

SECRET

OPERATION: CAVETTO



By Order of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen

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Operation Order: 423

Copy: 1 of 9

ROUTINE

To: Maj. CAVENDISH, MCR 12 Det.

From: Col WOOD RE, Officer Commanding MCR

Cc: *His Lordship, First Sea Lord*, Admiralty Building; Director of Naval Equipment; CO London District; DNI; *Superintendent, HMS PROSPERO*; CO HMS *GOLDCREST*

References: Ordnance Survey Map Sheet 141

Date and Place of Issue: August 6, 1891, London District

TEMPORARY DUTY ORDERS: OPERATION CAVETTO

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Proceed immediately to HMS *PROSPERO* and identify yourselves to the Superintendent
2. At his invitation: commence a prompt and discrete investigation into the recent death of several of the Ship's Company
3. Take appropriate remedial constabulary action and report back to HQ accordingly
4. Reports will be sent to OC MARITIME HOUSE

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DETAILS OF THE OPERATION AND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS

SITUATION REPORT

The recent 'Great Blizzard' briefly isolated HMS *PROSPERO* by severing the use of both transport and telegraphic communications.

However, the recent cessation of hostile weather allowed for telegraphic contact to be re-established with HMS *PROSPERO*. On August 5 the CO reported that three of the Ship's Company had died in mysterious circumstances during the period of the Great Blizzard.

HMS *PROSPERO*'s isolation made investigation impossible until now and the MOST SECRET nature of the work undertaken there requires the discretion for which MCR has a deserved and hard won reputation.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

HMS *PROSPERO* is a **MOST SECRET** shorebase: a Crown Establishment working on the development of EXPERIMENTAL DEVICES for use by the ROYAL NAVY.

HMS *PROSPERO* is currently developing a special device, known as the STORM GLASS, which is intended for military navigational use. The specifics of STORM GLASS are also **MOST SECRET** and not within the proper scope of these ORDERS to identify.

HMS *PROSPERO* operates covertly from HOWSHAM HALL, Yorkshire, and is under the local command of *Commander* George FITZHERBERT. The local Chief Technician and Engineer is Dr John CHANDLER LLD FRS.

HMS *PROSPERO* has an ordinary Establishment strength of 50 Officers, Men and various Technicians.

By Hand at 9 a.m. August 6, 1891

Signed

ANNEX: BILLETING ORDERS

END MESSAGE

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