Enigma machine settings for key-net “Aegir” (UK-US codename “Pike”) for 10 January 1944:

```
Reflector: B
Wheels:    β 6 2 5
Rings:    Greek wheel and slow wheel unknown; middle wheel anything from 'B' to
'T'; fast wheel 'T'.
Steckers:  BZ CS DO FG IN KV MU PY QW RX
```

Possible message keys for Message 2058 NR 100 of 10 January 1944:
Any of the following twenty combinations will decrypt the message correctly.

```
     Ring settings:  Wheel positions:

        A A B T -------------- K Z E U
        A A B T -------------- K A F U
        A A C T -------------- K A G U
        A A D T -------------- K A H U
        A A E T -------------- K A I U
        A A F T -------------- K A J U
        A A G T -------------- K A K U
        A A H T -------------- K A L U
        A A I T -------------- K A M U
        A A J T -------------- K A N U
        A A K T -------------- K A O U
        A A L T -------------- K A P U
        A A M T -------------- K A Q U
        A A N T -------------- K A R U
        A A O T -------------- K A S U
        A A P T -------------- K A T U
        A A Q T -------------- K A U U
        A A R T -------------- K A V U
        A A S T -------------- K A W U
        A A T T -------------- K A X U
```

Ciphertext (without the indicator groups “IEDCD KSYGK” and “YHOVQ XWMDV”):

```
MFEAH UNOSP OFNNR VBENK VVJNG HYINW QCIGT CNPZY COCKQ EFIJD DISNE UHWKF FZFQQ
BVAUC ANKUK RCHMJ UDFZQ FUBAY ICZJE BWZIY QLAJO NJRRD XOIFY MRWHB VXAHB ZNUUJ
DTHQP GYGPP TYRZC XKBLD EWOBD
```

Decrypt (with suspected garbled letters underlined):

```
AUFCC CEINS ZWOGX DOSXX KKSHO NANVI RFUNF KKKAN NANME RERER SATZV ORSCH LAGJJ
NUHZI BENEI NSEIN SKKNU LZWOK KDREI SECHS JJFUE RSCHA EFERG EMACH TKKEE ESIBE
NSIBE NGKDO SKKWE RDENU DUDHF
```

Decrypt with word divisions, and with suspected garbled letters corrected:

```
AUF CCC EINSZWO GKDOS XX KK SHONAN VIRFUNF KK KANN ANDERER ERSATZ VORSCHLAG JJ
NULSIBENEINSEINS KK NULZWO KK DREISECHS JJ FUER SCHAEFER GEMACHT KK EEE
SIBENSIBEN GKDOS KK WERDEN UD UD HF
```

German plaintext formatted with punctuation:

```
Auf C 12 GKdos: (Shonan 45) Kann anderer Ersatz Vorschlag "0711 (02) 36" für
Schäfer gemacht (E 77 GKdos) werden?
```

Tentative English translation:

```
On C 12 Secret Command Matter (Shonan No. 45): Can another replacement "0711
(02) 36" for Schäfer (E 77 Secret Command Matter) be suggested?
```

I presume that "C 12 GKdos (Shonan 45)," "0711 (02) 36," and "(E 77 GKdos)" are references to previous radio messages.

Some notes on the background of this message, pieced together from various sources:

1) Although the plaintext contains no internal address or signature, the call sign "8F6" in the header of the message leads me to believe it is from Vizeadmiral Paul Wenneker, the German naval attaché in Tokyo and commander of German naval forces in East Asia. A sample "Tibet" message with the same call sign appears in R.I.P. 401 (Figure 30), where 8F6 is identified as the call sign of the Tokyo transmitting station.

2) The message contents appear to be intended for Korvettenkapitän Wilhelm Dommes, the commander of the U-boat base at Penang in Malaysia and overall commander of U-boats in Southeast Asia. On 8 January 1944, two days before this message was sent, Fregattenkapitän Heinrich Schäfer, the commander of the ex-Italian submarine U IT 23, had died of circulatory failure brought on by paratyphus A and appendicitis in a Japanese naval hospital. Some sources say this was in Singapore, which the occupying Japanese had renamed "Shōnan-Tō," and where U IT 23 was undergoing repairs; but others say it was in Shōnan, Japan, near Tokyo. I haven't been able to find out which is correct.

3) I've found in DEFE 3/726 a translated decrypt of a "Shark" message (ZTPG/ZTPGU 21148) of 13 January 1944, presumably from B.d.U., and addressed to the Base Commander Penang, which reads: "Choose successor for Commanding Officer of U IT 23, as the officers to be considered can be better assessed by you. Send proposal immediately to Naval Attaché Tokyo."

4) Evidently Dommes was unable to recommend anyone to replace Schäfer, as B.d.U.'s war diary entry for 27 January 1944 contains the following: "No suitable commander available in Penang for U IT 23. Boat remains in Penang until the arrival of a boat from home that can transfer an officer onto U IT 23 as commander."

5) Meanwhile, U IT 23 remained in Shōnan until 14 February when, under the temporary command of Oberleutnant zur See Werner Striegler, the commander of U IT 25, it began its transfer cruise to Penang to await its new permanent commander and to undergo final outfitting for a planned return cruise to Germany. The next day, however, the boat was torpedoed and sunk by a British submarine in the Malacca Strait 80 miles south of Penang. 31 crewmen died in the sinking, but 14 others, including Striegler, survived and were rescued by two Arado 196 seaplanes and flown to Penang. The Seekriegsleitung's war diary entry for 17 January 1944, after noting the sinking of U IT 23, adds: "The boat was to be transferred to Penang by the commander of U IT 25 at the request of the Shonan base commander."

Dan Girard, 24 July 2026