

File Reference 565(FSc)  
June 1, 1945(OMI)  
CG-MIN-C-207

13 June, 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER STOREY

Subj: Communication between radio room and flying bridge

Ref: Ltr to Commandant from Director, Technical Division, USMC,  
dated 1 June, 1945, file 565 (FSc)

1. In the above reference the Maritime Commission requested the Coast Guard to furnish any information which might describe any difficulties encountered with the present communication system on merchant vessels between the radio room and flying bridge.

2. A review of the war-action casualty reports discloses only the one following statement with respect to the subject system:

"On all ships, a voice tube be installed extending from the radio shack to the flying bridge, as on some vessels the electrical system goes out and the telephone between the radio shack and bridge is of no avail."

Radio Operator "SS ALCOA PIONEER" 11-19-44.

3. In the above quoted instance, a suicide plane crashed into the flying bridge in the vicinity of the stack while the SS ALCOA PIONEER was at anchor in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P. I., on 19 November, 1944. Although all electrical systems on both flying bridge and wheel house were demolished as well as both the main antenna and emergency antenna, it was not necessary to send distress messages because nearly naval craft immediately proceeded to the assistance of the SS ALCOA PIONEER arriving a few minutes after she was hit. In view of the extensive damage to both the electrical system and the ship's structure in the vicinity of the hit and also that it was unnecessary to send any messages, it is doubtful that the above suggested voice tube would have remedied or helped matters any appreciable extent.

Very truly yours,

J. H. FITZGERALD

James L. Bates  
Director, Technical Division

YWMayer:ga

cc: Records &amp; Files

Capt. R.E. Coombs, USCG

Washington, D.C.

Federal Communications Commission,

Washington, D.C.

Adm. Fairfield

Screening Committee (6)

LCHoffmann, Rm. 7217 YWMayer, Rm. 7027

CC: JHF:gg