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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

December 23, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Dear Frank:-

The dear, delightful officers of the regular Navy are doing to you today just what others officers were trying to do to me a quarter of a century ago. If you and I were regular officers of the Navy, you and I would do the same thing!

On this question of personnel during the World War, we started with 72,000 men in 1916. I got all excited and by the process of "a little here and a little there" got about 130,000 men by April 6, 1918. Many of them were still in training but the work had started.

Then came the problem of ships. It is not strictly true but it is very nearly true that you can train men as fast as you can convert ships for Navy use. The result was that by the time we had converted all the ships we took over after war started, we had enough men to man them. Remember that in those days we had very few reserves -- and the situation today would be relatively much better.

I don't believe in more Congressional authorizations. What I want for the 1942 Budget is the total number of men needed to man our ships during the fiscal year 1942 -- not the total number of men needed to man battleships, cruisers, destroyers, etc., which will be completed in 1945.

I think you will see the point.

There is one other factor which the Bureau of Navigation is wrong about. They are now asking for 115% of a fully manned ship under war conditions. In time of peace -- or war -- that unduly crowds the ship, makes for poorer morale, makes for epidemics, and is destructive of the idea of "a happy ship". Take the case of some of our ships today. There are too many men on board, either

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from the point of view of health or happiness.

100% means 100% of perfection from the fighting point of view. 115% means a headache from every point of view.

Therefore, will you please tell the Bureau of Navigation for me as Commander-in-Chief, no ship will have more than 100% of its complement -- based on previous definitions and not new definitions?

The estimates for 1942 will include enough men to man ships in commission or in reserve at that time, plus, of course, the number of men in training stations or in transit.

This is a period of flux. I want no authorizations for what may happen beyond July 1, 1942.

All of us may be dead when that time comes!

F. D. R.

P&F Navy

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1940

Memorandum for the President:

Subject: Increase in the Authorized Enlisted Strength of the Navy.

1. Present law limits the Navy's peacetime regular enlisted strength to 137,485 men, plus hospital corpsmen, and some minor additions. The same law permits an increase to a maximum total of 205,000 during a national emergency. The authorized enlisted strength of the Marine Corps is 20% of the strength of the Navy.
2. On November 9, 1940, by memorandum, you authorized the Department to proceed with its accelerated recruiting program until the legal maximum of 205,000 enlisted men was reached.
3. It is anticipated that this maximum allowed strength will be reached by April 1, 1941, provided the applicants continue to become available as at present.
4. A study of the enlisted personnel requirements under the present authorized construction program indicates that 480,000 enlisted men are necessary to meet the Navy's peacetime needs by 1946. This number would man all combatant vessels of the "Two-Ocean Navy" to 100% of complement. It is estimated that 70,000 additional men would be required to man the additional vessels which would be taken over during an emergency. Consequently, the emergency limit is set at 550,000.
5. Since it is expected that the present legal limit will be reached by April 1, 1941, it is considered necessary that immediate steps be taken towards securing Congressional authorization for an increase in the authorized strength of the Navy.
6. Your approval is requested, at this time, for the Department to initiate the required legislation to accomplish the necessary increase in enlisted strength, as indicated above, for presentation to the 77th Congress in January 1941.

Respectfully,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The President,
The White House.

PST Navy

"TWO-OCEAN NAVY"

Fiscal Year 1946 - 100% Complement

15	Battleships (BB)(Fiscal Year 1941)	22,244
6	Battleships (BB) (35,000 ton)	9,186
6	Battleships (BB) (45,000 ton)	9,900
5	Battleships (BB) (New design)	9,750
7	Aircraft Carriers (CV) (Fiscal year 1941)	10,041
11	Aircraft Carriers (CV) (New)	14,300
6	Large Cruisers (CB)	8,400
26	Heavy Cruisers (CA)	23,436
10	Light Cruisers (CL) (7500 ton)	6,500
41	Light Cruisers (CL) (10,000 ton)	33,673
8	Light Cruisers (CL) (Atlanta)	4,800
145	Destroyers (DD) (1600 ton)	28,379
13	Destroyers (DD)(1850 ton)	3,119
128	Destroyers (DD)(2100 ton)	33,792
4	Destroyers (DD) (New-small)	600
74	Destroyers (DD) (Old)	9,768
117	Submarines(SS) (New)	6,271
68	Submarines (SS) (Old)	2,573
15	Auxiliaries, Destroyer Tenders (AD)	10,412
12	" Submarine Tenders (AS)	6,343
11	" Seaplane Tenders (AV)	4,677
39	" Seaplane Tenders, Small (AVP)	4,596
7	" Repair Ships (AR)	5,140
9	" Store Ships (AF)	1,950
28	" Oilers (AO)	4,274
5	" Oilers (AOG)	360
6	" Ammunition Ships (AE)	1,200
11	" Cargo Ships (AK)	1,578
2	" General Store-Issue Ships (AKS)	460
31	" Transports (AP)	10,663
6	" Transports (Destroyers) (APD)	540
259	" Mine Sweepers (AM)	9,014
17	Mine Sweepers, High Speed (DMS)	2,244
5	Mine Layers (CM)	1,600
8	Light Mine Layers (DM)	1,056
3	Auxiliaries, Hospital Ships (AH)	1,170
26	Auxiliaries, Ocean Tugs (AT)	1,318
11	" Submarine Rescue (ASR)	726
4	" Net Layers (AN)	1,360
14	" Miscellaneous	3,044
3	Minelayers, Coastal (CMc)	480
9	Patrol Vessels, Gunboats (PG and PR)	904
2	" " Converted Yachts (PY)	168
79	" " Subchasers (PC)	3,502
12	" " Motor Subchasers (PTC)	101
8	" " Eagles (PE)(Red.commission)	448
50	" " Motor Torpedo Boats (PT)	437
<u>1,382</u>	Total Ships	<u>316,497</u>
	Fleet Aircraft	21,907

"TWO-OCEAN NAVY"

Fiscal Year 1946- 100% Complement

(Continued)

At Sea - Flag Allowances, Transit Sick, etc.	<u>12,120</u>
Total at sea	350,524
Total ashore	<u>129,476</u>
Total Enlisted Personnel	480,000

"TWO-OCEAN NAVY"
Fiscal Year 1946

DISTRIBUTION - SHORE STATIONS

Recruiting	1,200
Training Stations:	
Operating Force	1,800
Under Training	8,200
Service Schools (Exclusive of Aviation):	
Operating Force	900
Students	8,900
Service Schools (Aviation):	
Operating Force	600
Students	4,450
Hospitals:	
Operating Force	5,000
Patients	9,000
Prisons	34
Submarine Bases	4,000
Receiving Ships and Stations:	
Operating Force	1,700
General Detail	4,000
Navy Yards	2,800
Naval Stations	9,000
Naval Communications	2,500
Ammunition Depots and Torpedo Stations	1,600
Naval Air Stations	56,171
Miscellaneous	2,800
Additional personnel required for new construction by end of fiscal year not in O. F. P.	1,600
In Transit - Ashore	3,211
TOTAL - ASHORE	<u>129,476</u>