REPORT ON GENERAL ACTIVITY DURING WEEK ENDING MAY 6 U-BOAT ACTIVITY OFF SYRIAN COAST HAS CEASED FOR THE TIME BEING. GERMAN INTELLIGENCE APPEARS INTERESTED IN COUNTRY EAST OF HOMS AND IND JEBEL DRUZE. INCREASED ACTIVITY OVER BUILDING OF LANDING CRAFT AT VARNA SOME REPORTED TO BE OF 440 TONS AND WELL ARMED. OIL RESERVES BELIEVED TO BE 1500 TONS. PIPE LINE FROM PLOESTI IS NORMALLY USED FOR LOADING TANKERS AT CONSTANZA. NOW REPORTED THAT PUMPING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN REVERSED SO THAT CRUDE OIL FROM TANKERS CAN BE PUMPED TO REFINERIES WILL BE DESTROYED. VERY SMALL AXIS TANKER TONNAGE AT PRESENT IN BLACK SEA BUT IT IS BELIEVED 37 EXIST IN ITALIAN WATERS CAPABLE OF TRANSITING CORINTH CANAL.
REPORT ON GENERAL ACTIVITY DURING WEEK ENDING MAY 6. U-BOAT ACTIVITY OFF SYRIAN COAST HAS CEASED FOR THE TIME BEING. GERMAN INTELLIGENCE APPEARS INTERESTED IN COUNTRY EAST OF HOMS AND IND JEBEL DRUZE. INCREASED ACTIVITY OVER BUILDING OF LANDING CRAFT AT VARNA SOME REPORTED TO BE OF 400 TONS, AND WELL ARMED. OIL RESERVES BELIEVED TO BE 15,000 TONS.

PIPELINE FROM PLOESTI IS NORMALLY USED FOR LOADING TANKERS AT CONSTANZA. NOW REPORTED THAT PUMPING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN REVERSED SO THAT CRUDE OIL FROM TANKERS CAN BE PUMPED TO REFINERIES, AT PLOESTI. PROBABLY LONG TERM POLICY FOR DEALING WITH CASPIAN AND CAUCASIAN OIL ASSUMING THAT RUSSIAN REFINERIES WILL BE DESTROYED. VERY SMALL AXIS TANKER TONNAGE AT PRESENT IN BLACK SEA, BUT IT IS BELIEVED 37 EXIST IN ITALIAN WATERS CAPABLE OF TRANSITING CORINTH CANAL.
CONTINUATION OF MY 61115;

JATTY AT RASELILAL IN CYRENAICA NOW COMPLETED. ANTICIPATE IT WILL SOON BE IN USE FOR UNLOADING UP TO 150 TONS A DAY FROM SCHONERS. AIR PHOTOGRAPHS OF MESSINA SHOT DOIRA CLASS BATTLESHIP WITH DAMAGED STERN, TANK OR OTHER LANDING CRAFT BEING BUILT AT PALERMO. AT PRESENT 14 ARE ON STOCKS. 15TH FLIEGER CORPS WHO WERE BASED BETWEEN THE CREEK MAINLAND AND CRETE HAS MOVED ENTIRELY (ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ETC) TO CRETE AND LAST SATURDAY WEEK 150 GERMAN AIRCRAFT MOSTLY JUNKERS 88 WERE SEEN ON HERAKLION AERDROME (PHOTO).

DISTRIBUTION;

16...ACTION

RECAP; 10/11...2IC...COMINCH...NAVAD...200P...FILE...
FROM STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CPNAV
FOLLOWING RECEIVED 9:09 P.M. FROM
DAKAR DATED MAY 6, 1942
NO. 142
AT 1335 G.M.T. MAY 6 A FURTHER ALERT WAS SOUNDED CONCERNING
APPEARANCE OVER DAKAR OF NON-FRENCH PLANE. THERE
WAS A BRIEF ACTION OF CAPE MANUEL AND RICHELIEU ANTI-AIR BATTERIES.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESCRIPTION IN MY TELEGRAMS
OF APRIL 16 AT POSITION MOLE ONE A TORPEDO NET WAS PLACED
AROUND THE GEORGES LEYGUES AND MONTCAIM CRUISERS TODAY.
(SGD) FLEXER
SENT TO DN 211P 5/7/42 (HJ)
FROM THE CHIEF CABLE AND RADIO CENSOR
TO DNC  MAY  2,  1942:
ATTENTION COMMUNICATIONS WATCH OFFICER
FOLLOWING FROM CENSOR NEW YORK
QUOTE
CCC 5-2-42
PRESS RUSH-
FYI - VICHY RADIO PICKED UP BY UP LISTENING POST AT VALNALLA IS
BROADCASTING FOLLOWING REPORT QUOTE
BERNE REPORTS NEW UNITED STATES THIRTY-FIVETHOUSAND TON BATTLESHIPS
NORTH CAROLINA WASHINGTON PLUS SEVERAL AMERICAN CRUISERS PASSES
THROUGH MEDITERRANEAN TOWARDS GULF EN ROUTE INDIAN OCEAN
UNQUOTE X
1759  CNY  24025  VLK
UNQUOTE
197  CCC  36127-
TOP  2208
CCC 36127 DN 22 R TO

CominCh - COG
10 - 16 - 20 - 20K - CWO (1)
0
NOW PROVED THAT NILESS'S LAND IS WELL DEFENDED BY AA FIRE WHICH POSSIBLY CONFIRMS PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THERE IS A SUBMARINE BASE THERE.

BELIEVED THAT NO SPEAR HEAD TROOPS AT PRESENT IN CRETE GERMAN SOLDIERS DO NOT EXCEED 20000 EXCLUSIVE OF 3000 AIR FORCE AA GUNNERS AND

UNKNOWN NUMBER OF FLYING PERSONNEL AND GROUND STAFF. RECONSTRUCTION AT BENGHAZI HARBOR CONTINUES. RAF DOMBANG HAVING SOME EFFECT IN AS MUCH AS

SHIPPING DISPERSED AT NIGHT THUS DELAYING UNLOADING OPERATIONS. DISPERAL ANCHORAGES ALL IN WATERS TOO SHALLOW FOR BRITISH SUBMARINES TO OPERATE. ESTIMATED PORT CAPACITY AT PRESENT SEVEN HUNDRED TO 1000 TONS PER DAY INCREASING TO THREE THOUSAND TONS IN 3 MONTHS TIME. WORKS ARE IN PROGRESS AT RASIL HILAL (135 MILES E OF BENGHAZI) WHICH WILL IN TIME BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING 160 TONS A DAY FROM SCHOOETERS AND SMALL CRAFT.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
SEA TRANSPORT of supplies to Libya. Present continuing neutralization makes Malta enable Axis shortening sea route Italy-Libya. About 80% percent shipping getting through. Torpedo carrying aircraft range not less than 150% miles urgently required for night attack against this shipping which now is opposed only by subs. Anticipate early request from CinC AEF with RAF concurrence for US support this type plane.
**Naval Message**

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Indicate by asterisk addresses for which mail delivery is satisfactory.

**Kelly**

Townsend 308852 NCR 9016

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

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**Originator Fill in Date and Time**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TEXT</th>
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<tr>
<td>CEYLON GUMBO BASIL AND PORT SAID. ONE SCHONER SUNK BY GUNFIRE. CONVOYS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED WHICH ALTHOUGH GIVING SAFETY CAUSE SLOW TURN ROUND OF SHIPS AND CONGESTION OF PORTS. WITHDRAWAL OF GERMAN TROOPS AND SAILORS FROM BULGARIA CONTINUES. NUMBER OF GERMANS REMAINING IN BULGARIA PROBABLY SMALL. THAW IN RUSSIA BELIEVED TO HAVE BECOME GENERAL ABOUT MARCH 27 FOLLOWED BY HEAVY RAINS. GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN KERCH PENINSULA AT PRESENT WITH LITTLE RESULT. THIS PENINSULA IMPORTANT TO RUSSIANS AS IT FORMS THE PROTECTIVE BASTION TO THE PORTS OF TUAPSE AND NOVOROSSISK. CONTINUED.</td>
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COMINCH...ACTION

16......20G......BADG......20H...CHO......20P......FILE.

Capt. McCoo (Comm. Aide)  

**REGRAGED**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

---

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)
THE CONTINUING PREPARATIONS CRETIE AND DODECANESE ISLANDS
PRESENT A GROWING POTENTIAL THREAT AT SUEZ AND EASTER
MEDITERRANEAN. RECOMMEND U.S. AUGMENT IMMEDIATELY ALLIED
AIR FORCE THIS AREA TO FORESTALL AXIS ATTACK BY DESTROYING
AXIS PREPARATIONS AND TO ENABLE CARRY OUT OFFENSE AGAINST PLOESTI
AND BARI REFINERY ITALY, WHICH IS THE ONLY REFINERY CAPABLE OF
REFINING HIGH SULPHURIC ALBANIAN OIL.
PLOESTI CONSIDERED AchIleS Heel AXIS PROSECUTION WAR THERE
FOREMOST VITAL TARGET.
RAF ANXIOUS FOR ASSISTANCE OF AMERICAN AIR FORCE ESPECIALLY
HEAVY BOMBERS.
SEE MILITARY ATTACHES 987.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

16......ACT.
COMINCH....2JC....BADO....CNO....OP-29....FILE....241694.

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)
### Naval Message

**From:** COOPER (CAINO)  
**Released By:**  
**Date:** 24 April 1942  
**TOR Coderoom:** 1456/23  
**Decoded By:** SPDHR/MCGILL/MALCOLMSON  
**Paraphrased By:** HEINE

**Indicate by Asterisk Addresses for Which Mail Delivery is Satisfactory:**

**German**  
239743 LCR4643 (IN 2 PARTS)

**Unless Otherwise Indicated This Dispatch Will Be Transmitted with Deferred Precedence.**

---

**Text**

**PART 1 - 239743 LCR4643**

**PART 2 - 239810 LCR4562**

**PART 1.**  
**Situation in Crete Up to April 22.**

Reliable reports show that traffic between Greece and Crete is continuing steadily. Two hundred thousand tons are known to have arrived during last 4 months and on the army estimate this shows an excess of fifty thousand tons over the amount of shipping required to change round the old garrison. This fifty thousand tons and in addition the traffic which he cannot estimate (unknown sailings caiques transport aircraft etc) must be employed in either item (a) increasing the garrison so as to exceed the army estimate of one and one half German divisions and one Italian division, or item (b) providing the necessary supplies to maintain the above troops and also the German air force or (PART 2) item (c) to build up dumps so that the island can be used as a jumping off point for an attack on our territories should the situation on the main front make this desirable and possible.

The latter course is considered the most likely.

**Naval Intelligence Centre, Alexandria bases the above estimation of Crete activity on a large number of medium grade sources and (Continued)**

(DECLASSIFIED)

DECLASSIFIED  
GSD Letter, 5-8-72

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)
MESSAGE

AFFER

EXTENSION NUMBER

ADDRESSEES

PRECEDENCE

FROM COOPER (CAIRO)

RELEASED BY

FOR ACTION

OPNAV

DATE

PRIORITY

TOR CODEROOM

PRIORITY

DECODED BY

ROUTINE

PARAPHRASED BY

DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES, FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

PAGE 2 236618 NO 4562 (IN 2 PARTS)
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME

DATE TIME

GCT

TEXT

THESE INDICATE THAT THE GARRISON IN CRETE IS BEING INCREASED. ON THE OTHER HAND A TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON DATED APRIL 19 SUPPORTS THE ARMY AND ROYAL AIR FORCE VIEW THAT THE GARRISON IS NOT BEING INCREASED TO ANY CONSIDERABLE EXTENT AND THAT WE SHOULD RECEIVE A FORTNIGHT'S WARNING BEFORE REAL PREPARATIONS FOR AN ATTACK WERE PUT INTO OPERATION.

DISTRIBUTION

16 .. ACTION

RECOP: COMMON .... 240 .... BADD ....

FILE: 050 .... 210 .... PIA .... 88

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-9-72

RECLASSIFIED
SECRET

OSS Letter, 6-9-72

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVRECS.)
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<td>FROM</td>
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Indicate by asterisk addressess for which mail delivery is satisfactory.

ENS ROONEY        211152 NCR 3482

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

TEXT

SECTION TWO.

Information considered reliable received during March and April shows enemy forces and bases Aegean Islands as follows: Lemno six to seven thousand German infantry, airfield begun by British being enlarged, seaplane base building. Rhodos one company German infantry. Skyros one company of Italian Blackshirts.

**DISTRIBUTION**

16...ACTION
16/11...CONING...38...20G...FILE

FILES: 280P...
SECTION TWO.

MYTILENE FIVE HUNDRED GERMANS WITH ONE BATTERY FRENCH SEVENTY FIVES, EXCELLENT NATURAL SEAPLANE LANDING. SAMOS AND THE CYCLADES ABOUT EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ITALIANS INCLUDING ARTILLERY UNITS AND SPECIALISTS. NIKARIA ONE HUNDRED ITALIANS. LEROS THIRTY FIVE HUNDRED ITALIANS INCLUDING TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED MARINES, SEAPLANE BASE AND BASE FOR DD AND PT.

DISTRIBUTION
16...ACTION
10/11...COMINCH...38...20G...FILE
FILES: 20OP....
SECTION THREE.

RHODES. TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND ITALIAN INFANTRY ARTILLERY AND AIR FORCE
ALSO I AIRDROME AND FEW GERMAN AIR MEN CRETE. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE
BUT BRITISH AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE HAS SHOWN EXTENSIVE ACTIVITY AND
NUMBER SMALL VESSELS. STEADY SHIPMENTS MUNITIONS AND SUPPLIES FROM
SALONIKA REPORTED. BUT BRITISH BELIEVE LIBIA ULTIMATE DESTINATION
MUCH OF IT. RUMORS OF ACTIVITIES OTHER ISLANDS.

DISTRIBUTION

16. . . . ACTION
10/11. . . . COMINCH. . . . 36. . . . 20G. . . . FILE
FILES: 200P.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-6-72

REGRADED
UNCATEGORIZED
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

April 17, 1942

April 20, 1942.

Axis front lines in Libya is approximately 50 miles east of Tobruk. Doubtless reserves being assembled about 40 miles to west will be built up. It is estimated that 400 to 500 tanks in forward area plus about 40 under repair. Recent activities have resulted in equal losses to Axis.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Attached is a resume of the detailed review of the Middle East situation, sent from General Auchinleck to Sir John Dill, dated April 17th. In transmitting the full message he says, "will you please treat it with the same amount of secrecy as the one I sent you before?"

Chief of Staff.

Training progress noted in a number of British brigade groups in vicinity of Cairo. 4th Indian Division and 1st brigade is also concentrated in this area. Turkish military mission is visiting British installations.

PERSIA AND TRANS-JORDAN

Polish contingents from Russia and Persia being assembled in vicinity of Cairo. Physical condition Polish soldiers poor. Condition of civilians in this area poor. Some deaths from typhus. Some W. S. A. Army officers attending British staff school established at Sofia.

JAPAN

New Zealand division has been reinforced by augmentation of 5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade group and one regiment of field artillery.

IRAN

Japanese diplomatic representatives for Russia. One brigade of 5th Indian Division standing idle.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

DEC 14 1972

OSD Letter, 5-3-72

DEC 14 1972
Axis front line in Libya is approximately 50 miles west of Tobruk. Hostile supplies being assembled about 40 miles to rear of their front line. Indications are that by May, 30 days reserve will be built up. It is estimated that 400 medium tanks in forward area plus about 70 under repairs. Patrol activities have resulted in equal losses on both sides.

British 7th Armored Division is about 30 miles south of Tobruk. The 5th Indian Division is at Sollum, about 100 miles east of Tobruk. Also training in this area is a battalion of Yugoslavs.

MALTA

Visited by Sir Walter Monckton and Air Marshall Tedder who report that troops are in good shape and ready for mobile defense should attack materialize. Short of AA ammunition.

EGYPT

Training progress noted in armored and motor brigade groups in vicinity of Cairo. 4th Indian Division less one brigade is also concentrated in this area. Turkish military mission is visiting British installations.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN

Polish contingents from Russia and Persia being assembled in vicinity of Gaza. Physical condition Polish soldiers good. Condition of civilians in this area poor. Some deaths from typhus. Six U. S. Army officers attending British staff school established at Haifa.

SYRIA

New Zealand division has been reunited there by augmentation of 5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade group and one regiment of field artillery.

IRAQ AND PERSIA

Japanese diplomatic representatives being evicted by Russia. One brigade of 6th Indian Division standing by in this area.
SECTION 6

TURKISH OFFICIALS CONSISTENTLY REPEAT DECLARATION THEY WILL FIGHT IF ATTACKED. WHEN THAT DECLARATION FIRST MADE RUSSIA HAD SIGNED TREATY WITH GERMANY AND BRITAIN HAD PROMISED TURKEY EXTENSIVE MATERIAL SUPPORT. SINCE THEN RUSSIA HAS BECOME GERMAN ENEMY AND BRITISH ALLY, RUSSIAN ARMY HAS CLOSED IN ON TURKISH EASTERN FRONTIER, BRITAIN HAS DISAPPOINTED TURKS IN MATERIAL DELIVERED.

*DELAYED DUE TO INCORRECT ENCRYPTION.

DISTRIBUTION
16.........ACTION
RECP: COMINCH
FILES: CNO......PIA......20P......00......FILE.
ADDITIONAL IMPULSE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO RUMORS OF AN EARLY AXIS INVASION OF TURKEY WHEN PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FROM BRITISH GENERAL HEADQUARTERS MIDDLE EAST ARRIVED HERE APRIL 12TH AND WARNED BRITISH PRESS CORRESPONDENTS TO LEAVE ISTANBUL IN THE EARLY FUTURE STATING THAT THE SITUATION IN TURKEY HAS VIEWED WITH APPREHENSION. THIS WARNING RESULTED FROM LONDON DIRECTING GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TO TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES IN SAFE-GUARDING TRAINED CORRESPONDENTS DUE TO THE FACT THAT 43% OF THOSE EVACUATED HAVE EITHER BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED. THE LOCAL BRITISH SEE NO JUSTIFICATION OF THIS ALARM BUT BELIEVE THAT A MINIMUM OF 3 WEEKS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR AXIS PREPARATIONS AND THAT THIS WOULD BE OBSERVED. THE LOCAL TURKISH INTELLIGENCE AND THE NAVAL ATTACHE OF RUSSIA CONCUR IN THE FOREGOING.
THERE IS NO CONCRETE INFORMATION TO INDICATE AN
EARLY AXIS ATTACK BUT HERE ARE MANY RUMORS AND CONFlicting
REPORTS RECEIVED IN THIS OFFICE. WITH 60% OF THE TURKISH
ARMY CONCENTRATED AT THRACE AND MARMO RAIZER AREA AND
MOST OF THE REMAINDER IN EASTERN PROVINCES, THE AXIS MAY
HAVE SUFFICIENT FORCES AT RHODES AND CRETE TO SEIZE
ADVANCE BASE PRACTICALLY UNOPPOSED IN SOUTHERN ANATOLIA
AND HOLD IT FOR OPERATION AGAINST SYRIA AND CYPRUS. THE
NUMBER OF TROOPS AND PREPARATIONS FOR AIR-BASES IN THESE
ISLANDS IS BELIEVED TO EXCEED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEFENCE
PURPOSES. ADDITIONAL PLANES AND TROOPS COULD BE BROUGHT UP
QUICKLY AFTER OPERATIONS BEGAN. ALSO IF THE STRAITS WERE
AN AXIS OBJECTIVE THE TROOPS IN THESE ISLANDS COULD BE
EMPLOYED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OVERSEAS EXPEDITION FROM
BULGARIAN BLACK SEA PORTS LANDING EAST OF STRAITS.
**TEXT**

The such forces of only moderate size but with strong air force and operating from north and south behind rail bulk, a Turkish army probably could immobilize it in short time by disruption all communications necessary forces and transportation may be available without further extensive preparation.

---

**DISTRIBUTION**

16...ACTION

RECORD COPY: COMMUNIC.

FILES: ONO. AFD...280F....

**DECLASSIFIED**

ODD Letter, 3-3-72

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (A) NAVREG.)
CINC SOUTH ATLANTIC 362, CINC EAST INDIES 599, CINC MEDITERRANEAN 877, CINC AWAY 151, RAWF 220, OPNAV, FORS, FOCNA 299 FROM ADMIRALTY.

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO ARMED GUARDS ON ITALIAN REPATRIATION LINERS AND TANKERS:

2. CREWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AND REPATRIATES ARE NOT TO REPEAT NOT TO BE ALLOWED ASHORE AT ANY TIME.

3. LEAVE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TO BE GIVEN TO ARMED GUARD IN NEUTRAL PORTS. NO OBJECTION TO LEAVE AT ALLIED PORTS PROVIDED ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ON BOARD ARE MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF SHIPS BEING STOPPED BY AN ENEMY WARSHIP CHARACTER OF VESSELS SHOULD BE EMPHASISED. BUT, IF INSISTED ONLY VISIT AND SEARCH SHOULD BE PERMITTED, IN WHICH CASE CONFIDENTIAL BOOKS AND CODES MUST BE THROWN OVERBOARD IN GOOD TIME. ENEMY ORDERS FOR DIVERSION SHOULD BE IGNORED ON GROUNDS THAT SAFE CONDUCTS

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

JCS MEMO, 1-22-22

BY OA DATED NOV 12 1973

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)
NAVAL MESSAGE

FROM
RELEASED BY
DATE
TOR CODE ROOM
DECODED BY
PARAPHRASED BY

ADDRESSES
ADDRESSES
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

PRECEDENCE
PRIORITY
ROUTINE
DEFERRED
PRIORITY
ROUTINE
DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSSES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

SHEET TWO OF ADMIRALTY 021129/Z NCR 2994

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

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME
DATE
TIME

TEXT

ONLY APPLY ON ROUTES AGREED BY ALL BELLIGERENTS. ENEMY ARE NOT ENTITLED TO INTERROGATE GUARD, PASSENGERS OR CREW ABOUT SHIPPING MOVEMENTS ETC., AND ANY SUCH ATTEMPT SHOULD BE PREVENTED IF POSSIBLE, AND, IN ANY CASE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY.

DISTRIBUTION:

COMINCH........ACTION.

REPORT: 13......15......16......18......37......230......

FILE: CNO......230......

DECLASSIFIED 
JCB MEMO. 1-17-72
BY FT. DATE NOV 12 1973

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 78 (c) NAVVREG.)

021129/Z NCR 2994
NAVAL MESSAGE

FROM: ALUSNA ISTANBUL

TO: GPNAV

RELEASED BY: 1 APRIL 42

TOR CODEROOM: NORBY

DECODED BY: OLTUCKER

PARAPHRASED BY:

INDICATE ANY ABBREVIATIONS FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS APPROPRIATE.

LT. KELLY 313745 NUC 1627

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILE IN DATE AND TIME

TEXT: SOME GERMAN NAVAL PERSONNEL INCLUDING HIGH RANKING OFFICERS ARRIVED ATHENS AND PIRAEUS 20 MARCH. LEAVES OF ABSENCE OF GERMAN ARMY IN GREECE CANCELLED FROM 19TH MARCH. CIVILIAN TRAFFIC WITH GREEK ISLANDS CURTAILED FROM SAME DATE. GERMANS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS ALL VESSELS AND MOTOR CAIQUES UNDER REPAIR SHOULD BE READY EARLY APRIL. CONSTRUCTION CONCRETE BARRIES WHICH HAD BEEN DISCONTINUED NOW REPORTED RESUMED. SECRET SHIPMENTS FROM SALONIA AND PIRAEUS TO CRETE AND RHODES CONTINUE. NO OTHER MAJOR INDICATIONS OF PREPARATIONS VICINITY ATHENS FOR OPERATIONS EARLY FUTURE. SOME TALK IN ATHENS OF POSSIBLE ATTACK ON TURKEY. NO GREATLY INCREASED ACTIVITY IN OTHER AEGEAN ISLANDS APPARENT DURING PAST 6 MONTHS. ONLY ISLANDS GARRISONED BY GERMANS ARE SAMOS ONE INFANTRY REGIMENT, CHIOS 3 TO 4 HUNDRED TROOPS, MITILENE 2,000 TROOPS. ONLY LARGE GARRISIONS ARE SAMOS 18,000 AND RHODES 25,000 BOTH ITALIAN. 5 GERMEN OFFICERS ARRIVED SAMOS 5 MARCH TO INSPECT SITES FOR AIRDRONE. SOME ACTIVITY ON LESvos BUT NOT BELIEVED OF MAJOR IMPORT.

THE ABOVE KNOWN TO BRITISH, THEIR INTELLIGENCE HERE BELIEVES GERMANS IN ADVANCED STAGES PREPARATIONS FOR OPERATIONS EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, THEIR MAIN OFFICE IN EGYPT REPORTED LESS CONCERNED.

16...ACT.

11/11.12...13...29G...COMINCH...FILE...OP-21...NAVAIDE...SECAV.
From: London
To: Milid

No. 2294, April 1, 1942

Latest estimate by WO Axis strength mid east follows:
forward area Libya Germ twenty thou with two hun thirty
four tanks, Wops twenty thou with eighty seven tanks.
Tripoli area part of Wop armd div strength six thou with
one hun fifty tanks and remnants one Wop motzd div four thou.
Also Tripoli unknown numbr base troops including native
livies but not considered available for combat use. Wop
motzd div mentioned above as at Tripoli is Trento moved
there from forward area badly used up and to receive replace-
ments after which believed it will join Littoro armd div
also now in part at Tripoli and two divs will then form
second one of new Wop mobile corps.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: A-2
TAG
File

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

G-361 (1/1/42)

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COPY No. 19

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
No 939, March 31, 1942

Armored Units now in Lybya:

2nd Armored Brigade; 9th Lancers, 10th Hussars, Queen Bay at present equipped with 132 cruisers and 34 American light. 2nd Armored Brigade operates with 1st armored division, is 2nd on priority to be equipped with 1 squadron of 12 American medium per Regiment. Brigade not ready for battle before May 1st.

4th Armored Brigade; 3rd tank, 5th tank, 8th Hussars. Operate with 7th Armored Division. Each regiment is equipped with 2 squadrons of 12 medium and 2 American light tanks and 1 squadron of 16 American light tanks. Brigade ready for battle April 15th.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: A-2
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File

CM-IN-0210 (4-1-42)
From: Cairo to War Department

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It has come to my attention that in their Armored Unit Schools the British prescribe fire from the 37 mm and other cannon mounted in tanks only at a halted position (that is Hull down). It is considered a waste of ammunition to fire while the tank is moving at ranges greater than 300 or 400 yards and is forbidden.

The all round performance of the U.S. M3 Medium tank, the light tank, the Scout Car and the Bantam Car has been pleasing to all the officers I have seen and talked to. Much concern is being caused by the insufficiency of armor of the 75 mm gun and our armor piercing ammunition against the case-hardened armor of German tanks. Recommend that steps be taken without delay to better both our ammunition and guns—Ordnance observers in this area have submitted a report covering this subject.

Pellers

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SECRET  Controlled Information Re: Operations of Friendly Powers

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED OND Letter 5-3-72
ENROUTE TO AND SINCE ARRIVAL HERE FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED:

(1) BRITISH NAVY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS EGYPT PALESTINE SYRIA POINTED OUT WEAKNESS BRITISH NAVAL POSITION EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WEAKNESS MILITARY FORCE THAT AREA. SOME ANTICIPATED ENEMY WOULD ACCEPT THIS INVITATION LAND ON THAT COAST THIS SPRING.

(2) ENEMY AIR FIELDS GREECE BULGARIA REPORTED WELL SUPPLIED AND SHIPMENTS MILITARY SUPPLIES STILL MOVING SOUTHWARD THROUGH BULGARIA. REPORTS RECEIVED OF ENEMY CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION SEVERAL HUNDRED SMALL VESSELS GREECE BULGARIA SUITABLE FOR MOVING TROOPS BY SEA MODERATE DISTANCE.

(3) TURKISH PUBLIC GENERALLY BELIEVES ALLIES LOSING WAR. THEY HAVE DEEP SEATED FEAR OF RUSSIA. THEY QUESTION SINCERITY BRITISH PROMISE GIVE THEM SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT. TO LESS DEGREE THEY POINT OUR MOTIVES.

R G COPELAND

GCR 32128 NCR 045

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SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)
TURKS UNLIKELY SUPPORT DECISIVE RUSSIAN VICTORY UNLESS GIVEN
SATISFACTORY GUARANTEES AGAINST HER AFTER VICTORY. TURKISH MORAL
ARMOR COMPOSED OF CONFIDENCE IN ALLIED STRENGTH AND INTENTIONS MAY
BE TOO THIN RESIST AXIS DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE THIS SPRING UNLESS
RE-ENFORCED IN TIME. BRITISH FORCES AVAILABLE PROTECT SYRIAN COAST
AGAINST ENEMY LANDING INADEQUATE. THEREFORE ENEMY ATTACK THERE
LIKELY IN SPIKE GENERAL BELIEF HIS ENERGY WILL BE ABSORBED BY RUSSIA.
AN AIR FORCE UNDER AMERICAN COMMAND BASED IN SYRIA TO SUPPORT TURKS
AND DISCOURAGE DIRECT ENEMY MOVE AGAINST SYRIA IS RECOMMENDED IF
THIS GENERAL AREA CONSIDERED STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT. THAT THE FORCE
BE UNDER AMERICAN COMMAND IS IMPORTANT FOR ITS INFLUENCE ON TURKS
AND ARABS.

NOTE: THIS MESSAGE CAME IN UNDER TIME DATE GROUP OF 12128 BUT FILED
BY NCR UNDER 112128.

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RECORD COPY: 38...200P...P1A...GEN...
12 TO 15 AXIS PLANES BOMBED BRITISH NAVAL AIR BASE AT KABRET LOCATED FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF SUEZ ON SUEZ CANAL EARLY MORNING OF THE THIRD. FOUR WELLINGTON BOMBERS DESTROYED ON THE GROUND. BRITISH INTERCEPTOR PLANES CLAIMED DESTRUCTION OF ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO ENEMY PLANES. ENEMY PLANES ALSO OPERATING OVER NORTH PART OF CANAL EARLY ON THE MORNING OF THE FOURTH. FOUR MINES DROPPED IN THE CANAL. I EXPECT FURTHER IMMEDIATE RAIDS ON SUEZ.

LARGE MOVEMENT OF BRITISH COLONIAL TROOPS, TANKS, AND MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT, PRINCIPALLY WITHDRAWN FROM SYRIA AND NOW BEING EMBARKED ROR AT SUEZ BOUND FOR EAST ASIA. APPROXIMATELY FORTY ALLIED MERCHANT AND TROOP SHIPS IN HARBOUR. SEVEN ARE U.S.

BRITISH CRUISER AJAX IS ANCHORED IN HARBOUR.