

Date: 19 Oct. 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Intelligence Officer, Coast Guard Hdqts.

SUBJECT: SS "BLACK JACK" (US)

Enclosure (S): LOND Boarding Report, same subject, 11 Oct. 1944.

1. Enclosure (S) (A) is forwarded for information and such attention as may be deemed appropriate.

2. The information forwarded herewith is extremely confidential in character and its security must be preserved, by carefully safeguarding its existence and source, as well as the names of any informants mentioned therein. In no case, if the report covers an investigation of an individual, shall the report be shown to the subject, nor shall copies be made of it, nor shall the Office of Naval Intelligence be mentioned in connection with any such action taken on the basis of such report.

*mmw
11/14/44*

To safeguard the security of the information contained herein, please initial and return to Intelligence Branch when it has served its purpose.
CONFIDENTIAL
BY HAND

3. ~~Ultimate return of this correspondence to ONI Op 16 B 5 is requested. Room 4712.~~
 This correspondence may be retained or destroyed.

H.A.B.

H. A. BURCH
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Lieut. Comdr., U.S.N.R.

COMPLETE ITINERARY OF VOYAGE

<u>Ports</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Sailed</u>	<u>Ports</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Sailed</u>
Philadelphia, Pa.		10/3/44			
Aruba, N. W. I.	10/10/44				

The Master of Subject vessel reported the loss of the ship's No. 3 life raft while proceeding independently during the above voyage. The incident occurred at 0555 (EWT) 8 October 1944 in the approximate position 24 45 N 67 54 W.

The loss of the raft, which was painted gray, was recorded in the vessel's official log book as follows: "0555 October 8 at sea. Lost No. 3 life raft overboard. Vessel rolling moderately. Wind SE4. Mod. S.E. sea and swell."

It was the opinion of the Master that the "working" of the ship tripped the lever which secured the raft, and no deliberate acts on the part of the ship's crew are suspected.

C.B.

Boarding Officer:
Lieut. W. D. Evans, USNR.
Dissemination: ONI-2; DIO-1; ~~SECRET~~ IBO-1.

Forwarded by:
~~TXBX~~ WATKINS W. D. EVANS,
Lieut., USNR
Officer-in-Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

TENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
 MERCHANT VESSEL BOARDING REPORT
 INTELLIGENCE FIELD UNIT
 AMERICAN NAVAL FORCE, ARUBA, N.W.I.

CONFIDENTIAL

11 October, 1944

Vessel S/S BLACK JACK Master C. J. GROTHE
 Flag U. S. Owner U. S. A.
 Type Steam Tanker Operator Marine Transport Lines (N.Y.)
 Port of Registry Philadelphia, Pa. Agent Lago Oil & Transport Co.
 Gross Reg Tonnage 10,296 Cruising Speed 15 Call Letters K T K X
 Passengers-No. None U. S. Citizens -- Aliens --
 Crew-No. 49 U. S. Citizens 47 Aliens 2
 Armed Guard-No. 26 O. in C. Lieut. L. H. BERDOLL, USNR.
 Cargo Aviation Gasoline and Motor Gasoline.
 Boarded at Aruba, N. W. I. Hour 0900 Date 11 October 1944

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Boarding Officer:

Lieut. W. D. Evans, USNR.

Dissemination: ONI-2; DIO-1; ~~FOUO~~ IBO-1.

Forwarded by:

~~T. B. WATKINS~~ W. D. EVANS,
 Lieut., USNR
 Officer-in-Charge

CB