 1972

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE
LONDON

AL6-3/EG

27 August, 1939

From: Naval Attache.
To: The Director of Naval Intelligence.
Subject: Evacuation, United Kingdom.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
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References: (a) H.A. London Conf. let. Serial No. 771 of 21 Aug., 1939.
(b) Opnav despatch (Western Union Cable) of 26 Aug., 1939.

1. The following steps have been taken in connection with the evacuation of American Nationals from the United Kingdom:-

(a) On Friday, 18 August, the Naval Attache was given the task of preparing the Basic Evacuation Plan.

(b) The first draft of this Plan was issued to the Responsible Officers on Tuesday, the 23rd. The Ambassador returned at 1900 that date and approved the Plan.

(c) On 24 August mimeographed copies of the Plan were sent to all Consular Officers in the United Kingdom, including Annex "F".

(d) On 24 August Commander Vaughn Bailey, U.S.N., Ret., offered his services at his own expense and volunteered as Embarkation Officer at Weston-super-Mare. The next day he departed, reporting en route to Consul Baker in Bristol.

(e) On 24 August First Lieutenant John V.V. Veeder, Marine Corps Reserve, offered his services for three days and was sent on a voluntary basis to Liverpool to be Embarkation Officer at Holyhead, reporting to Consul-General Holland en route.

(f) On 25 August Captain David C. Hamrahan, U.S.N., Ret., offered his services voluntarily and as he was to be in Scotland, volunteered to act as Embarkation Officer, Glasgow, in the event of war or evacuation. The Consul-General at Glasgow has been so informed. The general scope of the duties of the Embarkation Officers is covered in Annex "F".

2. (a) In connection with the Basic Evacuation Plan, through appropriate agencies of the British Government, arrangements have been made to secure locally at Weston-super-Mare the services of one of the P. & A. Campbell side-wheel steamers for transfer of passengers from the dock to the steamer.

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(2) and (3)(D) or (2)

OSD letter, May, 4, 1972

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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A16-3/MS

01-Ye-(0)

Subject: Evacuation, United Kingdom.

(b) Similarly for Holyhead, arrangements have been completed for the use of one of the London-Midland-Scottish Railway steamers on the Belfast-Holyhead run.

(c) No financial obligation concerning the Navy Department has been or will be entered into in this connection.

(d) Arrangements have been made with the Admiralty to communicate directly with American merchant ships bound for England in case of necessity.

3. The Naval Attache's letter, reference (B), covering the expansion proposed in the event of war, was forwarded by air mail on 23 August. It represents the best estimate of the requirements of the situation that can be foreseen at the present time.

4. Reference (b) which states no funds are now available, has been received. No commitments whatsoever involving the Government have been made.

5. For the information of the Department there are about 4,500 permanent registered Americans to be evacuated. The figure of about 4,500 tourists to be evacuated as of 24 August has probably since been swelled appreciably by the cancellation of liners, the recall of liners, and some influx of Americans from European ports.

6. For the information of the Department concerning the distribution of the Basic Plan, distribution was not made to the Foreign Office, Home Office or G.P.O.

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 8(b) and (c) or (d)
OSD letter, May, 4, 1973

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE

001-4/Europe (Serial No. LONDON
R16-3/MARCF 793).

29 August 1959
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
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From: Naval Attache.
To : The Director of Naval Intelligence.
Subject: International Situation, - Recent information.

1. The information recently obtained is furnished below:-

2. (a) On 25 August the Director of Naval Intelligence, Admiralty, informed the Naval Attache -

- (1) British Navy on full war-footing, and ready;
- (2) He did not think there were any German Submarines in the Western Atlantic.
- (3) The Home Fleet is at Scapa Flow.

(b) A discussion of an "information" dispatch with a subordinate occurred, and it was apparent that as of 1600 that date the Admiralty believed the German Naval forces to be concentrated; the place was not mentioned in this conversation; the radio of the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU had been heard for two days, but it was specified this did not necessarily mean these two ships were no longer with the others.

3. (a) All naval ports and harbors in United Kingdom are protected by either all or some combination of Anti-Torpedo, Anti-M.T.B., or Anti-Submarine Boom Defense.

(b) Boom Defenses for Aden left Rosyth last week.

(c) H.M.S. RODNEY is in Rosyth for docking.

(d) "C" Class cruisers, manned by Reservists, were holding target practices in Firth of Forth last week - they were just recommissioned prior to 9 August.

(e) The Boom Depot at Rosyth is manned by recently retired officers, with acting rank higher than previously held.

(f) Boom Depot personnel (other than officer) and on vessels working on this project, are civilian employees - all come into regular service on outbreak of war.

-1-

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(c) and (d) on (S)
CSD Letter, May, 4, 1972

By SLR

MAY 21 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

01-Ye-(0)

~~001-4/Barope~~ (Serial No. 793)

R16-3/HAROP

Subject: International Situation, - Recent information.

4. An informal inquiry as to the scope of the recently announced control of the merchant ships brought the response that certain merchantmen had initial war tasks to perform, following which Trans-Atlantic passenger service would be returned - not necessarily to the normal extent.

5. Considerable concern has been evidenced in Naval circles over the problem of obtaining supplies from the United States owing to the terms of the Neutrality Act as generally understood. The statement has been made that after two weeks the heavy congestion on the Eastern seaboard would over-tax the carrying capacity of British merchantmen service.

6. Certain interesting information on the employment of the Royal Air Force has been forwarded by dispatch from the Military Attache's Office.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(D) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May, 1, 1973

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE
A16-3/War Op (Serial No. 799) LONDON

30 August, 1939.

From: Naval Attache.
To : The Director of Naval Intelligence.

Subject: International Situation - Recent Information.

1. In conversation with the Dutch Naval Attache to-day the following points of interest were mentioned by him:-

(a) Neutrality. The Dutch will be neutral and will defend their neutrality. They are prepared to flood certain sections if threatened; they intend to fire upon hostile planes crossing their territory; they expect a very drastic blockade; they expect to be rationed in fuel oil and say that they will only be ready to sell petroleum or its products after their own needs have been satisfied.

(b) Motor Torpedo-Boats. The Dutch recently bought ~~some~~ from Scott-Paine and got ~~their last one~~ out just before the British forbid all exports. They ran it across under its own power. The present Naval* expects, conditions warranting, to be placed in command of a small flotilla of these boats and to sail with them from Holland to the Dutch East Indies some time this winter. He considers them very useful as they will be practically immune from mines and torpedoes. He thinks a section of three boats firing a salvo of four torpedoes each can make a very respectful spread. He does not know how live torpedoes will actually run from these boats as they have not yet been tested. He considers an anti-aircraft battery (machine guns) most essential for their preservation against air attack.

(c) He thinks the Germans will not mine the Little Belt or Skagerrack. German officers have told him doing so in the last war was a mistake.

(d) German Internal Conditions. He stated, through their civilian contacts in Holland, that they considered the internal conditions in Germany most unstable with the stress increasing daily. He stated there was much resentment at calling up for service those over forty years of age chiefly owing to the partiality showed Nazi followers in being exempted.

*Attache

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(b) and 3(d) of (S)

OSD Action, May, 1, 1979

By SLR

Date MAY 21 1973

01-Ye-(0)

Al6-3/War Op (Serial No. 799)

30 August, 1939.

Subject: International Situation - Recent Information.

2. The subject of cruiser warfare has been given most serious consideration by the British Admiralty who have three entire Divisions of the Admiralty assigned this problem. It has been stated a great deal of money has been spent in this connection.

3. The action taken in delaying the BREMEN at New York yesterday was considered most interesting by various Admiralty Officers. The Dutch Naval Attache expressed great interest in this action also. A rumor that a British cruiser with 8-inch guns was waiting for the BREMEN off New York was declared to be untrue by one British Officer in the Admiralty.

4. There is no mistaking the determination of the General Public in Great Britain not to yield again to Germany. The Armed Services are fully ready to go to war at a moments notice. While admitting the seriousness of their tasks, they all say it is better to have it settled now.

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K. O. 11652, Sec. 3(ED) and 5(ED) or (ED)

OSD letter, May, 4, 1972

By: [signature]

Date:

MAY 21 1973