

(OMI)
CG-MIN-EAGLE

31 July, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

To: DCGO, 3rd Naval District (omi)

Subj: War action casualty involving the EAGLE, 25 June, 1943

1. Your attention is referred to HQ instructions of 15 March and 2 August, 1943, (CG-MIN-C-100). Paragraph 14 of the instructions of 2 August, 1943 provides as follows:

"Following the investigation of war action casualties by Naval Intelligence Officers for combatant purposes a summary of the statements of all survivors of each merchant vessel is submitted to Headquarters. In view of this fact the submission of findings and recommendations in narrative form by Coast Guard Examiners is a duplication and accordingly the submission of such statements by Coast Guard Examiners is to be discontinued."

2. Contrary to the above instructions, HQ is receiving findings, conclusions and recommendations in war action casualty cases in narrative form, the preparation and submission of which is not only a duplication of the summary of the statements of survivors prepared and furnished HQ by the Office of Naval Intelligence, but also contain considerable misleading and conflicting information.

3. A case in point is the narrative submitted with respect to the war action casualty involving the EAGLE, in which case the narrative and Form 924d-2, item 17, submitted therewith state that the position of attack was latitude $22^{\circ} 10' N$, longitude $40^{\circ} 15' W$, when in point of fact the position of this attack was latitude $23^{\circ} 06' S$, longitude $41^{\circ} 54' W$. These positions indicate a distance difference of 2,717 miles. This discrepancy cannot be considered a typographical error in view of the evidence that the vessel was attacked the day following her departure from Rio de Janeiro.

4. It is noted that the narrative recommends that no further action or investigation is deemed necessary in the EAGLE case, and that it be closed, although no statements or information from any survivors of the casualty have been received at HQ.

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5. As the statutes, as well as detailed HQ instructions, require all war action casualties to be investigated from the standpoint of instituting necessary corrective safety measures, the proper procedure to have followed in the EAGLE case was to have first ascertained from the owners whether or not any of the survivors of the EAGLE were in this country, and then to transfer jurisdiction of the case to the district wherein such survivors could have been located. In this, as well as in all future investigations of cases involving war action casualties, it is necessary that the verbatim statements of the senior survivors be obtained and submitted to HQ, in accordance with the procedure as provided in HQ instructions of 15 March and 2 August, 1943.

CHAS. A. PARK
By direction

Ret. to 8-2
PES:nh