

Op-16-B-5  
MFM/mg

Date: 13 Jan. 44.  
U.S. Coast Guard Hdqtrs., Room 7212.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comdr. Pollio, U.S.

SUBJECT: SS DURANGO (U.S. AM 10 10)  
*1944 JAN 19*

*File*

Enclosure (x): (A) Excerpt from 3ND Boarding Report, same Subject, dated 28 Dec. 43.

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To safeguard the security of the information contained herein, please inform the recipient of the information of the importance of its confidentiality and the fact that it is to be used only for the purpose for which it is furnished. Initial steps should be taken to ensure that the information is not disseminated to unauthorized personnel.

1. Enclosure(x) (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 source and its security, 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 name of Naval Intelligence be mentioned in connection with any such action taken on the basis of such report.

3. Ultimate return of this correspondence to ONI Op-16-B-5 is requested.

~~XXX~~ This correspondence may be retained or destroyed.

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*Imp'd  
BUC*

*[Handwritten signature]*

T. A. BURCH  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Lieut. Comdr., U.S.N.R.

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Dissemination: Coast Guard.  
Cognizant: FBI  
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EXCERPT FROM 3RD BOARDING REPORT, SS DURANGO (U.S.), 28 DECEMBER 1943.

Subject vessel left Marcus Hook for New York on 25 December 1943. Between Philadelphia and Marcus Hook, when the Master was not aboard and the ship was in charge of the First Mate, the compass was found to be in error. On removing the old compass to install a spare at sea, a magnet was found attached to the outside of the binnacle and partly concealed by black tar-like substance. The Armed Guard Officer and ~~a member of the crew~~ <sup>the 3rd Officer</sup> stated that no one had come aboard the ship at Philadelphia except Coast Guardsmen and Navy personnel who had checked the degaussing and the compass.

Upon interview the Captain reported that there had been dissatisfaction among the crew and that he had had a hard time holding them. He further reported that his Chief Mate, Philius Ducas, left the ship at Marcus Hook on Christmas Eve with the excuse that he wanted to get home for Christmas. He had never signed the articles in Philadelphia. The Captain said that he did not get along with his First Mate and that they had had several disagreements and that hard-feelings persisted between the two. The Captain, however, would not place any suspicion of the act on Ducas. He concluded by adding that there had been no signs of subversive activity or signs of mental instability amongst the crew members. He added that he was at a loss as to who possibly could have committed this act, and that to him it was obvious tampering. An inquiry has been made to determine whether the F.B.I. is conducting an investigation of this incident.

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