

Sabotage, Possible
 SS ALCOA GUARD, U.S. Navy
 Dry Dock, San Juan, P.R.

CONFIDENTIAL
 Eval. A-1

II
 IOND

Just prior to leaving the U.S. Navy Dry Dock, San Juan, P.R., on 8 Jan. 1945, an "L" shaped piece of low carbon steel measuring 1/2" x 9-1/4" x 1-3/4", with the base of the "L" measuring 2-3/4" x 2-1/4", was discovered between the top of the pinion gear and the bull gear of the steam steering wheel mechanism of subject vessel. The piece of steel, probably a clip used by ship fitters in installing steel plate and other jobs including welding, was very greasy and dirty. The section of the ship in which the steering wheel mechanism is located is rather dark and although the piece of steel was not

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in any manner hidden, it was not easily seen. If undiscovered, the piece of steel might have stalled the steering engine or have broken off teeth from the gears. Any person aboard had access to the place where the piece of steel was discovered by Robert C. Whitehead, Jr., 3rd Asst. Engineer, Z-485309, in what was regarded as an unusual inspection prior to turning over the motor. Subject vessel was brought into dry dock about 1230 5 Jan. 1945 for a survey below the water line and left about 1230 6 Jan. 1945. The ship left for Havana, Cuba, enroute to Portland, Oregon, where it will be turned over to the Russian Government.

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FBI, SJ; USCG SJ, cognizant.

Source: FBI, San Juan, report: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Piece of steel placed in steering gear of ship SS ALCOA GUARD, San Juan, P.R., 6 Jan. 1945, dated 19 Jan. 1945.

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*File s/s Alcoa Guard (12)
 X Sabotage (9)
 X IOND (5)*