

IOF-601

CONFIDENTIAL

15 June, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN MERRILL, CHIEF, MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL:

Subject: Merchant Marine Matters.

1. The following compilation from various reports is furnished you for information and any action believed necessary. Additional information is available, if desired:
2. A report received from the District Coast Guard Officer at Ketchikan, Alaska, states that the SS DERELAY which was reported ready to sail on 30 May, 1942, was delayed by the drunken condition of the crew members. After a meeting of the union delegates with Government port officials, it was agreed the men would not take liquor aboard the ship and she sailed after a delay of forty-seven minutes.
3. On April 30, 1942, Otto Carl Ferdinand Jaentsch, Master, SS DIAMOND HEAD, filed a birthday greeting cable at Honolulu, T. H., addressed to his wife in San Francisco, requesting that its transmission be held up until May 1. Subject's ship departed in convoy from Honolulu for mainland on April 30. Investigation revealed the true purpose of this cable, as well as a similar one on the ship's arrival in Honolulu on April 23, was to apprise subject's wife of his own and his ship's movements. The report further states that subject has variously been reported as uncooperative with boarding officers in filling out ship's papers and answering routine questions, and as being extremely pro-Nazi. The report concludes with the deduction that Captain Jaentsch wilfully violated censorship regulations by using a private code and disclosed ship movements to unauthorized person.

F. E. POLLIO

cc: Assistant Commandant.

*sent out 6/16/42*

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*LMD file*