

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

United States Customs Service

7-21-8

C
The Collector of Customs, New Orleans, La. April 5, 1941 - 2

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New Orleans, La.

April 5, 1941

Mr. Rusovich is a naturalized citizen and is the Royal Yugoslav
Consul for New Orleans.

The Collector of Customs,
New Orleans, Louisiana. Respectfully,

Sir:

Reference is made to copy of report of Charles F. Anepohl,
Captain Customs Guards, dated April 1, 1941, relative to certain
information obtained by Clarence Johnston, Customs Guard, in that
there was suspicion of sabotage on the Norwegian S.S. BALLA which
arrived in tow from Houston, Texas, March 30, 1941.

During an investigation relative to sabotage, the following
was learned:

Mr. Basile J. Rusovich, manager of the marine department of the
Dixie Machine Works, 1031 Annunciation Street, New Orleans, was
interviewed, and he stated that while the BALLA was at Houston, a
contract was let to repair its engines. The firm taking this con-
tract dismantled one motor and then abandoned the job.

The ship's owners then called for more bids to repair and recon-
dition both motors. This vessel is a twin screw and powered with two
Diesel engines. Two local concerns bid on these repairs, The Todd
Shipbuilding Company, whose bid was \$89,000, and the Dixie Machine
Welding and Metal Works, Inc., whose bid, the lowest, was \$72,000.
No bid has been accepted yet.

Mr. Rusovich further stated that from the condition that the
motors of this boat were found in when inspected by his mechanics,
it would be hard to state whether there was any sabotage or not. He
also stated that these engines could be sabotaged by an expert in
such a way that an experienced mechanic could not detect same until
trial and with the use of precision instruments.

At the present time the ship's owners are negotiating for a bid
to repair these motors temporarily and not to recondition them as the
first bid required. In event the Dixie Machine Company obtains the
repair contract on this vessel, this office would be advised should a
mechanical inspection show sabotage.

in BALLA file

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NO.	N A M E	RANK	AGE	NATIONALITY
1	CHRISTENSEN, Erik	Chief Officer	41	Norwegian
2	KNUDSEN, Erik	2nd Officer	27	Norwegian
3	STUB, Thor Anton	3rd Officer	36	Norwegian
4	HANSEN, Martin Kildahl	Radio Operator	29	Norwegian
5	FRANZSEN, Gunnar	Carpenter	30	Norwegian
6	PEDERSEN, Kaare	Boatswain	30	Norwegian
7	HAGEN, Bjarne	Gunner	27	Norwegian
8	LUNDE, Sverre	Gunner	28	Norwegian
9	PEDERSEN, Arthur		21	Norwegian
10	MOGENHAUG, Odvar		21	Norwegian
11	HALVORSEN, Malvin Sevald		38	Norwegian
12	HALVORSEN, Arne		31	Norwegian
13	SKAAR, Kristian Sivert		34	Norwegian
14	ABRAHAMSEN, Emanuel		22	Norwegian
15	SEBULONSEN, Charles		44	Norwegian
16	LINGAAS, Oleleif	Chief Engineer	44	Norwegian
17	JOEN, Kaare Oliver	2nd Engineer	30	Norwegian
18	LERVIK, Martin	3rd Engineer	31	Norwegian
19	HARSTAD, Torvald August Martinus	Repairman	40	Norwegian
20	NETLAND, Olaf	Donkeyman	43	Norwegian
21	LARSEN, Markus	Donkeyman	38	Norwegian
22	JOHANSEN, Ingar Jorgen	Motorman	26	Norwegian
23	SEBJORNSEN, Oscar	Motorman	23	Swedish
24	LETLEN SVENGE, Jorgen	Motorman	30	Norwegian
25	LARSEN, Johannes Konrad	Motorman	24	Norwegian
26	DANIELSEN, Samuel Arnt	Motorman	39	Norwegian
27	KNUTSEN, Harri	Steward	43	Norwegian
28	LOBERSLI, Kasre Toralf	Cook	32	Norwegian
29	JONES, John Charles	Galleyboy	16	Canadian
30	STREET, John Edgar	Messman	16	Canadian
31	BROWN, Gilbert Steven	Saloonboy	16	Canadian
32	WILLIAMS, Cedric John	Helper	22	British
33	POMPSON, Kenneth Anthony	Helper	19	Canadian

Mr. Rusovich is a naturalized citizen and is the Royal Yugoslav Consul for New Orleans.

Respectfully,

J. A. Peeler,
Assistant Customs Agent.

JAP-V
Respectfully forwarded,
Approved:

W. J. Harmon,
Customs Agent in Charge.

Note on deck any remarks or information concerning submarines, suspicious vessels, suspicious activity on the part of members of crew, suspicious lights, messages, giving, where possible,

Christensen
Master

Remarks requested - Marine Inspect.

FROM: PORT OF NEW ORLEANS U.S.P.F. IN POSITION 30, 25 N 77, 34 W ESTABLISHED AT 0800 4/5/41

Intelligence

(Boarding Officer)