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6 May, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL*Ples*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, MERCHANT MARINE INSPECTION DIVISION

Subj: Summary of information received in the Intelligence Division

The following from Buenaventura, Colombia, dated 18 April, 1944, is forwarded for your information:

"At 0230 on 14 April, 1944, the engine room of the SS CHARLES G. COUTANT was advised by telephone from the deck that excessive smoke was being produced. Robert W. Hooker, second assistant engineer; Oliver G. Davey, fireman; and George C. Bogue, wiper, were on duty. At 0235 Oliver increased the air inflow to the port boiler which was in operation. At about 0237 an explosion occurred in the port boiler which caused no injuries to personnel but caused warping of the boiler casings and partial destruction of insulation and brick wall. Walter Beam, chief engineer, was notified of the occurrence at 0247 by the third officer."

L. M. DRURY
Lt. Comdr., USCGRCC: Admiral Chalker
Admiral Park*File
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