

UNITED STATES NAVAL REPRESENTATIVE
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MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

STAT

21 April 1947.

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, U.S.N.,
Central Intelligence Group,
New War Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

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9 Apr 47



Dear Hillenkoetter:

It was very good to have news of you. I had heard that you had returned and were getting the job of Chief of the Central Intelligence Group. I am sure that you were sorry to leave Paris but probably your new duty will be most interesting.

Thank you for your messages from all my old friends. I have missed seeing them as I used to do and I am glad to have news of them.

With respect to the decorations for Vice Admirals Sablé and Missoffe and Rear Admiral Peries, I should be very glad to do whatever is possible. None of the three was ever actually under my command but I know Sablé and Missoffe very well. Missoffe was Chief of Staff for Admiral Michelier at the time we landed at Casablanca and he was of great assistance in arranging the cooperation between our people and the French Naval Command at Casablanca after the armistice. Later, Missoffe held the French Naval Command at Oran and in that position cooperated in an excellent fashion with the Commander of Naval Operating Base, Oran (Commodore Yates). As I remember Missoffe went from there directly to Paris and had some staff position very close to General De Gaulle. (I do not remember exactly what his duty was but perhaps you can clarify it for me.)

With respect to Admiral Sablé, he, as you know, was retired and his only active duty subsequent to the North African landings that I know of was on the Committee which was investigating the records of French officers for the Provisional Government at Algiers. He was actually in Casablanca when we landed and I met him at dinner with our Vice Consul, Mr. Culbert (Naval Academy Graduate who had lived in Casablanca and who accompanied our expedition across the Atlantic). He was always most friendly and cooperative but it might be a little difficult to write up a citation for him unless you can give me some additional material.

Peries' name is quite familiar but for the moment I cannot quite place him or what his duty was. Presumably, he has only recently been made a Rear Admiral and, therefore, would have been a Captain at the time of our Mediterranean operations. If you can refresh

my mind on what his assignment was, perhaps we can make a recommendation for him.

I do not believe there would be anything particular on those three officers in the files at London. If anywhere, they would be with those of the 8th Fleet, which are presumably buried somewhere in the Navy Department.

Possibly you have read the notice, but in case you have not, we want you and Janie to know that we have just announced Mary Kent's engagement to Lt. Commander Gerald Norton of the Navy. He was on one of the destroyers in the European Command and she met him first in Copenhagen.

Very best regards to you and Janie, and awaiting your further dope,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kent Hewitt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Kent Hewitt".

Vice Admiral Louis Michel Joseph Sable

Vice Admiral Jacques Marie Missoffe

Rear Admiral Paul Marie Emmanuel Peries