

7 July 1949

RECEIVED
INT

DIO-12ND, San Francisco, California

See below

None

1949 NOV 23 PM 4 10

B-2

S. S. BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON #2

RECEIVED
ACTION COMPLETED
RECEIVED
ACTION COMPLETED

Possible Communist activity in crew.

1. An article in the Daily People's World for 1 June 1949, relative to the indictment of Harry BRIDGES, carried the following quotation, which was reported to be quoted from a message from the S. S. BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON to BRIDGES:

"Entire Marine Firemen and crew 100 percent behind you . . .
An injury to one is an injury to all."

2. Reliable sources at Sudden and Christensen, San Francisco, California, operators of the vessel, advise that the ship departed Galveston 18 May 1949 and arrived Bremen, Germany 7 June 1949. She started her return voyage almost immediately, but her port of arrival in the United States was indefinite until 1 July 1949, when she was ordered to Port Arthur. She is reported to have arrived there on 2 July 1949 and departed the morning of 5 July 1949 for Bremen, Germany.

3. Company sources advise that the master of the S. S. BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON is Robert W. OWENS, age 29, son of Alonzo J. OWENS, official of Sudden and Christensen, and that he is entirely loyal, discreet and definitely anti-Communist. A personal letter from Robert W. OWENS to his father mentions that a member of the crew sent the message to BRIDGES without his (the master's) knowledge and that subsequently, when he learned about it, he severely reprimanded both the radio operator and the crewmen. His letter did not specifically indicate that the radio operator was pro-Communist and did not mention the names of the men, but it did indicate that Communist activity on the ship was a cause of concern to him (the master).

4. DIO-12ND is advised that the ship will probably return from Germany to either Galveston or Port Arthur and should arrive about 18 August 1949.

A. E. HINDEMARSH

DNI (Original and Master Ditto) DIO-2ND

N 15781

- CIA (8)
- State (4)
- ID, GS, USA (7)
- CSI-IG-USAF (6)
- FBI
- GE, USMC (5)
- USCG (2)

Op321E (2)
322Y

Reproduction of this material in any form is not authorized except by specific approval of the Secretary of the Navy.

ALL DIO'S
PRMD

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains information effecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 793 and 794. The transmission or the disclosure of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.