

ADM 179/322
MOST SECRET

Copy No. 14.....

MOST SECRET.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mount Wise,
Devonport.

MEMORANDUM
No. 4326/Ply. 01486.

18th December, 1943.

ON NO ACCOUNT TO BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

OPERATIONS "HARDTACK 28" AND "HARDTACK 7".

References- Admiralty Charts 3367, 2675b, 62b, 62c, 2669, 262a.

Map G.S.G.S. 3967 Sheet Jersey
4249 Sheet 5 E.

ALL TIMES ARE BRITISH SUMMER TIME.

OBJECT.

The operations are small scale reconnaissance raids on the islands of Jersey and Sark with the following objects:

- (a) To capture a prisoner
- (b) To carry out a reconnaissance of the enemy coast and defences, for which a detailed questionnaire will be issued, and withdraw unobserved.

GENERAL ORDERS.

2. The orders issued below are common to both operations and are to be read in conjunction with the detailed orders for each operation attached at Appendix A and Appendix B. Communication Orders common to both operations and Navigational information are attached at Appendix C and Appendix D.

FORCES TAKING PART.

3. (a) Naval.

- (i) M.G.B. 329 and 322 will jointly form the Combined Naval Force and will be known as "Force 112" while in company and until proceeding independently to carry out the operations detailed below.
- (ii) Operation HARDTACK 28. M.G.B. 329 commanded by Lieutenant Commander C.H.W. Andrew, R.N.V.R. This force will be known as "Force 113".
- (iii) Operation HARDTACK 7. M.G.B. 322 commanded by Lieutenant A.S. McGettrick, R.N.V.R. This force will be known as "Force 114".
- (iv) Units of the 1st M.T.B. Flotilla to act as covering force to the Naval Forces in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above. This Force will be known as "Force 115".

(b) Military.

Approximately 10 all ranks No.10 Commando for each operation under the command of Captain A.P. Ayton who will be the Combined Military Force Commander for both operations.

(c) Air.

Fighter protection for Forces 112 and 115 will be

requested...

requested on the outward passage. The A.O.C. 10 Group is requested to arrange for fighter escort for all forces in paragraph (a) above from first light on the return passage. It is estimated that the 0800 positions of our Forces will be as follows:-

Force 113 124° Start Point 40 miles.
Force 114 124° Start Point 38 miles.
Force 115 Position (22).

SYSTEM OF COMMAND AND DATE OF OPERATIONS.

4. (a) The system of command will be the normal system of joint command for combined operations. It is the intention that both operations shall be carried out on the same night and both naval forces in paragraph 3 (a) (ii) and (iii) will be under the command of Lieutenant Commander G.H.W. Andrew, R.N.V.R., who will be the Combined Naval Force Commander of Force 112 until Force 114 is detached at position (CC). After parting company the Commanding Officers of M.C.B.s 329 and 322 will assume responsibility as Naval Force Commanders for the operations as in paragraph 3 (a) (ii) and (iii).
- (b) The operations will be carried out on the night of 22/23 December, 1943, weather and other circumstances permitting, or on the first subsequent and suitable night up to and including the night of 3/4 January, 1944.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

5. The operations will be limited by a wind force not exceeding 2-3.

PORT OF EMBARKATION AND ORDERS TO PROCEED.

6. (a) The port of embarkation, departure and return will be Dartmouth.
- (b) The Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth will make the following signals on receipt of the latest information addressed N.O.I.C. Dartmouth (R) Admiralty, HQADCB, HQCC, C.C.O. 10 Group and 19 Group:-
- (i) At 1900 on 21st December or at 1900 on the first day of the period when conditions appear suitable.
- "Preparative 28 and 7".
- (ii) At 1200 on 22nd December or on the first day following the preparative signal.
- "Executive 28 and 7" if the operations are to be carried out that night.
- (iii) "Negative 28 and 7" if the operations are postponed 24 hours.
- A further preparatory signal will be made if the operations are so postponed.

CANCELLATION OF THE OPERATIONS.

7. The operations may be cancelled:-
- (a) by the Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth;
- (b) by the combined Naval Force Commander before reaching position (CC) or by either Naval Force Commander after the forces have separated

for any.....

for any reasons which might seriously prejudice the safety of both or either of the forces.

The operations are to be abandoned if the combined forces are sighted by enemy air or surface forces when south of 50° North, and the combined Naval Force Commander is to report if such action is taken as soon as he is in a position to do so having regard to the safety of his force and that of other forces which may be in his vicinity.

In the event of the breakdown of one M.C.B. it is at the discretion of the Combined Naval Force Commander whether to direct the other M.C.B. to continue the operation or to return to harbour in company.

- (c) by the Military Force Commander if it becomes apparent that the military task cannot be completed without seriously prejudicing the safety of his forces.

BRIEFING.

- 8. (a) As the executive signal to proceed will not be made until 1200 on the day of the operations, the Military Force Commander is to arrange to brief his forces on receipt of the first preparative signal as in paragraph 6 (b).
- (b) The Combined Naval Force Commander is to give the necessary security instructions to all naval forces taking part. If circumstances permit, it is desirable that this should not be done until receipt of the executive signal.
- (c) The attention of the Military Force Commander is drawn to the G.C.O. Standing Orders regarding security.

OUTLINE PLAN.

- 9. (a) On receipt of the executive signal, Force 112 is to leave Dartmouth and is to proceed to take departure from position (AA) 124° degrees Start Point 2 miles at 1540.

Force 112 is to proceed in company from (AA) to pass through the following positions:-

<u>Position</u>	<u>To arrive.</u>
(BB) 169 degrees Alderney Light 11½ miles	2030
(CC) 087° Sark Light 9½ miles	2100

- (b) On arrival at position (CC) Forces 113 and 114 are to proceed independently as laid down in Appendix A and B respectively.

COVERING FORCE.

10. Force 115 is to be sailed at a time requisite to take departure from position (AA) at 1700 proceeding thence at 20 knots to position (ZZ) 49° 45' N. 2° 52' W.

Force 115 is to patrol in the vicinity of position (ZZ) and is to proceed to assist Forces 113 and/or 114 if the situation requires. Force 115 when on patrol is not to approach within 20 miles of the Radar station at Fort George, Guernsey, unless proceeding to the assistance of either of these Forces.

At 0800 unless either force requires assistance and in the absence

of any

DOCUMENTS.

15. (a) Books are to be landed in accordance with D.C.O. 22 for Coastal Force craft.
- (b) In addition, Forces 113 and 114 are to land all charts, navigational information and other matter of a confidential nature except those directly connected with the operation.

RECEPTION OF FORCES ON RETURN.

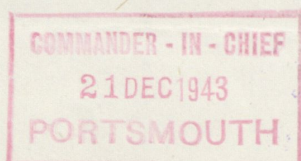
16. The N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to arrange for the reception of the forces on arrival in accordance with the report signalled (paragraph 11 (a)).

PRISONERS.

17. The N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to issue the necessary instructions to the military guard which will be provided.

DISPOSAL OF ORDERS.

18. All operation orders and docketts issued by the Commander-in-Chief Plymouth and the C.C.O. in connection with the operations are to be returned by hand of officer to the office of the Commander-in-Chief Plymouth at the earliest opportunity on completion of the operations.



F. Heatham

ADMIRAL
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.

Commanding Officers M.G.B. 329 and 322.	1 and 2.
Military Force Commander (3 copies).	3 - 5.
Naval Officer-in-Charge, Dartmouth.	6.
Commanding Officer, H.M.S. Cicala. (6 copies - 5 for H.T.B.s).	7 - 12.
Chief of Combined Operations.	13.
<u>Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.</u>	14.
<u>Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Defence</u> <u>of Great Britain.</u>	15.
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Coastal Command.	16.
Air Officer Commanding, 10 Group, R.A.F.	17.
Air Officer Commanding, 19 Group, R.A.F.	18.
General Officer Commanding, S.S. Group	19.
Naval Commander Expeditionary Force.	20.
War Office.	21.
The Secretary of the Admiralty.	22 - 27.

APPENDIX A TO PLYMOUTH LETTER NO. 4326/Ply. 01486 dated 18th DECEMBER, 1943.

OPERATION HARDTACK 28.

- (a) From position (CC) 087 degrees Sark Light $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Force 113 will proceed to arrive at position (DD), ~~GIFFARD BAY~~ ^{Pet. N. Pt.} (approx. position $49^{\circ} 15' 00''$ N. $2^{\circ} 05' 30''$ W.), at 2230.
- (b) On arrival at position (DD) and having fixed his position, the Naval Force Commander is to pass to the Military Force Commander the necessary information to enable the raiding party to effect a landing in ~~GIFFARD BAY~~ ^{Pet. N. Pt.} in position $49^{\circ} 15' 16''$ N. $2^{\circ} 05' 28''$ W.
- (c) The landing is planned to take place at 2300 and the landing party is allowed a maximum of 5 hours ashore. During this period the Naval force is to endeavour to remain at or in the vicinity of the lowering position. If this position is rendered untenable either by enemy shore or surface action or by other reasons, the Naval force is to withdraw along the return course. Should any such action be necessary the Naval Force Commander is to inform the Military Force Commander of his actions using the single letter code laid down in the communication orders paragraph 4 (i).

WITHDRAWAL.

2. (a) The Military force is to leave the beach by 0400 and rendezvous with the M.G.B. at the lowering position (DD). The dory is to be hoisted or towed from this position as conditions and time allow in order that the Naval force is under way by 0430.
- (b) Force 113 is to make the return passage through positions (CC) and (BB) and thence to Dartmouth. If, for any reasons such as enemy activity or adverse weather or tidal conditions, the Naval Force Commander considers it unwise to return by this route, he is to return south of Guernsey keeping 12 miles south of St. Martins Point, Guernsey and thence through position (EE) 230 degrees Les Hanois 15 miles to Dartmouth.

ORDERS FOR DORY ON LEAVING THE BEACH.

3. If the Military Force Commander is unable to contact the M.G.B. at position (DD) or if the M.G.B. has been forced to leave this position, he is to continue towards position (CC). If contact is not made with the M.G.B. by 0515, he is to use the emergency signals laid down in the communication orders paragraph 5.

ORDERS FOR THE NAVAL FORCE IF UNABLE TO CONTACT THE DORY.

4. In the absence of any communication from the Military Force Commander and if unable to contact the dory at position (DD), Force 113 is to remain at position (DD) until 0500 when, if contact is still not made, it is to withdraw along the return route.

APPENDIX B TO PLYMOUTH LETTER NO.4326/Ply.01486 dated 18th DECEMBER, 1943.

OPERATION HARDTACK 7.

- (a) From position (CC) 087 degrees Sark Light 9½ miles, Force 114 will proceed to arrive at position (XX) LA CONCHER ROCK (approx. position 49° 25' N, 2° 21' W) at 2215.
- (b) On arrival at position (XX) and having fixed his position, the Naval Force Commander is to pass to the Military Force Commander the necessary information to enable the raiding party to effect a landing on Point TERRIBLE in position 49° 25' 15" N, 2° 21' 20" W.
- (c) The landing is planned to take place at 2245 and the landing party is allowed a maximum of 5¼ hours ashore. During this period the Naval force is to endeavour to remain at or in the vicinity of the lowering position. If this position is rendered untenable either by enemy shore or surface action or by other reasons, the Naval Force is to withdraw. Should any such action be necessary the Naval Force Commander is to inform the Military force Commander of his actions using the single letter code laid down in the communication orders paragraph 4(i).

WITHDRAWAL.

2. (a) The Military force is to leave the beach by 0430 and rendezvous with the M.G.B. close west of LA CONCHER. The dory is to be hoisted or towed from this position as conditions and time allow in order that the Naval force may be under way by 0500.
- (b) Force 114 is to return by way of the SCHOLE BANK and thence to Dartmouth. If, for any reasons such as enemy activity or adverse weather or tidal conditions, the Naval Force Commander considers it unwise to return by this route, he is to return south of Guernsey keeping 12 miles south of St. Martins Point, Guernsey and thence through position (EE) 230 degrees Les Hanois 15 miles to Dartmouth.

ORDERS FOR DORY ON LEAVING THE BEACH.

3. If the Military Force Commander is unable to contact the M.G.B. at the rendezvous position or if the M.G.B. has been forced to leave this position, he is to remain at position (XX) or set a course as instructed by the Naval Force Commander prior to the landing depending on the date on which the operation is carried out. If such a course is set and contact is not made with the M.G.B. by 0530 he is to use the emergency signals laid down in the communication orders paragraph 5.

ORDERS FOR THE NAVAL FORCE IF UNABLE TO CONTACT THE DORY.

4. In the absence of any communication from the Military Force Commander, and if unable to contact the dory at the rendezvous position, Force 114 is to remain in the vicinity of position (XX) until 0530 when, if contact is still not made, it is to withdraw along the return route or the route as modified by any instructions given under paragraph 3.

APPENDIX C TO PLYMOUTH LETTER NO. 4326/Ply.01486 dated 18TH DECEMBER, 1943.

COMMUNICATION ORDERS.

NAVAL FORCES.

In accordance with D.C.O. 6, line 3. This state is to be assumed from half an hour before the time of sailing of Force 112. M.G.B.s are to test inter-communication on T.C.S. before sailing.

INTERCOMMUNICATION BETWEEN NAVAL AND MILITARY FORCES.

2. (a) Intercommunication will be by R/T on S.C.R. 536 ("Walkie-Talkie") and "S" phones.

(b) Sets will be disposed as follows:-

Place.	Sets	Call sign.
(i)		
<u>Force 113</u>		
M.G.B. 329	(1 "S" Phone 1 S.C.R. 536)	KING ONE
Dory at Beach	(1 "S" Phone 1 S.C.R. 536)	KING TWO
Military Force	1 S.C.R. 536	KING THREE
(ii)		
<u>Force 114</u>		
M.G.B. 322	(1 "S" Phone 1 S.C.R. 536)	LOVE ONE
Dory at Beach	(1 "S" Phone 1 S.C.R. 536)	LOVE TWO
Military Force	1 S.C.R. 536	LOVE THREE

FORCE W/T CALL SIGNS AND CODEWORDS.

3. The following will be in force from the time stated in paragraph 1.

	Call sign	Codeword
All Naval Forces engaged.	3 F L H	CAEMAN
Force 112.	3 T E G	CABMAN ONE
Force 113	3 G A B	CABMAN TWO
Force 114	3 Y P O	CABMAN THREE
Force 115	3 H B Y	CABMAN FOUR

INTERCOMMUNICATION

APPENDIX C TO PLYMOUTH LETTER NO. 4326/Ply.01486 dated 18TH DECEMBER, 1943.
(CONTINUED).

INTERCOMMUNICATION R/T CODE ON "S" PHONES AND S.C.R. 536.

4. (i) Shore to Ship

- A.....Embarking now
- B.....At lowering or R/V position
- C.....Have left "B" on return course giving
Ship to Shore course being steered.
- G.....Withdrawing temporarily.
- J.....Have returned to lowering position.
- M.....Compelled to withdraw - unable to return
to R/V or lowering position - will
try to pick you up on return course.
- P.....Unable to pick you up.

- (ii) If the Military Force Commander receives either "G" or "M" above and the raiding party has already left the beach, he is to endeavour to pass his speed and position i.e. bearing and distance of an identified point of land FROM the dory, to the M.G.B. to assist the M.G.B. to effect contact.

EMERGENCY SIGNALS.

5. If the dories are unable to contact the M.G.B's, action is to be taken as follows.

Force 113 dory One GREEN Very Light at 0515 and a second at 0530.

Force 114 dory One RED Very Light at 0530 and a second at 0545 if setting a course as instructed in paragraph 3 of Appendix B.

RECOGNITION

6. (a) Current Minor War Vessels Recognition will be in force.

(b) Between Naval and Military Forces.

Dory to M.G.B.....A dimmed red directional torch flashed between bearings 45 degrees on either bow using the letter "D".

M.G.B. to dory.....A blue shaded light flashing the letter "M".

APPENDIX D TO PLYMOUTH LETTER NO.4326/Ply.01486 dated 18th DECEMBER, 1943.

NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION.

MOON. Last Quarter 19th December, 1943. TIDES
 New Moon 27th December, 1943.
 First Quarter 2nd January, 1944.

	<u>Moonset</u>	<u>Moonrise</u>	<u>ROZEL</u>		<u>ST. PETER PORT</u>		<u>DOVER</u>
			H.W.	L.W.	H.W.	L.W.	H.W.
Dec. 22/23		0426/23	0408/23	2206/22	0416/23	2214/22	2040/22
23/24		0537/24	0503/24	2305/23	0511/24	2313/23	2130/23
24/25		0650/25	0551/25	2359/24	0559/25	0008/25	2214/24
25/26			0538/26	0051/26	0646/26	0059/26	2257/25
26/27			1859/26	0140/27	1907/26	0148/27	2338/26
27/28			1947/27	0226/28	1955/27	0234/28	0020/28
28/29			2033/28	0312/29	2041/28	0320/29	0102/29
29/30	2018/29		2118/29	0359/30	2126/29	0407/30	0147/30
30/31	2137/30		2204/30	0445/31	2212/30	0453/31	0235/31
31/1Jan.	2255/31		2253/31	0531/1	2301/31	0539/1	0327/1
1/2	0013/2		2346/1	0621/2	2354/1	0629/2	0424/2
2/3	0128/3		0040/3	1900/2	0048/3	1908/2	0528/3
3/4	0241/4		0145/4	2000/3	0153/4	2008/3	0636/4