

March 14, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/2-2645

711.94114 SUPPLIES/2-2645

My dear Mr. Pate:

I refer to my letter of March 2, 1945 regarding the distribution in China of relief supplies trans- shipped in November at Nakhodka and enclose for your information and records a copy of a despatch dated February 26 from the Legation at Bern with its enclosure, a schedule of shipments effected to camps and centers at Shanghai.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

CS/R

Enclosure:

From American Legation,  
Bern, no. 10957,  
February 26, 1945, with  
enclosure.

BCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>fruh</i>
Rev.	<i>B</i>
Cat.	
Dist.	

Mr. Maurice Pate,  
Director of Prisoners of War Relief,  
American Red Cross.

MAR 13 1945 P.M.

*WAK*  
*abc*

SWP:ABCORRELL:ang

3-13-45

*711.94114 Supplies/2-2645*

A true copy of the signed original.



PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MESSAGE:

Collect

Charge Department: **XX**

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge to

Washington

**US URGENT**

26

MAR 3 1945

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

923 <sup>THIRD</sup> / 711.94114 Supplies / 2-2645 / 711.94114 Supplies / 2-2745  
Legation's 1260, February 26, and 1275, February 27.

Request Swiss Government to inform Japanese Government that change in course and schedule for Awa Maru as set forth your 1260 has been accepted and appropriate instructions issued. The revised course and schedule is as follows:

QUOTE Arrival Surabaya afternoon March 10 changed to arrival Djakarta forenoon March 10 (call at Surabaya abandoned) no (repeat no) change in leaving Djakarta as scheduled. Schedule on and after March 29 has been changed as follows: Pass 6 degrees 40 minutes north latitude 107 degrees 48 minutes east longitude at about noon March 29.

Pass 12 degrees 50 minutes north latitude 111 degrees 05 minutes east longitude at about noon March 30.

Pass 17 degrees 42 minutes north latitude 114 degrees no (repeat no) minutes east longitude at about noon March 31.

Pass 23 degrees 06 minutes north latitude 117 degrees 14 minutes east longitude at about noon April 1.

DCR	GP-C
Rev.	.....
Dist.	.....

SENT

*Handwritten note:* This message is carrying passengers from supplies

711.94114 SUPPLIES/2-2745

711.94114 Supplies/2-2745  
OS/110



PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

**TELEGRAM SENT**

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
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**Department of State**

Charge Department:

*Washington*

**27**

Charge to

-2-

Pass 27 degrees 05 minutes north latitude 122 degrees  
35 minutes east longitude at about noon April 2.

Pass 31 degrees 44 minutes north latitude 127 degrees  
14 minutes east longitude at about noon April 3.

Arrive Mutsure afternoon April 14. UNQUOTE.

*Grew*  
Acting  
(EDK)

GREW, ACTING

MAR 3 1945 P.M.

711.94114 Supplies/2-2745

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-3-45

*arc*

Cleared with Captain Tonseth.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

GEK-33

PLAIN

28 MAR 8 1945

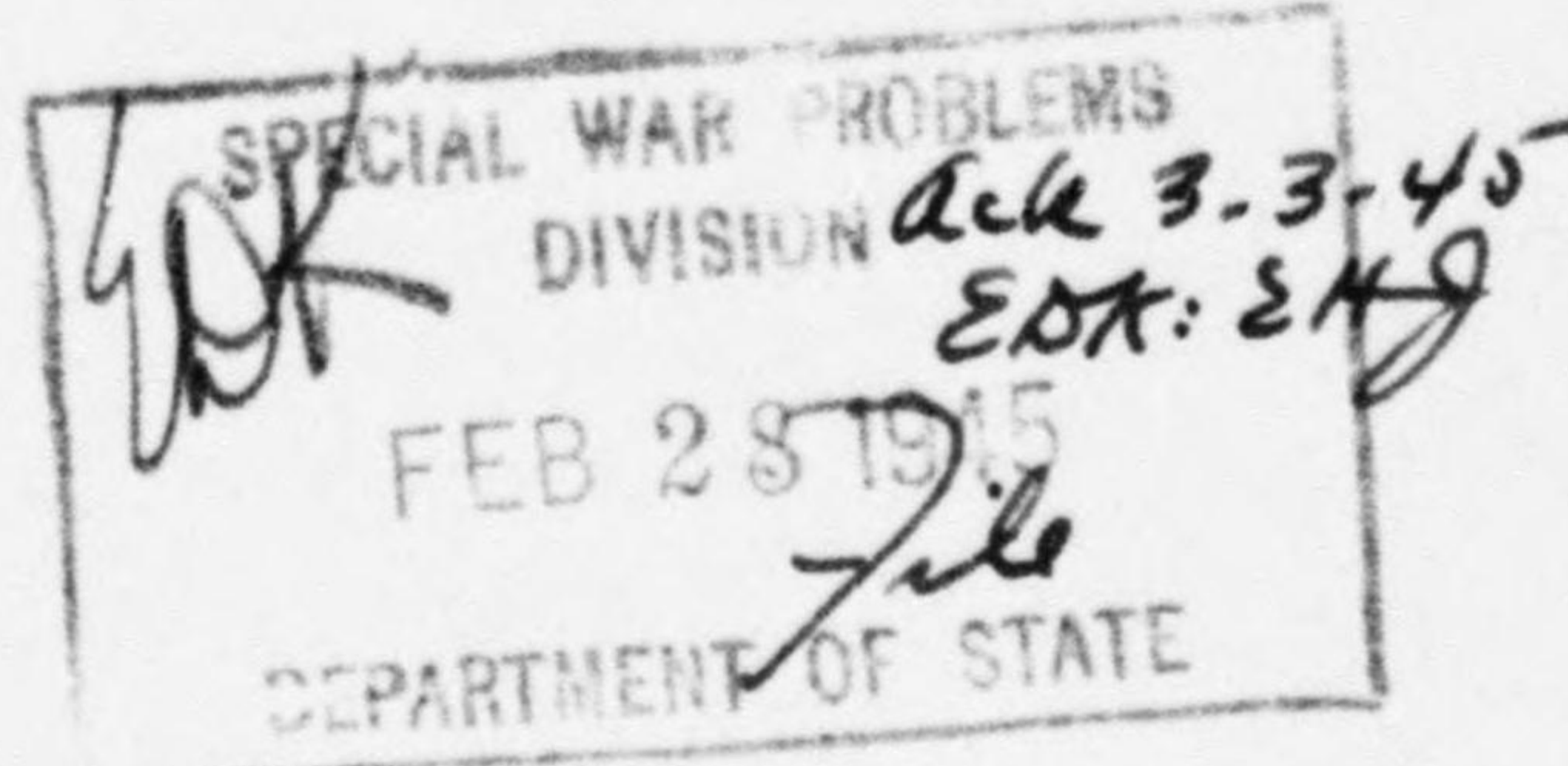
Bern

Dated February 27, 1945

Rec'd 10 a.m.



Secretary of State, Washington.



1275, Twenty-seventh

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST

Foreign Office note February 26 confirms Legation's

1260, <sup>711.94114 Supplies/2-26-45</sup> twenty-sixth.

HARRISON

WSB



711.94114 SUPPLIES/2-2745

711.94114 Supplies/2-2745

MAR 7 1945

FILED CS/D

*Schedule of record carrying relief supplies to prisoners of war in the Far East.*

Form with handwritten notes: *Open F-14 Rep*

X



~~SWP~~  
N  
DCR

March 9, 1945

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-345

CS/R

In reply refer to <sup>3-345</sup>  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/~~2-2745~~

My dear Captain Tonseth:

There is enclosed for your records a copy of the Department's telegram no. 923 dated March 3, 1945 to the American Legation at Bern concerning the change in course and schedule of the Awa Maru.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Anal.	DCR - GP-C Unit
Rev.	<i>frb</i>
Cat.	
Dist.	

Enclosure:

No. 923 to Bern,  
March 3, 1945.

A true copy of this signed original.	
Anal.	
Rev.	
Cat.	
Dist.	

Captain T. H. Tonseth,  
Central Division,  
Naval Operations,  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D. C.

MAR 8 1945

*[Handwritten signature]*

SWP:EDK:EHJ 3-7-45

711.94114 Supplies/3-345  
*[Handwritten notes]*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

31

PEM-649

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Moscow via Army

Dated March 6, 1945

Rec'd 5:20 p.m.

MAR 9 1945

Secretary of State, Washington.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION MAR 7 1945 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

649, March 6, 2 p.m.

We were informed orally today by an officer of the American Section of the Foreign Office (REDEPTS 419, February 24, 10 p.m.) that a direct reply to the proposal regarding a second transfer of relief supplies at Nakhodka had not (repeat not) been received from the Japanese. The Foreign Office had however received an inquiry from the Japanese Embassy concerning the quantity of supplies presently in Vladivostok and expected to furnish this information in the near future. We were promised that every effort would be made to induce the Japanese to take prompt action on the proposal.

The Foreign Office has not (repeat not) replied to our request of January 22 that Soviet shipping agents in the United States be authorized to accept up to two thousand tons of supplies for immediate forwarding to the Soviet Union, or to our subsequent note of February 20 stating that the shipment had been assembled (REDEPTS 128, January 20, 7 p.m. and 345, February 16, 3 p.m.) apparently the Soviet authorities are reluctant to have

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-645

Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies/3-645

Anal. Rev. Cat. Dist. DCR - GP-C Unit



32

-2- #649, March 6, 2 p.m., from Moscow via Army.

to have the supplies go forward until the Japanese have definitely agreed to the second transfer at Nakhodka.

HARRIMAN

CSB

TELETYPE

MAR 11 1950

RECEIVED



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  

---

THE LEGAL ADVISER

May 7, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Colonel King called me on the telephone and said that the Department's letter of April 25, 1945 on the sinking of the Awa Maru had been referred to the JAGD's office. He asked me whether we had given consideration to the question whether an American ship could legally be offered to the Japanese Government as recommended in our letter. I told him that I had not seen the letter but would ascertain whether it had been referred to this office.

After getting the file I called Colonel King and told him the letter had not been referred to this office. He stated that in that event they would go into the question referred to. I stated that in that event we would not go into the matter at least until we had received the War Department's reply.

*King*  
Le:RTYingling:LSV



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
War Problems  
SPECIAL DIVISION

March 12, 1945

I have made inquiry in the War and Navy Departments to ascertain whether there is any likelihood that their units in the theater might feel that the carriage of war material in the Awa Maru so vitiated the Allied safe conduct as to make the ship legitimate prey.

I was assured that it was generally understood that the use of the ship for this purpose was foreseen at the time the safe conduct was given.

*See 711,94114 Supplies / 2-24-45  
2-7-45*

SHIPPING DIVISION  
MAR 13 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*SWP:EDK*  
SWP:EDK  
DIVISION OF STATE AFFAIRS  
MAR 17 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~TOP SECRET~~

Paraphrase of War Department Cable

From: CG US Army Forces India Burma Theater, New Delhi, India  
To: War Department  
No: CRA 5589  
Date: 6 March, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 9 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-645

From Sultan to Bissell WDGBI CRA 5589, Top Secret

The supplies listed below were unloaded from Iwa Maru (probably the AWA MARU), a transport which came into Saigon on 23 Feb., according to reports from British ISLD and OSS:

1700 cases of motors, 2000 bombs, 20 aircraft in cases, 600 tons of munitions. We are trying to confirm the accuracy of this data through ISLD. An A source supplied the information. According to our understanding the vessel in question, in order that it might transport Red Cross supplies for Allied POWs, proceeding under an Allied safe conduct.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

MAR 22 1945

FILED

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>ford</i>
Rev.	
Cat.	

DIV. OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION  
MAR 8 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies/3-6

~~TOP SECRET~~



33

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

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PREPARING OFFICE WILL TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MESSAGE:

Collect

Department of State

SECRET

Charge Department: XX

Charge to

Washington  
This telegram must be closed & paraphrased before being communicated to anyone.  
SECRET

MAR 9 1945

1 Pm

US URGENT

AMEMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

542

We trust that in replying to Japanese communication (REEMBS 649, March 6) Soviet authorities will not (repeat not) fail to state that it is our intention to ship additional supplies to Vladivostok in time for loading on a Japanese ship to be sent under any arrangement that may be made. Since there are only a few hundred tons of supplies now at Vladivostok, it would be most unfortunate if the impression were conveyed to the Japanese that only these supplies were involved.

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-645

DCR - GP-C Unit  
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Rev. [Signature]  
Cat. [Signature]  
Inst. [Signature]

Green  
Acting  
(EDK)

711.94114 Supplies/3-645

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-8-45

arc

MAR 9 1945

CODE FROM  
RELEASE DESK

1945 MAR 9 PM 12 54

OFFICE OF  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SECURITY

Confidential



*g.v.  
ms*

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

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PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

## Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department: **XX**

*Washington*

Charge to

**MAR 13 1945**

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

*Carrying supplies  
to POWs in  
the Far  
East.*

*1045* THIRTEENTH

Change in arrival date Awa Maru at Mutsure given  
your 1454, March 7, has been noted and appropriate  
instructions issued.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 MAR 13 PM 3 41

CODE ROOM  
RELEASE DESK

*Stettinius  
(SRK)*

GR *JVK*  
MAR 13 1945 P.M.

Anal.	DCR - GP-C Unit
Rev.	<i>[Signature]</i>

711.94114 Supplies/3-745

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-12-45

*amc*

Approved by Captain Tonseth.

**SENT**

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-745  
*Supplies/3-745*  
CS/MAJ



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

DCG-966

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 16 1945  
RL:IN  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bern

Dated March 7, 1945

MAR 13 1945

Rec'd 2:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
MAR 8 1945  
EX: 114  
Planned Forward  
3:8-45  
JWP

US URGENT  
1454, Seventh

JWP  
711.94114 Supplies/3-2745

Last sentence your 923, third changed to read

"arrive Mutsure afternoon April 4 (repeat 4)" April 14 in our 1260, February 26 was error.

SWP SP JAFFE

HARRISON

EDA

DIVISION OF SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AFFAIRS  
MAR 14 1945  
OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RLS

DCR ~~Per~~ Unit  
Dist. *E.M.S.*

MAR 16 1945

FILED

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-745

CS/MAJ

*Arrival and departure  
of vessel carrying  
supplies for Philippines  
under the Far East.*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

March 9, 1945

In reply refer to  
FC

CONFIDENTIAL

The Department of State transmits to the following  
the attached information in the hope that it will be of  
value:

~~Military Intelligence Service~~

~~Office of Naval Intelligence~~

~~Federal Bureau of Investigation~~

~~Foreign Travel Control Unit~~

✓ Captain Thos. H. Tonseth,  
Operations Division,  
Room 2069 Navy Department

Enclosure:

711 94114 supplied 3-7-45  
Telegram from Bern,  
no. 1454, dated  
March 7, 1945.

FC:KA:CMW  
MK

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>frank</i>
Rev.	.....
Cat.	.....
Dist.	.....

A true copy of  
the signed orig-  
inal CMW

510 94114 supplied 3-7-45



~~AW~~ ~~BY~~  
~~HS.~~ EVAP  
JA  
EE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 9, 1945

SUBJECT: Prisoner of war relief supplies - FAR EAST

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Cotton, American Red Cross  
Mr. Kuppinger, SWP

COPIES TO:

*file*  
DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 16 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RECEIVED  
MAR 20 1945  
DO/S  
RECORDS PH - 1018

711.54114 SUPPLIES/3-945

Mr. Cotton informed me today that word had been received from the shipping agents at Portland that Russian authorization had been issued for the further shipment of relief supplies via Soviet vessels to Vladivostok.

It will be recalled that this matter has been pending in Moscow since shortly after the departure from Nakhodka in November of the Hakusan Maru.

Mr. Cotton was not quite certain whether the authorization was for 1500 or 2000 tons, but the Red Cross plans to attempt to ship up to 2000 tons of supplies which are now being assembled.

MAR 20 1945

DCR - GP-C Unit  
ad. *[Signature]*  
rev. *[Signature]*  
at. *[Signature]*  
ent. *[Signature]*

*amc*  
*[Signature]*  
SWP:EDK:EHJ

711.54114 Supplies/3-945



3034

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DIVISION OF No. 11150  
APR 1 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
File  
Copy to A.R.C.  
2-26 EDK:SHG  
2, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
APR 1 - 1945  
LIAISON OFFICE

14

Via Airmail Pouch.

3 SWP  
Jaw  
3/26/45

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, March 16, 1945.

RECEIVED  
APR 5 1945  
OFFICE OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1945 MAR 23 AM 9 25

RECORDS BRANCH

Subject: American Interests - Far East  
Distribution schedule for relief supplies via Vladivostok and Nakhodka to various points.

711.94114 Supplies / 2-2645 SWP JAEF SD

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmail despatch No. 10957 of February 26, 1945, with which there was forwarded a second supplementary schedule covering consignments of relief supplies shipped by the Japanese authorities to prisoner of war camps and civilian assembly centers at Shanghai.

There is now enclosed a schedule regarding relief supplies from Soviet territory shipped by the Japanese authorities to various prisoners of war camps, civilian internment camps and civilian internment centers at Kobe, Moji, Taiwan, Hongkong, and Canton, and in Java, Burma, Sumatra, Thailand and British Malaya (Malay and Borneo).

The attached schedule was received from the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva under cover of a letter dated March 9, 1945, which states that the schedule was based on the latest telegram received from the Committee's Tokyo delegation.

Enclosure:

Copy of schedule.

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	.....
Rev.	.....
Cat.	.....
Dist.	.....

File No. 814.2  
DWM/TJH/dmh  
Original and hectograph to Department.

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-1645

SHIPPING DIVISION  
APR 7 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APR 11 1945

FILED

HECTO SENT TO DCR/C

711.94114 Supplies / 3-1645  
CS/MAJ  
DWM



Enclosure to despatch No. 11150  
dated March 16, 1945, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

COPY  
dmh

RELIEF SHIPMENT FROM JAPAN TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS

(Covering goods arriving by shipment No. 1 in Japan  
via Soviet Territory).

The present schedule covers consignments shipped by the  
Japanese authorities from KOBE for distribution to:

Shipper	Item	No. of packages			
		POW	JAVA Ic	BURMA Ic	SUMATRA Ic
A	Amcross				
	Foodparcels	774	3767	-	1400
	IIA Drugs	10	23	-	10
	IIB "	10	22	-	10
	III "	35	94	-	42
	IIIA Vitamins	6	8	-	6
	IV Surg.instr. & dressings	2	3	-	2
	VA "	1	1	-	2
	VB "	2	2	-	2
	VC "	1	4	-	1
	VI First aid kits	3	13	-	5
	VII Tropical clothing	59	-	-	66
	XII Shoes men	9	-	-	10
	XIII Shoe repair kits	3	-	-	4
XIV Comforts men	19	-	-	21	
	Cigarettes	5	-	-	6
B	Canadian Red Cross				
Foodparcels	-	-	-	123	
C	YMCA				
	Books	7	-	-	9
	Gramophone records	-	-	-	1
	Theatrical kits	-	-	-	1
D	British Red Cross				
Foodparcels	1126	1298	50	387	
E	Unspecified Shoes	4	-	-	8
Total:		2076	5235	50	2107



Shipper	Item	No. of packages		
		KOBE Pow	MOJI Pow *	TAIWAN Pow
A American Red Cross	Foodparcels	19	1	-
	IIA Drugs	-	-	4
	IIB "	-	4	4
	III "	-	4	13
	IIIA Vitamins	-	2	3
	IV Surg. Instr. & dressings	-	-	1
	VA " "	-	1	1
	VB " "	-	2	1
	VC " "	-	-	1
	VI First aid kits	-	-	2
	VII Tropical clothing	-	8	14
	VIII Heavy clothing	-	100	-
	XI Overcoats men	-	9	-
	XII Shoes men	-	-	3
	XIII Shoe repair kits	-	-	2
	XIV Comforts men	-	4	1
	Cigarettes	-	-	1
B. Canadian Red Cross	Foodparcels	2	-	-
C. YMCA	Books	-	-	2
D. British and Dominion Red Crosses	Foodparcels	39	113	759
E. Unspecified	Shoes	-	-	2
Total:		60	244	808

\* Taiwan Pow: rescued from transport-ships sunk.



Shipper	Item	HONGKONG**		CANTON	THAI
		Pow	Ci	Cac	Pow
A) American Red Cross	Foodparcels	-	-	*	-
	IIA Drugs	4	3		68
	IIB "	2	1		69
	III "	10	10		245
	IIIA Vitamins	3	2		40
	IV Surg.instr.& dressings	1	1		10
	VA "	1	1		4
	VB "	1	1		9
	VC "	1	1		10
	VI First aid kits	12	1		25
	VII Tropical clothing	14	10		263
	VIII Heavy "	5	80		-
	XI Overcoats men	3	-		-
	XII Shoes men	1	2		44
	XIII Shoe repair kits	4	1		16
	XIV Comforts men	1	4		81
	Cigarettes	1	-		27
B) Canadian Red Cross	Foodparcels	-	1		2500
C) YMCA	Books	2	-		34
	Gramophonerecords	1	2		2
	Theatrical kits	1	-		2
D) British & Dominion Red Crosses	Foodparcels	650	650		500
E) Unspecified	Shoes	3	2		35
	Total	721	773	*	3982

\* Canton Cac received only small share of foodparcels.

\*\* Our delegate, Mr. Zindel in Hongkong, has just reported that in addition to the relief goods, 209 large canvas bags containing individual parcels from overseas for local war prisoners and internees also arrived safely. With the exception of only minor breakage, contents seemed to be in good condition. These bags were personally inspected by our delegate on February 27th, 1945. The distribution by the camp authorities was proceeding promptly.



Shipper	Item	MALAY		BORNEO	
		POW	CI	POW	CI
A) American Red Cross	Foodparcels	-	-	-	-
	IIA Drugs	36	4	4	1
	IIB "	35	5	4	1
	III "	156	12	17	2
	IIIA Vitamins	30	4	3	-
	IV Surg. instr.& dressings	4	1	2	-
	VA "	4	1	1	-
	VB "	6	1	1	-
	VC "	7	1	1	-
	VI First aid kits	14	1	2	-
	VII Tropical clothing	298	20	-	-
	XII Shoes men	45	3	3	-
	XIII Shoe repair kits	17	2	2	-
	XIV Comforts men	86	8	7	-
	Cigarettes	25	3	2	-
B) Canadian Red Cross	Foodparcels	-	-	-	-
C) YMCA	Books	36	5	3	-
	Gramophone records	1	-	-	-
	Theatrical kits	1	-	-	-
D) British & Dominion Red Crosses	Foodparcels	6000	650	750	100
E) Unspecified Shoes		109	4	2	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6910</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>104</b>

Grand Total 24,599 packages.



In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/3-1645

April 2, 1945.

My dear Mr. Pate:

There is enclosed a copy of despatch no. 11150 dated March 16, 1945 from the American Legation at Bern regarding the scheduled distribution of relief supplies received in Japan via Nakhodka to civilian internment camps and civilian internment centers at Kobe, Moji, Taiwan, Hongkong, and Canton, and in Java, Burma, Sumatra, Thailand, and British Malaya (Malay and Borneo).

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

No. 11150 from Bern,  
March 16, 1945.

*B final*  
*HA*

Mr. Maurice Pate,  
Director, Relief to Prisoners of War,  
American Red Cross,  
Washington, D. C.

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-26-45

A true copy of  
the signed origi-  
nal.

711,94114 SUPPLIES/3-1645 711.94114 Supplies/3-1645  
CSXMAJ

MAR 30 1945  
CR ✓



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

10290

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distributed by SWP to

KJR-689 *War* *Bryan* PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 20, 1945

Rec'd 3:03 p.m., 24th

*navy-2*

*MAR 28 1945 BPM*

Secretary of State

Washington

1685, Twentieth

AMERICAN INTERESTS JAPAN

Legation's 237, January 12.

Swiss note March 19 states that according telegram from Swiss Legation Tokyo Japanese Foreign Office confirmed arrival at Moji of Japanese vessel HOSI MARU following discharge 240 tons relief supplies at Shanghai and Tsingtao.

HARRISON

RR

*Handwritten notes and stamps:*  
LPH  
Cinsup  
AW  
HP

*DC/A*

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-2045

DCR - GP-C Unit  
Anal. *Sub*  
Rev. *ACT*  
APR 5 1945  
FILED

*X*



March 26 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/3-2345

My dear Colonel Bernays:

The Department has received confirmation in a recent telegram from the American Embassy at Moscow that the Soviet Purchasing Commission in the United States has been authorized to accept for loading on a Soviet vessel at an American west coast port up to 1500 tons of relief supplies for shipment to Vladivostok, there to be held until their delivery to a Japanese vessel at Nakhodka is arranged.

The Embassy has also stated that the Soviet Foreign Office has informed the Japanese Embassy at Moscow that this shipment of relief supplies is to be delivered at Nakhodka by a Soviet vessel in the near future and that the Japanese Embassy subsequently will be informed of the date for the transfer of the cargo to a Japanese vessel.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

✓  
MAR 26 1945  
Lt. Col. M. C. Bernays,  
Chief, Special Projects Branch,  
Room 2C927 Pentagon,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-24-45

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-2345  
CS/MAJ  
711.94114 Supplies/3-2345

CONFIDENTIAL  
DCR - CP-C Unit  
MAR 26 1945



March 26, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/3-2345

My dear Mr. Pate:

The Department has received confirmation in a recent telegram from the American Embassy at Moscow that the Soviet Purchasing Commission in the United States has been authorized to accept for loading on a Soviet vessel at an American west coast port up to 1500 tons of relief supplies for shipment to Vladivostok, there to be held until their delivery to a Japanese vessel at Nakhodka is arranged.

The Embassy has also stated that the Soviet Foreign Office has informed the Japanese Embassy at Moscow that this shipment of relief supplies is to be delivered at Nakhodka by a Soviet vessel in the near future and that the Japanese Embassy subsequently will be informed of the date for the transfer of the cargo to a Japanese vessel.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Anal.	<i>fr</i>
Rev.	<i>R</i>
Cat.	<i>HH</i>
Dist.	

Mr. Maurice Pate,  
Director, Relief to Prisoners of War,  
American Red Cross,  
Washington, D. C.

MAR 26 1945

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-24-45

A true copy of  
the signed original.

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-2345  
EHJ  
CS/MAJ  
Supplies/3-2345

*arc*



March 26, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/3-2345

My dear Captain Tonseth:

The Department has received confirmation in a recent telegram from the American Embassy at Moscow that the Soviet Purchasing Commission in the United States has been authorized to accept for loading on a Soviet vessel at an American west coast port up to 1500 tons of relief supplies for shipment to Vladivostok, there to be held until their delivery to a Japanese vessel at Nakhodka is arranged.

The Embassy has also stated that the Soviet Foreign Office has informed the Japanese Embassy at Moscow that this shipment of relief supplies is to be delivered at Nakhodka by a Soviet vessel in the near future and that the Japanese Embassy subsequently will be informed of the date for the transfer of the cargo to a Japanese vessel.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Captain T. H. Tonseth,  
Central Division,  
Naval Operations,  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D. C.

CR  
MAR 23 1945  
*[Handwritten initials]*

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 3-24-45

DDF - GP-C 100  
To: *[Handwritten initials]*  
By: *[Handwritten initials]*  
Date: *[Handwritten initials]*  
Dist: *[Handwritten initials]*

A true copy of the signed original  
*[Handwritten signature]*

Confidential File

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-2345

CS/MAJ

*[Handwritten initials]*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**INCOMING TELEGRAM**

*20K*  
8455 DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION  
*500*

EK-209  
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Moscow via War *34*  
Dated March 23, 1945  
Rec'd 1:06 p.m. *DCR*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

*20K*  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
*To Red Cross, War & Navy*  
*3-24*  
*EX-2249*  
*File*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PRIORITY.

872, March 23, 4 p.m.

Foreign Office has informed us in a note dated March 22, (REDEPT'S <sup>711.94114 Supplies / 3-645</sup> 542, March 9, 1 p.m.) that the representative of the Soviet Purchasing Commission in the United States has been authorized to load during the first decade of April on a Soviet vessel in a West Coast United States port up to 1500 tons of relief supplies for Allied nationals in Japanese custody, and to deliver this freight at the port of Nakhodka.

The note goes on to say that the Japanese Embassy in Moscow has been informed that a supplemental shipment of relief supplies from the United States will be delivered at Nakhodka on a Soviet vessel in the near future, and that the date for the transfer of the cargo at Nakhodka will be communicated later to the Japanese Embassy.

DCR - GP-O Unit	
Anal. ....	HARRIMAN
Rev. .... <i>FKH</i>	
RRCat. ....	
Dist. ....	

MAR 29 1945  
FILED

Confidential File

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-2345

OS/MAJ



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

12653  
~~AW~~

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

~~SCOT~~

JMD-1587

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 27, 1945

Rec'd 9:50 p.m.

DC/R

Secretary of State

Washington

1805, Twenty-seventh

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST

Department's 923, March 3

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
MAR 28 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
file  
KW  
BB  
BY

711.94114 Supplies/2-2745  
SW

Swiss Foreign Office states that according to telegram from Swiss Legation Tokyo Intercross delegation there announced that relief supplies duly arrived Hong Kong. Distribution effected expeditiously by camp authorities.

HARRISON

RB

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-2745

DCR - GP-O Unit  
Anal. *Smith*  
Rev. *Fit*  
Cat.  
Dist.

APR 5 1945

FILED







DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*see* DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION  
18345

RA-836

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 31, 1945

Rec'd 9:30 a.m.

*DC/R*

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT

1903, thirty-first

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST AWA MARU.

Department's <sup>711.94114 Supplies/3-245</sup> 1045, March 13. <sub>SWP</sub>

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION *File* *to Navy*  
MAR 31 1945 4-245  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*SWP*

711.94114 SUPPLIES/3-3145

Swiss Foreign Office official telephones that according Japanese Legation Bern AWA MARU owing circumstances which make it impossible for vessel enter Mutsue will proceed from thirtyone degrees 44 minutes north latitude 127 degrees 14 minutes east longitude to Turuga arriving there afternoon April 5.

With concurrence Swiss Foreign Office Japanese Legation Bern is today requesting Tokyo to make repeated broadcasts of this change.

HARRISON

EDA DOR - GP-O Unit  
Anal. *File*  
Rev. *B*

FILED  
APR 10 1945



War Problems

March 31, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR

Captain T. H. Tonseth,  
Central Division,  
Naval Operations,  
Navy Department.

*711.94114 Supplies  
3-31-45*

There is attached, with reference to our telephone conversation on March 31, a copy of telegram 1903 dated March 31 from the American Legation at Bern concerning a further change in the course of the Japanese ship Awa Maru.

*H.W. 711.94114 Supplies  
3-31-45*

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>fr</i>
Rev.	<i>S</i>
Cat.	
Dist.	

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief

Note: Above telegram read to Captain Tonseth, 2:15 p.m., March 31, who said that he would cause the necessary messages to be sent without awaiting actual receipt of the telegram.

A true copy of the signed original

*rc:gc*

*[Handwritten signature]*

SWP:EDK:EHJ 3-31-45

*arc*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
FC

April 2, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

The Department of State transmits to the following  
the attached information in the hope that it will be of  
value:

- ✓ Military Intelligence Service
- ~~Office of Naval Intelligence~~
- ~~Federal Bureau of Investigation~~
- ~~Foreign Travel Control Unit~~

Enclosure:

Copy of telegram from  
Bern, dated March 31,  
1945, no. 1903, re  
American interests Far East,  
AWA MARU.

*711.94114 Supplies  
3-3145*

FC:KAnderson:CMW

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Rev.	
Cat.	
Dist.	

A true copy of  
the signed orig-  
inal CMW

*8W 711.94114 Supplies 3-3145*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
FC

April 2, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

The Department of State transmits to the following  
the attached information in the hope that it will be of  
value:

- ~~Military Intelligence Service~~
- Office of Naval Intelligence
- ~~Federal Bureau of Investigation~~
- ~~Foreign Travel Control Unit~~

Enclosure:

Copy of telegram  
no. 1903, from Bern,  
dated March 31, 1945,  
re American interests  
Far East, AWA MARU.

FC:KAnderson:CMW

*KA*

DOR - GP-C UNIT	
Anal.	<i>Sub</i>
Rev.	<i>A</i>
Col.	
Dist.	

A true copy of  
the signed orig-  
inal CMW

*5/11/11.94114 Sub/3-3145*



~~SECRET~~

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY 20939  
CENTRAL SERVICES WASHINGTON

Serial No. 0027713  
(SC) AL4-3/EP37 APR 5 PM 2 35

2 April 1945

**SECRET**  
SECRET

DC/R  
RECORDS BRANCH

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
APR 5 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*memo to EA Paul  
letter to War & Navy  
4-6-45  
File 68K.874*

*to Bean NOE FE  
711.94114 supplies/2-245*

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your telegram 598 of 6 February 1945, assuring safe conduct for the Japanese vessel AWA MARU, carrying relief supplies to Allied nationals in Japanese custody. Safe conduct for the round trip voyage was predicated on adherence to schedule and the display of certain day and night markings.

Information has just been received that the AWA MARU was sunk by an American submarine on 1 April 1945; details are lacking. It is indicated that the vessel may not have been in the scheduled position and that prescribed markings were not recognizable.

This information is furnished you now in view of the probability that an early protest will be received from the Japanese Government. Further details will be supplied as they are received in the Navy Department.

Sincerely yours,

*James Foran tal*

Honorable E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,  
Secretary of State.

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
APR 10 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*note  
746.00114 W. 4*

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-245

MAY 7 1945

FILED

Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies



~~SECRET~~  
SECRET

April 23, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/4-245

SECRET

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to the report of the sinking on April 1 by American submarine action of the Japanese ship Awa Maru, as set forth in the Navy Department's letter of April 2, 1945 (reference (SC) A14-3/EF37).

It is understood that the full details of this incident are not as yet available but that an effort is being made to assemble as quickly as possible all relevant information.

The investigation, when concluded, may indicate that the proximate cause of the disaster was the failure of the Japanese ship to fulfill all the conditions under which safe conduct was granted. Should that prove to be the case, however, it is doubtful whether the Japanese Government would accept our findings and acknowledge Japanese negligence. Therefore, even though this Government might be in a position to establish to its satisfaction the absence of a legal obligation to make an offer of reparation to the Japanese Government, the Japanese might seize upon this incident as a pretext for refusing to discuss further the question of additional relief shipments and exchanges of nationals.

In view of the progressively deteriorating conditions under which Allied nationals in Japanese custody are held, it has become increasingly necessary to make every effort to establish a means of sending to them regularly supplemental food, clothing, and medical supplies and to endeavor to arrange

for

The Honorable  
James Forrestal,  
Secretary of the Navy.

*Forrestal*

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-245

Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies/4-245



-2-

for the repatriation of all those nationals who are eligible for repatriation.

If, as the result of the Awa Maru incident, the Japanese Government takes a negative position as regards further operations of this character, the Department of State proposes, subject to your concurrence, to recommend to the President that an American ship of approximately the size, type, and value of the Awa Maru be offered conditionally to the Japanese Government in replacement of that ship irrespective of whether the Navy investigation discloses primary responsibility for the disaster to be that of the American submarine commander or the captain of the Awa Maru.

The offer of replacement might be conditioned upon Japanese agreement to use the ship for the following purposes and no others:

(a) To operate between Japanese-controlled territory and a Pacific point to be designated by the American Government in connection with exchanges of Japanese and Allied civilians, seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, and surplus protected personnel.

(b) To pick up at the Pacific transfer point, either in conjunction with exchanges of nationals or otherwise, relief supplies for Allied nationals in Japanese custody and to deliver such supplies to the various areas where Allied nationals are located.

(c) To transport relief supplies from Japan to the Pacific transfer point destined for Japanese nationals in Allied custody. The American Government would undertake the onward transportation of such supplies from the transfer point.

(d) In periods between missions the ship would not be berthed at a dock but would be anchored as far out in the harbor as possible.

The vessel during the above-described operations would be accorded safe conduct by both Japanese and Allied forces; would be painted and marked in a distinguishing manner; would be fully illuminated at night, including searchlights trained upon side and deck markings; and would report its position by radio at four-hour intervals.

Under



-3-

Under this proposal, conditioned as mentioned above, we might accomplish our objective of arranging for further and continued exchanges of civilians and eligible prisoners of war as well as the regular shipment of relief supplies. There already is reason to believe that owing to the Japanese shipping situation further exchanges of nationals will be possible only if the necessary shipping is made available to Japan.

Ordinarily it might be expected that an offer of this nature would be unacceptable because of the restrictive conditions incorporated therein. A rejection might prove embarrassing to this Government and the Japanese Government might be able to capitalize upon its rejection to our disadvantage. However, it is believed that the offer could be made in such a way as to make it awkward for the Japanese to reject it. On April 6, according to the Japanese radio, an official Japanese Government spokesman announced to his press conference that the Awa Maru which was scheduled to have arrived at Tsuruga on the previous day would be employed further in the distribution of relief supplies for Allied nationals. He said that the ship was to proceed to Nakhodka to pick up a further consignment of supplies and would then distribute the supplies to areas outside Japan under the same type of arrangement as that in effect for the then current voyage. In effect the proposal outlined above would make available to the Japanese a ship to be used for this purpose, thus enabling them to implement the plans they announced for the Awa Maru. This aspect of the matter would be brought out in the communication by which the offer of conditional replacement would be made to Japan and the communication would be made public when forwarded. Should the Japanese reject the offer their rejection would be tantamount to an admission that the April 6 statement was not true--an admission which they probably would not want to make.

I should be grateful if you would inform me whether a recommendation of this nature to the President would have your concurrence.

A similar letter has been sent to the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ/amg

APR 25

4-17/23-45

Joseph G. G.  
Acting Secretary

A true copy of  
the signed original.

JA A-H



-3-

This proposal might serve a two-fold purpose:  
(a) It might allay to some degree Japanese resentment at the sinking of one of their ships traveling under Allied safe conduct and induce them to consider further operations of the same nature, and  
(b) by means of such a gesture, conditioned as mentioned above, we might accomplish our objective of arranging for further and continued exchanges of civilians and eligible prisoners of war as well as the regular shipment of relief supplies. There already is reason to believe that owing to the Japanese shipping situation further exchanges of nationals will be possible only if the necessary shipping is made available to Japan.

I should be grateful if you would inform me whether a recommendation of this nature to the President would have your concurrence.

A similar letter has been sent to the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

APR 17 10:30 P.M.

*ase* *WPK* *Def*  
SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-17-45 A-H  
SWP:EAPlitt:EHJ



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

2053

April 3, 1945

SECRET

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
APR - 4 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*File*

*memo to A-H  
4-4-45  
EDF  
obo*

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This is the letter which the Secretary asked me to forward to you. The only additional information available here at this time is two facts.

First, in notifying Washington of this unfortunate occurrence, Vice Admiral Lockwood, Commander of Submarine Forces, Pacific Fleet, expressed his deep regret over the tragic consequences of this error to our own people who are in the hands of the Japanese and who are awaiting these supplies.

Second, the Navy Department has suggested to Admiral Nimitz the desirability of an immediate court martial in this case to determine the facts and the culpability, if any.

I invite your attention especially to the possibility mentioned in the second sentence in the second paragraph. We have no further facts to substantiate or disprove this possibility at present.

Sincerely yours,

*Eugene S. Duffield*

Eugene S. Duffield  
Special Assistant to the Secretary

JAN - 9 1946

Hon. Archibald MacLeish  
Assistant Secretary of State

DCR OF C O U S  
Anal *fm*  
Rev. *nm*  
H  
P

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-345

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

711.94114 Supplies/4-345  
CS/VJ



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTONSerial No. 0027713  
(SC) A14-3/EF37**SECRET**  
SECRET

4-2-45

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your telegram 598 of 6 February 1945, assuring safe conduct for the Japanese vessel AWA MARU, carrying relief supplies to Allied nationals in Japanese custody. Safe conduct for the round trip voyage was predicated on adherence to schedule and the display of certain day and night markings.

Information has just been received that the AWA MARU was sunk by an American submarine on 1 April 1945; details are lacking. It is indicated that the vessel may not have been in the scheduled position and that prescribed markings were not recognizable.

This information is furnished you now in view of the probability that an early protest will be received from the Japanese Government. Further details will be supplied as they are received in the Navy Department.

Sincerely yours,

*James Forrestal*Honorable E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,  
Secretary of State.



M7  
ms

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

### TELEGRAM SENT

File, Div. of  
Budget & Finance  
PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

Charge Department:

7.82

## Department of State

PLAIN

Charge to

American Red Cross,  
National Headquarters,  
Washington, D. C.

Washington

APR 11 1945

AMERICAN CONSUL

VLADIVOSTOK, (USSR)

13 ELEVENTH

Your 1 January 2.

At request of Amcross please telegraph following:

1. Actual inventory of all Allied prisoner of war  
supplies in Vladivostok or Nakhodka.

2. Contents of all British or Dominion supplies.

3. Condition of all supplies.

State cost reply.

*Melani*

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-445  
711.94114  
4-445  
CS/MA

Anal. *SPK*  
Rev. *SPK*  
Cat. *SPK*

SENT

BILLED

711.94114 Supplies/4-445 JUN 12 1945

DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
4-9-45

SWP:ABC Correll:amg

*Stettinius*  
(EK)

CODE ROOM  
RELEASE DESK

1945 APR 11 - PM 7 25

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

APR 11 4 45 P.M.



SPECIAL PROJECTS  
DIVISION  
JAN 7 - 1946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

War Problems  
SPECIAL/DIVISION

SECRET

April 4, 1945

TO: A-H - General Holmes

FROM: SWP - Mr. Plitt

1. SUBJECT:  
Proposed immediate public announcement regarding the sinking of the Japanese ship Awa Maru.

2. PROBLEM:  
The Navy Department desires immediately to make a public announcement of this unfortunate incident. Mr. MacLeish expects to receive this afternoon, for State Department clearance, a draft of such an announcement.

3. BACKGROUND:  
The Awa Maru was on the last leg of a round-trip journey from Japan to the southern areas, under Allied safe conduct, in the course of which relief supplies for Allied nationals were discharged at several points. The ship was sunk on April 1. On March 31 we received notice of a change in the port of destination owing to "circumstances" which prevented its return to the port originally scheduled. A different port was announced. Very little time was available for the dissemination of this information to Allied fleet units. It is, therefore, possible that the attacking submarine had not been informed of the change in route. It may be considered desirable to use this in defending ourselves, but our course of action cannot be determined until we have further information.

We have only the bare statement from the Navy that an American submarine sank the ship. We do not as yet know whether there were any survivors and whether the Japanese know the cause of the disaster. It may be possible that they are not in a position to substantiate a claim that we sank the ship. Should we make an announcement at this time, we might be giving the Japanese information which they otherwise would not have.

An announcement at this time would constitute an admission of American culpability. As indicated in Mr. Forrestal's letter extenuating circumstances may have been present. We would be entering our defense prior to being charged with a crime.

This matter

711.94114 SUPPLIES / 4-445  
CS/V CONFIDENTIAL FILE 4.445

*Forrestal*  
*Ambs*



SECRET

-2-

This matter is of vital importance as regards its effect on pending and future negotiations with the Japanese for the delivery of additional relief supplies for Allied nationals and further exchanges of nationals. It is therefore important that hasty action be not taken and that any proposed action be given the most careful consideration from that point of view.

On the basis of the number of nationals involved the British interest in this regard is greater than ours. Consideration should be given to coordinating with the British any action we may propose to take.

## 4. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Department endeavor to dissuade the Navy Department from making any announcement in regard to this incident until a Japanese protest shall have been received and our course of action decided upon.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ 1945

5. It would seem essential that whenever a public announcement is made regarding this incident a communication to the Japanese through the protecting Power should go forward at the same time. However, at this time facts are lacking upon which to base a comprehensive communication of this character.

## PLEASE NOTE

Underlying memo. of  
conversation between  
GPO 800814  
Mr. MacLeish & SAP

*[Signature]*  
SWP:EDKuppinger:OBO

Note: On Apr. 9 Japanese  
broadcast announced  
ship was "missing".



STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE:

April 4, 1945

SUBJECT: Sinking of Awa Maru.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. MacLeish, A-M,  
and  
Mr. Plitt, SWP.

SPECIAL PROJECTS  
DIVISION *gde*  
JAN 7 - 1946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COPIES TO:

711.94114  
/4-445  
SUPPLIES

o p o 1-1408

In accordance with arrangements made by Mr. Foster, Mr. MacLeish's office telephoned at 11 a.m. I explained to Mr. MacLeish that, with reference to the underlying communication from the Navy Department, SWP thinks that the Navy Department should be dissuaded from making any announcement whatever on the subject prior to the receipt of a protest from the Japanese. Mr. MacLeish asked for my reasons for this. I answered:

(a) We have no knowledge at this time of what the Japanese may know about this incident;

(b) By making an announcement at this time we may be giving out information of which the Japanese themselves are ignorant, particularly if there should be no survivors.

(c) Although we have been informed by the Navy that the ship apparently was sunk by submarine action, so far as the Japanese themselves may know, ~~the ship could have disappeared from the results of an internal explosion, the striking of a mine, or from some other hazard.~~

Anal. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. *mm* \_\_\_\_\_  
Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. MacLeish

JAN 9 1946

CS/VJ  
CONFIDENTIAL FILE


*711.94114 Supplies /4-445*



-2-

Mr. MacLeish did not agree and expressed the opinion that the information should be given to the American public. I then took the liberty to suggest that, if the Navy insisted on making a public announcement of the incident at this time, the Department should not associate itself with such an announcement.

Mr. MacLeish said that he expected to have a draft of the announcement by this afternoon which he would send to General Holmes. Mr. MacLeish added that he supposed SWP was preparing a communication to the Japanese through the protecting Power on the incident, to which I replied that before doing so it might be well to give consideration to the discussion of the entire incident, and what action the Government of the United States should take, by the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War. Mr. MacLeish asked how soon this could take place and I replied that I did not think there was any possibility of convening the Board for this purpose today.

SWP:  Plitt: BB





AMERICAN RED CROSS  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

21749

April 4, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
APR 6 - 1945  
SENT TO DCR FOR INTERVIEW  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
APR 9 - 1945  
Let to ABC (P) file  
5/5/45 ABC/amy  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECORDS BRANCH  
CC/H

1945 APR 6 PM 3 16

CENTRAL SERVICES

711.94114 SUPPLIES  
/4-445

My dear Mr. Kuppinger:

In connection with the supplies now stored in Vladivostok, this office would appreciate obtaining the following information:

1. Actual inventory of all prisoner of war supplies in Vladivostok or Nakhodka.
2. Contents of all British or Dominion supplies.
3. Condition of all supplies.

Sincerely yours,

H.L. Pence  
Relief to Prisoners of War

AUG 2 1945

DCR - GP-C Unit

Anal. *fm*

Rev. *LS*

at \_\_\_\_\_

List. \_\_\_\_\_



KEEP YOUR RED CROSS AT HIS SIDE



*zhg*

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

Collect

Charge Department:

Charge to Department

TELEGRAM SENT

Department of State

Washington

CONFIDENTIAL

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

CONFIDENTIAL

APR -5 1945

*YR*

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

634

In January 1945 Kuppinger of Department and Pate of Amcross discussed with Sven Salen at Philadelphia possibility of acquiring a Swedish ship to be turned over to Japanese for operation by them in connection with the delivery of relief supplies to Allied nationals in Japanese custody. Salen said that he had in mind a Swedish ship which might be suitable and which we might acquire for this purpose.

We are now considering proposing to Japanese further exchanges of nationals in connection with which we would make available a ship to be operated by them between the exchange point and Japan. Relief supplies also would be carried.

Call on Salen (Strandvagen 7), remind him of above conversation and obtain following information:

1. Is the ship he had in mind still available and is it equipped to carry passengers? What is its top passenger capacity?
2. Maximum cruising range and speed. Type of fuel used, bunker capacity and rate of fuel consumption. Can ship carry sufficient water and stores for capacity passenger load for maximum cruising range?
3. Cargo

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-545

711.94114 Supplies/4-545

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sent \_\_\_\_\_  
 Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONFIDENTIAL



PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

### TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

## Department of State

Charge Department:

*Washington*

Charge to

-2-

- 3. Cargo capacity.
- 4. Approximate value of ship and charter hire.
- 5. Approximate time required to prepare ship for service.

This project is to be considered confidential and Salen should be so cautioned. Reply urgently.

For Legation's background information and not (repeat not) for communication to Salen, we are discussing with British alternative plan for use of Drottningholm. Above information desired for our use in case Drottningholm cannot be used.

*Admission*  
*acting*  
*Stettinius*  
*(EDK)*

SWP:EDKuppinger:amg

4-4-45

*abc*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*SD*

*[Handwritten mark]*

APR 6 115P M. 6:30



46610

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 WAR PROBLEMS  
 SPECIAL DIVISION

File 30/R

April 5, 1945

Mr. Plitt:

1. In accordance with your instructions, I met on April 5 at noon with Captain Tonseth and Colonel Bernays, as a subcommittee of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War, to formulate proposals in regard to action to be taken in the matter of the sinking of the Awa Maru.

2. Two aspects of the matter were discussed:

(a) Whether we should immediately inform the Japanese that this incident has occurred or whether we should await the receipt of a Japanese protest and then proceed in the light of that protest.

(b) What if any, steps might be taken with a view to pacifying the Japanese to the extent that it will be possible to continue with some hope of success negotiations in regard to the delivery of relief supplies and exchanges of nationals.

3. With reference to (a) Colonel Bernays was strongly of the opinion we should take the initiative in the matter by notifying the Japanese that this incident had occurred. He was supported by Colonel Mayer, a Japanese expert, whom he consulted during the course of the meeting. Captain Tonseth concurred. I expressed certain reservations along the lines of SWP's memorandum of April 4 to General Holmes.

4. The arguments advanced by Colonel Bernays in favor of his position were: (1) That to make such an announcement to the Japanese would indicate our good faith and that we were not attempting to "put over" anything on them, (2) that such an announcement might soften somewhat the position to be taken by the Japanese thereby facilitating our efforts to repair the damage done.

5. My

FW 711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-245

Confidential File

FW 711.94114 Supplies/4-245

P. 17/14

1945



5. My feeling was that nothing we could do at this time is likely to have any important effect on the position to be taken by the Japanese. As soon as they are in possession of sufficient information, they will undoubtedly squeeze from this incident all possible propaganda value, just as we probably would do if the situation were reversed. It is doubtful whether the Japanese would ascribe to us any decent intentions in the matter regardless of what we might say to them. Therefore, it seemed to me preferable to assemble all available information concerning the incident (very little of which is now at hand) and thus be in a better position to meet the Japanese charges. There is reason to believe that the ship was considerably off its proper course and that it was not illuminated. If that proves to be the case, we need not take as defensive a position as would be the case if those factors were not present.

6. Since the vote in the subcommittee was two to one in favor of an immediate announcement, it was decided that Captain Tonseth would prepare a letter to the State Department suggesting the nature of a proposed communication to the Japanese through the protecting Power.

7. Recommendation: Since the question involved seems to be what the probable Japanese reaction will be in case we do or do not take the initiative in the matter, it is suggested that the Department's position be formulated by the Office of Eastern Affairs.

8. With reference to (b) it was the concensus of the subcommittee that our best hope for obtaining further Japanese cooperation in the delivery of relief supplies and exchanges of nationals lay in an offer to replace the lost ship regardless of where the investigation disclosed the primary responsibility for the incident to be. Money would probably not interest them. It was agreed that the State Department representative would draft a letter addressed to the Secretaries of War and Navy stating that the State Department proposed to recommend to the President that a ship of the approximate size, type, and value of the Awa Maru be made available to be turned over to the Japanese Government and seeking the concurrence of the War and Navy Departments to this proposal.

9. Recommendation: That the attached draft letter in the sense of the above be approved.

*See SWPs memo. Apr. 7*  
*Not necessary as telegram has been sent to Japan.*

*[Handwritten signatures]*

Eldred D. Kuppinger

SWP:EDK:EHJ



*Sup*  
*Sec*

April 25, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/4-245

SECRET

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to the report of the sinking on April 1 by American submarine action of the Japanese ship Awa Maru, as set forth in the Navy Department's letter of April 2, 1945 (reference (SC) A14-3/EF37).

It is understood that the full details of this incident are not as yet available but that an effort is being made to assemble as quickly as possible all relevant information.

The investigation, when concluded, may indicate that the proximate cause of the disaster was the failure of the Japanese ship to fulfill all the conditions under which safe conduct was granted. Should that prove to be the case, however, it is doubtful whether the Japanese Government would accept our findings and acknowledge Japanese negligence. Therefore, even though this Government might be in a position to establish to its satisfaction the absence of a legal obligation to make an offer of reparation to the Japanese Government, the Japanese might seize upon this incident as a pretext for refusing to discuss further the question of additional relief shipments and exchanges of nationals.

In view of the progressively deteriorating conditions under which Allied nationals in Japanese custody are held, it has become increasingly necessary to make every effort to establish a means of sending to them regularly supplemental food, clothing, and medical supplies and to endeavor to arrange

The Honorable  
Henry L. Stimson,  
Secretary of War.

for  
*[Signature]*  
Dist. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-245

Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies/4-245



-2-

for the repatriation of all those nationals who are eligible for repatriation.

If, as the result of the Awa Maru incident, the Japanese Government takes a negative position as regards further operations of this character, the Department of State proposes, subject to your concurrence, to recommend to the President that an American ship of approximately the size, type, and value of the Awa Maru be offered conditionally to the Japanese Government in replacement of that ship irrespective of whether the Navy investigation discloses primary responsibility for the disaster to be that of the American submarine commander or the captain of the Awa Maru.

The offer of replacement might be conditioned upon Japanese agreement to use the ship for the following purposes and no others:

(a) To operate between Japanese-controlled territory and a Pacific point to be designated by the American Government in connection with exchanges of Japanese and Allied civilians, seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, and surplus protected personnel.

(b) To pick up at the Pacific transfer point, either in conjunction with exchanges of nationals or otherwise, relief supplies for Allied nationals in Japanese custody and to deliver such supplies to the various areas where Allied nationals are located.

(c) To transport relief supplies from Japan to the Pacific transfer point destined for Japanese nationals in Allied custody. The American Government would undertake the onward transportation of such supplies from the transfer point.

(d) In periods between missions the ship would not be berthed at a dock but would be anchored as far out in the harbor as possible.

The vessel during the above-described operations would be accorded safe conduct by both Japanese and Allied forces; would be painted and marked in a distinguishing manner; would be fully illuminated at night, including searchlights trained upon side and deck markings; and would report its position by radio at four-hour intervals.

Under



-3-

Under this proposal, conditioned as mentioned above, we might accomplish our objective of arranging for further and continued exchanges of civilians and eligible prisoners of war as well as the regular shipment of relief supplies. There already is reason to believe that owing to the Japanese shipping situation further exchanges of nationals will be possible only if the necessary shipping is made available to Japan.

Ordinarily it might be expected that an offer of this nature would be unacceptable because of the restrictive conditions incorporated therein. A rejection might prove embarrassing to this Government and the Japanese Government might be able to capitalize upon its rejection to our disadvantage. However, it is believed that the offer could be made in such a way as to make it awkward for the Japanese to reject it. On April 6, according to the Japanese radio, an official Japanese Government spokesman announced to his press conference that the Awa Maru which was scheduled to have arrived at Tsuruga on the previous day would be employed further in the distribution of relief supplies for Allied nationals. He said that the ship was to proceed to Nakhodka to pick up a further consignment of supplies and would then distribute the supplies to areas outside Japan under the same type of arrangement as that in effect for the then current voyage. In effect the proposal outlined above would make available to the Japanese a ship to be used for this purpose, thus enabling them to implement the plans they announced for the Awa Maru. This aspect of the matter would be brought out in the communication by which the offer of conditional replacement would be made to Japan and the communication would be made public when forwarded. Should the Japanese reject the offer their rejection would be tantamount to an admission that the April 6 statement was not true--an admission which they probably would not want to make.

I should be grateful if you would inform me whether a recommendation of this nature to the President would have your concurrence.

A similar letter has been sent to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ/amg

4-17/23-45

APR 25 1945

Joseph O. Grew  
Acting Secretary

A true copy of  
the signed original.

JA  
A-H



This proposal might serve a two-fold purpose:  
 (a) It might allay to some degree Japanese resentment at the sinking of one of their ships traveling under Allied safe conduct and induce them to consider further operations of the same nature, and  
 (b) by means of such a gesture, conditioned as mentioned above, we might accomplish our objective of arranging for further and continued exchanges of civilians and eligible prisoners of war as well as the regular shipment of relief supplies. There already is reason to believe that owing to the Japanese shipping situation further exchanges of nationals will be possible only if the necessary shipping is made available to Japan.

I should be grateful if you would inform me whether a recommendation of this nature to the President would have your concurrence.

A similar letter has been sent to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

APR 17 4:55 P.M.

*asc* *EHJ*

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-17-45  
 SWP:EAPlitt:EHJ

A-H

JA } see  
 FE } rewritten



In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114 Supplies/4-245

SECRET

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to the report of the sinking on April 1 by American submarine action of the Japanese ship Awa Maru, as set forth in the Navy Department's letter of April 2, 1945 (Reference (SC) A14-3/EF37).

It is understood that the full details of this incident are not as yet available but that an effort is being made to assemble as quickly as possible all relevant information.

The investigation, when concluded, may indicate that the proximate cause of the disaster was the failure of the Japanese ship to fulfill all the conditions under which safe conduct was granted. Should that prove to be the case, however, it is doubtful whether the Japanese Government would accept our findings and acknowledge Japanese negligence. Therefore, even though this Government might be in a position to establish to its satisfaction the absence of a legal obligation to make an offer of reparation to the Japanese Government, the Japanese might seize upon this incident as a pretext for refusing to discuss further the question of additional relief shipments and exchanges of nationals.

The Department of State proposes, therefore, to recommend to the President that an American ship of approximately the size, type, and value of the Awa Maru be offered to the Japanese Government in replacement of that ship irrespective of whether the

Navy

The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,

Secretary of War.



Navy investigation discloses primary responsibility for the disaster to be that of the American submarine commander or the captain of the Awa Maru. It would be hoped that this gesture on the part of the United States would be taken by the Japanese Government as tangible proof of this Government's good faith in the matter and thus serve to forestall Japanese opposition to pending and further proposals of the character mentioned above.

I should appreciate it if you would inform me whether a recommendation of this nature to the President has your concurrence.

Sincerely yours,

~~Acting Secretary~~

APR 11 1945 P.M.

*[Handwritten initials]*

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-6-45

RB  
JA FE A-H  
*[Handwritten initials]*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

War Problems  
SPECIAL/DIVISION

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION <i>File</i>
JAN 7 - 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

April 5, 1945

Examination of the Awa Maru sinking by a Subcommittee of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War.

Following extensive discussions by representatives of the Department and the Navy Department yesterday of the reported sinking of the Japanese vessel Awa Maru, I arranged for a meeting of a Subcommittee of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War to examine the case and recommend whatever action it might seem desirable to take, if any, prior to the receipt of more definite information concerning the incident.

With the agreement of Major General Henry, G-1, and Captains O'Brien and Jacobs of the Navy, I designated Mr. Kuppinger to represent the Department to meet this morning with Colonel Bernays, G-1, War Department, and Captain Tonseth of the Navy, these three to constitute for the purpose a Subcommittee of the Interdepartmental Board.

The meeting is scheduled to be held in the office of General Henry at the Pentagon.

E. A. P.

DCR GP C Unit	
Anal.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Rev.	<i>[Signature]</i>
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SWP:EAPlitt:OBO

1 - 8 1946  
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CONFIDENTIAL FILE

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-545

*711.94114 Supplies/4-545*



In reply refer to Initials and No.

Serial 0030113  
(SC)A14-3/EF37

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
APR 6 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



**SECRET**

6 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

The following additional details of the reported sinking of the AWA MARU are furnished for your information.

The ship was attacked at close range by a surfaced American submarine at 1500 G.C.T., 1 April 1945, in latitude 25-25 North, longitude 120-07 East. This position was only eleven miles from the location of an attack made ten hours earlier on a seven ship convoy. Fog precluded identification but one of the few survivors identified the ship as a two year old, 12,000 ton NYK liner. He stated further that tin, rubber and lead comprised the cargo and that there were 2000 Japanese on board, no military or wounded personnel or prisoners of war. Four torpedo hits resulted in the immediate sinking of the ship, which was thought to be a destroyer or destroyer escort.

*T. C. Ragan*

T. C. RAGAN,  
Captain, U.S.N.

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-645

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Rev.	<i>sub</i>
Cat.	<i>sub</i>
Dist.	

APR 8 1945

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CONFIDENTIAL FILE

711.94114 Supplies  
CS/VJ  
4-645



STANDARD FORM NO. 64

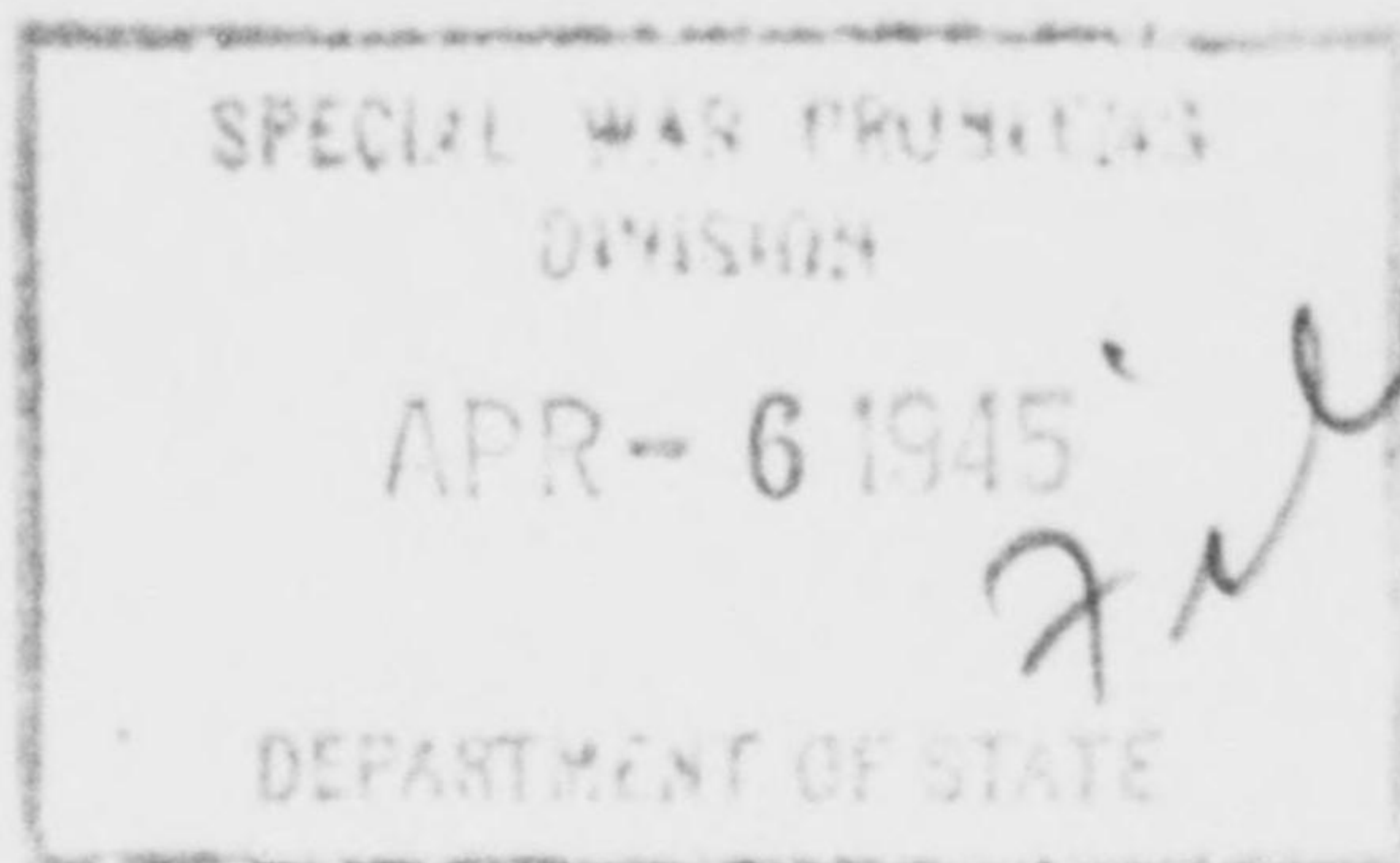
# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SWP - Mr. Plitt

FROM : ESC - H. M. Benninghoff

SUBJECT: AWA MARU

DATE: April 6, 1945



This Document Must Be Returned to  
 RM/R  
 Central  
 Files  
 711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-645  
 HMB

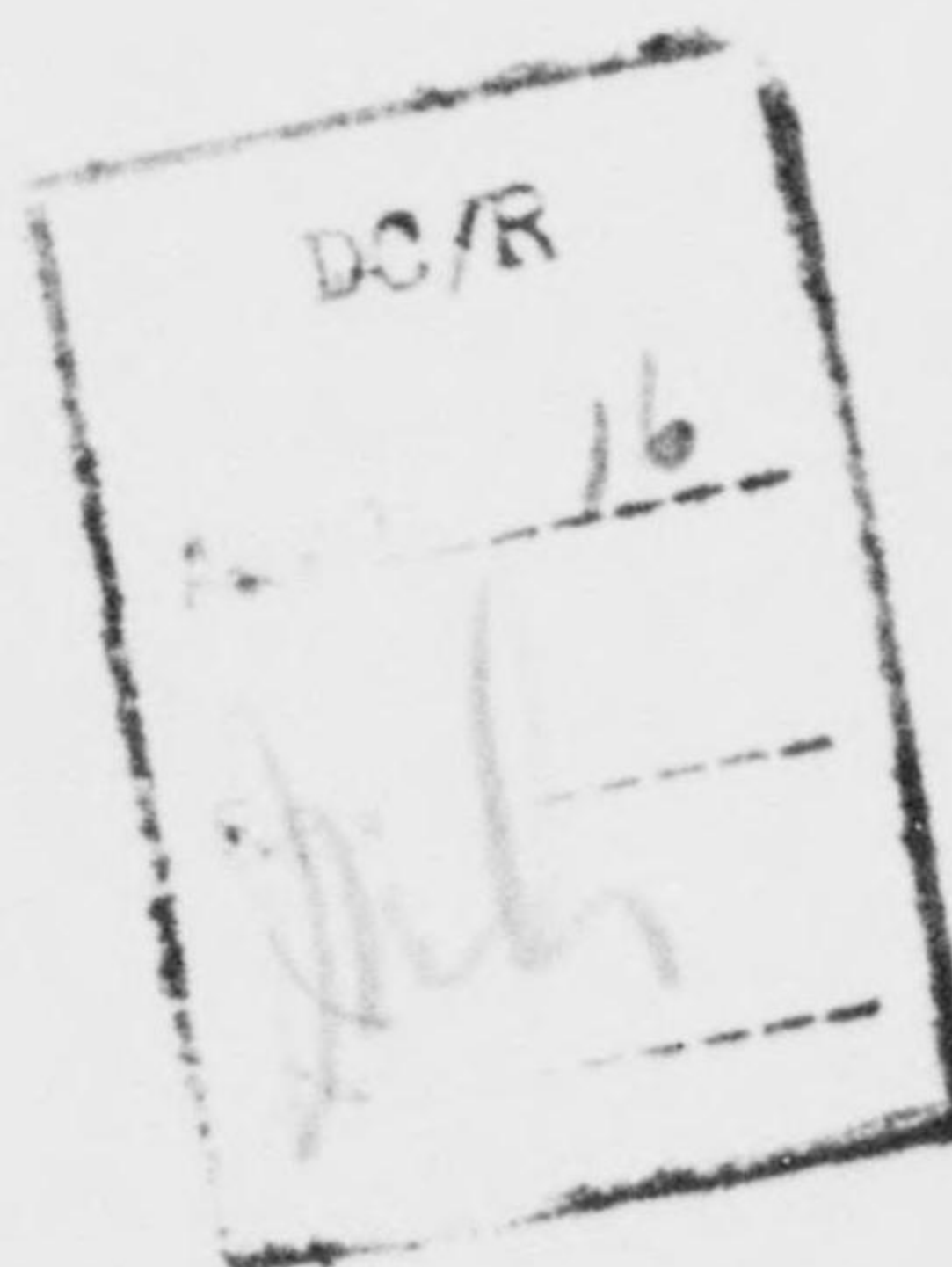
General Holmes asked me to send you the following quotation from a Japanese broadcast on April 6th containing a portion of a report of a press conference held by the Japanese official spokesman:

"During the same conference, Iguchi disclosed that the 'AWA MARU' scheduled to have ... TSURUGA yesterday afternoon after delivering relief supplies to American prisoners of war and internees in the Southern regions and Southern China, would go on another mission toward the latter part of this month.

"Additional American supplies are awaiting trans-shipment at Nahodka in the Soviet Union and after formal replies from the United States and the Soviet Governments to Japanese notification of their readiness to ship and deliver them have been received, the 'AWA MARU' will proceed to Nahodka, Iguchi revealed."

H. M. B.

*HMB*  
 ESC:HMB:rd



CSELK

711.94114 Supplies  
 /4-645



*Awa Maru*

SPECIAL PROJECTS  
DIVISION  
JAN 7 - 1946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WAR PROBLEMS  
SPECIAL/DIVISION

April 7, 1945

ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
MR. HOLMES  
APR 7 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-H - General Holmes:

In view of the attached Japanese broadcast concern-  
ing the Awa Maru, it seemed to SWP that the time had  
arrived when some preliminary statement should be made  
to the Japanese about the incident. Accordingly, a  
draft was prepared on April 7 of a telegram for trans-  
mission to the Japanese Government. (copy attached).

The draft telegram was taken to the Navy Department  
with a view to securing informal and expeditious clear-  
ance.

We were informed late in the afternoon that Admiral  
Edwards felt that sufficient definite information con-  
cerning the matter had not yet been received. A despatch  
was sent to the theater asking for immediate corrobora-  
tion of the information thus far received. Admiral  
Edwards requested that no message to the Japanese be  
sent until a reply to this despatch had been received.

711.94114 SUPPLIES  
/4-745

*[Signature]*  
Edwin A. Plitt

DCR GP-C Unit  
Anal. *[Signature]*  
Rev. *[Signature]*  
Cat. *[Signature]*  
Dist. *[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ

APR 8 1945

711.94114 Supplies/4-745  
CONFIDENTIAL FILE  
CS/VJ DELIBED



UNRESTRICTED

No. 11373 THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

35457

Handwritten notes: "filed BT", "AW", "DWC", "DCH", "DWC" and a stamp: "DEPARTMENT OF STATE" with "APR 10 1945" and "AMERICAN LEGATION" written on it.

Via Airmail Pouch.

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, April 9, 1945.

Subject: American Interests - Far East Distribution of GRIPSHOLM relief supplies at Hongkong.

1945 APR 19 PM 4 33

RECORDS BRANCH

711.94114 Supplies/199

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmail despatch No. 7983 of April 25, 1944, with which there was forwarded a copy of a schedule supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva concerning the distribution of relief supplies which were sent to the Far East on the exchange vessel GRIPSHOLM. It may be recalled that this schedule covered, among others, the Hongkong portion of the supplies which had been shipped from Japan to that port.

There is now enclosed, for the Department's information and records, a copy of a supplementary note from the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding the distribution of GRIPSHOLM relief supplies at Hongkong. This has been received under cover of a letter dated March 29, 1945, from the International Committee of the Red Cross, which states that the information was supplied by the Japanese authorities to its Hongkong delegate, Mr. Zindel, who telegraphed it to Geneva.

Enclosure:

Copy of note from International Committee of the Red Cross - with original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2 TJH/dmh In quintuplicate to Department.

Routing slip with handwritten initials: "Anal. Jmb", "Rev. R.P.T.", "Dist." and "Date".

MAY 7 1945

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-945

Handwritten notes: "711.94114 Supplies/4-945" and "OSX" with an arrow pointing to the routing slip.



GRIPSHOLM #AEnclosure No. 1 Dispatch No. 11373  
dated Apr. 9/45 from the American  
Legation, Bern.Complementary note of distribution ex SS TEIA MARU

According to a statement received by our delegation in Hongkong from the Japanese authorities and dated 23.2.45, the Hongkong relief portion was distributed as follows:

		<u>Camps</u>	
		<u>POW</u>	<u>CI</u>
From Canadian Red Cross:			
Klim	Cases	10	14
Grapefruit juice	"	7	--
Foodparcels containing	"	1146	617
8 units	"	18	10
Medicines	"	3	--
Vitamins	"	5	4
Shoe nails	"	--	10
Pabulum	"	--	3
Nurse dresses	"	--	4
Orange juice	"	--	7
Baby food	"	--	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>1189</u>	<u>669</u>
From American Red Cross:			
		<u>POW</u>	<u>CI</u>
Ref. VIII Men's apparel		50	--
" XI " overcoats		5	--
	<u>Total</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>--</u>
YMCA Recreational equipments		9	--
	<u>Total</u>	<u>1253</u>	<u>669</u>

GRAND TOTAL 1922 PACKAGES



- '2 -

Note of distribution within:

- I Pow camps on August 26th 1944
- II " Hospital on September 1st 1944
- III C.I Kowloon Camp on September 1st 1944
- IV " Hongkong " " " 14th 1944

from Canadian Red Cross:	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
Klim	8	2	1	13
Grapefruit juice	6	1	--	--
Food parcels	1046	100	10	607
Medicines	16	2	1	9
Vitamins	3	0	--	--
Shoe nails	5	0	--	4

From American Red Cross:

VIII Men's apparel	50	--
XI Men's overcoats	5	--
YMCA Recreational goods	7	2

Total	<u>1146</u>	<u>107</u>
	*	*
	*	*
	*	*
	1253	

Pabulum	1	9
Nurse dresses	--	3
Orange juice	1	3
Baby food	--	7
Total	<u>14</u>	<u>655</u>
	*	*
	*	*
		*
		669

GRAND TOTAL 1922 PACKAGES



13 -

We learn that the delay in the distribution to the Hongkong Camp was due to transport conditions.-

The following receipts duly signed by P.O.W.'s representatives, which are in possession of our delegation in Hongkong cover the following packages:

1189 Canadian Red Cross	packages )	
55 American Red Cross	packages )	distributed to POW camps
9 Y.M.C.A	packages )	
669 Canadian Red Cross	"	distributed to C.I camps

The commanding officer of the Hongkong P.O.W. camps reported to the Japanese P.O.W. Information Bureau on December 8th, 1944 that the SS TEIA MARU relief for Hongkong P.O.W. and C.I camps arrived by the SS KANSHU MARU on August 28th 1944. The goods were temporarily placed in camps store houses and handed over to the P.O.W and C.I representatives for immediate distribution. All medical supplies were simultaneously distributed to camps and nothing was retained at Camp store houses.

Our Hongkong delegation further stated that an impartial attitude was taken in effecting distribution.



*AEC*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 30, 1945

SEP 28 1945

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Ranken, British Embassy  
Mr. Kuppinger, SWP

COPIES TO:

*File*  
*copy*

FW 711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1045

Mr. Ranken called on me this afternoon pursuant to a telegram from the Foreign Office requesting the Embassy to obtain all available information concerning the sinking of the Awa Maru.

I gave Mr. Ranken a copy of the Department's telegram 1396, April 10, to Bern and told him that this constituted all the information presently available to us with the exception of the additional fact that there was only one survivor, a Japanese steward. I told him also that we were consulting with the other interested agencies in regard to the desirability of recommending to the President that an American ship be made available to be offered to the Japanese in replacement of the Awa Maru under certain restrictive conditions which I outlined to him. I told Mr. Ranken that we would keep the Embassy informed of any further developments in the matter.

I said that none of these details had been made public in the United States and that thus far we had confined ourselves merely to a brief press announcement on April 11. I requested that the information I had given him be treated as confidential and asked that he suggest to the Foreign Office the undesirability, in our view, of opening this matter to public discussion at this stage. I told him that in particular the fact that we had under consideration an offer to the Japanese to replace the ship should be considered strictly confidential.

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ

*EHJ*

SEP 28 1945

*50 711.94114 Supplies/4-1045*



In pursuance of a demand for indemnities put forward by their note of the 16th May regarding the AWA MARU incident, the Japanese Government make the following claims and request that the United States Government promptly satisfy them in compliance with the views of the Japanese Government set out in their note of the 10th August concerning the question of indemnities.

1) That the United States Government pay to the Japanese Government as a compensation for the loss of the lives of the crew and passengers of the AWA MARU being 2003 persons yen 196,115,000 (one hundred ninety-six million one hundred fifteen thousand yen). The above amount is to be distributed to the families or relatives of the victims in accordance with four ranks of victims' personal status as follows:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. The highest rank for<br>18 men                               | Yen 200,000 per person |
| 2. The high rank for 689 men                                    | Yen 150,000 per person |
| 3. The middle rank for 287 men                                  | Yen 100,000 per person |
| 4. The lower rank for 1009 men<br>amounting to Yen 186,100,000, | Yen 50,000 per person  |

and to this added the victims' cash and the costs of their personal effects estimated at Yen 5000 per person which totals Yen 10,015,000.

2) That the United States Government pay to the Japanese Government as an allowance to be made to the family of Mr. Kantaro Shimoda, the only survivor, for the period of four months from the 1st April to the 31st July 1945 Yen 1,600 (one thousand six hundred yen). In the event of the repatriation of Mr. Shimoda taking place later than the 31st July an additional sum shall have to be paid.

3) That the United States Government pay to the Japanese Government as a compensation for the loss of the goods which were on board the AWA MARU being 9,812 kilo tons, Yen 30,370,000 (thirty million three hundred seventy thousand Yen).

4) That the United States Government pay to the Japanese Government the expected profits of the AWA MARU which would have accrued until the date of the delivery of a substitute ship mentioned in item 5 below at the rate of Yen 200,000 (two hundred thousand Yen) per mensem, which is equivalent to the former actual average monthly business profit of the vessel. The amount for the four months from the 1st April to the 31st July 1945 will be Yen 800,000. The sum total of the above mentioned amounts is Yen 227,286,600 (two hundred twenty-seven million two hundred eighty-six thousand six hundred Yen) which has been worked out on a fair basis of calculation. The above sum shall be paid either in gold or in foreign currency freely convertible to gold currency in accordance with the choice of the Japanese Government.

5) That

*For 7/11/94/114 Surphub/4-1045*







PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department: **XX**

Washington

35

Charge to

AMLEGATION,

APR 10 1945

BERN.

1396, TENTH

Request Swiss communicate urgently following textually to  
Japanese Government:

Information has been received that at about midnight  
April 1 east longitude date a ship was sunk by submarine action  
at a position approximately forty miles from the estimated  
scheduled position of the Awa Maru. No lights or special  
illumination were visible at any time. The ship sank almost  
immediately. One survivor has stated that the ship was the  
Awa Maru. If in fact the ship sunk was the Awa Maru, the  
Government of the United States deeply regrets the occurrence  
of this incident and will furnish the Japanese Government  
additional information as it becomes available.

As indicated above, a degree of uncertainty still remains  
as to the actual identity of the ship. If the ship in fact  
was the Awa Maru, the question of primary responsibility for  
this incident has not as yet been determined. The Government  
of the United States assures the Japanese Government that the  
investigation of this incident is proceeding in all sincerity  
and good faith. ~~and~~ It is hoped that there will be no change in

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1045

CS/MARU

711.94114 Supplies/4-1045



PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

### TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

### Department of State

Charge Department:

*Washington*

Charge to

-2-

36

the plans of the Japanese Government to pick up in the immediate future a further consignment of Allied relief supplies at Nakhodka.

*Stellerman*  
*JH*

RECEIVED  
DIVISION

APR 9 1945 P.M.  
APR 10 1945 11:30

*Woot*  
*arc*

*WAK*

*FE*

*JA*

*JPD*

*JH*  
*A-H*

*SAM*  
*Amick*

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-9-45



711.94114 Supplies/4-945

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Regarding the text of a suggested despatch to the Japanese Government in connection with the AWA MARU incident.

*711.94114 Supplies/4-945*

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See letter  
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Apr. 9, 1945 From Navy Department  
~~xxx~~

File No. 740.0011 PW/4-945

ANG:



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM PLAIN

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

LC-389

Bern

Dated <sup>April</sup> August 11, 1945

Rec'd 9:14 a.m.

37

25722

Secretary of State, Washington.

US URGENT 2125, Eleventh

SPECIAL W/PROBLEMS DIVISION APR 10 1945 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No reply required. See Dept's 1396, Apr. 10 to Bern.

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST RELIEF SUPPLIES Legation's 6916, October 18 Point Sexto.

711.94114 Supplies 10-1844

Swiss note April 9 states Swiss Legation Tokyo telegraphed April fifth as follows regarding transport of relief parcels and mail to Allied POWS in Japanese hands: according communication from Japanese Foreign Office Soviet Government recently informed Japanese Government that it would authorize a Japanese vessel to enter port of Makhodka to load relief supplies under conditions similar to those for the last transport Japanese Government has therefore decided to send vessel ANA MARU upon its return (Legation's note please see Legation's 1903, March 31) and to proceed with distribution of relief to prisoners of war and internees in the south and other areas under the following conditions.

Form with fields for Anal, Rev, and Date, containing handwritten initials and the number 3-3145 SWP.

One. Japan

APR 16 1945

FILED

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1145



38

-2-#2126, Eleventh, from Born

One. Japan will assure the transport from Nakhodka under the same conditions as those for transport on the HAKUSAN MARU of approximately 2200 (repeat 2200) tons of mail and relief supplies stored or to be stored shortly on Soviet territory.

Two. The United States will grant safe conduct for the AWA MARY as formerly for the HAKUSAN MARY and it will obtain assurances of safe conduct of all interested countries including Russia.

Three. The United States will similarly give safe conduct for the AWA MARY for the transport of relief supplies to China and to the southern area as previously for the HOSEI MARU and AWA MARY.

Four. Japan will communicate to the Swiss Legation within the period desired by the United States the route schedule departure and characteristics of AWA MARY.

Swiss Legation Tokyo adds that Japan prepared dispatch AWA MARY to Nakhodka middle of April.

HARRISON

EDA



*Handwritten initials*

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

Charge Department: **xx**

Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

Charge to

This telegram is clearly marked to belong only to anyone.  
Washington  
CONFIDENTIAL

APR 18 1945  
3 P.M.

AMLEGATION,

STOCKHOLM.

*698*

In view present plan to endeavor combine exchanges of nationals and shipments of relief supplies (RELEGS 1355, April 11), cargo vessel will not (repeat not) suit purpose. We are, however, glad to know of availability of Karlshamn in case a ship of this type is needed.

In answer to specific questions: (1) Vessel would be turned over to Japanese and sailed by them under Japanese flag with Allied safe conduct. (2) Exchange point would not (repeat not) under present plan be neutral port. Some agreed upon point in Pacific would be used as exchange point.

In view of Awa Maru incident it is unlikely that we shall be in a position to implement proposed project in immediate future. Nevertheless Legation should explore with Salen fully possibility of obtaining combination cargo-passenger ship should we later be able to employ it for above purpose.

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1145

*Handwritten vertical note:* 711.94114 Supplies/4-1145

Rev. *clb*  
Cat.  
Dist.

711.94114 Supplies/4-1145

APR 17 1945  
APR 18

NOE

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-14-45

*Stettinius*  
(EDK)

SENT  
*gd*

*arc*



*OCR*

War Problems

April 11, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR

Captain T. H. Tonseth  
Central Division  
Office of Naval Operations  
Navy Department

*11,9414 Kupfinger 4-11-45*

There is attached as of possible interest in connection with the Awa Mary incident a copy of telegram 2125, dated April 11, from the American Legation at Bern. No action is presently contemplated with respect to this message.

*EW 11.94114 Kupfinger 4-11-45*

Eldred D. Kupfinger  
Assistant Chief

Anal.	
Rev.	<i>AS</i>
Cat.	
Dist.	

A true copy of the signed original  
*AS*

*EDK*

SWP:EDKupfinger:EHJ

*abc*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

27796 DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

APR 18 1945

MJV-566  
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Stockholm  
Dated April 11, 1945  
Rec'd 6:25 p.m.

*JCA*

Secretary of State  
Washington

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
APR 12 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1355, April 11, 5 p.m.

Legation officer (RE DEPTS 634, April 5, 7 p.m.)

talked to Sven Salen regarding possibilities his furnishing vessel to be used in exchange of nationals and carriage of parcels between United States and Japs. Salen said at time of Philadelphia talk it was his understanding:

One. United States vessel would sail between United States and neutral port.

Two. Neutral vessel would shuttle between neutral port and Jap port.

Three. Proposed neutral vessel must be transferred to Jap flag at insistence of Japs.

Four. Only carriage of parcels under consideration, no passengers.

Present interest both carriage of passengers and parcels presents difficulties according to Salen. Requests

following further information to aid him locating suitable vessel.

Anal. *[Signature]*  
Rev. *[Signature]*  
Cmt.   
Dist.   
.....

SHIPPING DIVISION  
APR 25 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APR 27 1945

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1145

711.94114 Supplies/4-1145  
FILED



-2- #1355, April 11, 5 p.m. from Stockholm

vessel.

One. Under present plan will proposed vessel be under Jap flag.

Two. What neutral port is considered possible transfer point.

While awaiting answer he suggests possible consideration his SS KARLSHAMN built 1911. Following data given in reply to Department's questions (ref telegram): (plan of vessel and detailed specifications will follow by air pouch).

One. Grain capacity 32 thousand CBFT (repeat CBFT).

Two. Not equipped carry passengers.

Three. Coal burner, daily fuel consumption 25 tons, speed nine knots fully loaded, bunker capacity 765 tons including spare bunkers giving cruising range of thirty days equivalent 6450 nautical miles. Extra hold available as bunker space could be used giving additional 500 tons bunker coal making total 1265 tons coal or fifty days service equivalent 10,750 nautical miles.

Four. Total DW (repeat DW) capacity 6400 tons from which would have to deduct bunker coal, stores, provisions, fresh water.

Five. Hull insurance value \$700,000, war insurance same.

Six. Salen offers vessel for nine month period, bare  
boat



-3- #1355, April 11, 5 p.m. from Stockholm

boat basis at United States \$12,500 per month, instead of marine and war insurance will accept United States guarantee for its insurance value that is \$700,000.

Seven: Best of his knowledge vessel now employed by MOWT (repeat MOWT) trading between Red Sea and eastern Mediterranean and south and east Africa. Estimate take 20 to 25 days from South Africa to Timor, little longer if from Red Sea Port.

In opinion of Legation this vessel is not what Department desires but Salen makes following points:

One. Feels no possibility obtaining Swedish passenger vessel or even reasonably modern cargo vessel that could be converted to carriage of passengers if vessel to be placed under Jap flag.

Two. Feels if vessel kept under Swedish flag, although large passenger vessel not available, reasonable modern cargo vessel might be found. Some time necessary for conversion to passenger service, clear blockade and sail east.

Three. Feels if vessel placed under Jap flag KARLSHAMN best choice because:

A. Due to technicalities Swedish authorities might issue export license for vessel quickly (release from British would have to be obtained however).

B. Vessel could reach transfer point quickly due

present



-4- #1355, April 11, 5 p.m. from Stockholm

present location.

Salen suggested contacting British re DROTTNINGHOLM although Legation made no mention of possible negotiations

In Legation's opinion Salen, in view of present favorable military situation, does not wish to risk any modern vessel in such trade. Prefers rather to keep fleet available for immediate use when opportunity presents itself for return to prewar trade.

JOHNSON

WTD



48703

*SD*  
*LPN*



LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 5404 Stockholm, April 12, 1945 *DCR*  
Subject: Transmitting Specifications and Cargo Plan  
of S/S KARLSHAMN.

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
APR 3 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith an enclosure  
containing specifications and a cargo plan of the S/S  
KARLSHAMN. (Reference Department's telegram 634,  
April 5, 7 p.m., 1945, and Legation's telegram 1355,  
April 11, 5 p.m., 1945).

Respectfully yours,

*Herschel V. Johnson*  
Herschel V. Johnson.

Enclosure as stated.  
File No. 885  
NGS:MH  
Original to Department for  
possible ozaliding.

SEP 4 1947  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1245

DCR - ~~EUR~~ Unit  
Anal *Jmb*  
Rev *MB*  
Cat.  
Dist.

SEP 18 1947

FILED

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-12



Enclosure to despatch no. 5404, dated April 12, 1945  
from the Legation at Stockholm

STOCKHOLM 14th Sept. 1944.

# SVEN SALÉN, AKTIEBOLAG

SALE AND PURCHASE OF TONNAGE

SHIPBROKERS AND CHARTERING AGENTS

STOCKHOLM AND GOTHENBURG

Codes:  
SCOTT'S, WATKIN'S, A. B. C.  
BOE CODE & NEW BOE CODE

TELEGRAMS:  
"SALESHIP - STOCKHOLM"  
"SALEN - GOTHENBURG"

TELEPHONES:

STOCKHOLM: "SALÉNREDERIERNA" (FROM ABROAD 0642)  
GOTHENBURG 112964: ( " " 115832)

Name or folio S/S "Karlshamn" ex Hammar-  
When, where built Sunderland, 11/1011 land  
Class X.100.A.1.  
Last survey May 1937  
Material steel  
Builder's name J.L.Thompson & Sons Ltd.  
Register gross 3.715 eng. tons  
Do net. 2.382 " "  
Cubic capacity abt Grain 325.526  
Bales 314.938  
Dead Weight incl. bunkers abt 6.412 tons  
Bunkers contain abt 398/452 tons  
Standard capacity abt  
Dimens. { Length 348'3"  
Breadth 50'2"  
Depth 23'6"/25'11" mld  
Draft loaded abt 21'8.3/4"  
Number of holds 5  
Number of bulkheads 6  
Passenger accom.  
Number of hatches 6  
Size of hatches 4 à 25'0 x 18'0  
12'0 x 18'0; 6'0 x 6'0  
Deck plan 1 deck & web frames  
Longitudinal framing  
Water ballast abt 920 tons

## ENGINES.

Description of engines triple  
Where placed smids  
Age & Condition 1911  
Maker's name J.Dickinson & Sons Ltd.  
Horse power, nom. 305 ind. 1800  
Diameter of Cylinders 24 1/2" 40 7/8 66"  
Length of stroke 45"

## BOILERS.

Description of boilers S/E  
Size of boilers two boilers  
Heating surface 4,553 square feet  
Age and condition of boilers one new 1911  
Maker's name  
Number of furnaces 4 plain, 3 cerr.  
Working pressure 180 lbs. p. sq. inch.  
Donkey engine Donkey boiler  
Steam winches 6 Derricks  
Do vindlass yes Steam steering gear  
Electric light Wireless  
Average speed abt 1/  
Consumption abt 1/

Particulars presumed to be correct but not guaranteed.

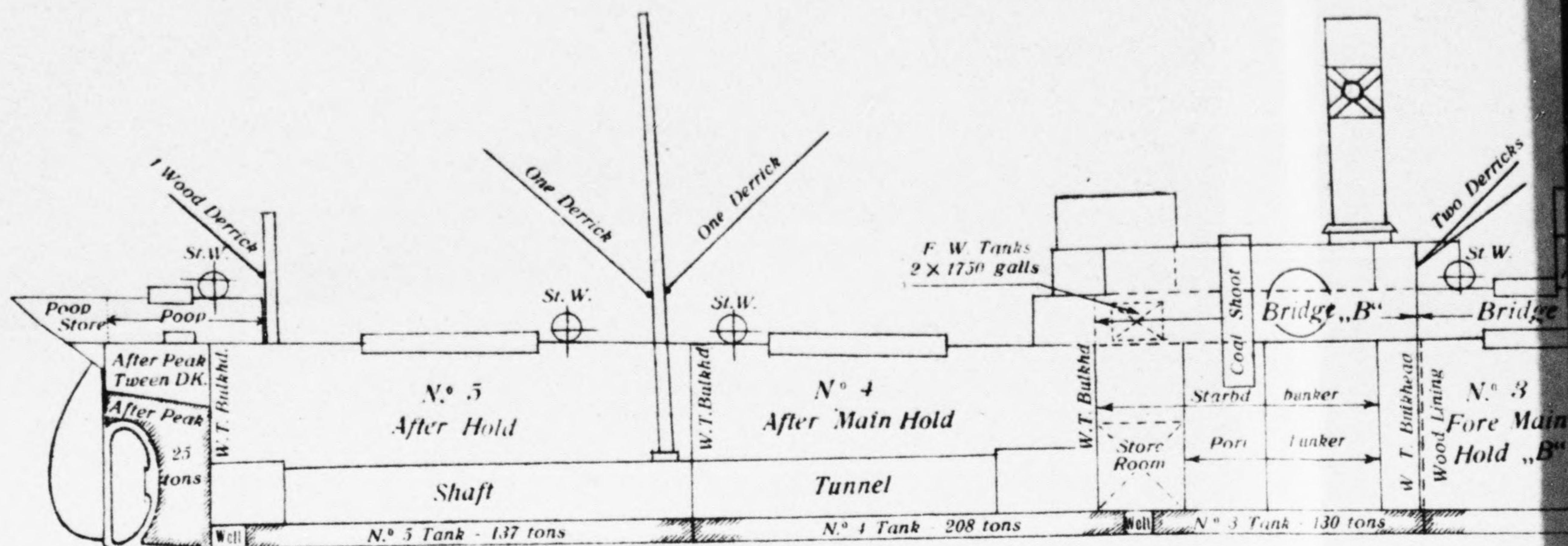
## REMARKS:

1/ Speed/Consumption: Abt 8.1/4 knots on abt 18 1/2/19 tons Westphalien, Welsh or Durham  
" 8.1/2 " " " 19 1/2 " - " -  
" 8.3/4 " " " 20 " - " -



# S.S. "KARLSHA"

LENGTH B.P. = 348'-0", BREATH: 50'-2 1/2", DEPTH: 25'-11 1/2", CIL  
STROKE: 45", NHP. 305, BOILERS: 16'-0" X



Wood Shifting Boards filled in Holds and Tween

## HATCHES

CARGO CAPACITY INCLUDING ALL HATCHES	Gross	Net	Cotton
N° 1 Fore Hold	58622	56749	55523
N° 2 Fore Main Hold (A)	82539	80377	78776
N° 3 „ „ „ (B)	22964	22567	21936
N° 4 After Main Hold	63439	61719	60234
N° 5 „ Hold	62366	59987	58442
Fore Peak Hold	1111	971	879
„ „ Tween DKs (Lower)	1047	853	753
„ „ „ (Upper)	2020	1789	1635
After Peak „ „ (Cargo or Ballast)	2186	1951	1703
	296294	286743	279881
Bridge (A) (forward of Bunker Bhd.)	12965	12620	11867
„ „ (B) (at sides of Casing)	8762	8449	7937
Poop (forward of Transome)	5783	5584	5257
Poop Store (aft. of „ „ )	1722	1542	1337
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>325526</b>	<b>314958</b>	<b>306279</b>

**Gross:** Capacity measured to Outside of Frames, Top of Ceiling and Top of Beams.

**Net:** Capacity measured to Inside of Cargo Battens, Top of Ceiling and Top of Beams.

**Cotton:** Capacity measured to Inside of Cargo Battens, Top of Ceiling and Underside of Beams.

N° 1	25'-0" x 18'
N° 2	25'-0" x 18'
N° 3	12'-0" x 18'
N° 4	25'-0" x 18'
N° 5	25'-0" x 18'
Poop	6'-0" x 6'

## WATER BALLAST

N° 1	Fore tank
„ 2	Fore main tank
„ 3	Engine room tank
„ 4	After main tank
„ 5	After tank
Total Bottom ballast	
After peak	
After peak T. D. (Cargo or ballast)	
Total ballast	

## BUNKERS

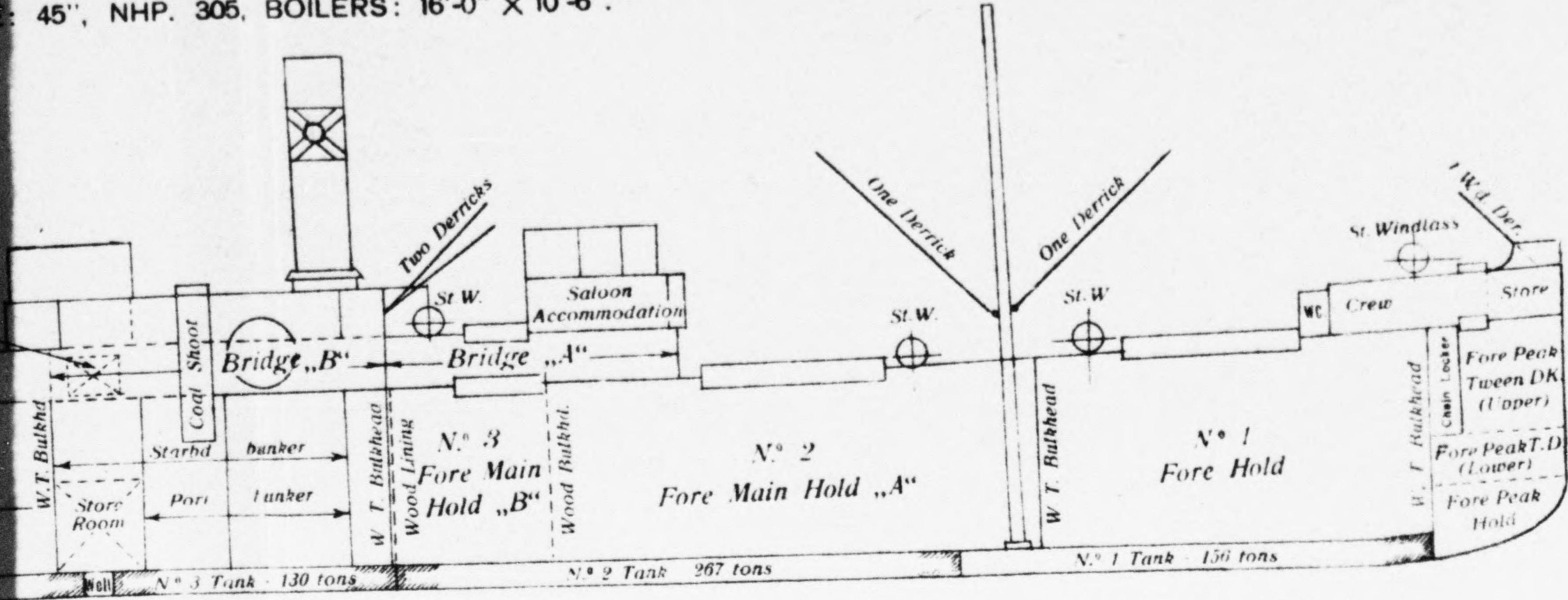
Taken at 45 cubic feet per ton

Starboard bunker
Port bunker
Coal shoot
Total permanent
Bridge (A) about
Bridge (B) (at sides)
Total bunkers capacity



# IRLSHAMN

BEAM: 50'-2 1/2", DEPTH: 25'-11 1/2", CILINDERS: 24 1/2" x 40" x 66"  
 DRAFT: 45", NHP. 305, BOILERS: 16'-0" x 10'-6"



Shifting Boards fitted in Holds and Tween Decks

## HATCHES

N° 1	25'-0" x 18'-0"
N° 2	25'-0" x 18'-0"
N° 3	12'-0" x 18'-0"
N° 4	25'-0" x 18'-0"
N° 5	25'-0" x 18'-0"
Poop	6'-0" x 6'-0"

F.W.

I.S.  
S.  
W.

DRAFT		DEADWEIGHT TONS.	TONS. PER INCH.	FREE BOARD	
Feet	Inch.			Feet	Inch.
22	2 1/4		4	2	
22	1 1/4	6570	4	3	
21	8 3/4	6412	4	7	
21	4 3/4	6271	35-25	4	
21	0	6104	35-17	5	
20	6	5893	35-17	5	
20	0	5683	35-00	6	
19	6	5473	35-00	6	
19	0	5263	35-00	7	
18	6	5053	35-00	7	
18	0	4844	34-83	8	
17	6	4635	34-83	8	
17	0	4426	34-83	9	
16	0	4009	34-75	10	
15	0	3593	34-67	11	
14	0	3178	34-58	12	
13	0	2764	34-50	13	
12	0	2351	34-42	14	
11	0	1939	34-33	15	
10	0	1529	34-17	16	
9	0	1121	34-00	17	
8	0	715	33-83	18	
7	0	312	33-58	19	

## WATER BALLAST

N° 1	Fore tank	156 tons
" 2	Fore main tank	267 "
" 3	Engine room tank	130 "
" 4	After main tank	208 "
" 5	After tank	137 "
Total Bottom ballast		898 tons
After peak		25 "
After peak T. D. (Cargo or ballast)		62 "
Total ballast		985 tons

## BUNKERS

Taken at 45 cubic feet per ton.

Starboard bunker	216 tons
Port bunker	159 "
Coal shoot	23 "
Total permanent	398 tons
Bridge "A" about	276 "
Bridge "B" (at sides)	176 "
Total bunkers capacity	850 tons

when used as bunker



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

30632  
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEM-1700

PLAIN

Bern

39

Dated April 14, 1945

Rec'd 2:40 p.m.

Secretary of State, Washington.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
APR 16 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. URGENT  
2193, Fourteenth

*Sinking of Awa Maru by American submarine*

Your 1396, April 10 urgently communicated Foreign Office Eleventh which advised by note April 14 message immediately telegraphed Tokyo.

Swiss note adds in meantime following note received from Japanese Legation Bern (translated from French).

"Since AWA MARU which was expected at Tsuruga April 5 failed arrive Japanese Government sought by all possible means information concerning ship. Since extensive efforts competent authorities remained fruitless Japanese Government addressed April 10 to American Government through good offices Swiss Legation Tokyo request to obtain what information available this ship. Likewise it reiterated same demand to

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1445

*711.94114 Supplies/4-1445*

REC'D - G.P.C. UNIT  
*[Handwritten initials]*

JAN 9 1946



-2-#2193; Fourteenth, from Bern.

40

demand to American Government by radio emissions. On April 12 American Government broadcast official communication according which AWA MARU torpedoed April 1 about midnight by American submarine and that it had already communicated Japanese Government through protecting power.

Consequently Japanese Government immediately requested April 12 Swiss Legation Tokyo to inform American Government as follows:

(one) under what circumstances and how AWA MARU was sunk (two) number of survivors with full names (three) place where survivors now held (four) their state of health (five) treatment to be accorded them (six) other details concerning torpedoing.

Japanese Government has likewise expressed wish that American Government take earliest possible appropriate measures to improve condition of survivors.

In consideration urgent character this matter Japanese Legation Bern must make necessary representations on its own side to Swiss Government in same sense as foregoing."

Foreign Office note adds it has not (repeat not) as yet received foregoing communication from Swiss Legation, Tokyo:

HARRISON

REP



*DCR*

War Problems  
/

April 16, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Captain T. H. Tonseth,  
Central Division,  
Naval Operations,  
Navy Department.

*711.94114 supplies*

There is enclosed, with reference to our telephone conversation on April 16, a copy of telegram 2193 dated April 14 from the American Legation at Bern incorporating two communications from the Japanese Government in regard to the Awa Maru incident.

*FD 711.94114 supplies 14-1445*

*EJK*  
Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief

DCR NE Unit
<i>lul</i>
<i>mH</i>
Dist.

SWP:EDK:EHJ

*arc*

A true copy of the original  
incl. *ED* 3/17/45



70687

*SWP*

*Stivers  
1 encl*

JOHN L. STIVERS

JOHN B. STIVERS

# Stivers & Stivers



MONTROSE, COLORADO

April 14, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAY 14 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Let to Mr. J.L. Stivers  
5/21/45 AB/amy*

Hon. Harry S. Truman  
Executive Mansion  
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. President;-

I sincerely believe that you will make a good President of these United States.

My son, Ensign John Bell Stivers, POW No. 10021 Thai War Prison Camp No. 3-Nike Thailand, has been a slave for over three years now-a slave of the Japs. I am repeatedly advised that I may not send packages of any kind to my son because the Japanese refuse. On April 11 there was a radio broadcast to the effect that the Allies had sunk a Japanese merc ship that had been granted safe conduct either while going to or returning from the far East. That will make it harder to get anything through. I feel confident that, with you assuming the duties of President, it will now be possible to make arrangements with the Japanese for the delivery of medicines and supplies of foodstuffs to our men in Thailand and other far Eastern places. Along with your many other duties please give this your attention by making a personal appeal to the Japanese authorities rather than delegating the duty to others.

Very truly yours

*John L. Stivers*  
John L. Stivers  
Montrose, Colorado

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l  
s  
/  
s

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
APR 20 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Nothing new.  
Specially noted above*

Anal. *DL*  
Rev. *AB*  
Cut. *amy*  
Dist.

MAY 28 1945

FILED

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1445

05/21

*711.94114 supplies  
14-1445*





**ENSIGN JOHN BELL STIVERS**  
**USS Houston Aviation Unit**



May 24, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mr. Stivers:

The receipt is acknowledged, by reference from the White House, of your letter of April 14, 1945 addressed to President Truman in which you state that your son, Ensign John Bell Stivers, is a prisoner of war in Thailand and request that further steps be taken to send food and other relief supplies to American prisoners of war in that place and other parts of the Far East. You refer to the Japanese vessel which had been granted safe conduct to carry relief supplies for these men.

The relief supplies carried by the Japanese vessel the Awa Maru to which you refer have apparently been distributed to prisoner of war camps in the southern areas including Thailand and presumably your son has received a portion. The Awa Maru was sunk on its return voyage to Japan after unloading its relief cargo.

This Government and the other Allied Governments will not cease their efforts to persuade the Japanese Government to accept further and continued supplies of food, medicine, et cetera, for delivery to American and other Allied prisoners of war in the Far East. The situation with which we are confronted is outlined in the enclosed information sheet captioned "Measures Taken by the Department of State in Behalf of American Nationals in Japanese Custody, Relief Supplies". As evidence of the continuing efforts which are being made in this regard I am pleased to inform you that a further shipment of relief supplies is enroute to a Soviet Siberian port

intended

Mr. John L. Stivers,  
Stivers & Stivers,  
Montrose, Colorado.

711.94114  
SUPPLIES  
74-1445  
8/1.94114 Supplies  
14-1445



-2-

intended for onward shipment to Allied nationals in Japanese custody. It is not as yet entirely clear to what extent the Awa Maru incident will adversely affect these arrangements but every effort is being made to overcome this difficulty. There are, in addition, other plans which are being actively pursued which cannot be made public at this time.

I can assure you that the needs of our people in Japanese custody are fully realized and that neither effort nor expense is being spared to endeavor to arrange for the shipment to them of the supplies they require.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Information sheet.

MAY 23 1945 P.M.  
CR ✓ 11:57 AM  
KAC

SWP:ABC Correll:amg

5-21-45



45150

*File*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WAR PROBLEMS  
SPECIAL DIVISION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
MR. HOLMES  
APR 25 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 17, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RECEIVED  
TO: A-H  
APR 27 1945  
FROM: SWP  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

General Holmes  
Mr. Plitt *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Attached amended draft letters to War and Navy.

PROBLEM: Possible replacement of the Awa Maru.

BACKGROUND: There is strong probability that the Naval Court of Inquiry will find the submarine commander guilty at least of contributory negligence, if not sole negligence, for failure to investigate before attacking. It is doubtful whether his charge of non-illumination will stand up. Naval officers say that in heavy fog ordinary illumination would not be visible at the distance from which attack was made.

Based on past experience, if the Japanese, as the result of this incident, refuse to consider further relief shipments or exchanges of nationals, the Department will come under heavy public and congressional pressure to take action to repair the situation. Undoubtedly the suggestion that a replacement ship be offered will be made and pressed strongly.

If, as a matter of policy, it is deemed advisable that the Department take the position that in no event should an offer of replacement be made to the Japanese, SWP, of course, will not pursue the matter further. SWP wishes to invite attention, however, to the fact that if the Japanese refuse to carry on further negotiations, the Department will be called upon both by the public and the Congress for information as to the action taken to overcome the difficulty and must be prepared to justify every step it takes or fails to take to remedy the situation.

Two congressional subcommittees have kept themselves currently informed as to our efforts to assist our nationals in the Far East and from time to time have requested Departmental representatives to examine the situation with them. At present these committees are satisfied that everything possible is being done. In case of an impasse they would undoubtedly want to review the matter.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached draft letters, amended by the addition of stipulations as to the use of a replacement vessel, be reconsidered in the light of the foregoing.

Approved *[Signature]* 1945

SWP:EDKuppinger:EAPlitt:EHJ

FW 711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-245

Confidential File

FW 711.94114 Supplies/4-245



WAR PROBLEMS  
/

April 17, 1945

TO: A-H - General Holmes  
FROM: SWP - Mr. Plitt  
SUBJECT: Attached amended draft letters to War and Navy.  
PROBLEM: Possible replacement of the Awa Maru.

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RECOMMENDATION: That the attached draft letters, amended by the addition of stipulations as to the use of a replacement vessel, be reconsidered in the light of the foregoing.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ 1945

SWP:EDKuppinger:EAPlitt:EHJ  
\_\_\_\_\_



April 17, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There is enclosed a copy of the Department's telegram dated April 10, 1945 to the American Legation at Bern concerning the reported sinking of the Japanese ship Awa Maru.

This telegram was dispatched on the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosure:

No. 1396 to Bern,  
April 10, 1945.

DCR - NE Unit
<i>ml</i>
<i>J.R.</i>
Dist. _____

A true copy of the signed original

OR  
 APR 14 1945  
 The Honorable  
 Henry L. Stimson,  
 Secretary of War.

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-13-45

*arc*

*OK*  
Routine

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-1745

CS/MAJ

*711.94114 Supplies/4-1745*



April 17, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I enclose, with reference to your letter of April 9, 1945 (Serial 0030613 (SC)A14-3/EF37), a copy of the Department's telegram to Bern dated April 10 in regard to the reported sinking of the Japanese ship Awa Maru.

Sincerely yours,

Edward B. Stettinius, Jr.

*711 94114 Supply*

Enclosure:

To Bern,  
April 10, 1945.

DCR NE Unit  
*ual*  
*711 4*

*File 711 94114 Supply/4-1745*

The Honorable

James Forrestal,

Secretary of the Navy.

*copy*  
*OR*  
APR 14 1945

*arc* SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-13-45

*AR*

*S*  
Routine



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

RS-1617

PLAIN

Bern

36781

Undated

Rec'd April 20, 1945 1:18 p.m.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION APR 21 1945 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State Washington

US URGENT

2302, Undated

Department's 1396, April 10th, Legation's 2193, April 14th.

Foreign Office note April 19 communicates following telegram April 17 from Gorge of message quoted below dated April 10 from Japanese Foreign Office requesting urgent transmission American Government.

"Force alteration of schedule and course of AWA MARU after third April was in fact only to change port for destination from Oji to Tsuruga and was considered to be a minor revision. But in view of urgency and in accordance with special procedure for notice of urgent revision in schedule indicated in communication for American Government (see Department's 598, February

6) safe conduct for AWA MARU Japanese Government requested Swiss Legation

Form with fields: Anal. CX, Rev. AB, Dat., Dist.

Handwritten: 711.94114 Supplies / 4-1045 SWP JAMES M

Handwritten: 711.94114 Supplies / 4-1445 SWP

Handwritten: 711.94114 Supplies / 2-245 SWP SP JAMES FE

Vertical stamp: 711.94114 SUPPLIES / 4-2045 RECEIVED CF 711.94114 Supplies / 4-2045

Handwritten mark: +



-2-#2302, Undated from Born

842

Swiss Legation Tokyo on March 30 to notify urgently revision to American Government and on same day it was diffused in Tokyo by radio toward America. Subsequently it was confirmed by American radio.

By revised schedule AWA MARU was due Tsuruga on April 5 but ship has not reached destination by April 10. On other hand there had not been any direct communication from ship since evening of April 1 and so far effort of Japanese Government directed to find information of ship has not succeeded.

Consequently Japanese Government requests American Government to communicate urgently to Japanese Government any information available concerning AWA MARU especially information concerning any action which might have been taken in connection with ship by American or Allied forces in vicinity of course of ship in strait of Formosa and in position further north."

HARRISON

RR



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

36855

MF-1629  
This telegram must be  
closely paraphrased be-  
fore being communicated  
to anyone. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Stockholm  
Dated April 20, 1945  
Rec'd 1:48 p.m.

APR 27 1945

Secretary of State  
Washington

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
APR 21 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ack 4-25-45  
BOX 8749

1463, April 20, noon.

Salen has been informed (reference Department's 698  
April 18, 3 p.m. 1945) that:

- One. KARLSHAMN not suitable for Department's re-  
quirements.
- Two. Proposed vessel to be under Japanese flag and  
operation.
- Three. Exchange point not (repeat not) to be neutral  
point.

Salen will continue to try to locate combined cargo  
passenger vessel to operate under conditions two and  
three listed above although he feels this is difficult  
at present. Salen asks if Department is interested in  
second neutral vessel to operate between US port and  
proposed exchange point implying second vessel will be  
easier to supply than first.

JOHNSON

REP

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	.....
Rev.	.....
Cat.	.....
Dist.	.....

APR 28 1945

FILED

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2045

711.94114 Supplies/4-2045

X



*Handwritten initials/signature*

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MESSAGE:

Collect

Charge Department: **XX**

Department of State

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Charge to

Washington

This telegram must be closely guarded before being forwarded to anyone.  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

APR 27 1945  
7 P.M.

AMLEGATION,  
STOCKHOLM.

771

*711.94114 Supplies/4-1145*

Should plan mentioned in Department's 698, April 18 and related ~~xxxx~~/telegrams materialize, we intend to use Gripsholm to operate between U.S. and Pacific exchange point. Salen may be so informed. Second vessel, therefore, would not be required. It would be appreciated if Salen would continue his endeavors to locate suitable vessel although it should be understood that at this time this Government can assume no obligations in this regard.

*Re  
Supplyment  
of POW  
relief  
supplies  
to far East*

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2045

SENT

DTR - GP-O Unit  
Anal. *fmh*  
Rev. *AM*  
Cat. *am*  
Dist

*Grew  
Acting  
(GSK)*

CODE ROOM  
RELEASE DESK

1945 APR 27 PM 7 05

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SERVICES

711.94114 Supplies/4-2045

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ

4-25-45

NOE

*amc*

*AM*

APR 27 4:50 P.M.

*711.94114 Supplies/4-2045  
CS/NAJ*



UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

50512  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAY 5 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AMERICAN LEGATION  
*AW*  
*file*  
*DC/R*  
*c. in g.p.p. ejs*

No. 11555

Via Airmail Pouch

Bern, April 23, 1945.

Subject: American Interests - Manchuria  
Transmission Intercross report  
regarding Hoten and Shihei camps.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

MAY 5 PM 3 07

BRANCH

13-2045 740,00115PW / 3-2445

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmail despatches No. 11235 of March 24, and No. 11248 of March 26, 1945, which transmitted to the Department copies of "Far East Memo No. 43" and of "Far East Memo No. 36" concerning conditions existing at the Shihei and Hoten civilian internment camps.

There is now enclosed, for the Department's information and records, a copy of "Far East Memo No. 60" dated April 17, 1945, from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva regarding the shipment of relief to the Shihei and Hoten camps.

The Legation received this report under cover of a letter dated April 18, 1945, from the International Red Cross Committee which observes that a copy thereof has been forwarded to the Committee's delegation at London and that the substance of it has been telegraphed to the Committee's delegation at Washington.

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2345

Enclosure:

Copy of "Far East Memo No. 60" -  
with original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2  
GT/mak  
In quintuplicate to Department

DCR - OP - O UNIT  
Anal. *mak*  
Rev. *APB*  
Cat. *BF*

NOV 27 1945  
*CS/MA/Supplies/4-2345*  
*J*



Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 11555  
 dated April 13/45 from the American  
 Legation, Bern.

Hôtel Beau-Séjour  
Geneva.  
 17th. April 1945.

Subject : Far East Relief (Shipment No 1 through Soviet Territory).

Ref. Our Far East Memo No 43 Shihai camp  
 Our Far East Memo No 36 Hoten C.I. camp

In continuation to our above mentioned memo we wish to give you below some additional information concerning shipments of relief which have been arranged by our delegation in Tokyo for distribution to the following camps :

	<u>Hoten C.I.</u>	<u>Shihai</u>
Drugs IIA	1	1
Drugs IIB	1	1
Drugs III	0	1
Clothing VIII	2	2
Shoes XII	1	2
Comfort XIV	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7 packages	9 packages
Biscuits (Australian R.C.)	2 $\phi$	2 $\phi$

We understand furthermore that application was made on february 23d 1945 by our delegation in Tokyo to the authorities to the effect that a share of the 5000 amercross foodparcels off-loaded at Roshin be allocated to these camps.

For the International Red Cross  
 Committee

*J. Wasmmer*  
 H. Wasmmer

Manager of the Relief Division



This message  
sent by Intercross,  
Geneva, following  
announcement  
of Awa Maru  
incident.

File



23.4.45

RM/R  
Central  
Files

Nlt Intercross Tokyo

1900 Bilfinger your Tsixhundred further our 1899 in con-  
sideration situation international committee considers  
imperative you approach japan<sup>se</sup> authorities accordingly  
and further submit that we consider in inter<sup>e</sup>st future  
shipments and other manifold reciprocal repeat recipro-  
cal tasks and to av<sup>o</sup>id repetition similar situation that  
nippon authorities permit international committee put into  
service fareastern waters neutral vessels under auspices  
ircc sailing under redcross flag as already successfully  
operated during four years with complete approval all  
belligerent powers concerned in occidental hemisphere  
stop you should for<sup>th</sup>with offer nippon government vessel  
of ircc chartered by ircc with capacity five to ten thou-  
sand tons to sail <sup>u</sup>nder safeconducts for obtention of  
which we solely responsible according it<sup>o</sup>nerary nippon  
authorities should stipulate stop earnestly desire reply  
to question of principle whereupon will submit all rela-  
tive technical and operational details for early inceptio  
this service in interest all part<sup>es</sup> concerned

711.94114  
SUPPLIES/4-2345

CSELRK

7/19/45  
3471

RM/R
16
<i>fit</i>

intercroixrouge h989o