

SECRET - CLEAR

Scala
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To: 7404 (Copy for: 7408)

D.612.

From: SD.

29.9.44.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2004

TRANSFER OF STORES AT SEA

Your telegram 1365.

1. We quite understand your request for a rubber dinghy to assist in the transfer of stores at sea, but we would advise you that we do not think this arrangement efficient in really bad weather. The idea of using a "line-gun" is also quite sound but we feel that it could be dangerous and it is not a necessity.
2. For your information we will explain how we have carried out the operation of transferring stores in really filthy weather in the North Sea.
3. Our stores were packed in water-tight tin boxes each with a weight of 60 lbs.
4. When contact is made with the rendezvous craft, a heaving line is cast from our boat down wind, to the other craft, whereupon our hawser or hawsers are hauled on board the Danish boat.
5. Our vessel lies at anchor or drifting to a sea anchor, with the Danish boat moored to our stern at a distance of, say, 50 metres. We get his line (vaadtov) on board, put ten tins in the fish-net-bag (Vaadsækken) and lift it overboard with the fish tackle, whereupon the whole is hauled through the water to the Danish boat. He lifts it on board with his fish tackle, our line (Vaadtov) is still attached and, when he is finished, we haul back the empty net and repeat the operation.
6. We have been very successful with this method, having transferred over 400 tins, losing only 10 due to our line breaking which resulted in our losing the net-bag.
7. It seems to us that this method should be applicable for your operations, but it can only be used provided the stores are in perfectly water-tight tins.
8. Our tins are enclosed in a small sack with a ring attached, making it an easy "one man pack" to handle. The tins are so packed that they are just negative bouyant, in other words, they will sink slowly. This has been done so that in the event of danger, the whole cargo can be dumped overboard, attaching each tin to a line making it easier to pick up again.
9. Should you feel that this arrangement is acceptable, we will pack all stores in future in suitable water-tight tins.
10. We will gladly send you a rubber dinghy of the R.A.F. type, bouyant enough to carry four men, but you must visualise the difficulty in transferring the stores to and from the dinghy.
11. ^{A small} The dinghy could be sent you by normal "Creep" operation. Please advise us by telegram if you still require it and size required (2 man or 10-man). A 10-man dinghy is too large for "Creep" & would have to go in a motor-launch but I warn you that in inflated condition it would fill a room three times the size of your office and is extremely difficult to deflate & slow in wet conditions.

DS.

Thy to be kept

SD

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