TOP-SECRET
Copy No.

Paul Middleton

COMMANDER ASSAULT FORCE 'O' WESTER NAVAL TASK FORCE PERATION PLAN nertune peration Plan Neptune Part One

The story of Short Title: SS Empire Anvil

TOP SECRET - OPERATION PLAN NEPTUNE PART ONE

Published by Paul Middleton

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FACTS ABOUT THIS BOOK

This Part One contains facsimiles of 53 pages of Operation Plan Neptune:
Billeting of US army troops
Signals

Task Organization Operation Order No. BB-44 20 May 1944
Annex A Intelligence Plan
Annex B Minesweeping Plan

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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CONTENTS OF PART ONE

Billeting of US army troops on SS Empire Anvil Signals

Task Organization Operation Order No. BB-44 20 May 1944 Annex A: Intelligence Plan

i Weather, Sea and Surf ii Tides, Currents and Astronomical data iii Hydrography

iv Description of terrain in Omaha beach area

v Omaha Sectors

vi Omaha Beaches

vii Enemy Defenses

viii Estimated enemy Naval and Air strength, Disposition, Capabilities, Tactics and Chemical Warfare Capabilities ix Order of Assault, Naval Gunfire Support and Aerial Bombardment

x Military Plan

Annex B: Minesweeping Plan

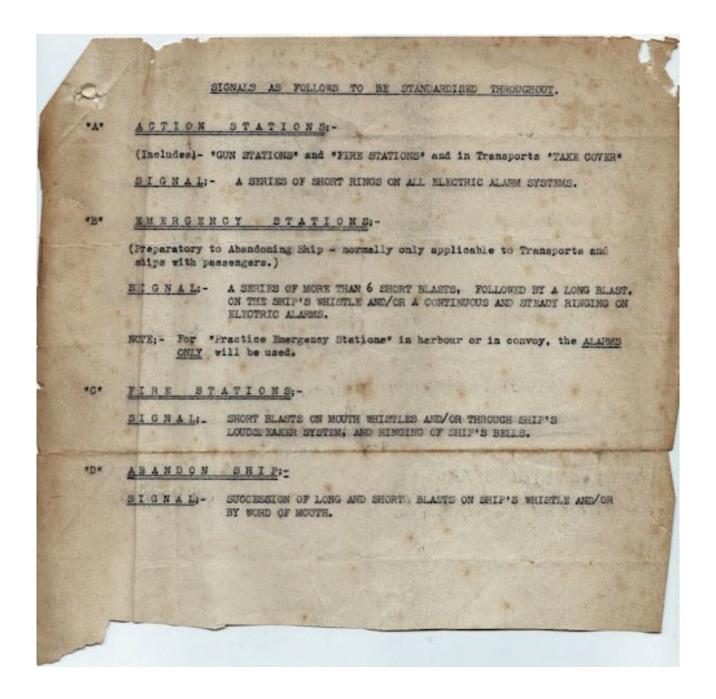
Appendix 1: Table of Courses and Distances, Latitude and Longitude of Points, Approximate time of passing

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

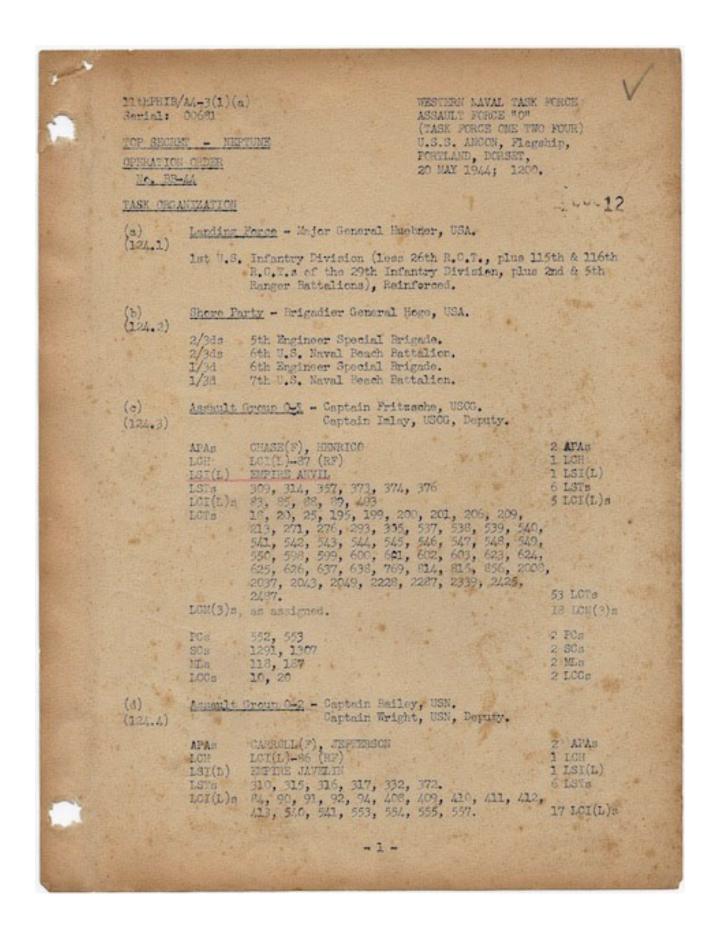
Chapter 1 Billeting of US army troops, Signals and Task Organization

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3 June 1944 Total of US Army troops aboard SS Empire Anvil.



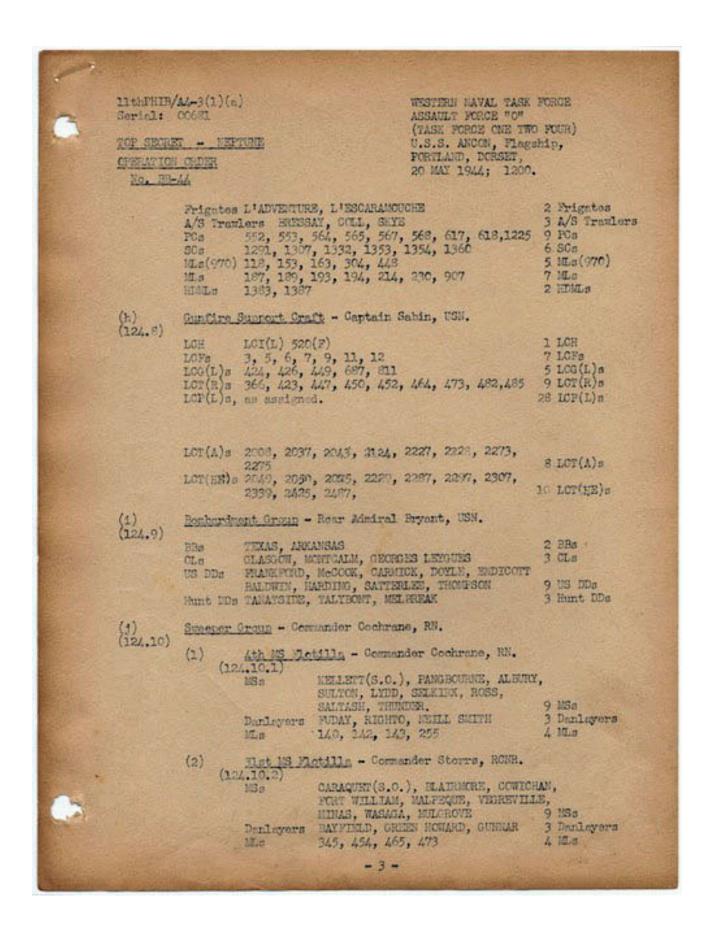
Signals for Action Stations, Emergency Stations, Fire Stations, Abandon Ship.



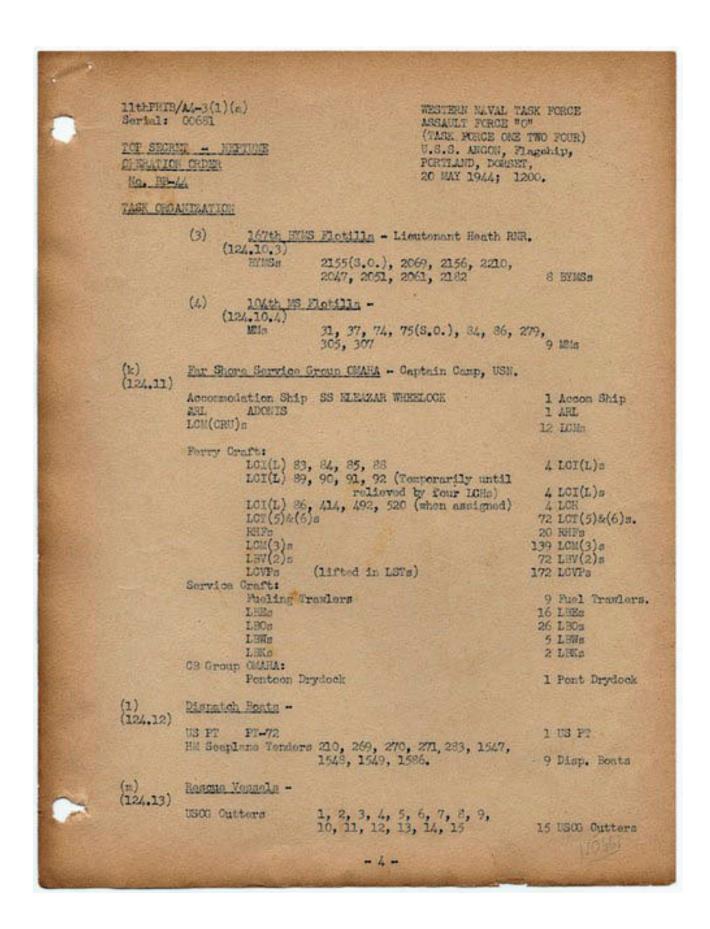
Task Organization: Landing Force, Shore Party, Assault Groups O-1 and O-2.

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PORTLAND, DORSET,
20 MAY 1944; 1200.
TOP SECRET - NEPTUNE
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Task Organization: Assault Groups O-3 and O-4, Escorts.



Task Organization: Escorts, Gunfire Support Craft, Bombardment Group, Sweeper Group.



Task Organization: Sweeper Group, Far Shore Service Group OMAHA, Dispatch Boats, Rescue Vessels.