

TOP-SECRET

Copy No. _____

Paul Middleton

COMMANDER ASSAULT FORCE 'O'

WESTER

NAVAL TASK FORCE

TOP SECRET

OPERATION PLAN

NEPTUNE

**Operation Plan
Neptune**

Part Five

The story of

Short Title:
ONWEST/O

SS Empire Anvil

TOP SECRET - OPERATION PLAN NEPTUNE PART FIVE

**Published by
Paul Middleton**

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FACTS ABOUT THIS BOOK

This Part Five contains facsimiles of 23 pages

Annex I Logistics Plan

Annex J Medical Plan

Annex K Postponement Plan

Annex L Administrative Plan

**Description of the delivery of *SS Empire Anvil* from the shipyard
to the D-Day beaches**

The copy of Operation Plan Neptune contains 247 pages of typewritten text. The fore-edge is punched at the top and bottom and fits on to two thick metal prongs which are fixed to a thick black, coated cardboard cover. The back cover is missing.

All the pages are brittle and faded with age.

The Plan was in the possession of Marcus Jefferson Geerts, 1st Mate on the *SS Empire Anvil* and passed into the Geerts' Family Archives. For details of his career and *SS Empire Anvil*, see the end of the book.

FOREWORD

OPERATION NEPTUNE was the naval Channel crossing phase of Operation Overlord, the code-name given to the Allied invasion of France. An armada of 4,000 vessels transported the Allied invasion forces to Normandy Beach on D-day, June 6, 1944, and the *SS Empire Anvil* was part of that armada.

Admiral Bertram Ramsay, the Allied naval commander in chief, signed the orders for Operation Neptune, calling it *“probably the largest and most complicated operation ever undertaken”*. Ramsay also wrote that *“the object of Operation Neptune is to carry out an operation from the United Kingdom to secure a lodgement on the continent from which further offensive operations can be developed”*.

Admiral Ramsey’s plan assumed the huge aerial power of the Allies would nullify any German attack from the air. His armada therefore would be headed by 287 mine sweepers to clear the way for the 138 warships to follow. These would bombard the German beach defences. The convoy of 4,000 troop carriers would then sail from southern English ports protected by frigates and corvettes.

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II: Water

III: Fuel

IV: Lubricants

V: Life Belts and Blankets

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2: Responsibilities A Near-Shore B Far Shore C Afloat

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4: Tagging Casualties

5: Reports

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7: Medical Re-supply for Beach Battalions

8: Return of Casualties to Near-Shore

9: Burials

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11: Geneva Conference Observance

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Annex L: Administrative Plan

**Description of the delivery of *SS Empire Anvil* from the shipyard
to the D-Day beaches**

OPERATION NEPTUNE ORDER No. BB-44

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE

ASSAULT FORCE "O" (TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)

U.S.S. ANCON, FLAGSHIP PORTLAND DORSET

20 May 1944 1200

Chapter 1

Annex I Logistics Plan

11thPHIB/AL-3(1)(a)
Serial: 00681

TOP SECRET - NEPTUNE

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
ASSAULT FORCE #0
(TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)
U.S.S. ANCON, Flagship.
PORTLAND, JERSEY.
20 MAY 1944 : 1200

ANNEX I TO OPERATION ORDER RB-44 LOGISTICS PLAN

I. FOOD

1. The U.S. Army will provide and load aboard the ships and craft carrying troops, except APA's, sufficient provisions for all Army and Navy personnel for the duration of the operation. APA's will provide provisions for all Army and Navy personnel embarked.
2. Army and Navy personnel afloat will be subsisted as follows:
 - APA - "A" type ration as provided by the Navy.
 - LSI(L) - "B" type ration as provided by the Army.
 - LSI(S) - "B" type ration as provided by the Army.
 - LSI(H) - "B" type ration as provided by the Army.
 - LSE - "B" type ration as provided by the Army.
 - LCI(L) - "Ten-in-one" ration as provided by the Army.
 - LCI - "Ten-in-one" ration as provided by the Army.
3. U. S. Army will make own provisions for subsisting troops ashore.
4. Naval Beach Battalions will be subsisted aboard and ashore on rations provided by the Army.
5. Each LOPV, LGS(S), LCP(L), and LCM(3) scheduled to remain in the assault area will have placed aboard, before departure from the near shore, sufficient "K" type rations to subside the crew five (5) days. In addition, the crews of these craft and the Rhino Ferry crews will be subsisted whenever possible in the assault area by ships and craft unloading.

II. WATER

1. Potable water shall be strictly rationed by all ships and craft.
2. Each ship and craft will make necessary provisions for expeditious filling of canteens of assault troops immediately prior to disembarkation.
3. Ships equipped with distilling plants shall operate such plants as necessary to keep all potable and reserve feed water tanks filled to capacity. Ships and craft not fitted with distilling plants shall take on water at every opportunity. The only exception to this is that LST's, LCI(L)'s, and LCT's, will load only an amount which will ensure their arriving for the initial assault in beaching trim.
4. Each APA is equipped with two 600 gallon tanks which can be loaded in LOPV's to deliver potable water to the beaches. These tanks will be ready for transfer to the beach on call.

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ANNEX I TO OPERATION ORDER RB-44
LOGISTICS PLAN

Annex I Logistics Plan I Food II Water.

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TOP SECRET - NEPTUNE

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
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U.S.S. ANCON, Flagship.
PORTLAND, DORSET.
20 May 1944 : 1200

ANNEX I
TO OPERATION ORDER EB-44
LOGISTICS PLAN

5. Each LST fitted to transfer water will be ready to furnish water to smaller craft when requested.
6. Each small craft will carry a five-gallon water breaker.

III. FUEL

1. All ships and craft will fuel to the amount shown hereafter prior to departure from the loading point. Commanding Officers will endeavor to maintain this condition
 - (a) Gunfire Support Ships, Escort Ships, and Tugs - Fuel to capacity.
 - (b) APA - Fuel to insure a radius of 5,000 miles at a speed of 15 knots.
 - (c) LSH - Fuel to capacity.
 - (d) LST - 45,000 gallons.
 - (e) LCI(L) - 5,000 gallons.
 - (f) LCM, LCM, LCVF, LCP(L), LCC, LCA and LGS - Fuel to capacity.
 - (g) Upon return to the near shore and while reloading, ships and craft engaged in the turn-around refuel at the loading points or hard to the quantities shown in the foregoing plan.
 - (h) In the assault area, fuel for ferrying and support craft will be available in bulk from LBO's, fuel-carrying trawlers and LST's. Fuel in containers will be available to ferrying craft from ships being unloaded. Fuel may be drawn from the U.S. Army when marine delivery is not available. Bulk fuel will arrive in the assault area as shown in Appendix 1.

IV. LUBRICANTS

1. All ships will carry sufficient lubricants and greases for the entire operation.
2. A reserve supply for landing craft will be made available on LBO's, on fuel-carrying trawlers, and on ferry control accommodations ships. Lubricants may be drawn from the U.S. Army when Marine delivery is not available.

V. LIFE BELTS AND BLANKETS

1. Naval passengers will be provided with life belts by ships upon which embarked, but will furnish own blankets. U.S. Army will provide their own life belts and blankets.

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ANNEX I TO OPERATION ORDER EB-44
LOGISTICS PLAN

Annex I Logistics Plan II Water III Fuel IV Lubricants V Life Belts and Blankets.

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WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
ASSAULT FORCE "O"
(TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)
U.S.S. ANCON, Flagship.
PORTLAND, DORSET.
30 May 1944 ; 1200

ANNEX I
TO OPERATION ORDER HB-44
LOGISTICS PLAN

VI. CLOTHING

1. Commanding Officers of all Naval Craft and units will have necessary personnel equipped with foul weather clothing.
2. Impregnated clothing will be worn by all Naval personnel going ashore or manning craft that beach.

VII. AMMUNITION

1. LST and LCI(L) of the shuttle service will replenish their ammunition at the hards, British or U.S., where machine gun, 20mm and 40mm will be available.
2. LCT's, LCG(L), LCP and craft of the ferry service will replenish their ammunition from Ammunition Stores Issuing Ships provided by the Admiralty.
3. Replacement ammunition for APA's will be held in the Plymouth Area.

VIII. GENERAL

1. Each LCT, LCM(3) and LCPV operating in the Ferry Service will display a board hung over each side aft of the ramp, 18 inches square marked with the letter "O". The board will be easily removable in event the craft is transferred to another Force.
2. Further logistical information applicable to this Force is contained in ComNavEx's "Logistical Plan for U.S. Naval Forces Participating in Operation OVERLORD", which has been distributed to all ships and to LCT Unit Commanders, and GTF 122 Logistics Plan (Annex "J" to Operation Plan No. 2-44 of 21 April). Commanders concerned will familiarize themselves with these directives.

D. MacQueen
D. Mac QUEEN
Flag Secretary

J. L. HALL, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander Task Force ONE TWO FOUR

Appendix

1. Bulk Fuel Available in Assault Area.

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ANNEX I TO OPERATION ORDER HB-44
LOGISTICS PLAN

Annex I Logistics Plan VI Clothing VII Ammunition VIII General.

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TOP SECRET - NEPTUNE

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
ASSAULT FORCE "O"
(TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)
U.S.S. ANCON, Flagship.
PORTLAND, OREGON.
20 May 1944 ; 1200

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX I
TO OPERATION ORDER HL44
BULK FUEL AVAILABLE IN ASSAULT AREA

1. LBO's and Fuelling Trawlers Arriving "D" day.

Place	: LBO : 73 Octane:	LBO : 87 Octane:	LBO : 80 Octane:	LBO : 100 Octane:	LBO : Diesel:	Fuelling traw- lers - Diesel
Omaha	: 1	: 1	: 7	:	: 11	: 9
Utah	: 1	: 1	: 4	: 10	: 4	: 5

Note: Each LBO and Fuelling Trawler will have aboard 600 gallons of lubricating oil, Navy Symbol 9250.

2. Tankers for refuelling.

Tanker	: Arrives :	For :	Contents
YO - 22	: D/1	: Force O	: 160 tons 73 Octane - Balance 80 Octane
YO - 38	: D/1	: Force O	: 800 tons diesel
YO - 54	: D/1	: Force U	: 800 tons diesel
Empire Dweller	: D/1	: US Area	: 100 Octane gasoline and Symbol 1100 lubricating oil
YO - 23	: D/2	: Force O	: 650 tons 80 Octane
YO - 40	: D/2	: Force O	: 800 tons diesel
YO - 41	: D/2	: Force O	: 800 tons diesel.
YO - 27	: D/2	: Force O	: 650 tons diesel
YO - 26	: D/2	: Force U	: 160 tons 73 Octane - Balance 80 Octane
YO - 25	: D/2	: Force U	: 650 tons 80 Octane
YO - 42	: D/2	: Force U	:
British Engineer	: D/7	: US Area	: 800 tons 73 Octane-2400 tons 80 Octane 5340 tons diesel-30,000 gals 9250 lub. oil

Note: Each YO will have aboard 5,000 gallons of lubricating oil, Navy Symbol 9250.

D. Mac Queen
D. Mac QUEEN
Flag Secretary.

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX I
TO OPERATION ORDER HL44
BULK FUEL AVAILABLE IN ASSAULT AREA

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Annex I Logistics Plan Appendix 1 Bulk Fuel available in Assault Area.

Chapter 2

Annex J Medical Plan

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TOP SECRET - NEPTUNE

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
ASSAULT FORCE "O"
(TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)
U.S.S. ANCON, FLAGSHIP.
PORTLAND, DORSET.
20 May 1944 ; 1200

ANNEX J
TO OPERATION ORDER EB-44
MEDICAL PLAN

OUTLINE

1. Task.
2. Responsibilities.
 - A. Near-Shore.
 - (1) Navy.
 - (2) Army.
 - B. Far Shore.
 - (1) Navy.
 - (2) Army.
 - C. Afloat.
 - (1) Navy.
 - (2) Army.
3. Evacuation.
4. Tagging Casualties.
 - A. Emergency Medical Tags.
 - (1) For operated cases.
 - (2) For dead.
 - (3) For prisoners of war.
 - B. Three piece evacuation tag, ETCUSA, MD, Form 321.
 - C. The Navy Diagnosis Tag.
5. Reports.
6. Medical property exchange.
7. Medical re-supply for Beach Battalions.
8. Return of casualties to near-shore.
9. Burials.
10. Disposition of personal effects of dead, wounded, missing.
11. Geneva Conference observance.

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ANNEX J
TO OPERATION ORDER EB-44
MEDICAL PLAN

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WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
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PORTLAND, DORSET.
20 May 1944 ; 1200

ANNEX J
TO OPERATION ORDER EB-44
MEDICAL PLAN

1. TASK

This force will furnish medical services for Force "O" and embarked forces between the ports of embarkation and the high water mark on the far-shore landing beaches, including:

- A. Joint medical service by Army and Navy to all personnel in the Beach Area.
- B. Seaward evacuation and medical service afloat from the far-shore landing beaches to the near-shore ports and/or bases.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Near-Shore.

(1) Navy.

- (a) The delivery of casualties to designated near-shore ports or harda at which special holding units will be provided by the Army. In the event of the landing of casualties at other than designated ports or harda, the Navy will be responsible for timely warning to the Army in order that casualties be received without delay.

(2) Army.

- (a) The establishment and maintenance, in the immediate vicinity of ports and harda to which converted casualty-bearing LST's and other casualty carrying ships have been designated to return, of such holding medical units as may be required for the reception of casualties evacuated by ship.
- (b) Unloading ships and craft at specified docks and harda.
- (c) The provision in the immediate vicinity of designated ports and harda of such additional medical supplies and equipment as may be necessary to effect prompt property exchange with returning LST's, and to meet emergency requirements arising in connection with shore to shore evacuation.
- (d) The provision of small emergency medical units at all harda used by returning U.S. craft to meet the needs of the few casualties who are evacuated by other than evacuation ships, or to other than designated harda.

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ANNEX J.
TO OPERATION ORDER EB-44
MEDICAL PLAN

Annex J: Medical Plan 1 Task 2 Responsibilities A Near-Shore.