

TOP-SECRET

Copy No. _____

Paul Middleton

COMMANDER ASSAULT FORCE 'O'

WESTER

NAVAL TASK FORCE

TOP SECRET

OPERATION PLAN

NEPTUNE

**Operation Plan
Neptune
Part Four**

The story of

Short Title:
ONWEST/O

SS Empire Anvil

**TOP SECRET - OPERATION PLAN NEPTUNE
PART FOUR**

**Published by
Paul Middleton**

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FACTS ABOUT THIS BOOK

**This Part Four contains facsimiles of 56 pages
Annex H Communication 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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Appendix 11: Radar and Radio Counter Measures (RCM)

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OPERATION NEPTUNE ORDER No. BB-44

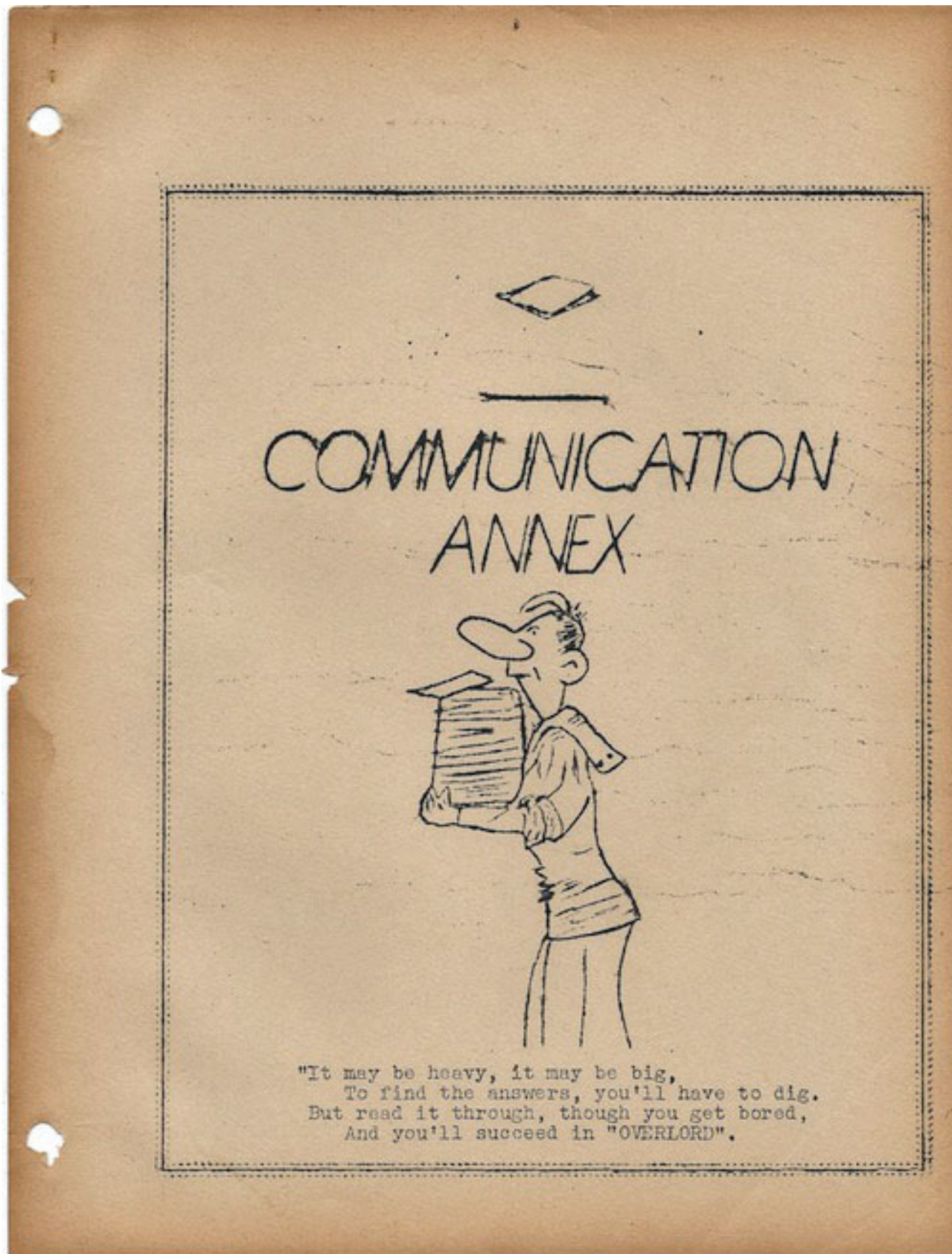
WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE

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

U.S.S. ANCON, FLAGSHIP PORTLAND DORSET

20 May 1944 1200

Annex H Communication Plan



Annex H: Communication Plan

11thPHIB/44-3(1)(a)
Serial: 00681

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

ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BR-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN

1. This plan is based on, and amplifies, the Communication Orders of the Allied Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force, and the Communication Annex of CTF 122 OpPlan ONWEST. These plans are designated "ONCO" and "Annex L" to ONWEST respectively, and must be studied in conjunction with this plan by all who hold them. Men-holders of the above mentioned plans will find all essential information in this plan, as far as their duties in this Operation are concerned.
2. This Communication Plan becomes effective for ships already at sea at 0800 D-1 Day. Units in harbor will set guard on radio circuits designated one hour before sailing. See Appendix 6. If D day or H hour is postponed, units already at sea will be notified via the Western Task Force Joint Broadcast 3400 kcs.
3. Use Zone Baker time in all communications.
4. Methods of communication will be used in the following order of desirability.
 - (a) Dispatch Boats
 - (b) Visual
 - (c) Radio Telegraph
 - (d) Radio Telephone
5. CHQ Plymouth will guard NSS Fox Schedules for all U.S. Ships in Force "O".
6. Naval Dispatch Boat Service. See Appendix 15.
7. Visual. See Appendix 14. Special Warning Signals included in Appendix 6.
8. (a) Radio Silence is to be maintained by all units of the assault force from the time of sailing up to H hour, except for:-
 - (1) Enemy reports providing the enemy has been clearly identified.
 - (2) After "H" minus 120 minutes as ordered by the Force Commander for specific purposes.
- (b) Radio silence is NOT to be broken by the Assault Convoys for:-
 - (1) Maneuvering
 - (2) Radar Reporting
 - (3) Reporting mines swept or sighted
 - (4) Reporting single aircraft unless seen to attack.

ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BR-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN

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TOP - SECRET - NEPTUNE

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
ASSAULT FORCE "04"
(TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)
U.S.S. ANCON, Flagship
PORTLAND, OREGON
20 May 1944: 1200

ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BB-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN

- (5) Reporting shadowing aircraft
(6) Reporting damage
- (e) All Army units embarking must be warned that radio sets of all description, including those mounted in vehicles, must not be tested or started until after radio silence is broken.
- (d) Boat Control circuits will be manned when boats are launched. Ship-beach circuits will be manned at H hour. Firing ships will man Shore Fire Control circuits in sufficient time to establish communications with SFCP on first call. At all times firing ships will listen on the Bombardment Calling frequency, beginning at H minus two hours.
- (c) Craft acting as Boat Control Vessels secure guard on Force Auxiliary frequency when assuming Boat Control mission, and guard Ship-Shore Administrative circuit (according to whichever beach is approached). Resume guard on Force Auxiliary circuit when control mission is completed.
- (f) Loudspeaker watch will be kept on Western Task Force Joint Broadcast by all ships having receivers available. A ship's entertainment receiver may be tuned to this frequency 3400 kcs (88.23 meters). Ships hoist appropriate flag upon receipt of radio Air Warning messages.
- (g) Western Task Force Joint Broadcast will be controlled ashore prior to the breaking of radio silence. Enemy warnings will be broadcast to ships enroute to the Assault Area.
- (h) Minesweeping Group. Major War Vessels of Minesweeping Group guard ON Broadcast. Commander Minesweeping Group guard or designate guard on this frequency for smaller minesweeping vessels.
- (i) Ship-Shore Communications. In accordance with Appendix 9.
- (j) Radio guards for Follow-up Convoys and Groups. See Appendix 7 for radio circuits to be guarded by Independent Convoys and Shuttle Groups enroute to and from the UK after the initial assault.
9. Publications, Call Signs, Authentication, Recognition, Security and Procedure in accordance with Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BB-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN

Annex H: Communication Plan

(Ed: Note that pages 3 to 14 are missing. These consist of items 10 onwards of the Communication Plan and approx. 7 pages of Appendix 1 Table 1).

11thPHIB/44-3(1)(a)
Serial: 00601

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

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BE-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN - PUBLICATIONS

TABLE II

PART A

Index to Crypto-Channel-Chart

(1) Commands Afloat and Ashore and Units Ashore.

Addressee	Block Number	Address	Block Number
AN Cinc XF	9,17,18	Cmdr. Task Gr. 122.1	3,18
Beachmaster	8	122.4	3,18
British Army	17,18	122.6	1,17,18
Corps	18	124.1	16,18
Division	18	.2	8
Cmdr. Assault Group O-1	3,18	.3	3,18
O-2	3,18	.4	3,18
O-3	3,18	.5	3,18
O-4	14	.6	14
Commander Force B	1,17,18	.7	3,18
O	1,17,18	.8	4
U	1,17,18	.9	1,17,18
CinC Plymouth	9,17,18	.10	11
Portsmouth	9,17,18	.11	4
Cmdr. LCF Flot or Group	4,	.12	-
LCG	4,	.13	-
LCI	4,	Cmdr. Task Unit 122.1.1	3,18
LCT	5,	122.4.1	3,18
LCT(A)	5,	122.4.2	3,18
LCT(H)	5,	122.5.1	3,18
LCT(R)	5,	122.5.3	3,18
LST	4,	124.10.1	11
CIF 122	1,17,18	124.10.2	12
124	1,17,18	124.10.3	6
125	1,17,18	124.10.4	6
126	1,17,18	Cmdr. Trans. Div.	3,18
127	1,17,18	Dpty Cmdr Assault Gr. O-1	3,18

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BE-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN - PUBLICATIONS

Annex H: Communication Plan Appendix 1 Publications Table II Part A Index to Crypto-Channel Chart.

11thPHIB/AA-3(1)(c)
Serial: 00081

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

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BP-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN - PUBLICATIONS

TABLE II

PART B

(1) Continued.

Addressee	Block Number	Addressee	Block Number
Dpty Cdr. Assault Gr. 0-2	3,18	S.O. Force J	9,17,18
Dpty Cdr. Assault Gr. 0-3	3,18	L	9,17,18
Far Shore Service Group	4	S	9,17,18
FOIC: Portland	10,17,18	U.S. Army: Army Hq.	16,17,18
Southampton	10,17,18	Corps	16,17,18
NCDF	9,17,18	Division	16,18
NCWF	1,17,18	Regiment	5
NOIC Omaha	2,18	U.S.A.A.F.: Air Group	16
Utah	2,18	Command Hq.	16,17,18
RAF - Group Hq.	18	Force Hq.	16,17,18
Hq. 2nd XFP	17,18	Wings	16,18
Shore Fire Control Parties	*	V.L. Dover	10,17,18
S.O. Force G	9,17,18		

(2) Ships by Type Letter

Addressee	Block Number	Addressee	Block Number
U.S. AGC	3,18	H.M. P.D.T.	15
APL	3,18	H.D.M.L.	6
ARL	4	U.S. IB - (any type)	-
BB	3,18	LCC	5
H.M. BYMS	6	LCF	7
U.S. CA	3,18	LCG	7
CG Cutter	**	LCH	6
DD	3,18	LCI	6
DE	3,18	LCM	-

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX H
TO OPERATION ORDER BP-44
COMMUNICATION PLAN - PUBLICATIONS

Annex H: Communication Plan Appendix 1 Publications Table II Part B Index to Crypto-Channel Chart.

1114PHIB/44-3(1)(a)
Serial: 00681

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE
ASSAULT FORCE "O"
(TASK FORCE ONE TWO FOUR)
U.S.S. ANCON, Flagship,
PORTLAND, DORSET,
20 MAY 1944: 1200

TOP SECRET - NEPTUNE

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX H
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COMMUNICATION PLAN - PUBLICATIONS

TABLE II

PART B

(2) Continued.

Addresser	Block Number	Addressee	Block Number
U.S. LCP	-	H.M. MBS	6
LCT	7	U.S. PC	4
LCT(A)	7	PT	* *
LCT(HE)	7	Rhino Ferry	-
LCT(R)	7	SC	4
H.M. LSD	14	H.M. Seaplane Tender	* *
U.S. LST	6	SGS	6
H.M. ML	6	U.S. XLP	3,18
ML(HD)	6		

(3) Ships Alphabetically.

Addresser	Block Number	Addressee	Block Number
Adonis	4	Charles Carroll	3,18
Albany	11	Chase	3,18
Amsterdam	6	Coll	13
Anne Arundel	3,18	Cowchan	12,18
Arkansas	3,18	Dorothea L. Dix	3,18
Augusta	3,18	Doyle	3,18
Baldwin	3,18	Duff	12,18
Bayfield (HMS)	12,18	Eleanor Wheelock	-
Ben My Chroc	6	Empire Anvil	6
Blairmore	12,18	Empire Javelin	6
Boran	3,18	Endicott	3,18
Brossay	13	Port William	12,18
Caraguet	12,18	Frankfort	3,18
Carnick	3,18	Fuday	13

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX H
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COMMUNICATION PLAN - PUBLICATIONS