DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

721.1 HOSPITAL SHIPS, MISC.

CONFIDENTIAL

"Armorclad"
Made in U. S. A. T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
U. S. Patents No. 1,370,424 -- 1,511,268 -- 1,544,818
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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

LIST OF PAPERS

FILE NO. 721.1 HOSPITAL SHIPS, MISCELLANEOUS

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
1	Sec of Navy	1/20/45	Sec of State	Letter (with correspondence attached) re alleged attacks on the ARABIA MARU, hospital ship, Japan.
2	Sec of War	3/2/45	Sec of State	Letter (with correspondence attached) re sinking of Japanese Hospital ship MURO MARU.
3	Sec of State	4/6/45	Sec of War	Letter(with correspondence attached) re attack on German Hospital Ship Gradisca
4	Sec of Navy	5/5/45	Sec of State	Letter re attack of American Hospital Ship, USS COMFORT
5	Sec of Navy	5/28/45	Sec of State	Letter re attack of American Hospital Ship USS SOLACE.
6	Sec Navy	6/4/45	Sec of State	Letter re attack of American Hospital Ship USS COMFORT
7	Sec Navy	6/16/45	Sec of State	Letter designating names of hospital ships, and identifications.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

The Secretary of the Navy

21-1 Navy

Serial 050513
(SC)S1-1/AH
Op-13-1-A/lma 12 June 1945

Sir:

CONFIDENTIAL

16 JUN 1945

The Navy Department hereby designates the following ships as hospital ships under the terms of the Hague Convention:

	Length	Displacement	No. of Funnels	No. of Masts
HAVEN AH-12	520 ft.	15,000 tons	Single stack aft	2
BENEVOLENCE AH-13	" "	" " "	"	"
TRANQUILLITY AH-14	" "	" " "	"	"
CONSOLATION AH-15	" "	" " "	"	"
REPOSE AH-16	" "	" " "	"	"
SANCTUARY AH-17	" "	" " "	"	"

They will bear the following marks of identification:

(1) Hull, superstructure, funnel and masts - white

(2) 5' green band full length of vessel on each side

(3) 15' x 15' red cross painted on each side of hull

(4) 14" black band at top of stack

(5) 9' x 9' red cross on each side of stack

(6) 34' x 34' red cross on top of wheelhouse and same size red cross on top of navigator's bridge aft.

(7) All crosses illuminated by floodlights

NOTE: On each side of bow and around the stern the following legend is painted:

U. S. NAVY HOSPITAL SHIP

USS (name of ship)

It is requested that notifications of foregoing designated characteristics and markings be made through the appropriate channels to

(7)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

all enemy governments with a request that the notification be acknowledged, and that the Navy Department be informed of the date of delivery of the notifications to each of the governments concerned and the date of their respective acknowledgments thereof.

Respectfully,

JAMES FORRESTAL

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

cc: Cominch
War Dept.
BuMed
BuShips
Op-16
Op-23
Op-39
✓ SWNCC Secretariat

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

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

The Secretary of the Navy

Op-13-1-A/lma
Serial 26513
30 May 1945

SWNC	
COL. McCARTHY	
COMDR. RICHARDSON	
MR. R. E. COX	
LT. COL. PENNOYER	
LT. COMDR. BEILFUSS	
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	
MR. J. P. GARDINER	
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	
FILE	

4 JUN 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

With reference to my letter, Serial 24913, of 5 May 1945, the following additional details have been received regarding the attack on the USS COMFORT on 28 April 1945:

On the night of the attack, the weather was clear, visibility was unlimited, and there were no other Naval vessels within twenty miles. The attacking aircraft flew over the ship on three successive occasions, once at masthead height and twice at an altitude of 500 feet. There can be no doubt, therefore, as to recognition by the pilot of the character of the hospital ship.

On 9 April 1945, at approximately 1500 local time, a Tokyo broadcast announced that the Japanese are justified in bombing hospital ships inasmuch as they are being used as repair ships and for the purpose of returning wounded men to the fighting fronts. With apparent reference to the AWA MARU, the speaker elaborated on the fact that their own "mercy ship" was long overdue.

A Flight Intelligence document found in the wreckage of the aircraft which crashed on board the COMFORT listed two hospital ships among other ships present off Okinawa on the afternoon preceding the attack. While the document is not prima facie evidence that the Japanese authorities direct or condone attacks on hospital ships, the fact that these two ships were included in the list of combatant ships present indicates that no effort was made to impress attacking pilots with their immunity. The broadcast, however, evidences that the Japanese have embarked on a policy of attacking hospital ships in retaliation for the sinking of the AWA MARU.

Inasmuch as it can be categorically stated that U. S. hospital ships are not used for repair nor for any other purposes not permitted by strict interpretation of the Geneva Convention, it is requested that the foregoing be brought to the attention of the Japanese Government.

Sincerely yours,

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

cc: SWNCC Secretariat

Prepared by: Captain T. H. Tonseth, Central Division, Operations.

445-

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

STATE

Mr. Cox
Mr. Moseley
Mr. Gardiner

WAR

Colonel McCarthy
Lt. Colonel Pennoyer
Major Field
Major Gunther
Lt. Spittall

NAVY

Commander Richardson
Lt. Comdr. Rockefeller
Lieutenant Geilfuss
Ensign Whiteside

Note
Circulate
File

REMARKS:

28 MAY 1945

LACE, duly notified as a hospital
attacked by a Japanese aircraft on the
45. The ship fortunately sustained no
explosion had a deleterious effect on
o were being cared for at the time.

s of the attack, the SOLACE was about
Okinawa Shima, on a southerly course, and
l ship procedure. A bright moon provided
nd the special illumination of the USS
ship in the vicinity, was clearly discernible
miles.

al time the aircraft was heard to pass
d altitude of 1000 feet. Shortly after
er the ship a second time, a heavy
e aboard. The aircraft, which was identified
ted landing gear type, was seen to disappear

sted that a protest be made to the
h respect to this deliberate attack on an
ry target.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,

Secretary of State.

cc: SWNCC Secretariat

Prepared by: Captain T. H. Tonseth, Central Division, Operations.

5

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 0042813
(SC)A16-3(8)/AH5

Op-13-1-A/lma
23 May 1945

28 MAY 1945

SECRET

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The USS SOLACE, duly notified as a hospital ship, was deliberately attacked by a Japanese aircraft on the evening of 30 April 1945. The ship fortunately sustained no damage but the nearby explosion had a deleterious effect on many of the wounded who were being cared for at the time.

At the time of the attack, the SOLACE was about thirty miles south of Okinawa Shima, on a southerly course, and observing full hospital ship procedure. A bright moon provided excellent visibility and the special illumination of the USS MERCY, the only other ship in the vicinity, was clearly discernible at a distance of three miles.

At 2115 local time the aircraft was heard to pass overhead at an estimated altitude of 1000 feet. Shortly after it turned and passed over the ship a second time, a heavy explosion occurred close aboard. The aircraft, which was identified as a single engine, fixed landing gear type, was seen to disappear in the moonlight.

It is requested that a protest be made to the Japanese Government with respect to this deliberate attack on an unmistakably non-military target.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,

Secretary of State.

cc: SWNCC Secretariat

Prepared by: Captain T. H. Tonseth, Central Division, Operations.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

STATE

Mr. Cox
Mr. Moseley
Mr. Gardiner

WAR

Colonel McCarthy
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Major Gunther
Lt. Spittall

NAVY

Commander Richardson
Lt. Comdr. Rockefeller
Lieutenant Geilfuss
Ensign Whiteside

Note
Circulate
File

REMARKS:

5 MAY 1943

, a duly notified hospital ship
leparted Okinawa on the afternoon
about 2058 local time that
d seriously damaged by an aircraft
s Japanese. The ship was then in
North, longitude 127-30 East, and
ital ship procedure. As a result
ne persons, including nurses, were
e seriously injured.

that an emphatic protest be made
ent with respect to this deliberate
of the Tenth Hague Convention.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph A. Bard
Acting Secretary of the Navy

_____ Jr.,

_____ .

_____

_____

Room 2951

. H. Tonseth, Central Division,
Operations.

4

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 24913
Op-13-1-A/lma
30 Apr 1945

121.1

5 MAY 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The USS COMFORT, a duly notified hospital ship evacuating casualties, departed Okinawa on the afternoon of 28 April 1945 and at about 2058 local time that evening was attacked and seriously damaged by an aircraft positively identified as Japanese. The ship was then in position latitude 25-30 North, longitude 127-30 East, and was observing full hospital ship procedure. As a result of the attack twenty-nine persons, including nurses, were killed, and thirty-three seriously injured.

It is requested that an emphatic protest be made to the Japanese Government with respect to this deliberate and flagrant violation of the Tenth Hague Convention.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph A. Bard
Acting Secretary of the Navy

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,

Secretary of State.

cc: SWNCC Secretariat Room 2951

Prepared by: Captain T. H. Tonseth, Central Division, Operations.

4

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

SWNCC
Mr. Hawley
Room 1752

April 6, 1945

In reply refer to
S&P 740.00117 E.W./3-1045

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter of February 26 and to this Department's letter of February 16, 1945 concerning a note verbale dated November 1, 1944 of the German Foreign Office in which British or American aircraft are reported to have attacked German hospital ships and other installations "under the protection of the Red Cross". Section I of this note verbale appeared to be a reply of the German Government to a protest of the British Government on the bombing of certain unnamed hospital ships.

In response to this Department's request for information concerning the nature of the protest made to the German Government, the British Embassy at Washington has transmitted copies of the pertinent correspondence in this regard. Accordingly copies of this correspondence are forwarded to you for your information.

A letter in a similar sense is being sent to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

James C. Dunn

Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:
1. From British Foreign Office to Bern, December 9, 1943.
2. From British Foreign Office to Bern, January 24, 1944.

APR - 7 1945

The Honorable
Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

(3)

STATE WAR & NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

SWP:CTHawley:FAH 4/2/45

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

Wm. Moseley
SWNCC
Room 178

April 20, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 740.00117 E.W./3-845

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to my letter of January 31, 1945 and to previous correspondence concerning the interception of the German hospital ship Gradisca when traveling between Crete and Trieste for the purpose of evacuating German sick and wounded from the former. It will be recalled that there was attached to my letter under reference a copy of a note which was being addressed by this Department to the British Government with regard to this matter.

There is enclosed for your information and such attention as you may deem appropriate a copy of a note dated March 8, 1945 from the British Embassy setting forth the views of the British Government with respect to this matter.

You will doubtless recall that the Department's communication to the Embassy expressed misgivings regarding the possible effect which the British practice of intercepting certain German hospital ships in the European area may have upon the policy of the Japanese Government. It appears from the Embassy's reply that the British Government is inclined to minimize the effect which such a policy may have upon the attitude of the Japanese Government. To the contrary, the British Government apparently believes there to be no doubt at all that if any Allied hospital ship is placed within easy reach of the Japanese Navy that the ship as well as the sick and wounded on board will be lost.

It appears

The Honorable

James Forrestal,

Secretary of the Navy.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

It appears however that the British Government has not yet settled upon a policy to be pursued regarding the interception of hospital ships in the Pacific area. It asks to be informed regarding the nature of standing instructions, if any, which have been issued by the United States authorities concerning the treatment of Japanese hospital ships when encountered.

I should appreciate receiving the comments of the Navy Department with respect to the Embassy's communication and an indication of the nature of the reply which may be made to the inquiries set forth therein. This Department has recognized, of course, that the British policy in regard to this matter as it relates to the European Theater is a fait accompli. It may be significant that by the Embassy's own admission lines of British policy regarding hospital ships have not been formalized in so far as concerns the Pacific area. It would appear, therefore, that the Embassy's note presents this Government with an opportunity, should it wish to use it, to express its views regarding the nature of the program to be adopted in the Pacific.

A similar communication is being addressed to the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosure:

From British Embassy,
March 8, 1945.

A true copy of the signed original

SWP:REHibbard:MA 4-2-4-45 EUR FE Le

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

25

April 20, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 740.00117 E.W./3-845

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to my letter of January 31, 1945 and to previous correspondence concerning the interception of the German hospital ship Gradisca when traveling between Crete and Trieste for the purpose of evacuating German sick and wounded from the former. It will be recalled that there was attached to my letter under reference a copy of a note which was being addressed by this Department to the British Government with regard to this matter.

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The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,

Secretary of War.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

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A similar communication is being addressed to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosure:

From British Embassy,
March 6, 1945.

A true copy of the signed original.

SWP:REHibbard:MA 4-2-4-45 EUR FE Le

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

April 6, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 740.00117 E.W./3-1045

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to this Department's letter of February 16, 1945 concerning a note verbale dated November 1, 1944 of the German Foreign Office in which British or American aircraft are reported to have attacked German hospital ships and other installations "under the protection of the Red Cross". Section I of this note verbale appeared to be a reply of the German Government to a protest of the British Government on the bombing of certain unnamed hospital ships.

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A letter in a similar sense is being sent to the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,
For the Secretary of State:

James C. Dunn
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. From British Foreign Office to Bern, December 9, 1943.
From British Foreign Office to Bern, January 24, 1944.

APR - 7 1945

The Honorable
James V. Forrestal,
Secretary of the Navy.

A true copy of the signed original

STATE WAR & NAVY DEPT. COMMITTEE

SWP:GTHawley:FAH 4/2/45

241

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND # 740132

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE, SECRETARY, GENERAL STAFF

DISPOSITION SLIP

Subject of paper: WCCSA
560 Hospital Ships

To	Tally No. (31 Jan 45)	Date
.....	A. C. of S., G-1	.....
.....	A. C. of S., G-2	.....
.....	A. C. of S., G-3	.....
.....	A. C. of S., G-4	.....
.....	A. C. of S., W. P. D.	.....
....	The Adjutant General	.....
....	Legislative and Liaison Division	.....
.....	C. G. Ground Forces	.....
.....	C. G. Air Forces	.....
.....	C. G. Services of Supply	.....
.....	Bureau of Public Relations	.....
.....	Coordination & Record Section	.....
✓	OPS/W; Attn: Col Gerhardt	2/2

For— Noted-Asst. Secy. of War

..... Information. ..... Prep. of reply.
..... Necessary action. ..... Signature.
..... Preparation of study. ..... Direct reply.
..... Note and foreword. ..... Note and file.
..... Remark or recommendation. ..... File.
..... Comment or concurrence. ..... D. C. of S.
..... Inviting attention {notation / direction} of Sec. War.

For reference to S-W-N Coor. Comm.
Note: Original w/enclosures referred to OPD for necessary action

By direction of D. C. of S.:
GORDON F. BELL
Captain, General Staff Corps
Assistant Secretary, General Staff

WAR DEPARTMENT
O. C. of S.—Form No. 3 ☆ GPO 16—24481-2

WAR DEPT
2 FEB 1945
ASST SEC

January 31, 1945

ry:

r letter of January 5 and to
concerning the possibility
pital ship Gradisca may be
aveling between Crete and
pose of evacuating German sick
former. I am now informed
as intercepted on January 20,
val vessel.

War Department views the
n in intercepting certain
s with concern because of
assions of that action. The
similarly feels that the
British Government in the
best interests unless
are adopted. In this con-
interest your suggestion
at the hospital ship
ted and taken to a neutral
dical Commission should be
place which would determine
uals aboard the Gradisca
and should be taken into
of war. I further note
ent recommends that, if
te, the Department of State
nformity with the procedure
ter.

I enclose for your information a copy of a confidential note which the Department is addressing to the British Embassy at Washington setting

The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,

Secretary of War.

Noted-Asst. Secy. of War

(5 Feb 45)

Noted by OASW/G

24

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

25

January 31, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 740.62114/1-2145

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter of January 5 and to other correspondence concerning the possibility that the German hospital ship Gradisca may be intercepted when traveling between Crete and Trieste for the purpose of evacuating German sick and wounded from the former. I am now informed that the Gradisca was intercepted on January 20, 1945 by a British naval vessel.

I note that the War Department views the recent British action in intercepting certain German hospital ships with concern because of the possible repercussions of that action. The Department of State similarly feels that the action taken by the British Government in the matter is not in our best interests unless adequate safeguards are adopted. In this connection I note with interest your suggestion that in the event that the hospital ship Gradisca is intercepted and taken to a neutral port that a Mixed Medical Commission should be established at that place which would determine which of the individuals aboard the Gradisca are not repatriable and should be taken into custody as prisoners of war. I further note that the War Department recommends that, if considered appropriate, the Department of State should proceed in conformity with the procedure outlined in your letter.

I enclose for your information a copy of a confidential note which the Department is addressing to the British Embassy at Washington setting

The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,

Secretary of War.

Noted-Asst. Secy. of War

(Jan 25 Hyde Park)

not rec'd by OASW/K

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3348 JUN 6

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

setting forth the views of the United States Government in the premises.

With regard to the proposed Mixed Medical Commission the Department understands that the responsibilities of that Commission would be confined to the single function of ascertaining which of the individuals aboard the Gradisca are not repatriable and thus should be taken into custody as prisoners of war.

The Navy Department is being furnished a copy of your letter of January 5, 1945 and a copy of this Department's note to the British Embassy.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary.

Enclosure:

To British Embassy.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

SECRET

WDOPD/2818
Lt Col Yost/em

OPD 573.27 (8 Jan 45)

MAR 2- 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer again to your letter of 8 January 1945, inclosing a copy of a memorandum, dated 27 December 1944, from the Spanish Embassy concerning the sinking of the Japanese hospital ship MURO MARU outside the port of Manila on 13 November 1944 and requesting comment regarding the nature of reply to be made to the Spanish Embassy.

An investigation discloses that aircraft under the operational control of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Area, may have been responsible for the alleged sinking. I have been advised of the reply made to you by the Acting Secretary of the Navy, a copy of which is inclosed, and concur in the views expressed therein.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

1 Incl.
Ltr to S/S fr
AS/N, dtd 23 Feb 45

INFORMATION COPY FOR SECRETARIAT, SWNCC

SECRET

2

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

SECRET COPY

The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 0013313
(SC)A14-3/EF37
Op-13-1-A/lma
14 Feb.1945

23 February 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter, SWP 740.00117 P.W./ 12-2744 of 8 January 1945, and to the enclosed memorandum from the Spanish Embassy, concerning the alleged sinking of the Japanese hospital ship MURO MARU off Manila on 13 November 1944.

This incident was the subject of thorough investigation in the theater and the following facts were established:

(a) Two hospital ships were seen in the Manila Bay area on the date in question. Flight leaders repeatedly broadcast warnings of the presence of both ships and injunctions to refrain from attacking them. Several attacks were initiated but were discontinued when the character of the ships was determined.

(b) One of the hospital ships was underway in the vicinity of Corregidor. The majority of the pilots who participated in the strike commented on the ease with which its distinguishing marks could be identified at a distance. There was, however, considerable difference of opinion with regard to the effectiveness of the markings of the other hospital ship, presumably the MURO MARU, as seen from the air.

(c) As a result of the attack by the first wave of aircraft, visibility at bombing level was quickly reduced by a pall of smoke, from burning ships and installations, which formed at a height of 1000 to 6000 feet.

Under the circumstances noted in (b) and (c) above, it is possible that the MURO MARU may have been inadvertently struck or damaged by bombs launched at legitimate targets or at what, under existing conditions, were believed to have been legitimate targets. It is apparent from (a) above that no pilot consciously bombed or strafed a ship recognized as a hospital ship.

SECRET COPY

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

COPY

SECRET

In reply to the Japanese protest it is recommended that this Government express regret that the incident occurred. It should nevertheless be pointed out that, however good the visibility at sea level, the restricted visibility at bombing altitude made identification of individual ships in the congested harbor extremely difficult. This condition, coupled with the presence of the MURO MARU among legitimate targets, constituted a jeopardy to the safety of the ship. In addition, the reply should emphasize the fact that the clearly identifiable hospital ship off Corregidor was not molested, thus proving that the Armed Forces of this Government endeavor to respect the immunity of hospital ships.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ralph A. Bard
Acting

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

Secretary of State.

SECRET

COPY

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

(20 January 1945)

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter, SWP 740.00117 P.W./11-1544 of 23 December 1944, and enclosures thereto, regarding alleged attacks on the ARABIA MARU and five other Japanese hospital ships, and to your letter of 1 December 1944 on the same subject.

There appears to be no reason to object to the dispatch of a reply by the British to the Japanese protest if this action is satisfactory to the Department of State as being in concert with the United States acknowledgment of receipt of the protest.

We agree with your views concerning countercharges as expressed in the penultimate paragraph of your letter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ HENRY L. STIMSON
Secretary of War

/s/ JAMES FORRESTAL
Secretary of the Navy

CONFIDENTIAL

(1)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Washington 25, D.C.

20 January 1945.

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR:
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

Reference is made to the letters from the Secretary of State, dated 23 December and 1 December 1944, regarding alleged attacks on the ARABIA MARU and five other Japanese hospital ships.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that a joint reply by the Secretaries of War and the Navy to the Secretary of State be made substantially in accordance with the enclosed draft.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

/s/ William D. Leahy

WILLIAM D. LEAHY,
Fleet Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Chief of Staff to the
Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

ENCLOSURE

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIES OF WAR AND THE NAVY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Reference is made to your letter, SWP 740.00117 P.W./11-1544 of 23 December 1944, and enclosure thereto, regarding alleged attacks on the ARABIA MARU and five other Japanese hospital ships, and to your letter of 1 December 1944 on the same subject.

There appears to be no reason to object to the dispatch of a reply by the British to the Japanese protest if this action is satisfactory to the Department of State as being in concert with the United States acknowledgment of receipt of the protest.

We agree with your views concerning counter-charges as expressed in the penultimate paragraph of your letter.

Enclosure

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NND# 740132

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WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington 25, D. C.

Jan 22 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Navy

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to the memorandum from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of War, dated 20 January 1945 concerning the alleged attacks on the ARABIA MARU and five other Japanese hospital ships.

I am in agreement with the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as expressed in the proposed draft letter.

Accordingly I have signed this letter and recommend that you sign and forward it to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry L. Stimson

Secretary of War

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