A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

World War II Research Collections

MAP ROOM FILES OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, 1939–1945

Map Room Army and Navy Messages, December 1941–May 1942

Project Coordinator and guide compiled by
Robert E. Lester
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INTRODUCTION

World War II was a turning point in United States history. In 1939 the United States was a nation whose previous serious involvements beyond its borders, with the exception of World War I, had been in its own hemisphere. By 1945 it was a world power with seemingly limitless interests and responsibilities. The major world powers in 1939 were European states with extensive colonial interests and the empire of Japan, which was bidding to dominate the Asian mainland. By 1945 these power centers had become power vacuums. Europe was devastated, its colonial empires were crumbling, and Japan was crushed. The only nation that seemed capable of approaching American power was the Soviet Union. The stage was set for an era of superpower confrontation, imperiled by another of the war’s creations: nuclear weaponry.

Historians agree that the man who guided the United States toward this unprecedented and dangerous future was President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This agreement, however, only opens the door to doubt and controversy. “No part of Roosevelt’s foreign policy has been less clearly understood,” writes historian Robert Dallek, “than his wartime diplomacy.” This is because the complexities of the war effort require us to draw inferences from masses of data. Nothing is more crucial, and more difficult, to judge than the relation between means and ends. It is possible, for example, to say that during the war Roosevelt followed a policy of opportunism and expediency, determined by military considerations. It is also possible to say that Roosevelt emphasized military considerations because they were the wartime priority and because he wanted to use allied military cooperation as a basis for peacetime cooperation. Similarly, Roosevelt’s personal diplomacy with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Marshal Josef Stalin might suggest either that he believed in the force of personality in foreign relations or that he recognized, as successive presidents have done, that a successful foreign policy requires direct presidential guidance.

All such questions ultimately resolve themselves into deciding whether Franklin D. Roosevelt had a grand strategy for his country’s role in the world and, if he did, what it was. This will always be a difficult question to answer, because if Roosevelt did have a grand strategy, it was conceived in the grand manner of all master strategists: as a tightly constructed relationship between the general and the particular, somewhat after the fashion of Impressionist painters whose images are indistinct when viewed closely but form familiar shapes at a distance. The Map Room Papers provide us with the lines and colors. We have to decide what kind of design, if any, they contain.

The Map Room

The White House Map Room was established in January 1942 as President Roosevelt’s center for military information and communications under the supervision of the president’s naval aide. At the time of President Roosevelt’s death in April 1945, it contained seven filing cabinets filled to capacity.

President Roosevelt wanted the Map Room to become the single repository of his personal correspondence with such world leaders as Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Stalin, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Outgoing messages were sent via Navy channels and incoming ones received via Army channels. Thus neither service had a complete file. The Map Room also conveyed and received messages of the president’s immediate family and of advisers such as Harry Hopkins. Additionally, the Map Room served as the contact point for the president when he was away at wartime conferences.

In August 1943, as part of President Roosevelt’s preparation for the Quebec Conference, the Map Room set up “Special Subjects” files. These files contained all available military and
diplomatic information, which the president could draw upon to draft messages and to formulate policy. They also included reports, maps, and official publications. Map Room officials studied these sources, posted their information on maps and charts, and summarized them for the president. They destroyed information that was of no interest to the White House or that duplicated documents already on file. As the U.S. war machine developed administratively, the Special Files came to dominate the Map Room system. Signifying the growing bureaucratic, impersonal nature of the war effort, the president’s messages eventually were simply incorporated into these Special Files. This process of sifting and summarizing was necessary, of course, in order to digest millions of words or “raw” data, but it forced the president to rely on both the accuracy and the objectivity of the aides and agencies that reported to him.

A particular help to scholars is the filing system, which grew out of the need to control the paper flood. An early system of chronological filing without regard to subject broke down as harried aides stuffed papers into folders representing several months. In May 1942 the Map Room adopted a version of the Army decimal files and printed a Codification Manual to guide the filing staff. The president also entrusted certain important and sensitive documents to the special keeping of his naval aide, who kept a separate file in an adjacent room.

After the death of President Roosevelt on April 12, 1945, President Harry S Truman arranged to send many of the Map Room files to the National Archives for delivery to the late president’s estate at the end of the war. There they were stored in a special vault. Only the archivist, Dr. Solon J. Buck, and his deputy had copies of the combination. At length the files were transferred to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, where they remain.

**Map Room Conference and Special Files, 1942–1945**

The microfilm edition of the Map Room Papers is divided into three series. The first contains materials relating to the great wartime conferences between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill and the Big Three conferences that included Marshal Stalin.

Roosevelt managed the war effort from the top down. His chief instrument was the summit conference with other world leaders. The Map Room Papers contain extensive records of the meetings and the discussions that preceded them. The main business of the conferences was to plan military strategy against the Axis powers. But at a very early stage more complex and far-reaching issues emerged concerning the balances of power among the allies, their relationship to secondary powers, and the political and economic nature of the postwar order.

The Casablanca Conference of January 1943 took place in the aftermath of the first significant British-American operation of the war: the invasion of North Africa. Anticipating that they would rapidly secure their objectives, Roosevelt and Churchill met to decide on the next strategic move. The Map Room Papers contain a complete file of the minutes of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, the chiefs of the British and American military services. This collection, which might be the only complete set available to scholars in the United States, traces a long and arduous debate between the American desire for a cross-channel attack on northwest Europe and the British desire to attack weaker German units in North Africa. Only reluctantly and bitterly did the Americans yield, knowing that without British support the invasion could not succeed. The major issue was whether to use North Africa as a staging area for an attack on Sicily or to concentrate on the cross-channel attack, and the Casablanca documents reveal how the Americans agreed to the British strategy.

Two other issues at Casablanca were the role of the French and the attitude of the Soviet Union. The occupation of Algeria had confronted the allies with three French factions: the Vichyites, pro-Nazi collaborators led by Admiral Jean Darlan; the Free French led by Charles de Gaulle and supported by the British; and General Henri Giraud, whom the Americans supported as a military hero not aligned with existing political factions. Throughout the conference, and especially at its later stages, Roosevelt and Churchill wrestled with the French issue before deciding to try a coalition between de Gaulle and Giraud under allied military supervision.

The attitude of the Soviets especially worried the western allies. From the moment of Nazi invasion in 1941, Josef Stalin had called for a second front in western Europe. The failure of the Americans and British to provide one left Roosevelt and Churchill worried that the Soviet dictator might sign a separate peace with Germany. They had hoped the North Africa invasion
would be a satisfactory substitute, but Stalin was cool to the operation and declined an invitation to attend the conference. On the last day, Roosevelt made a gesture toward the Soviets by declaring that the allies would demand “unconditional surrender” from their enemies, implying that Stalin could count on them to make no separate deals with Hitler. At least one scholar has suggested that Roosevelt considered unconditional surrender a step toward the larger goal of disarming the Axis powers to establish the allies as the world policemen of the postwar world.

The Casablanca proceedings typified the early American and British methods of summit diplomacy and with the Americans bringing an incomplete staff, preferring to deal with problems informally, the British employing reams of memoranda and expert staffers. Although the decision to follow up the success in North Africa with an attack on Sicily reflected a joint American-British appreciation of military realities, some Americans thought that superior British preparation and staffing had carried the day. Because the Americans had not brought their shipping experts, an embarrassing crisis in shipping allocations later arose that supported this view. The subsequently increasing volume of material from U.S. agencies in Map Room files indicates the Americans’ desire for a more organized approach to wartime management.

The mood of joint cooperation at Casablanca soon gave way to joint suspicions. The Americans suspected that the British were trying to scuttle the cross-channel attack and suck them into a “Mediterranean strategy,” while the British suspected that the Americans wanted to shift their emphasis to the Pacific theater. These issues were thrashed out somewhat inconclusively at the Trident and Quadrant Conferences of May and August 1943. At these conferences a major issue emerged regarding aid to China, with the Americans advocating a major land offensive in Burma and the British hoping to scale back what they saw as an unpromising jungle campaign. These issues carried over to the Cairo and Teheran Conferences, where the Americans continued to press for campaigns to aid the Chinese, whose leader, Chiang Kai-shek, attended the first meeting. The documents trace the intricacies of these discussions.

The major summit of 1943 was at Teheran, where for the first time Marshal Stalin met with Roosevelt and Churchill. By now the strategic interests of the parties were well-defined. Roosevelt and Churchill wanted the Soviets to enter the war against Japan as soon as the war in Europe was won. Stalin wanted the western allies to set a firm date for the second front in Europe. On Stalin’s point, Roosevelt and the American military found common ground from which to pressure Churchill, whose every mention of action in the Mediterranean was now causing the Americans to fear he wanted to kill all other operations. Teheran thus opened a theme in American policy, described by Roosevelt’s chief aide Harry Hopkins as “lining up with the Russians.” The documents of this and subsequent summit conferences provide an excellent opportunity to explore this complex theme.

The final conferences, the British-American meeting at Quebec (the Octagon Conference of September 1944) and the British-American-Soviet meeting at Yalta (February 1945) took place in the wake of the successful landings in Normandy. Now victory in Europe seemed assured and it remained only to agree on a final strategy and to prepare for the post-surrender occupation. Important issues were British-American cooperation on developing the atomic bomb, including the question of whether to share this information with the Soviets; how to divide Germany into zones of occupation; and to arrange for Soviet entry into the war against Japan. By the Yalta Conference, political issues had come to the forefront. Meetings in Washington had developed a plan for a postwar United Nations organization to promote international cooperation and to keep the peace. The Americans went to Yalta determined to obtain Stalin’s support for the United Nations. Issues that more vitally concerned the British and the Soviets were establishing boundaries in central and eastern Europe and setting up governments that would be satisfactory to all of the allies. The most complex discussions centered on Poland. The British had declared war on Germany in order to protect Poland and had hosted a Polish government-in-exile during the war; the Soviets had occupied Poland and installed a Communist government; the Americans wanted to promote democratic governments in Europe and to satisfy the large number of Polish-American voters in their own country. The Yalta records are a rich source for this and other difficult negotiations.
Cables, memoranda, and minutes of dozens of meetings flooded into the Map Room as a consequence of these decisions. The Special Files show how closely the summit conferences were linked to the everyday details of the war effort. They reveal how Roosevelt closely monitored the topics he discussed with his alliance partners. Special Files tracked the progress of the campaign to clear the Atlantic of German submarines, an operation Prime Minister Churchill called “the dominating factor all throughout the war,” as well as the decision of Churchill and Roosevelt to control the release of information about submarine sinkings.

The Map Room documents extensively treat the growing allied responsibilities for civil affairs in liberated countries. The Map Room closely followed issues in French affairs such as the issuance of a currency in liberated France after the Normandy invasion as well as political developments within the French leadership. Intelligence reports and diplomatic dispatches traced the efforts by General de Gaulle, whom Roosevelt continued to dislike and distrust, to control the French Committee of National Liberation and to be recognized as the political representative of the French people. U.S. intelligence also monitored the influence of the French Communists who had built a strong base in the French Resistance.

Political affairs in Italy also commanded attention when Italy unexpectedly surrendered after the invasion of Sicily. Here, as in the occupation of France, the allies strove to establish stability and to advance military operations without allowing the Fascists to stay in power. As usual, Roosevelt and Churchill approached these objectives differently, Churchill supporting the Italian monarchy and Roosevelt supporting an independent “democratic” leadership. These issues became entangled in drafting the Italian surrender terms. An important topic was the decision to declare Rome an “open city,” thus saving it from military destruction. Files also detail discussions about transferring captured Italian ships to the Soviet navy.

In Eastern Europe the dominant issue was the fate of Poland. The British supported the “London Poles,” the exile government that had fled in the face of the Nazi invasion. During 1943, relations between the London Poles and Moscow deteriorated and when the Red Army moved into Poland in 1944, Stalin set up a puppet government in Lublin, leaving it to the United States to mediate between the two. Special files trace U.S. relations with the London Poles during 1944–45, and other files describe Churchill’s October 1944 agreement with Stalin to divide political influence in Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Hungary between Britain and the Soviet Union.

Map Room files also contain detailed information on other strains in the wartime alliance: Soviet refusal to attend the 26th meeting of the International Labor Organization and Soviet objections to the representation and voting procedures for the United Nations. Especially distressing to President Roosevelt were Stalin’s disregard for the Yalta agreements in Poland and his charge that Britain and the United States were arranging surrender terms with the Germans that allowed Hitler to shift troops to the Eastern front.

Map Room Army and Navy Messages, December 1941–May 1942

This series contains military files of army and navy communications reporting on the war from Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) through mid-1942. A major focus is the Pacific where, after Pearl Harbor, Japan began a victorious sweep south toward Australia and east into central Pacific. These dispatches chart the developing war effort on a daily basis in places that would become household names in the vocabulary of World War II: Midway, Wake Island, and Guam. Reports detail Japanese activity and allied mobilization in China, the Netherlands East Indies, Indochina, Australia, and New Zealand; preparations for the defense of Alaska and U.S. coastal ports; and the military situations in Central and South America, Africa, and the North Atlantic. The war at sea comes home in reports of both allied and enemy losses.

Attempting to organize a defense against the Japanese advance, Britain and the United States created the ABDA (American, British, Dutch, Australian) Command under British General Sir Archibald Wavell. The Map Room files provide a detailed account of ABDA’s futile struggle. They include the information bulletins, troop dispositions, and headquarters reports, including Wavell’s estimates of Japanese plans, the condition of his own forces, his own strategic plans, and the estimate of his situation shifting from guarded optimism to strategic withdrawal.
This series focuses on the allied march toward victory. Students of military planning and strategy can study the war at the general level of interpretation provided by the War Department’s monthly Operational Summaries and at the ship and division level in the daily combat reports in the Summary of Navy Department Dispatches. These latter reports are especially revealing in the precision by which they narrate the development of campaigns and describe the enemy tactics. They show warfare as daily decision making. They also report its everyday cruelties. One daily report from the Pacific routinely listed “minor damage” from Japanese strafing of a destroyer: “one man was killed and 10 wounded.” Another destroyer reported “two killed and 19 wounded” and the 27th Marine Division sustained “8 killed, 34 wounded, and 3 missing” on the island of Tsugen Shima. Reports of enemy dispositions and estimates of enemy capabilities round out the story of military activity. A file that shows President Roosevelt’s interest in the details of the war contains special memoranda on such projects as the development of the B-29 bomber. Another special file describes the German rocket bombing of London.

Other documents in this series treat the public side of the war. President Roosevelt’s wartime press conferences and surveys of publicity, press reports, and of propaganda show how the war was conveyed to the American people. Other files detail the trips of secondarily important persons, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Clementine Churchill, Wendell Willkie, President Lin Shen of China, and even Mrs. Jean Darlan, widow of the Vichy governor of Algeria.

The Military Subject Files contains the major intelligence reports of information gathered by the Joint Intelligence Committee in which the British and Americans cooperated and that gave the Americans access to the findings of the British Ultra service, which read the German codes. In January 1943 these were replaced by monthly reports from the United States’ own Office of Strategic Services. In addition to the regular reports that aided strategic planning, intelligence reported on power struggles within Hitler’s government and investigated such incidents as the accidental bombing of a Swiss farm by U.S. Thunderbolts in October 1944, an unintended attack on Soviet troops in Yugoslavia by a group of U.S. Lightning fighters, and the resulting dogfight between the Lightnings and the Red Air Force Yaks. The engagement was broken off after the respective commanders flew close enough for sight recognition. By then both sides had lost planes and pilots. The encounter tragically highlighted the difficulties the Americans experienced in trying to coordinate their military operations. These difficulties are discussed in broader detail in files dealing with U.S. efforts to arrange for the Soviets to provide landing fields so allied aircraft based in Italy could carry out “shuttle bombing” on targets in Eastern Europe (found in Map Room Conference and Special Files, 1942–1945).

Dispatches from the U.S. representatives on the Allied Control Commission, which was established for allied cooperation in governing occupied countries, tell of worsening political relations with the Soviets in Eastern Europe. For example, after Churchill and Stalin agreed that the Soviet Union should have 90 percent influence in Romania, the Soviets moved rapidly to consolidate their power. Their tactics, which usually developed as Romanian Communist leaders returned from conferences in Moscow, were to court the masses with attractive promises while inspiring editorial attacks and mass demonstrations against non-Communist elements in the Romanian government. They then used the resulting disorder to justify stricter censorship of the news and to demand the ouster of their political opponents. When events did not move fast enough, Stalin sent his foreign secretary, Andrei Vishinsky, to demand the resignations of the unsuitable officials and Red Army tanks rolled into Bucharest to crush all opposition.

No single collection more thoroughly charts the United States’ bloody course toward superpower status and the agony of the cold war than the White House Map Room Papers.

George McJimsey
Professor of History
Iowa State University
SOURCE AND EDITORIAL NOTE

The documents reproduced in this micropublication are donated historical materials from the Presidential Papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the custody of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York.

UPA’s Map Room Files of President Roosevelt, 1939–1945 consists of selected series from the Map Room File. The series included in UPA’s micropublication are messages, Conferences, Special Files, Military Files Series 1 and 2 and Army Dispatches, and a portion of the Subject Files.

Map Room Army and Navy Messages, December 1941–May 1942 consists of the Military Files Series 1 and 2 and Army Dispatches. This series has been filmed in its entirety. UPA has microfilmed all folders and documents as they are arranged at the FDR Library. The folders in these series have no particular arrangement; it appears that the folders were created by the White House and Map Room staffs as the documents arrived. The documents within each folder relate to the folder title and generally are arranged in reverse chronological order. Oversize charts and maps have been noted on the microfilm as being filmed in sections; generally top left, right, bottom left, and right.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

UPA's three new installments to the Map Room Files of President Roosevelt, 1939–1945 include Map Room Conference and Special Files, 1942–1945; Map Room Army and Navy Messages, December 1941–May 1942; and Map Room Military Subject Files, 1941–1945. These micropublications consist of a large portion of the voluminous, formerly classified White House Map Room File. These classified materials were compiled by President Roosevelt's naval aide and pertain exclusively to the U.S. and Allied prosecution of the war in Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. The Map Room File includes various types of reports, correspondence, telegrams, and memoranda between the White House, its representatives (Harry Hopkins, etc.), Allied leaders, and military commanders. There are files on Allied conferences and meetings, detailing agendas, minutes, negotiating strategies, tactical and strategic theater operations, and operational vagaries. There are also many files on special subjects and concerns that were brought to the attention of President Roosevelt, Allied leaders, and military figures (that is, anti-submarine warfare, Charles de Gaulle and the French National Committee, Soviet–Eastern European exile governmental relations, etc.). The White House Map Room, over the course of the war, amassed a large quantity of materials.

The White House Map Room File is segregated into two major groupings of material. These are: (1) Messages, Conferences, and Special Files, and (2) Military Files. These two groupings are further subdivided. The early UPA publication entitled Map Room Messages of President Roosevelt consisted exclusively of the various personal messages on the major diplomatic and military questions of the war between the president and his advisers and military commanders, and Allied heads of state and their advisers and military commanders. UPA’s new publication, taken from the first grouping of material, is entitled Map Room Conference and Special Files of President Roosevelt, 1942–1945, and completes the micropublication of all the materials in this group.

Group (2), Military Files, consists primarily of messages, correspondence, memoranda, reports, maps, and official publications of the War and Navy Departments and their various offices and agencies. In addition, there is a small quantity of material generated by Allied governments, commands, and leaders. The materials that constitute the Military Files were sent to the Map Room, where they were studied by the Map Room staff, who posted the information on maps and charts, prepared reports and policy guidance, and summarized the materials for the president, top advisers, and military and naval aides. This grouping of material provides a detailed analysis of the prosecution of the war.

Map Room Army and Navy Messages of President Roosevelt, December 1941–May 1942

UPA’s new publication entitled Map Room Army and Navy Messages of President Roosevelt, December 1941–May 1942 consists of communications routed through the Map Room regarding such topics as enemy operations and activities in various countries and battle areas; Allied naval and merchant vessel losses; Pacific theater operations; and enemy situation and losses reports. There are additional materials on intelligence activities; changes in enemy order of battle and deployments; and Allied convoy reports. This publication also includes a series of Army dispatches. These communications highlight the U.S. military and naval effort to build up its forces, both manpower and logistics, in the various theaters and to continue defensive operations, while at the same time planning and reorganizing for future offensive operations.
This micropublication utilizes two series of the Military Files. The first series is subdivided into Military Files Series 1 and 2. These two subseries constitute a record of the Navy and Army communications to the president for the period December 1941–May 1942. This series includes communications and dispatches regarding intelligence activities; operations; material losses; deployment/disposition of forces; and enemy activities. The second series of this micropublication consists of the two-box Army Dispatches series for the period February 1942–May 1942.

The documents in this micropublication are arranged by subject, but the subjects are not in alphabetical order. UPA is publishing these materials as they are arranged at the Roosevelt Library. These subjects consist of individual countries; areas of operations; naval contacts, operations, and losses; air operations and losses; and theaters of operation. The Army Dispatches include communications from all theaters on enemy capabilities; intelligence reports; operational reports; and enemy and Allied situation reports. There are dispatches on the situation in the Philippines and China from Generals Douglas MacArthur, Jonathan Wainwright, and Joseph Stillwell. Much of this material was collected, collated, and forwarded by U.S. naval and military attachés, advisers, and area commanders stationed throughout the world. In addition, there are materials generated and/or forwarded by U.S. diplomatic personnel.
ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS

The following abbreviations are used frequently in this guide and are reproduced here for the convenience of the researcher.

**ABDA**  Australian-British-Dutch-American Command

**ABDA Area**  Australian-British-Dutch-American Command Area

**ABDACOM**  Australian-British-Dutch-American Command organization

**ANZAC Area**  Australian-New Zealand-Fijis-New Hebrides-New Caledonia Command Area

**AVG**  American Volunteer Group

**CBI**  China-Burma-India theater

**HMS**  His Majesty's Ship (U.K.)

**N.E.I.**  Netherlands East Indies

**SWPA**  Southwest Pacific Area command organization and operational area designation (also SOWESPA)

**U.K.**  United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**USSR**  Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
REEL INDEX

Entries in this index refer to specific folders within Map Room Files of President Roosevelt, 1939–1945, Map Room Army and Navy Messages, December 1941–May 1942. In the interest of accessing the materials within the folders, this index denotes significant issues, events, actions, and locations under the heading Major Topics. In addition, the bold box number on the left refers to the box arrangement at the Roosevelt Library. The four-digit number on the far left represents the frame number at which the file folder begins. Due to the frequency of U.S. activities, the topics have not been identified with the U.S. acronym, except where necessary. The date ranges identified with each folder have been written in correct chronological order, but the documents are generally in reverse chronological order. This Reel Index contains references to both area command organizations and operational areas. Military and naval command areas are highlighted by the capitalization of the word area (for example, ABDA Area—command organization). For military and naval command operational areas, the first letter of area is not capitalized (for example, ABDA area—operational/geographical area).

Reel 1
Frame No.

Military Files Series 1

Box 36

   Major Topics: Pearl Harbor vessel salvage and repair operations; Japanese submarine activities; Johnston Island situation; Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

   Major Topic: Japanese naval bombardment and air attacks.

   Major Topics: Japanese naval bombardment and air attacks; Japanese landings.

   Major Topic: Japanese naval bombardments and air attacks.

   Major Topics: Japanese military and naval offensive against Hong Kong; surrender of U.S. Marine Force, North China; Shanghai situation.

0123 Netherlands East Indies. December 4, 1941–February 8, 1942. 75pp.
   Major Topics: Allied air operations against Rabaul; Japanese deployments in Gilbert and Solomon Islands; U.K. naval dispositions; Japanese air attacks on Rabaul, New Britain, and Celebes; ABDACOM; military situation in Borneo; Timor situation; Japanese threat to N.E.I.

   Major Topic: Evacuation of American nationals from Singapore.

   Major Topics: Allied naval dispositions; Japanese air operations in Burma; Japanese occupation of Thailand.

   Major Topics: Ports; Allied naval dispositions on Australia Station; Japanese air operations from New Ireland and New Britain; Allied reinforcement of N.E.I.; N.E.I. military situation; Timor situation.

Major Topics: Naval aircraft deployments; antisubmarine activities; West Coast attack hysteria; seizure of foreign merchant vessels.

Major Topic: Civilian evacuations; military preparations.

Major Topics: German supply efforts in French North Africa; German military dispositions in Mediterranean and North Africa; Dakar situation; Vichy French reinforcement of Tunis.

South America. December 9, 1941–April 9, 1942. 189pp.  
Major Topics: Search and rescue activities; antisubmarine activities; Brazil; Peru; French Guiana; Axis submarine activities; merchant shipping situation; convoying; Venezuela; Uruguay; Axis propaganda activities; German nationals situation; anti-Japanese activities.

Central America and West Indies. December 8, 1941–February 7, 1942. 93pp.  
Major Topics: German submarine activities; antisubmarine activities; Martinique situation; Central American declarations of war and defense measures.

Major Topics: U.S. air forces in Northern Ireland; von Tirpitz, Scharnhorst, and Prinz Eugen activities; Italian naval forces; North Russia convoying; German submarine activity in Mediterranean area; German threat to Spain; neutral and belligerent merchant shipping.

Major Topics: Defense requirements for Iceland; hurricane damage; Newfoundland seizure of Finnish merchant vessels.

Contact Reports—At Sea (Messages regarding Convoys and Task Forces). December 27, 1941–February 8, 1942. 194pp.  
Major Topics: Allied naval deployments and dispositions in all theaters; convoying; German submarine and Raider activities; ANZAC Area; merchant and military shipping; ABDACOM; South America; Japanese naval activities; Allied strategic operational policy in Far East theater; Allied naval situation in SWPA; Philippines situation.

Contact Reports—At Sea. December 7, 1941–February 27, 1942. 138pp.  
Major Topics: German submarine activities; antisubmarine activities; Japanese naval dispositions; Allied air operations in Pacific area.

Military Files Series 1 cont.

Contact Reports—At Sea. December 7, 1941–February 27, 1942 cont. 42pp.  
Major Topics: German submarine activities; antisubmarine activities; Japanese naval dispositions.

International Relations. December 12, 1941–February 6, 1942. 34pp.  
Major Topics: Allied mining operations; evacuation of American nationals from Singapore and Philippines; North Atlantic escort operations; Spanish merchant vessels; declarations of war; N.E.I. war preparations.
Major Topics: Pacific theater; Pan American Clipper.

Major Topics: SWPA; Caribbean area; naval salvage operations; Pearl Harbor attack.

Major Topics: Pacific theater; South Atlantic.

Major Topics: Mediterranean area; Far East area; HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse.

Allied Losses (Merchant Vessels). December 17, 1941–April 2, 1942. 197pp.
Major Topics: Atlantic and Far East theaters; Indian Ocean; North Atlantic convoys; distribution of U.K. and other Allied naval units.

Enemy Losses (Aircraft). February 1, 1942. 2pp.

Enemy Losses (Combatant Ships). December 25, 1941–February 6, 1942. 30pp.
Major Topics: Atlantic and Far East theaters; Battle of Macassar Straits; anti-submarine operations; Mediterranean area.

Major Topics: Philippines; Axis merchant shipping in Mediterranean area; U.S. internment of Vichy French merchant vessels.

Major Topics: Battle of Macassar Straits; German General Staff officers.

Major Topics: Allied command and control; supply convoy for Philippines; naval deployments; Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; defense of British Caribbean colonies; organization and operations of U.S. Naval Task Forces; convoy system and operations; SWPA; deployment of U.S. Marine units; operations in ABDA, Pacific Area, SWPA, Atlantic, Iceland, and Northern Ireland; U.K. and other Allied naval dispositions; Allied oil situation; N.E.I. situation.

Major Topics: U.S. Naval Districts; anti-submarine warfare tactics; Chester W. Nimitz; oil situation.

Major Topics: German commercial activities; Japanese aircraft dispositions in Formosa and Indochina.

Major Topic: St. Pierre and Miquelon situation.

Major Topics: Japanese operations; situation in N.E.I., Borneo, and Sarawak; U.K.–Dutch naval reinforcements in N.E.I.

Army Summaries (News). December 8–13, 1941. 18pp.
Major Topics: Situation in Philippines, Malaya, Aleutians, Thailand, Java, and Middle Eastern theater; West Coast air situation.
Reel 3

Military Files Series 1 cont.

Box 38 cont.

   Major Topics: Situation in Hong Kong, Philippines, Wake Island, West Coast,
   North Atlantic; Atlantic Axis submarine situation; HMS Prince of Wales and
   HMS Repulse; Pearl Harbor losses; surveillance of German naval and mer-
   chant vessels; Japanese naval dispositions.

0027 Situation Reports (All theaters). December 9, 1941–March 2, 1942. 133pp.
   Major Topics: Southeast Asia and SWPA; Western theater air operations;
   Eastern front; Pacific theater; Middle East theater; Bataan; North Africa; Far
   East.

   Major Topics: U.K. naval dispositions in North Atlantic; German submarine
   activities; antisubmarine activities; German mining operations; convoying.

   Major Topics: Japanese air and naval operations in N.E.I.; Japanese naval
   deployments and dispositions; SWPA situation; German submarine activities;
   Japanese occupation of Marshall Islands; Malayan situation; Vichy French
   Fleet at Oran; activities of von Tirpitz, Gneisnau, Scharnhorst, and Prinz
   Eugen; North Atlantic situation; Japanese attacks on Rabaul, New Britain;
   Japanese naval buildup in Truk area; Japanese operations in Gilbert Islands.

   Major Topics: Command and control; Rabaul, New Britain situation.

   Major Topics: Command and control; Allied naval dispositions; distribution
   of resources; Allied air force dispositions.

   Major Topics: Pacific War Council activities; situation in Burma, Malaya, and
   N.E.I.; Allied air force situation; Singapore situation.

   Major Topics: Chinese forces in Burma; U.S. aircraft in ABDA Area; ANZAC
   Area; Timor situation; N.E.I. air forces; AVG in Burma.

   Major Topics: ANZAC Area; dissolution of ABDACOM; Japanese operations in
   N.E.I.; Timor situation; military situation in Java, Sumatra, and Singapore; Allied
   operations in N.E.I.; Celebes situation; Battle of Macassar Straits.

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   Major Topics: Deployment of U.S. aircraft; Allied and Japanese air operations;
   New Caledonia and New Zealand defense measures; New Guinea and
   Solomon Islands military situation.

   Major Topics: Java and Bali military situation; Allied and Japanese air opera-
   tions in Java; Singapore situation.

   Major Topics: Australian Station; U.K. naval distribution; U.S. naval dispositions
   in Pacific area.

0736 ABDACOM, C.C.S. [Combined Chiefs of Staff]. Series. January 29, 1942–
   February 7, 1942. 6pp.
   Major Topics: Chinese forces in Burma; allocation of Allied aircraft and naval
   vessels in ABDA Area.
Military Files Series 2

Major Topics: Antisubmarine defense measures and activities; U.S. East Coast naval command situation; Halifax-Newfoundland Area; convoy routes.

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Military Files Series 2 cont.

Box 39 cont.

0001 North America—West Coast. [February 17, 1942–May 9, 1942.] 30pp.  
Major Topics: Antisubmarine and air attack defense measures; situation of Japanese in California.

Major Topics: Martinique situation; German submarine activities in Caribbean area; antisubmarine defense measures; tanker convoying; Trinidad Command; Aruba and Curacao situation; Panama Canal defense; protection of sugar shipping.

0173 South America. April 25, 1942–May 9, 1942. 27pp.  
Major Topics: U.S. naval facilities in Brazil; convoying; U.S. naval logistic policy on fuel oil; antisubmarine and anti-Raider activities.

Major Topics: Naval command personnel; Allied command and coordination; naval activities in Iceland-Greenland area.

Major Topics: German air strength in Norway; German submarine bases in Occupied France; North Russia convoying; Soviet Baltic Fleet; German air operations against Murmansk; Vichy French Fleet; German naval activities from Balkans.

0264 British Isles. February 27, 1942–May 9, 1942. 16pp.  
Major Topics: U.S. naval forces; Axis operational preparations in Eastern Mediterranean; convoying; Americans in British armed forces.

0280 Mediterranean [area]. March 5, 1942–May 6, 1942. 30pp.  
Major Topics: Axis submarine activities; Axis operational preparations in Eastern Mediterranean; Crete situation; Middle East situation; Turkey; North African military situation.

Major Topics: Vichy French naval movements; German military forces in Libya; German submarine activities off Liberian coast; Madagascar; German operations in North Africa.

0346 Indian Ocean. February 26, 1942–May 6, 1942. 31pp.  
Major Topics: Japanese air and naval operations in Ceylon area; Madagascar situation; Japanese military and naval deployment to Singapore.

0377 Burma-India. February 19, 1942–May 1, 1942. 23pp.  
Major Topics: Air ferrying to China; U.K. defense of Ceylon; Japanese air operations in Bay of Bengal area; Burma front situation.

Major Topics: AVG strength; U.S. military aid; Chinese military forces in Burma; Soviet merchant shipping in Far East area; Allied, Soviet, and Japanese military and naval dispositions [chart].
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   Major Topics: Anglo-Dutch operations in Java and Sumatra; demolition of oil facilities; Dutch naval operations; Battle of Java; Allied and Japanese air operations; Timor situation.

   Major Topics: Japanese air operations in Papua area, Solomon Islands, New Britain, and Port Darwin; Australia Station dispositions; defense of port facilities; Allied air operations in New Guinea and Rabaul, New Britain; N.E.I. situation; U.S. military and air buildup.

   Major Topics: U.S. military buildup; defense measures.

   Major Topics: U.S. defense force for New Zealand; defense of Fiji and Society Islands; Allied forces in New Caledonia; U.S. military buildup in Samoa and SWPA; New Zealand port facilities for U.S.

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0587 Hawaiian area. February 20, 1942–April 30, 1942. 27pp.
   Major Topics: Naval buildup; civilian evacuations; defense measures.

   Major Topic: Port facilities.

   Major Topics: Boarding of Soviet merchant vessels; shipbuilding status; buildup of air forces.

0638 Command Changes. February 8, 1942–May 9, 1942. 50pp.
   Major Topic: Allied naval command and control personnel.

   Major Topics: German submarine activities; escort activities; Allied convoying; Amphibious Force [Corps], U.S. Pacific Fleet; merchant shipping situation in Atlantic area; antisubmarine activities; Allied naval operations in SWPA; command and control in Pacific theater; Allied naval deployments; evacuation of Bataan Peninsula, Philippines.

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Military Files Series 2 cont.

Box 40 cont.

   Major Topics: French island possessions in SWPA; Turkey; Vichy French activities in New York City; Vichy French naval activities in Caribbean; Cripps mission to India; Italian merchant shipping; U.S.–New Zealand military relations in Samoa; Vichy French naval forces; evacuation of Axis diplomats from South and Central America.

   Major Topics: North Atlantic area; Atlantic area; U.K. naval dispositions; Indian Ocean area; SWPA; Australia Station; Caribbean area; Mediterranean area; status of aircraft allotted to China; British Empire aircraft strength and dispositions; Vichy French naval dispositions; South Atlantic area; German air strength in Europe.
Major Topics: Axis naval dispositions; Vichy French naval dispositions; Free French naval dispositions; Allied air operations against Rabaul, New Britain; Allied aerial reconnaissance activities; Japanese air and naval deployments to New Britain and Caroline Islands, and Marshall Islands; Axis and Vichy French merchant shipping; German submarine and Raider activities; von Tirpitz, Prinz Eugen, and Scharnhorst activities; N.E.I. situation.

Major Topics: Caribbean area; U.S. East Coast; Halifax-Newfoundland Area; Atlantic area; North Atlantic situation; Gulf of Mexico.

Major Topics: U.S. East Coast; Gulf of Mexico; Atlantic area; Halifax-Newfoundland Area; Caribbean area; South Atlantic area; Azores area.

Box 41
Major Topics: U.S. East Coast; Gulf of Mexico; Atlantic area; Halifax-Newfoundland Area; Caribbean area; Brazilian coast; South Atlantic area; Italian submarine activities.

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Box 41 cont.
Major Topics: Caribbean area; U.S. East Coast; Atlantic area; Italian submarine activities; Brazilian coast; Halifax-Newfoundland Area.

0043 Nazi Submarine Activities (4). May 1–6, 1942. 95pp.
Major Topics: U.S. East Coast; Gulf of Mexico; Caribbean area; Halifax-Newfoundland Area; West African coast; Atlantic area.

Major Topics: SWPA; Ceylon area; N.E.I.; Northeast Pacific area; Marshall Islands.

Major Topics: North Atlantic; Battle of the Java Sea; Wake Island; Scharnhorst, Prinz Eugen, and Gneisenau activities.

Major Topics: U.S. East Coast; Hawaiian area.

Major Topics: Gulf of Mexico; U.S. East Coast; Newfoundland area; U.S. West Coast; Pacific area; Hawaiian area.

0236 Uncertain Results of Submarine Sinkings. February 25, 1942–May 2, 1942. 60pp.
Major Topics: U.S. East Coast; Newfoundland area.

Major Topics: SWPA; Gulf of Mexico area; Caribbean area; U.S. East Coast; Indian Ocean area; Brazilian coast and South Atlantic; Halifax-Newfoundland Area.

Major Topics: Gulf of Mexico area; SWPA; Battle of Java Sea; U.S. East Coast; Newfoundland area.
*Major Topics*: Gulf of Mexico area; U.S. East Coast; Caribbean area; Halifax–Newfoundland Area; Atlantic area.

*Major Topics*: North Atlantic; U.S. East Coast; Caribbean area; Pacific area.

*Major Topics*: Caribbean area; Gulf of Mexico; U.S. East Coast; Bay of Bengal area; Mediterranean area; North Atlantic; merchant shipping losses statistics; Brazilian coast and South Atlantic; Ceylon area; Halifax-Newfoundland Area; Far East area.

Box 42

*Major Topics*: Ceylon area; Mediterranean area; ABDA; Battle of Java Sea.

*Major Topics*: U.S. East Coast; Caribbean area; Bay of Bengal; Far East area; North Atlantic; Ceylon area; Liberian coast; Norwegian Sea area; Mediterranean area; Halifax-Newfoundland Area.

0786 Allied Casualties [Personnel]. April 27, 1942–May 1, 1942. 3pp.

*Major Topics*: Japanese shipping loss statistics; Pacific area.

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Military Files Series 2 cont.

Box 42 cont.

*Major Topics*: SWPA; Mediterranean area; Allied air operations in New Guinea; Pacific area.

*Major Topics*: Mediterranean area; Caribbean area; SWPA; East China Sea area; Allied air operations in New Guinea, and Rabaul, New Britain areas; N.E.I.

*Major Topics*: Battle of Coral Sea; U.S. East Coast; Atlantic area; Mediterranean area; Caribbean area; SWPA.

0118 Atlantic Convoy Information. February 9, 1942–May 7, 1942. 123pp.  
*Major Topics*: North Atlantic route; U.S. East Coast route; merchant shipping losses; escort activities; Halifax–U.K. route; Caribbean route; military shipping [troop convoying]; South Atlantic route.

*Major Topics*: Escort activities; U.K.–U.S. routing agreement; Pacific route; ANZAC Area.

0300 Miscellaneous (Operational, Personnel, Intelligence, Refitting, etc.). February 9, 1942–May 8, 1942. 244pp.  
*Major Topics*: Convoying; Allied merchant shipping; arming of merchant vessels; Newfoundland Command; German submarine activities; antisubmarine activities; U.S. naval forces; North Atlantic route; SWPA; U.S. submarine activities in Pacific; Philippine situation; Japanese military tactics; Vichy French Fleet; naval equipment and supplies; Polish forces in USSR; use of Army aircraft on aircraft carriers; Caribbean area; naval training in Pacific area.

Major Topics: Allied merchant shipping; Allied military shipping; North Atlantic route; Caribbean route; U.S. East Coast route; SWPA; South Atlantic; Northern Ireland; Halifax–Newfoundland Area; U.S. naval air ferrying; neutral merchant shipping; Pacific area.

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Military Files Series 2 cont.

Box 42 cont.


Major Topics: South Atlantic; SWPA; Caribbean area; German submarine activities; escort activities; Australia Station; Pacific area convoying.

Box 43


Major Topics: Southeast Asia; N.E.I.; SWPA; German order of battle; U.S. bases and facilities personnel, equipment, and aircraft strengths; Philippines military situation.


Major Topics: ABDA command and control; Burma theater; Pacific War Council; Java military situation.


Major Topic: ABDACOM.

0098 Enemy Air Strength. March 6–26, 1942. 8pp.

Major Topics: Aircraft production; British Empire aircraft strength; German disposition.

0106 Fleet Reports. February 9, 1942–May 6, 1942. 95pp.

Major Topic: Dispositions and deployments in Caribbean area, U.S. East Coast, Pacific area, Atlantic area, and SWPA.

0201 Disposition of Foreign Aircraft and Ships. March 10, 1942–May 9, 1942. 104pp.

Major Topics: Atlantic area; Vichy French Fleet and merchant vessels in French North and West Africa; von Tirpitz, Prinz Eugen, Scharnhorst, and Gneisnau; North Sea area; SWPA; U.K. and attached Allied Fleet; Japanese Fleet; Italian Fleet.


Major Topics: Japanese naval and merchant vessel losses; Japanese aircraft losses; Japanese strategy; German strategic intentions; Japanese logistics capabilities.


Major Topic: Naval vessel and aircraft deployments in Mandates, N.E.I., New Guinea area, Pacific area, Indian Ocean area, and SWPA.

0453 Battle of Java. February 27, 1942–March 5, 1942. 28pp.

Major Topic: Land and sea engagement.


0491 Survivors. May 7–9, 1942. 7pp.

Major Topic: Axis submarine attacks.
0498  G–2 Dispatches. May 1–8, 1942. 54pp.

Major Topics: North African situation; Middle East military situation; Ledo Road; antisubmarine activities; Vichy French situation in North Africa.


Major Topics: Australian and U.S. naval vessel and aircraft dispositions; Japanese and Allied air operations in New Guinea area and Solomon Islands.


Major Topic: Release of Allied military information.

0603  Russia. April 18, 1942–May 4, 1942. 16pp.

Major Topics: North Russia convoying; Turkey.

**Army Dispatches**

**Box 44**

0619  February 16, 1942–March 21, 1942. 44pp.

Major Topics: German submarine activities; antisubmarine activities; Azores; Vichy French situation in North Africa; Allied air operations in SWPA; Eastern front situation; ABDA Area activities; Middle East and North African military situation; CBI theater situation.

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**Army Dispatches cont.**

**Box 44 cont.**

0001  February 16, 1942–March 21, 1942 cont. 559pp.

Major Topics: Situation in Eastern front, Middle East, CBI theater, N.E.I., Finland, North Africa, Balkans, Crete and Aegean islands, Burma front, Java, Philippines, Syria, Pacific theater; Japanese and Allied air operations in ABDA area and SWPA; Vichy French military activities in Africa; German submarine activities in Atlantic and Caribbean areas; antisubmarine activities; Japanese naval activities in Indian Ocean area; Azores; U.S. West Coast situation; Axis nationals in Latin America; German military forces in Finland and Norway; Japanese naval and air dispositions in Mandates; Japanese propaganda activities; relocation of Japanese-Americans on U.S. West Coast; deployment of U.S. forces to U.K. and North Atlantic; Anglo-American–USSR military relations; fall of Singapore; Turkey; Allied merchant shipping losses; Martinique situation; Burma Road.

**Box 45**


Major Topics: Situation in Philippines, North Africa, Burma front; CBI theater; U.S. military aid to China; Fifth Column sabotage activities in U.S.; antisubmarine activities; Japanese invasion threat to Ceylon; U.S. military base personnel strengths; U.S. Ferry Command; Japanese aircraft dispositions in China; Vichy French military activities in Dakar.
Reel 10

Army Dispatches cont.

Box 45 cont.

Major Topics: Situation in China front, Philippines, Burma front, Libya, North Africa, N.E.I., Eastern front; Japanese naval activities in Ceylon area; Food situation on Bataan Peninsula; AVG; U.S. military forces in India and Australia; German submarine activities in Atlantic and Caribbean areas; antisubmarine activities; Fifth Column espionage and sabotage activities in U.S.; Vichy French forces at Dakar; Japanese air operations in Burma and SWPA; U.S.–Philippine force strength; German military buildup in Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean area; Iran; activities of Axis nationals in Western Hemisphere.

Major Topics: German submarine activities in Atlantic and Caribbean areas; antisubmarine activities; situation in Burma front, Libya, North Africa, China front, Philippines, Eastern front, Malta; Fifth Column espionage and sabotage activities in U.S.; Free French forces in Middle East; Chinese forces in Burma; Falange situation in Spain; AVG; U.S. Forces in CBI theater; defense of Iceland; German buildup in Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean area; Japanese use of gas in Malaya; U.S. aircraft deployments to U.K. and Middle East theater; U.S. Air Ferrying Command in India; SWPA; Spanish military buildup in Spanish North Africa.

Major Topics: Situation in Burma front, Libya, India, Eastern front, China, Philippines, Middle East theater; German submarine activities in Atlantic and Caribbean areas; antisubmarine activities; German forces in Norway; Chinese forces in Burma; U.S. air operations in CBI theater; Pacific Area command and control; Allied air operations in Burma; New Caledonian political situation; Vichy French buildup in Dakar; Spanish military buildup; German military force strength; activities of Japanese nationals in Mexico; Indian political situation; activities of Axis nationals in South America; Fifth Column espionage and sabotage activities in U.S.; SWPA command and control; German oil situation; transport of military supplies to China; Romanian oil fields.
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