

Received in convoy
in Mid-ATLANTIC

EAST BOUND

VE DAY

From Frank Shellenbarger, 2619-P, aboard the S/S Reverdy Johnson, a Liberty Ship carrying 750-1000 U.S. Army troops east to Liverpool in mid-Atlantic on May 8, 1945



Mackay Radio

RADIOGRAMS TO
ALL
PARTS OF THE WORLD



RADIOGRAM

SHIP TO SHORE
SHORE TO SHIP

RECEIVED ON BOARD /S REVERDY JOHNSON

DATE 8 MAY 1945

DCC-4

BAMS 2A 2B 4 DE NSS BT BAMS 2A 2B 4 OPERATIONAL PRIORITY FROM COMINCH CK 138
BT THE GERMANS HIGH COMMAND HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING
SURRENDER ORDERS TO U BOATS; TO REMAIN ON THE SURFACE FLYING A LARGE
BLACK OR BLUE FLAG BY DAY AND BURNING NAVIGATION LIGHTS BY NIGHT TO
REPORT THEIR POSITIONS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE ON 500 KCS EVERY 8 HOURS AND
TO MAKE FOR SPECIFIED PORTS IN ALLIED CONTROL. U BOATS APPARENTLY
COMPLYING WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT TO BE ATTACKED BUT SHOULD
BE GIVEN A WIDE BERTH. W T REPORTS OF SUCH SIGHTED ? ARE ~~XXX~~ TO BE
MADE IN PLAIN LANGUAGE IN THE FOLLOWING FORM ABLE NUMBER OF U BOATS
BAKER POSITION CHARLEY ? COURSE DOG ESTIMATED SPEED. IF HOWEVER
U BOATS COMMENCE HOSTILE ACT OR OTHERWISE DISREGARD THESE ORDERS REPORTS
ARE TO BE MADE BY NORMAL DISTRESS PROCEEDURE AND ALL APPROPRIATE DEFENSE
MAYBE TAKEN BT

Ø81238Z AR

W. E. Shoaf

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DATE MAY 8 1945

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BAMS BT IMMEDIATE FROM ADMIRALTY BRITISH BAMS LETTERED MESSAGE QK BT CK 76 BY GERMANY HAS SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY STOP CEASE FIRE HAS BEEN ORDER FROM 2201 GMT 8TH. MAY STOP TWO STOP PENDING FURTHER ORDERS ALL EXISTING INSTURCTIONS ~~XXXXXXXX~~ REGARDING THE DEFENCE SECURITY AND CONTROL OF MERCHANT SHIPPING ARE TO REMAIN IN FORCE STOP MERCHANT SHIPS AT SEA ~~XXXXXXXX~~ WHETHER IN CONVOY OR SAILING INDEPENDENTLY ARE TO CONTINUE THEIR VOYAGES AS PREVIOUSLY ORDERED BT 081324Z

BAMS 2A BT OPERATIONAL PRIORITY BT FROM COMINCH BT CK 138 BT THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING SURRENDER ORDERS TO U BOAT COLON TO REMAIN ON THE SURFACE FLYING A LARGE BLACK OR BLUE FLAG BY DAY AND BURNING NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS BY NIGHT. TO REPORT THESE POSITIONS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE ON 500 KCS EVERY 8 HOURS AND TO MAKE FOR SPECIFIED POINTS UNDER ALLIED CONTROL. U BOATS APPARENTLY COMPLYING WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT TO BE ATTACKED BUT SHOULD BE GIVEN A WIND BERTH. W/T REPORTS OF SUCH SIGHTINGS ARE TO BE MADE IN PLAIN LANGUAGE IN THE FOLLOWING FORM ABLE NUMBER OF U BOAT BAKER POSITION CHARLIE ESTIMATED COURSE DOG ESTIMATED SPEED. IF HOWEVER U BOATS COMMENSE HOSTILE ACTS OR OTHERWISE DISREGARD THESE ORDERS. REPORTS ARE TO BE MADE BY NORMAL DISTRESS PROCEDURE AT ALL APPROPRAATE DEFENSE MEASURES MAY BE TAKEN BT 081238Z

J. D. Newman

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RADIOGRAM

SHIP TO SHORE
SHORE TO SHIP

RECEIVED ON BOARD /S REVERDY JOHNSON

DATE 8 MAY 1945

DCC-4

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY FROM COM TENTH FLEET CK 59 BT
GERMANY HAS SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY X CEASE FIRE HAS BEEN ORDERED FROM
2201Z EIGHT MAY REPEAT 2201Z EIGHT MAY X PENDING FURTHER ORDERS ALL EXISTING
INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE DEFENSE X SECURITY AND CONTROL OF MERCHANT
SHIPPING ARE TO REMAIN IN FORCE X MERCHANT SHIPS AT SEA WHETHER IN CONVOY
OR SAILING INDEPENDENTLY ARE TO CONTINUE THEIR VOYAGES AS PREVIOUSLY
ORDERED BT

081331 AR

H. E. Shoaf

TO ALL BAMS AREAS

Mackay Radio

RADIOGRAMS TO
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RADIOGRAM

SHIP TO SHORE
SHORE TO SHIP

RECEIVED ON BOARD S/S REVERDYJOHNSON

DATE MAY 9, 1945

DCC-4

BAMS DE NSS BT ROTUINE FROM ADMIRALTY BRITISH BAMS LETTERED MESSAGE QM 25

VICTORY MESSAGE TO THE MERCHANT NAVY X LORD LEATHERS MINISTER OF WAR TRANSPORT HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE MERCHANT NAVY X BEGINS X FOR MORE THAN FIVE AND A HALF YEARS SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE ALLIED MERCHANT NAVIES IN THE FACE OF CONTINUAL AND MERCENARY ATTACKS BY THE ENEMY YOU HAVE MAINTAINED THE CEASELESS FLOW OF SEA TRAFFIC ON WHICH THE LIFE AND STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY DEPEND X ALL WHO HAVE BORNE THE STRAIN OF THIS GRIM STRUGGLE HAVE A FULL SHARE IN THE VICTORY OF THE ALLIED FORCES AND A FULL SHARE TOO IN THE NATIONS THANKS X IN THIS HISTORIC HOUR WE THINK WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE OF THE MANY MERCHANT SEAMEN WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE FIGHT AND WHOSE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE WILL ALWAYS BE A PROUD MEMORY X THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR SACRIFICE AND THE THOUGHT OF COMRADES STILL HELD CAPTIVE IN THE FAR EAST WILL SPUR US TO FURTHER EFFORTS AS WE TURN TO THE IMMEDIATE TASK OF ENABLING THE ALLIED FORCES TO TRANSFER THE MAIN WEIGHT OF THEIR ATTACKS FROM GERMANY TO JAPAN I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE MERCHANT NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS INDISPENSABLE PART X THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY HAVE ALSO ASKED ME TO EXPRESS ON THEIR BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL NAVY THEIR ADMIRATION FOR THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE MERCHANT NAVY TO THE COMMON VICTORY THROUGH ALL THE PERILS AND RIGOURS OF MORE THAN FIVE AND A HALF YEARS OF WAR AT SEA BT

Ø91331 Z

L.M. Hoge

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RADIOGRAM

SHIP TO SHORE
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RECEIVED ON BOARD S/S REVERDYJOHNSON

DATE MAY 9, 1945

DCC-4

BAMS2A DE NSS BT ROUTINE FROM W S A CK 114 BT

FOR ALL UNITED STATES FLAG MERCHANT VESSELS X THE END OF ORGANIZED RESISTANCE IN GERMANY BRINGS NO LESSENING OF THE TASK OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE X CLOSING OF HOSTILITIES IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER BRINGS TO THE MARITIME COMMISSION AND WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION A SITUATION UNCHANGED BASICALLY EXCEPT FOR A SHIFT IN EMPHASIS IN TIME AND PLACES X THERE WILL BE NO LESSER DEMAND FOR SHIPS OR FOR MEN TO SAIL THEM X TO THE MEN OF THE MERCHANT MARINE I SEND MY HEARTFELT THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE AND MY UTTER CONVICTION THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE DAYS AHEAD IN THE SAME MANNER X SIGNED LAND X W S A BT

Ø9192Ø Z

H. M. Hoag

Mackay Radio

RADIOGRAMS TO
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RADIOGRAM

SHIP TO SHORE
SHORE TO SHIP

RECEIVED ON BOARD /S REVERDY JOHNSON

DATE MAY 13, 1945

DCC-4

BAMS 1A 1B 3A 9A 9B FROM ADMIRALTY BT
PRECAUTION AGAINST AIR ATTACK IN THE AREAS ADDRESSED MAY NOW BE RELAXED.
PRECAUTION AGAINST U-BOAT ATTACK MUST BE MAINTAINED IN THESE AREAS UNTIL ALL
U-BOATS HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR, WHEN FURTHER SIGNAL WILL BE SENT.

J. S. Newman