

NAVY DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

011748 BY HAND

Op-16-B-5

FGH:REB

MEMORANDUM FOR: Intell. Off., 1943 OCT 9 PM 3 07 7212, 1300 E Street, NW

Date: 5 Oct 1943

VIA: Op-23-L

SUBJECT: SS EXANTHIA, Planned discomfort of Armed Guard aboard.

Enclosure (s): (1) Extract from 5ND Monthly Bulletin 26 Aug through Sept 1943 Vol. 1 Issue 9.

1. Enclosure(s) (1) 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.

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

X This correspondence may be retained or destroyed.

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CONFIDENTIAL
BY HANDH. A. BURCH
H. H. WICKERSHAM
Lieut. Comdr., U.S.N.R.

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The following information has been received:

Investigation on board SS EXANTHIA further revealed that other instances had occurred wherein the Armed Guard was the object of special attention by merchant crewmen. Throughout the entire voyage mess attendants from the merchant crew neglected the Armed Guard mess. Several reliable informants advised that this action was obviously designed to provide discomfort through the repeated serving of cold food, and whenever possible, a less desirable selection of food than that served the merchant crew. It was reported that the chief steward could not control these messmen who pursued their policy as far as possible.

Informants further advised that one merchant crew member spent considerable time befriending the Armed Guard and remarking about the virtues of the "union" and usually trying not to be obvious about it.

It appeared, from a consideration of all these facts, that the "union" was forcefully at work on this vessel, carrying out its policy of trying to liquidate the effect of the Armed Guard. The Navy crew in this case, however, did not react to the effort, for it appeared that they remained aloof from the merchant crew in most instances.

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