

Naval General Staff Directive No. 51 (gist)

Date: December 19, 1941.

From: Chief of Naval General Staff, Admiral NAGANO Osami.

To : Commander-in-Chief of Combined Fleet, Admiral YAMAMOTO.

1. In the conduct of the sea communication destruction warfare by the submarines, the limitation concerning the area where vessels may be sunk without warning and the restriction regarding the respect to be paid for the neutrality of shipping are hereby lifted.

2. In the conduct of the sea communication destruction warfare by the aircraft, the limitation and restriction similar to those of Paragraph 1 above are also hereby removed.

3. Despite the above-mentioned Paragraphs, attack shall not be launched against the ship which is clearly discernible as belonging to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The neutrality of shipping shall also be respected in those waters lying in the vicinity of Japan, along the coast of Russian territory, along the South American coast to the south of and including Peru, etc. in the case of the vessels of ordinary neutral countries (excepting the countries which are decided to be regarded as hostile powers in our policy of dealing with shipping).

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, DOHI, Kazuo, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Historical Section of the Material Readjustment Branch, of 2nd Demobilization Office of Demobilization Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 1 page and entitled "Naval General Staff Directive No. 31 (gist)" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official Document, which is an Answer made through the Nakamura-kan to questions put forth to the former Japanese Navy by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Forces through Col. Manson (Phonetic) of the Supreme Headquarter Allied Forces on Nov. 1945.

certified at Tokyo,
on this 29 day of June, 1947

DOHI, Kazuo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the witness.

at the same place,
on this same date

witness:

SOMIYA, Shinji (seal)

Ref No # 1939

文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分、土肥一夫ハ復員廳第二復員局資料整理部史實班長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添附セラレタル日本語ニ依ツテ書カレタル一頁ヨリ成ル大海指第三十一號(要旨)ト題スル書類ハ昭和二十年十一月聯合國最高司令部「マニソン」大佐ヲ通ジ聯合國最高司令部ヨリ元日本海軍宛ニ發セラレタ質問ニ對シ中村機關ヲ經テ回答セル文書ノ拔萃ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル寫ナルコトヲ證明スル

昭和二十二年六月二十七日 於東京

土肥一夫

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

宗宮信次



大海指第三十一号(要旨)

昭和十六年十二月十九日

軍令部總長 永野修身

山本聯合艦隊司令長官ニ指示

- 一、潜水艦ノ海上交通破壊作戰實施ニ對スル無警告撃沈地域ノ制限並ニ船舶ノ中立性尊重ニ関スル制限ヲ解除ス
- 二、飛行機ノ海上交通破壊作戰實施ニ對スル制限ニ関シテモ亦前項ニ準テズ
- 三、前諸項ニ拘ラズ蘇聯邦船舶ナルコト明カナル場合之ヲ攻撃スベカラズ又日本近海、露領沿岸及「ベルー」以南ノ南米沿岸等ニ於テハ一般中立國(船舶取扱上敵性國ト定メタル諸國ヲ除ク)船舶ニ對シテモ其ノ中立性ヲ尊重ス

(終)

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Ref No #1939

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Readjustment Branch
of 2nd Demobilization
of Demobilization Bureau

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of the Historical Section of the Memorial, hereby
certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese,
consisting of 1 page and entitled "Naval General
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is an exact and authorized excerpt ~~from an official document in~~

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made through the Nakamura-Kikan to questions
put forth to the former Japanese Navy by the Supreme
Headquarters Allied Forces through Col. Manson
(Phonetic) of the Supreme Headquarter
Allied Forces on Nov. 1945.

Witness:

[Signature]
(Seal)

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