

February's Enigma Newsletter: Hello to all of my Enigma World Code Group friends. Quick, without looking ahead, what is the name of the part of the Atlantic Ocean that is north of Spain and west of France? Not a clue? Good! I have company, then. It's called the Bay of Biscay.

When the French surrendered to the Germans on 25 June 1940, German U-boats now had relatively easy access to the rich shipping lanes of the North Atlantic keeping England supplied with food, fuel, and, later, war supplies from the United States. Prior to this, the U-boats had to arrive and depart from their bases in northern Germany through the perilous North Sea route up and around Great Britain, or an equally dangerous run through the tiny Straits of Dover between Dover, England, and Calais, France. Now, heavily-fortified U-boat bunkers were built in Brest, Lorient, Saint Nazaire, La Rochelle, and Bordeaux. U-boats operating from these forward bases could now deploy, fight, and quickly return to re-arm and fight again—all the while moving through the Bay of Biscay.

Use my U-571 codesheet for February 28, 1944. A Kenngruppen is in play.

1415 1tle 1tle 550 RBM YUO

ZFHBC XGPBM YLQLL PUZXR YPJCM GEJYF WMIHD GPBSJ GJQIVZK RWPID YHSCD TLQLN MAJAH CEZWF
PZKWW TRWDV KVVUY GGXQG FYLGU EHMNU IRNGA XUJBU ODYUK WXMZG YWKCA GISCM JSAWE
ZGTAD NTDWF BZAOD WFPJK UFCBU KMKYK GPPMP RIOAT DGHAI YLOWH AZWBP YHEZI BYMEA ZKYES
BTBZX LOGDI NDCSY CQTTL IMLGK FSPAG CFAZY TNUSW XECES ORNBU XVKRA CBFOS IGKJW IHNAE
BFAYY JWRWT GOIDM TZMOA BGHCE BNVCY LHEYN HMBNF RCPNN FYECB XHUWI FGSZO SQAEJ ESQFT
MKRHW SAZXH SYFHZ WAXBH RWHYH EMJNI YWRMI RJEJU IBFEJ BHXQC MEOAE STMKX WBQDR
VJDBG OJOCO PFWXH KYQQM NEBWQ URDWW CUZSZ VWVEY ZVPNK QTDBS DPDAF OELJ NHIXH
TWLXM TDJBL RMYSF GQYYZ MUVWT QGKHO TXWPQ TBZOU MIQKZ AYHDT HERWC USPJY PDPTK
DAOIR MVXUJ SUYSO ADRAZ YVBEJ YIM

Afterward: Now the sea lanes between the United States and Great Britain were cleared for the immense movements of men and war materiel that would be needed for the D Day landings the following June. There were still occasional skirmishes and running fights between convoy escort ships and the occasional U-boat. But the U-boat "happy times" of mass convoy carnage were over. The U-boats were deployed to southern waters where hunter-killer groups, built around small escort carriers, continued to benefit from Enigma decrypts in their increasingly effective campaign to rid the Atlantic of the U-boat menace.