

SWNCC 565 - MOVEMENT OF SHIPS
(MISCELLANEOUS)

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 26, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. SWNCC 565 - Movement of Ships

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 3-0788

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Col. McCarthy	1/2/45	Secretary to General Staff	Interception of German Hospital Ship GRADISCA.
2	Sec. Forrestal	7/10/45	Sec of State	Letter re removal of restrictions on certain shipping areas.

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

565
The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 27813
Op-13-1A/1ma
6 July 1945

COL. MCCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
LT. COMDR. GELFUS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. BARDNER	.....
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

10 JUL 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Navy Department by letter Serial 190513 of 30 October 1942 requested the Department of State to notify all neutral Governments of certain restrictions imposed on neutral shipping in the Western Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean areas. These restrictions have been amended from time to time and the Department of State has been notified in the premises.

Inasmuch as the interest of the Navy Department in the control of neutral shipping in non-combat areas has largely disappeared, it is now possible to rescind all Navy Department restrictions on neutral shipping in those areas. It is requested that appropriate notification to that effect be transmitted as soon as practicable to all neutral Governments and to interested diplomatic and consular officials. It would also appear desirable to inform the Governments of the United Nations.

The following notifications are suggested:

- (a) In the U. S. area of merchant ship control, neutral vessels in non-combat areas are no longer required to follow special traffic lanes and may be routed in the normal manner.
- (b) Daily position reports to ConNav are no longer required nor desired.
- (c) All restrictions with respect to ports of entry on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Seaboards and in the Caribbean area are rescinded as of this date.
- (d) Military demands on utilization of port facilities will receive priority. The burden of ascertaining which port will best serve neutral shipping so as to expedite turnaround is on neutral ship owners and operators.
- (e) The following have been designated non-combat areas:
 - (1) North Atlantic Ocean, including Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.
 - (2) Arctic Ocean, Baltic and North Seas, Mediterranean, Black and Red Seas.

(2)

(3) South Atlantic Ocean East of 74° West to the longitude of Capetown.

(4) North and South Pacific East of 82° West.

United States authorities are coordinating with the British Admiralty in carrying out certain provisions of economic warfare control. Inasmuch as the Department of State has primary interest in this matter, it is suggested that additional notification might be made to that effect.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Hon. James F. Byrnes,

Secretary of State.

cc: ✓ SWNCC Secretariat

Prepared by: Captain W. E. Hammond, Central Division, Operations.

2 January 1945

MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY TO GENERAL STAFF

Subject: Interception of German Hospital Ship GRADISCA

1. Subject paper has been noted by the Secretary of the SWNCC.
2. If further coordination is required the question will be presented to the SWNCC by the State Department representative.

(SIGNED)

CHARLES W. McCARTHY
Acting Secretary
State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

State Department advises that there is a possibility the German hospital ship GRADISCA may be intercepted by the British in the course of its contemplated voyage from Trieste to Crete. This act may result in making it difficult for the United States to arrange for future repatriation of sick and wounded. The Navy Department has replied to the State Department advising that in their opinion ~~no~~ useful purposes will be served by making representation to the British in an effort to prevent this interception. Draft of a letter for the signature of the Secretary of War requests the Secretary of War to arrange for a Mixed Medical Mission to inspect personnel prior to embarkation and authorize only those determined eligible under Geneva Convention to embark. If this arrangement can not be effected the Mixed Medical Mission should be employed to examine any personnel prior to removal. Since the War Department has ~~preliminary~~ interest in the Mediterranean Theater the War Department's opinion should prevail and the stand taken should not be modified because of a previous stand taken by the Navy Department.

(1)

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State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee

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