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8 NOV 1943

Mr. Theodore S. Beiler,
Inspector in Charge,
Federal Communications Commission,
Room 508 Customhouse Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

It has come to the attention of this office that the former radio operator on the SS "BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON", Stephen Ferd WAY, (born Virginia; age, 37; height, 5' 6"; complexion, medium; hair, brown; Z-228591; Social Security No. 225-01,5131; registered at Local Board #1, Mead Building, Portland, Oregon, Order No. 1261, Class, II-A; next of kind, Mrs. Inez WAY, wife, 4209 Latona Ave., Seattle, Wash.) was replaced in Bahia, Brazil for incompetency. A letter from Commander M. B. SAREN, U.S.N. (Ret.), Naval Observer, Bahia, Brazil, dated 22 September 1943, to the master of subject vessel, stated that the master had made formal complaint to that office that his radio operator was incompetent and that during a six months voyage he took only one message that could be decoded. The letter further stated that a test had been given subject radio operator which showed he was incompetent and that for the safety of the vessel, he (SAREN) deemed it necessary to remove him; that the American Consul agreed in the finding; that WAY admitted that he could take only 10 words per minute; and that by mutual consent he was signed off. The letter further stated that WAY returned to the U.S. on a Naval vessel as a passenger.

This is forwarded for your information.

FOR THE DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

Very truly yours,

C. D. ELLISON,
Assistant District
Intelligence Officer.

(BLIND) cc DNI
cc DCGO-3ND))

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