FLASH
Folder 3. Joint U.S.-British Monthly Statement on Submarine Warfare --

1945. [000.7(3) Sec. 3]

As above.
MISCELLANEOUS
BRITISH MASSING SHIPS FOR PACIFIC

Alexander Cites Big Forces Already There Despite New U-Boat Drive Threat

By Wireless to The New York Times

LONDON, March 7—Britain is steadily massing naval forces for the Far East in the expectation that "a large share of the task of defeating Japan will fall on the men of the Royal and Merchant Navies," A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the House of Commons today.

The British Eastern Fleet, he said, after reinforcement early last year, included among other vessels the battleships Queen Elizabeth and Valiant, the battle cruiser Repulse, the fine French battleship Richelieu, American and British aircraft carriers, several British cruisers, the Netherlands ship Tromp and British, American and Dutch destroyers.

There is also the British Pacific Fleet, which includes the battleship King George V and the aircraft-carriers Indomitable, Indefatigable, Illustrious and Victorious.

After having detailed operations already conducted by British naval forces in the East, Mr. Alexander said that these were only the beginning of their tasks and that the fleets would continue to be reinforced to play an ever-growing part in the defeat of Japan.

Mr. Alexander's statement of British naval plans for the Pacific was of added interest because of reports today from Australia that there seemed to be some hitch in plans for using the British and American fleets in combined operations; that the British fleet was alleged to lack speed and range and to have insufficient air power. The First Lord said that "the Navy's air power has continued to grow and to make the most of its opportunities. Experience gained in supporting landings will stand us in good stead in our united operations against Japan. We hope and expect that in the Far Eastern air war the naval air arm will have greater opportunities and greater successes than ever before."

The First Lord warned that, although the number of U-boats sunk continued to increase, the enemy was employing new equipment and might use new types and tactics at any time. He thought it highly significant that, after the beating that the U-Boats had taken in 1943, the enemy still seemed to consider it his best hope of averting defeat.
5 March 1945

FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER
TO: THE PRESIDENT
NO: 903, 5 March 1945

The First Lord of the Admiralty will be making his customary annual statement to Parliament on Wednesday, March 7, in which it will be necessary for him to make a reference in general terms to the history of our submarine warfare in the past year.

This will not conflict in any way with our monthly statement. I have read it myself and it will not touch upon any technical secrets which would be useful to the Japanese.

To President at HP as MR-007-277 (05/15/42)

Copy to Adm Edwards, Navy Department, for information.
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO. 903, 3 March 1945

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM 051345Z VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: Annual report by First Lord of the Admiralty.

ACTION:

1. To the President at Hyde Park as MR-001-277 (0515402).
2. Copy to Admiral Edwards, Navy Department, for their information.
3. No action taken. Report was made on 7 March to Parliament; this message removed from STATUS REPORT.

COPIES TO:

ORIGINAL: PM-PRES FILE

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

000.7 (3)
9 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Director, Office of War Information.
Director of Public Relations, Navy Dept.

Reference my memorandum of 7 April 1945, the President has informed the Prime Minister that we agree to the submarine statement as submitted by the British. Its release in accordance with usual procedure is therefore authorized.

The following correction is to be made, however, before its release. The second sentence in the statement has been corrected by the British to read "has undoubtedly delayed" etc. instead of "had undoubtedly delayed", etc.

WILSON BROWN,
Vice Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.
9 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Director of Public Relations, Navy Dept.
Director, Office of War Information.

Reference my memorandum of 7 April 1945, the President has informed the Prime Minister that we agree to the submarine statement as submitted by the British. Its release in accordance with usual procedure is therefore authorized.

The following correction is to be made, however, before its release. The second sentence in the statement has been corrected by the British to read "has undoubtedly delayed" etc. instead of "had undoubtedly delayed" etc.

WILSON BROWN,
Vice Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.
To: The President of The United States.
Nr: Filed 091045Z.

Private Secretary to Prime Minister to White House.

With reference to President's Number 738-M U-boat statement for March: word "had" in second sentence should read "has". Error regretted.

End.

RRH/118
SECRET

SECRET
PRIORITY

From: Opnav

To: Alusma, London O816142, NCR____

NUMBER 738. SECRET AND PERSONAL FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

Your 937. We agree.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room at 0816142, April, 1945.

H. W. PUTNAM,
Major, A.C.
FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER

DATE: #738, 8 April 1945

SUBJECT: March anti-submarine statement

ACTION:

1. Answers P4 #937, 7 Apr 45, which was sent to the President at Warm Springs as MR-OUT-364, 071330Z. Copies of P4 #937 also sent to Navy Department and OWI for comment.

2. President replied in MR-IN-134 to Admiral Brown (071628Z) stating: "MR-OUT-364 approved subject to any changes by OWI and Navy."

3. Admiral Cooke informed Admiral Brown by telephone Sunday morning, 8 April 1945, that both Navy and OWI had approved statement.

4. Attached dispatch sent to Churchill at 081642Z. President informed in MR-OUT-373, 081717Z, which stated: "OWI and Navy have concurred in your approval of the U-boat statement and the Prime has been notified that we agree."

5. A message from the private secretary to the Prime Minister to the White House, filed 091045Z, corrected one word in the sub-statement. OWI and Navy informed by memo.

COPIES TO:

MR 000.7 (3)

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

000.7 (3)
MR-OUT-26A to Warm Springs (0715902)

FROM: THE PRIME MINISTER
TO: THE PRESIDENT
NO: 937, 7 APRIL 1945

There follows for your concurrence the draft of the anti-U-boat warfare statement for March. I am also consulting Mr. MacKenzie King.

"During March the U-boat effort continued to increase but fewer successes were obtained against our shipping than in February. Casualties inflicted on U-boats were again severe and the prolonged and extensive bombing and minelaying policy of the Allies had undoubtedly delayed the introduction of the new type U-boats. In a similar manner the capture of Danzig by the Soviet arms helps to cut off the evil at its source."

PRIME

RECD 0712002.
7 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR

Director, Office of War Information.
Director of Public Relations, Navy Department.

The following suggestion for the March, 1945, Submarine Warfare Statement has been received from the Prime Minister this date. The President desires any comments you may have to make on this statement.

"During March the U-boat effort continued to increase but fewer successes were obtained against our shipping than in February. Casualties inflicted on U-boats were again severe and the prolonged and extensive bombing and minelaying policy of the Allies had undoubtedly delayed the introduction of the new type U-boats. In a similar manner the capture of Danzig by the Soviet arms helps to cut off the evil at its source."

WILSON BROWN,
Vice Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.
7 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Director of Public Relations, Navy Department.
Director, Office of War Information.

The following suggestion for the March, 1945, Submarine Warfare Statement has been received from the Prime Minister this date. The President desires any comments you may have to make on this statement.

"During March the U-boat effort continued to increase but fewer successes were obtained against our shipping than in February. Casualties inflicted on U-boats were again severe and the prolonged and extensive bombing and minelaying policy of the Allies had undoubtedly delayed the introduction of the new type U-boats. In a similar manner the capture of Danzig by the Soviet arms helps to cut off the evil at its source."

WILSON BROWN,
Vice Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT

DATE #937, 7 April 1945

TOR MAP ROOM 07/1200Z. VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: March Antisubmarine Statement.

ACTION:

1. To the President at War Springs as MR-OUT-364, 071300Z.
2. Copies to Navy Department and OWI for comment.
3. MR-IN-134, from the President to Admiral Brown (071628Z) stated, "MR-OUT-364 approved subject to any changes by OWI and Navy."
4. Admiral Cooke informed Admiral Brown by telephone Sunday morning, 8 April 1945, that both Navy and OWI had approved statement.
5. President informed Churchill of agreement in PRES-PA #723.
6. President informed in MR-OUT-373, 081717Z, which stated: "OWI and Navy have concurred in your approval of the U-boat statement and the Prime has been notified that we agree."
7. A message from the private secretary to the Prime Minister to the White House, filed 091044Z, corrected one word in the sub statement. OWI and Navy informed by memo.

COPIES TO: MR 000.7 (3)

DATE: 000.7 (3)

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE
FEBRUARY
1945
MEMORANDUM FOR

Director, Office of War Information.
Director of Public Relations, Navy Department.

The following submarine statement for February, 1945, has been approved by the President and the Prime Minister for release at the usual time:

"During the month of February a moderate number of Allied merchant vessels fell victim to U-boat activity. However, the anti-submarine forces were successful in destroying more enemy submarines this past month than in January.

"Despite satisfactory results now being obtained in the war on undersea raiders, our forces must maintain unceasing vigilance because any enemy with a large number of submarines always possesses a potential threat."

J. A. TYMEE, JR.,
Commander, U.S.N.,
Asst. Naval Aide to the President.
8 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR

Director of Public Relations, Navy Department.
Director, Office of War Information.

The following submarine statement for February, 1945, has been approved by the President and the Prime Minister for release at the usual time:

"During the month of February a moderate number of Allied merchant vessels fell victim to U-boat activity. However, the anti-submarine forces were successful in destroying more enemy submarines this past month than in January.

"Despite satisfactory results now being obtained in the war on undersea raiders, our forces must maintain unceasing vigilance because any enemy with a large number of submarines always possesses a potential threat."

J. A. TYREE, JR.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Asst. Naval Aide to the President.
8 March 1945

FROM: PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL
TO: THE PRESIDENT
NO: 906


Rec'd 081320Z
T.P.V.M.T.
FROM: The Prime Minister
TO: The President

DATE: 906, 8 March 1945

TOR MAP ROOM 081820Z VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: February sub statement

ACTION:

1. Answers Press-PM #711, 7 March 1945.
2. To the President via Miss Tully.
3. Navy and OWI notified; statement released at usual time.
4. No reply.

COPIES TO:

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

000.7 (3)
TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

FROM: OPNAV

TO: Algiers, London

071233Z NCR 4462

NUMBER 711, PERSONAL AND TOP SECRET FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR THE
PRIME MINISTER.

Our suggested text of the February Anti-U-boat Statement follows:

QUOTE. During the month of February a moderate number of Allied
merchant vessels fell victim to U-boat activity. However, the anti-
submarine forces were successful in destroying more enemy submarines this
past month than in January.

Despite satisfactory results now being obtained in the war on
undersea raiders our forces must maintain unceasing vigilance because any
enemy with a large number of submarines always possesses a potential threat.
UNQUOTE.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 071233Z March 1945:

F. H. GRAHAM,
Captain, AGD.
**FROm**  The President  
**TO**  The Prime Minister  
**DATE**  711, 7 March 1945  
**SUBJECT:** February anti-submarine statement.

**ACTION:**

1. Proposed statement for February prepared by Navy Department; approved by OWI.Sent to the President at Hyde Park as MR-OUT-285 (0621352).
2. President approved in MR-IN-156 (0623332).
3. Proposed statement sent to Churchill as PRES-PM #711, 7 Mar 45.
4. PM approved in his #906, 8 Mar 45.
5. Navy and OWI notified; released to press at usual time.

**COPIES TO:**  
**ORIGINAL:** PRES-PM FILE  
**DATE:**  
**BY DIRECTION OF:**  

000.7 (3)
6 March 1945

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM ADMIRAL BROWN.

The following suggested submarine statement for February has been approved by the Navy Department and OWI. Your approval is requested to send to the Prime Minister:

QUOTE. During the month of February a moderate number of Allied merchant vessels fell victim to U-boat activity. However, the anti-submarine forces were successful in destroying more enemy submarines this past month than in January.

Despite satisfactory results now being obtained in the war on undersea raiders our forces must maintain unceasing vigilance because any enemy with a large number of submarines always possesses a potential threat. UNQUOTE.

SENT: 062135Z

President approved in his
MR-IN-156 6 March 45 (062333Z)
Proposed joint-sub release:

"During the month of February a moderate number of Allied merchant vessels fell victim to U-Boat activity. However, the anti-submarine forces were successful in destroying more enemy submarines this past month than in January.

"Despite satisfactory results now being obtained in the war on undersea raiders our forces must maintain unceasing vigilance because an enemy with a large number of submarines always possesses a potential threat."

***
Proposed joint-submarine release:

"During the month of February a slightly larger number of Allied merchant vessels fell victims to U-Boat activity than in the month of January. Counterbalancing, however, was the success of our anti-submarine forces in definitely destroying a great many more enemy submarines this past month as compared with January.

"Moreover, the number of U-Boats sent to the bottom of the ocean in February compared favorably with the average monthly toll of U-Boats during the second half of 1944.

"The enemy submarine menace has been greatly localized as compared with the early days when they were striking all over the Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. Despite satisfactory results now being obtained in the war on undersea raiders our forces have to maintain unceasing vigilance because an enemy with a large number of submarines always poses a potential threat."

***
JANUARY

1945
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

ADVANCE RELEASE: To be Held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE FOR DOMESTIC RELEASE and NOT TO BE USED by PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 6:30 P.M., EWT, Friday, February 9, 1945.

The following joint Anglo-American statement on submarine and anti-submarine operations is issued under the authority of the President and the Prime Minister:

"Throughout January the enemy's U-boat activity was slightly greater than in December, but losses of merchant shipping were not substantially different. The U-boats making use of their new devices penetrated further into focal areas of shipping close in shore. Results of our counter-measures have been encouraging."

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END OF ADVANCE RELEASE: To be Held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE FOR DOMESTIC RELEASE and NOT TO BE USED by PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 6:30 P.M., EWT, Friday, February 9, 1945.
FLASH