

Exhibit Synopsis

Atlantic Meeting

Roosevelt and Churchill in Newfoundland - 1941

(The latest critique comments have been incorporated as of 29 July 2017)

Exhibit Scope

This exhibit documents the top secret '*Atlantic Meeting*' in 1941 between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill. Beginning with the political circumstances and events leading to the meeting, its preparation, attendees, travel, a date and the site follow. The exhibit ends with the 'joint statement' outlining war and peace aims and 26 countries signing the '*Declaration by United Nations*'.



Subject Background

Both Roosevelt and Churchill expressed concern to world leaders and the League of Nations regarding the political aims and territorial expansionist ideals of Adolph Hitler to no avail. Although Hitler's annexation of German speaking areas within neighboring countries was alarming, the invasions (Italy and Japan had done so earlier) triggered the need for the secret meeting and the resulting 'joint statement'. Commonly known as the '*Atlantic Charter*', the 'joint statement' acted as a rallying point for the remaining free nations.

Historical Note - The term 'united nations' may be confusing as the '*Allied Powers*' referred to themselves as the 'united nations' as early as 1942, long before the United Nations organization was founded. These 26 countries agreed with the principles outlined in the 'joint statement' and joined forces to fight Germany, Italy and Japan by formally declaring their alignment and mutual support.

Challenge

Mail to or from this top secret meeting consists of the only recorded ship cover displayed on page 11. A wide variety of elements and scarcer materials increase the challenge factor throughout the exhibit.

Development

Exhibit development progresses chronologically from the reunification of the Saar with Germany to the signing of the '*Declaration by United Nations*' by the allied powers. Events are outlined in the exhibit plan chronologically (date range top right of page) and presented using related material to illustrate each subject.

Exhibit Plan

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Political Climate Change | (Reunification of the Saar with Germany ignites German expansionist intent) |
| 2 Catalyst for Action | (German, Italian and Japanese aggression spurs the secret meeting) |
| 3 A Plea and a Plan | (Churchill's request for American assistance and Roosevelt's reaction) |
| 4 Secret Preparations | (Readying transportation, setting a date and selecting a venue) |
| 5 Travel to Newfoundland | (Churchill's voyage west and Roosevelt's voyage north) |
| 6 The Meeting | (Attendees and goals of the meeting) |
| 7 The Atlantic Charter | (The resulting 'joint statement' and its public announcement) |
| 8 Homeward to Victory | (The journey home and 'nations united for victory' after the meeting) |

What is not here

British & Canadian ships did not include the ship's name on wartime mail (1939-1945). No identifiable covers from H.M.S. Prince of Wales are known to exist (commissioned 19 Jan 1941, lost 10 Dec 1941).

Subject Knowledge

The story-line begins with the meeting's planning and major events arranged by date and is illustrated with diverse philatelic elements chosen to demonstrate specific story-line details and balance presentation.

Philatelic Knowledge

Descriptions of philatelic items demonstrate knowledge of philately in general and include rates, rarity or other information as appropriate. Care is taken to ensure proper descriptions of philatelic elements.

Philatelic Elements

Elements include: definitive, commemorative and airmail issues, semi-postals, revenues, double impression, plate number, margin inscriptions, block, se-tenant pair, gutter pair, printing and paper varieties, overprints, forgery, booklet cover, pane advertising tab, illustrated postage meter, local, domestic, international, surface and airmail rates, postage paid, certificate of mailing, registration, ship wireless receipt, return to sender and suspended service markings, ship, commemorative and mute cancellations, censor markings, service mail, A.P.O. and penalty mail, commissioning and patriotic cachets, designer signature and official souvenir cover.

Condition and Rarity

Items are selected with condition in mind. Those with a higher degree of difficulty of acquisition, due to availability, rarity, and/or importance, are matted in dark blue.

- League of Nations' *Office of the High Commissioner for German Refugees* service mail, **3 recorded**.
- Double impression and missing border Greek issues depicting Roosevelt.
- German SS Propaganda forgery printed in Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen concentration camp.
- Censored mail from Scapa Flow, Scotland on *Scapa Flow Harbour Master* stationery.
- Certificate of mailing from U.N. Post Office using 1¢ U.N. definitive issue, **2 recorded**.
- **U.S.S. Augusta cover mailed aboard ship the day the Atlantic Charter was announced, 1 recorded.**
- Australian 1945 'Peace' issue on un-watermarked paper, not regularly issued, **1 sheet reported**.
- 2¢ 'Nations United for Victory' block of four signed by designer.
- Rarity factors in the exhibit are determined from:
 1. Articles, catalogs and monographs of U.N. philatelic societies
 2. Census, domestic/foreign exhibits, web sites and personal research



U.S.S. Augusta cover - page 11

Research

Research with U.N. specialty collectors world-wide since 1975 has determined material types and scarcity. Exhibitor contributes League of Nations and U.N. related research, images and articles to the UNPI 'Journal', 'U.N. Conference Catalog', as well as the Gaines U.N. catalog when it was active.

Souvenirs

Souvenir commemorative cachet envelopes were printed by order of President Roosevelt for ship crews. U.S.S. Arkansas, U.S.S. Tuscaloosa and U.S.S. Augusta used commemorative cancellation devices on these envelopes after the fact. As family heirlooms, they're difficult to find (2 examples in this exhibit).

Exhibit Literature References

- *Atlantic Meeting, An Account of Mr. Churchill's Voyage in H.M.S. Prince of Wales in August 1941*, H.V. Morton, 1943, Dodd, Mead and Co., London, G.B.
- *The First Summit*, Theodore A. Wilson - editor, 1991, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas
- *The Journal* (of UNPI) articles: Vol. 20 #3, pages 4-7; Vol. 20 #5, page 3; Vol. 29 #2, pages 16-18
- *United Nations Conference Catalog*, Blanton Clement, 2015, UNPI, Section C, page C1
- *Atlantic Charter*, Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Charter
- *United Nations History*, U.N. - <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/index.html>