Folder 7. MR 530 U.S.-USSR-Italy (1)—Shuttle Bombing Operations, 31 January–9 June 1944.
FROM: OPNAV
TO: ALUSHA, MOSCOW

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN.

Tell Deane in Moscow I am delighted that the shuttling has
gone through with such fine cooperation. It has made an excellent
impression over here also.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 18:40, EWT, 9 June 44.

OGDEN S. COLLINS,
Lieutenant, USNR

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date DEC 11 1973

092313 NCR 7848
Delivered Moscow, 100830

Regraded Unclassified
FOR: HARRIMAN
FROM: THE PRESIDENT

June 9, 1944

Tell Deane in Moscow I am delighted that the shuttling has gone through with such fine cooperation. It has made an excellent impression over here also.

ROOSEVELT
From: U S Military Mission, Moscow, Russia
To: The President of the United States
No. 658 Filed: 061650 Z

Personal and [redacted] for the President from Harriman signed Deane.

General Haker before his departure reported to me he found that the three Russian bases had been well prepared for our bombers and fighters, that the organization of all departments has worked smoothly, and that his men had been well cared for and cordially received by the Soviet citizens. He commented on the speed with which the work had been done by the Soviets and the splendid cooperation that had been received by our troops.

Gen Kessler, USA, and the Soviet General Parminov he considers deserve great credit for the accomplishment.

General Haker received a warm, enthusiastic welcome from Marshal Novikov, Commander of the Red Air Force, General Nikitin and other senior officers of the Red Air Staff. Exchange of our intelligence information has been arranged and all outstanding operational questions were settled to the satisfaction of the Soviets and ourselves. Molotov received General Haker and was much interested.
in him and his statements.

Later Marshal Novikov for the first time came to the American Embassy to pay his respects to General Eaker and to witness the award of the Legion of Merit Commander to General Nikitin. Other important Soviet officials and Army officers were present. The Soviet officials, particularly the air officers, appeared completely at home and among friends. The formality and stiffness which usually attend this sort of affair were entirely absent. The landing of our planes on Soviet soil and the coming of General Eaker himself have made a profound impression here.

In addition to the tactical value of the operation, all the Soviet officials place great importance on the morale effect of this, our first combined operation, both in bringing the people of our two countries closer together in the development of lasting friendship as well as in undermining enemy morale through ending the Hitler-Goebbels propaganda that the Allies could be divided.

Me Sig
3 June 1944

From: CG US Army Forces, Poltava, Ukraine
For: The President of the United States
Number JK 148

Personal for the President from Harriman sgd Kessler. Ref JK 148.

All of us here, Russian and American alike, were thrilled to see General Eaker with his bomber force land on Soviet bases this afternoon after successfully attacking Rumanian targets. The Russian Commanding General was so excited that I just avoided the victory embrace.

On landing, General Eaker awarded him the Legion of Merit with citation signed by you.

Our men and Russians have been working together in real harmony for past six weeks in preparation of base.
From: CG US Army Forces in the Middle East, Cairo Egypt
To: The President of the United States
No. Unnumbered Filed: 301650Z

Personal and [REDAKTED] for the President from Harriman.

Spent Monday night at MAAF Headquarters near Naples to discuss final details regarding FRANTIC. Saw Generals Wilson, Devers, Baker etc. From what I learned it seems clear that General Devers has played a major role and has given the drive to follow through and to take advantage of the opportunities as they developed. Our divisions have shown greater persistence and endurance in following up their successes than have the British. This was partially due to reserves planned to be readily available to each division and partly because British divisional commanders have been more cautious, particularly in waiting for their tanks to keep up.

Greatest admiration is expressed for the French under the command of General Juin whose resourcefulness
and determination are considered outstanding among the corps commanders. Generals Wilson and Devers want to use him as the French commander for the next operation whereas, because of his association with Weygand, DeGaulle has so far refused to allow him to enter France. They intend to make an issue of this as they consider no other French general is equal to the tasks.

Our combined Air Force is working as a single force under General Eaker's leadership carrying out with promptness and accuracy the tasks called for by the Army as well as strategic bombing.

All are confident and hope for Rome in about a week and that the German Army will be shattered, even though the Germans may succeed in extricating some of their forces.

An interesting incident was a personal message from Tito to Eaker appealing for help in his present predicament. Eaker has answered with bombing attacks on the German troop concentrations supported by fighters strafing enemy road transport. This latter was not previously feasible as until Tito was driven to the hills it was impossible to distinguish between his transport and that of the Germans.

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Unless otherwise indicated this dispatch will be transmitted with deferred precedence and as administrative.

$41001$ NCR 295

Originator fill in date and time:

Date Time

On outgoing dispatches please leave about one inch clear space before beginning text.

PERSONAL AND FOR THE EYES OF THE PRESIDENT

IN MY CONVERSATION WITH STALIN THIS EVENING I THanked HIM FOR THE RECEIPTION OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OFFICERS WHO WERE HERE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHUTTLE BOMBING AND ASKED HIM HOW SOON THE CHIEF OF THE FAR EASTERN AIR FORCE WOULD BE IN MOSCOW FOR THE CONFERENCE ON THE SUBJECT OF BASES. STALIN SAID THAT HE EXPECTED HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THAT THESE CONVERSATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE THEN. I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE HAD ANY FURTHER INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ABOUT JAPANESE PLANS. HE SAID HE HAD UNFORTUNATELY NOTHING FURTHER THAN THE JAPANESE HAD INADEQUATE FORCES TO HOLD THEIR OUTER DEFENCE LINE AND HAD TO SHORTEN THEIR LINES. HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR PLANS FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date DEC 11 1973

FILE.

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

SEALED

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

NCR 18

Regarded Unclassified
NAVAL MESSAGE

FROM
ALUSNA MOSCOW

RELEASED BY

DATE
2 MARCH 1944

TOR CODEROOM
0027/32

DECODED BY
ALLENSWORTH

PARAPHRASED BY
ALLENSWORTH

ROUTED BY
ALLENSWORTH

ADDRESSES
GNO

PRECEDENCE
ROUTINE

INFORMATION

FOR ACTION

ALUSNA MOSCOW

PLEASE NOTE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date DEC 11 1973

PHOTO

DECLASSIFIED

Personal and

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM

HARRIMAN

AIR OFFICERS FROM ENGLAND ARRIVED MOSCOW A DAY OR TWO AGO IN COMBAT FORTRESS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHUTTLE BOMBING AND PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE. GENERAL DEANE TOOK THEM YESTERDAY TO MEET DEPUTY CHIEF OF RED AIR STAFF AND OTHER AIR OFFICERS. THE PROGRAM WAS REVIEWS AND APPEARED GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE FIRST STEP WAS TO INSPECT PROPOSED FIELDS WHICH WILL BE DONE PROMPTLY. OFFICERS OF RED AIR STAFF ARE MUCH INTERESTED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE FORTRESS WHICH THEY ARE DOING THIS AFTERNOON.

PIA.... ACTION

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date DEC 11 1973

SEALED

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

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3 F-I OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL.

51

52

Regraded Unclassified
NAVY MESSAGE

FROM ALUSNA MOSCOW
RELEASED BY
DATE 6 FEB 44
TOR CORDEROM 1011
DECODED BY HELTON
PARAPHRASED BY WIDMAN
ROUTED BY GERMAN

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

GENERAL ARNOLD
GENERAL SPAATZ

IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW □

Regraded Unclassified

FROM ALUSNA MOSCOW. COMMACEU PASS TO CNO.

FOR GENERAL ARNOLD AND INFO GENERAL SPAATZ

MR. MOLOTOV CALLED A MEETING TONIGHT AT WHICH THE AMBASSADOR, MARSHAL NOVIKOV, COL. GEN. NIKITIN, MAJ. GEN. SLAVIN AND I DISCUSSED THE SHUTTLE BOMBING AND PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE PROJECTS.

DISCUSSION WAS GENERAL IN NATURE. IT DEVELOPED THAT ONLY AIRFIELDS SUITABLE FOR FOUR ENGINE BOMBERS ARE TWO IN THE NORTH, AT LENINGRAD AND NOVGOROD, AND TWO IN THE SOUTH, AT POLTAVA AND KHARKOW. ANOTHER FIELD COULD BE MADE

PART I 052125 NCR 505
PART II 052127 NCR 493
PART III 052130 NCR 483

SEALED

Make original only. Deliver to Communication Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREC)
AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH AT KURSK. BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO INITIATE OPERATIONS ON THE THREE SOUTHERN FIELDS MENTIONED INCLUDING KURSK WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESSING FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIELD IF THREE PROVE TO BE INADEQUATE AND NOT ATTEMPT TO UTILIZE THE FIELDS ON THE NORTH ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SOUTHERN FIELDS ARE SUFFICIENTLY LOCATED FOR OPERATION BOTH FROM U.K. AND ITALY AT THIS TIME. THERE IS NOTHING AVAILABLE IN THE SMOLENSK AREA. WEATHER AT THE SOUTHERN FIELDS ENABLE 50 PER CENT MORE FLYING DAYS THAN IN THE NORTH. SUITABLE FIELDS LIMITED BY THE SMALL NUMBER OF FOUR ENGINE BOMBERS THE SOVIETS OPERATE AND MANY OF THESE WITH THEIR FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE

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

SEALED

Make original only. Deliver to Communication Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREG 568)

CLASSIFIED

NCR 18

Regraded Unclassified
WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY GERMANS DURING OCCUPATION AND NO EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO RECONDITION THEM DURING WINTER CONDITIONS. THE MAINTENANCE AND HOUSING FACILITIES ARE IN MUCH BETTER CONDITION IN THE SOUTHERN FIELDS THAN AROUND LENINGRAD. IT WAS AGREED THAT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PERMISSION WAS GRANTED FOR THEM TO COME ON DIRECT ROUTE FROM U.K. TO MOSCOW IN A U.S. PLANE. WE SUGGESTED AND SOVIETS AGREED THAT REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE SENT IN A COMBAT TYPE AIRCRAFT THAT YOU PROPOSE TO USE IN SHUTTLE BOMBING. WE THINK THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL BOTH FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF DECIDING ON DETAILS OF SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE ALSO FOR MORALE PURPOSES. IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO SEND YOUR PERSONNEL AT ONCE.
I indicated that we might be prepared for the discussions in about a week. The SHE party should be kept as small as possible but should be qualified to discuss all aspects in detail including selection of fields, the proposed frequency and size of bomber missions, weather, maintenance and supply, personnel, communications, methods of identification and security, details concerning Soviet request for targets to be attacked, all of the above items in connection with the photo reconnaissance project and such other special items as may be pertinent in this connection. We suggest that the party bring with it the latest information on bomber offensive including photographs, statistics and future targets to be used.
IN DISCUSSIONS FOR GOOD WILL PURPOSES.

COL. BOND OF THIS MISSION WILL ASSIST YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND BE AVAILABLE TO MAINTAIN LIAISON BETWEEN SOVIETS AND GENERAL SPAATZ HEADQUARTERS AFTER HIS REPRESENTATIVES RETURN.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT SPECIAL EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON RAPID ESTABLISHMENT OF PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS AS THIS WILL RESULT IN OUR OPERATING ON SOVIET BASES MORE QUICKLY.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO WHETHER PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE FROM BOTH ITALY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD BE BASED ON ONE FIELD IN THE NORTH AND ONE IN THE SOUTH OR CENTRALLY LOCATED SUCH AS AT POLTAVA.

Regraded Unclassified
ALL OF THE PARTY YOU SEND INCLUDING CREW OF AIRCRAFT SHOULD APPLY FOR PASSPORTS AND VISAS IN LONDON AND SEND ME AT ONCE THEIR FULL NAMES, PLACES AND DATES OF BIRTH, AND PASSPORT NUMBERS. I BELIEVE THAT I CAN GET THESE APPROVED QUICKLY.

ACTION... ARMY (AAF--GENERAL ARNOLD)

COMING... NAVAIDE....

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

DECLASSIFIED
633 Letter, 5-3-73
DEC 11 1973
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING MESSAGE

SECURITY CONTROL

AC/AS, Plans AFAFP Hq AAF
Operational Plans Division
European Branch

February 5, 1944

USWILMS
MOSCOW RUSSIA

Number 246

From Arnold to Deane.

Paraphrase of your 188 dated February 4, 1944 being transmitted to Spaatz for direct handling together with our reaction thereto, as follows: Our policy to divert heavy bombers from POINTBLANK targets as little as possible. Our reaction to making photos taken by photo reconnaissance aircraft available to Russians favorable. Await instructions from Spaatz before making any final commitments relative to foregoing.

559

ORIGINATOR: General Arnold

INFORMATION: OPD
C of S
General Strong
CC/S (Capt Royal USN)

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1973
By RHP, NARS Date DEC 11 1973

CM-OUT-2163 (5 Feb 44) 1921Z efv

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COPY No. 19

Regraded Unclassified
From: Moscow
To: AGWAR
No: 188, 4 Feb 1944

For General Arnold from Deane.

Supplementing my number 185 of 2 February in connection with shuttle bombing. The Ambassador told Stalin with my concurrence that Soviet requests to have our bombers attack certain enemy targets on their return to the UK or Italy would be considered although the usual practice would be to strike at German industrial facilities both enroute to Russian bases and return. It is possible that an occasional attack against such supply and rail centers as Minum might greatly facilitate Russian advance and thereby react to our advantage. The Ambassador also informed Stalin that photographs taken by photoreconnaissance aircraft enroute to Russian bases would be developed on the Russian bases and be made available to them. Request instructions from you as to how far I might go in connection with the above matters when I have my negotiations with the Russians.

No Sig

185 is CM-IN-1979 (3 Feb 44) GEN ARNOLD.

ACTION: GEN ARNOLD
INFORMATION: OPD
GEN STRONG
C of 3
CC/S Capt. Royal, USN
CM-IN-3351 (5 Feb 44) 1059Z

DECLASSIFIED
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHF, NLB, Date MAY 2 1974

Adm. Leahy

COPY No. 17

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24-53504428-0000

Regraded Unclassified
From HARRIMAN
Released by
Date 3 FEB 1944
Decoded by ROONEY/ALLENWORTH
Paraphrased by ROONEY
Routed by ROONEY

| PART ONE          | 022112  | NCR 8052 |
| PART TWO          | 022115  | NCR 7998 |
| PART THREE        | 02120   | NCR 8017 |

Personal and FOR THE PRESIDENTS EYES ONLY FROM HARRIMAN.

I SAW MARSHAL STALIN THIS AFTERNOON AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL THE MILITARY PROPOSALS YOU SUBMITTED TO HIM AT TEHERAN. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR SHUTTLE BOMBING ON SOVIET AIRFIELDS FOR 150 TO 200 US HEAVY BOMBERS AS A STARTER AND FOR DAILY US PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE PLANES FROM BOTH ENGLAND AND ITALY. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUEST WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM GENERAL ARNOLD APPROVED BY EISENHOWER. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND THE SOVIET AIR STAFF WILL BE ARRANGED IMMEDIATELY TO IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION. DEANE IS CABLEING ARNOLD FURTHER DETAILS. * * * * *

ORIGINAL FILED "MR 530 JAPAN (1) Air operations against Japan."

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date DEC 11 1973

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

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From: Moscow
To: AGWAR
Number: 185
2 February 1944

From Deane action General* information General Eisenhower.

Marshal Stalin tonight informed the Ambassador that he agreed to shuttle bombing project: limited to zone 05 to 200 bombers initially and 5 airfields; 3 in north and 3 in south. He stated that discussions would be held within the next few days between mister Molotov, the ambassador, a representative from the Red Air Force, and myself for the purpose of making general arrangements. These initial discussions will be followed by the working out of the more detailed technical arrangements.

Marshal Stalin also approved project for allowing our photo reconnaissance aircraft to come into Soviet bases, 1 in north and 1 in south. These might or might not be same bases used for shuttle bombing. I recommend that you have General Spaatz send an officer most qualified to discuss and make detailed arrangements for shuttle bombing and one for photo reconnaissance projects. Possibly the same officer could do both. The officer or officers should apply at once for passports and visas informing me of their names, place and date of birth, passport numbers and place of application. They should not leave England until their visas have been obtained.

Request I be informed with least delay the general locality in which you would prefer to have each of the 6 shuttle bombing bases and 2 photo reconnaissance bases. Would like to have estimate of minimum US personnel that will be required. The ambassador told Marshal Stalin that

* As received, being avo'd

CM-IN-1979 (3 Feb 44)

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this would be kept to the minimum and that US personnel would only be utilized for tasks for which Soviet personnel was not qualified or available. Request your estimate of gasoline stock required at each field and whether or not ammunition and bombs can be procured from middle east or preferably from UK via northern ports as delivery thru Persian Gulf exceptionally slow.

No Sig

ACTION: General Arnold
INFORMATION: General Handy
           General Strong
           C of S

CM-IN-1979 (3 Feb 44) 1808Z med

DECLASSIFIED
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 2 1974

COPY No.

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SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE
SECURITY
CONTROL

FROM: Moscow
To: AGMAR
Nr: 178
31st January 1944

For General Arnold from Deane.

I have presented the contents of your 215 of January 27, 44, to The Red Army General Staff. The Ambassador has asked for a conference with Marshall Stalin at which he will urge that all our military proposals be expedited. I am hopeful that active discussions on these subjects will start within the next week. However it is difficult to make any promises in this regard.

No Sig

215 is CM-OUT-10914 (27 Jan 44) Gen Arnold
ACTION: Gen Arnold
INFORMATION: OPD
Gen Strong
Log

CM-IN-236 (1 Feb 44) 06542 ow

DECLASSIFIED
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RFH, HLR, Data MAY 2 1974

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Regraded Unclassified
AC/AS, Plans AFAQP, Hq AAF
Operational Plans Division
European Branch
January 27, 1944

USMILMIS
Moscow Russia

Number 215


There is quoted below paraphrase of cable from General Spaatz to General Arnold of January 25th.

"Shuttle operations between Italy, UK and USSR for our heavy bomber and photo reconnaissance would increase our capabilities materially provided adequate arrangements are made to prevent delays on starting return trip. We have immediate need of authority and arrangements to dispatch and to continue to dispatch individual photo recon planes to secure urgently needed pictures which are now unobtainable without landing in USSR. As for bombers desire to send up to 360 heavy bombers with fair regularity however could begin with 120 bombers. Do not anticipate establishing American airfields or repair depots but will require some US personnel to supervise or assist in repair and servicing. Messing and housing, fuel and oil and other common materials should be furnished by USSR. Special equipment, tools, ammunition and bombs should be secured if possible in the Middle East from US stocks. Possible radio facilities for navigation and air ground communications may have to be provided also. Any officers needed for liaison or for assistance to Military Attache can be provided by this Headquarters. The use of diplomatic channels for broaching subject and seeking authority to make detailed arrangements by direct communication between American Military Attache at Moscow and this Headquarters is recommended. This whole proposal approved by General Eisenhower. Advice as to probable success of this proposal is desired."

CM-OUT-10914 (27 J...)

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
The above may prove useful in your present negotiations. Attention is called to General Spaatz most immediate need which is authority and arrangements for individual photo recon aircraft to land in USSR.

2674

ORIGINATOR: General Arnold
INFORMATION: OPD
General Strong

CM-OUT-10914 (27 Jan 44) 2229Z ejv

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 8(E) and 8(D) or (M)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date DEC 1 1 1973

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